

<b>TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Meeting No. 3 9 February 2007</b>
<b>TSPMAC members – Update on nomination process</b>	Agenda Item No. 3

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **THE TSPMAC NOTES:**

- 1) the process undertaken to fill vacant TSPMAC positions;
- 2) that the PZJA approved the inclusion of a Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) officer as a permanent observer on the TSPMAC.

## **BACKGROUND**

At its 19th meeting the PZJA agreed to elevate the status of the prawn working group to the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC). Existing prawn working group members were appointed to TSPMAC in accordance with the selection and appointment procedures specified in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1. (FMP1) Two vacant positions existed at the time the TSPMAC was created with nominated industry members acting in these positions.

## **DISCUSSION**

FMP1 outlines the policy for Torres Strait MACs and Working groups. This includes the selection/appointment procedure for the Chair and members. As outlined in FMP1 all licence holders were invited to nominate for the vacant positions on the TSPMAC with the nominations closing on the 2 October 2006. Due to interested parties being at sea at the time, the closing date was extended until after the season finished in December 2006.

Four nominations were received for the vacant positions. A selection and ranking panel comprising two PZJA agency staff and a fisher of standing from the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery was convened to assess the applicants against a series of criterion. Following the assessment, two applicants were found to have the skills and experience necessary to fill the vacant MAC positions. The successful nominees, Mrs Rosemary Millward and Mr Robert Giddens will now be recommended to the PZJA for appointment to the vacant industry positions on the TSPMAC.

In recent times DAFF have become more involved in the workings of the TSPMAC in association with the structural adjustment process being undertaken in the fishery and the additional funding that was provided by the Australian Government for levy relief and research purposes. With significant negotiation between PNG and Australia to occur in the Prawn fishery DAFF will continue to play a role in the TSPMAC in the foreseeable future. With this in mind PZJA approved the inclusion of a Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) officer as a permanent observer on the TSPMAC at its meeting in October 2006.