

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN FISHERY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 2 19-20 September 2006
COMPLIANCE Compliance update	Agenda Item No. 10.1

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the TSPMAC notes the verbal update of recent compliance operations provided by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

BACKGROUND

A verbal update on compliance in the Torres Strait Prawn fishery will be presented to the TSPMAC meeting by Queensland Boating & Fisheries Patrol.

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN FISHERY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 2 19-20 September 2006
COMPLIANCE Compliance Risk Assessment	Agenda Item No. 10.2

THE TSPMAC RECOMMENDS

That the PZJA **AGREES** to reschedule the completion of a compliance risk assessment for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery until after the introduction of new management arrangements for the Prawn, Tropical Rock Lobster and Finfish Fisheries under fishery-specific management plans.

BACKGROUND

Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) carry out the compliance programs for the Torres Strait under an agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland relating to the cost of management of fisheries in the area of Australian jurisdiction.

In response to the PZJA's concerns that the compliance programs for the fisheries under its authority were being compromised for a number of reasons, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) undertook a compliance risk assessment in 2004. The executive summary of the risk assessment and compliance plan was tabled at TSPMAC in July 2004 with the full risk assessment endorsed at PZJA 17.

The 2004 assessment identified the following activities as being of moderate to high risk, with 2004-5 controls in place:

- Sharkfinning, breach of gear and area restrictions by Papua New Guinea (PNG) operators are considered a **high** risk.
- Activities considered a **moderate** risk by domestic operators included the take of prohibited or protected species, breach of possession limits (bycatch) and breach of gear, size (bugs) and area restrictions.
- It was identified that there is a **moderate** risk that licensed operators may breach area closures and fish in excess of allocated fishing days.

While there is no specific requirement under the Strategic Assessment to complete a second compliance risk assessment for the Prawn fishery, the recommendations do require PZJA to develop within 1 year a strategy and timeframes for implementing any resultant recommendations arising from the formal compliance risk assessment. With this in mind it is appropriate to ensure that a compliance risk assessment is completed after the new management plan is implemented. This would account for any changes in the management arrangements that have occurred from the time when the first assessment was undertaken.

DPI&F has an officer who specializes in the completion of compliance risk assessments. The compliance risk assessment used adheres to the Australian Standard for risk management and uses a process which identifies, evaluates and ranks the risks associated with non-compliance with fishery management arrangements. The process has regard to the sustainability of target fish stocks, environmental impacts, ecology and conservation

value of the fishery (including impacts on bycatch and protected species) and the community perception of compliance delivery.

DISCUSSION

Due to the diverse nature of fishing activities and limited compliance resources in the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) it is important that compliance matters are addressed in a holistic rather individual fishery fashion. With a suite of new management arrangements being drafted for the major fisheries in the TSPZ a compliance risk assessment for all fisheries combined has been proposed. With the management plans for the Tropical Rock Lobster, Finfish and Prawn Fisheries not due for implementation until late 2007 it may be more appropriate to postpone any further compliance risk assessments until after the management plans are implemented.

The DPI&F process for a compliance risk assessment equates to approximately 4 weeks of work for the Senior Project Officer for each fishery. The risk assessment process involves an internal meeting of key stakeholders. This part of the process can probably be delivered via a two day workshop of key participants on Thursday Island. It is therefore not cost effective to produce a separate assessment for each of the fisheries in the TSPZ.