

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 4 14-15 June 2007
TSPF 2007 Season Update	Agenda Item No.3

RECOMMENDATION

That the TSPMAC NOTES the update provided in respect of the 2007 season for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery.

BACKGROUND

The TSPMAC was formed following the PZJA 19 decision to elevate the status of the prawn working group to the TSPMAC in April 2006. As a Management Advisory Committee, the TSPMAC has a responsibility to remain current in all issues involving the fishery. At times this can be difficult due to multi-agency involvement within the fishery and the spatial distribution of its members. The 2007 season has been underway for three and a half months and as such it is timely for TSPMAC members to provide a general update on catches and other issues encountered by industry.

DISCUSSION

The TSPMAC meetings offer an opportunity for all members to share fishery information that they have received either directly or indirectly. Initial reports indicate that the 2007 season is proving to be highly productive with catches between 900-1,000 lbs per night frequent during April/May.

Members are invited to provide information relating to the start of the 2007 season on topics including but not limited to:

- Catch rates;
- Product quality; and
- Bycatch rates.

Season Update on Total Allowable Effort usage in the TSPF – VMS data.

TAE Usage. To date of the 6,867 days allocated to Australian entitlement holders for the 2007 season, 2,793 days have been used (accurate to 6-June-2007). Thus, 4,074 days, or 59% of the TAE still remain to be used (Fig. 1).

Entitlement holders fishing. Of the 61 vessels holding licences/quota to fish in the TSPF, 49 vessels have begun fishing (holding 5,924 days). The remaining 12 licences, holding a total of 943 days, have not begun fishing this year. Of those 12 licences, seven are in ‘no-boat’ status (holding 538 of the 943 days) (Table 1). Thirty-Five licence holders (57%) still have more than half of their allocation (TAE) yet to be used.

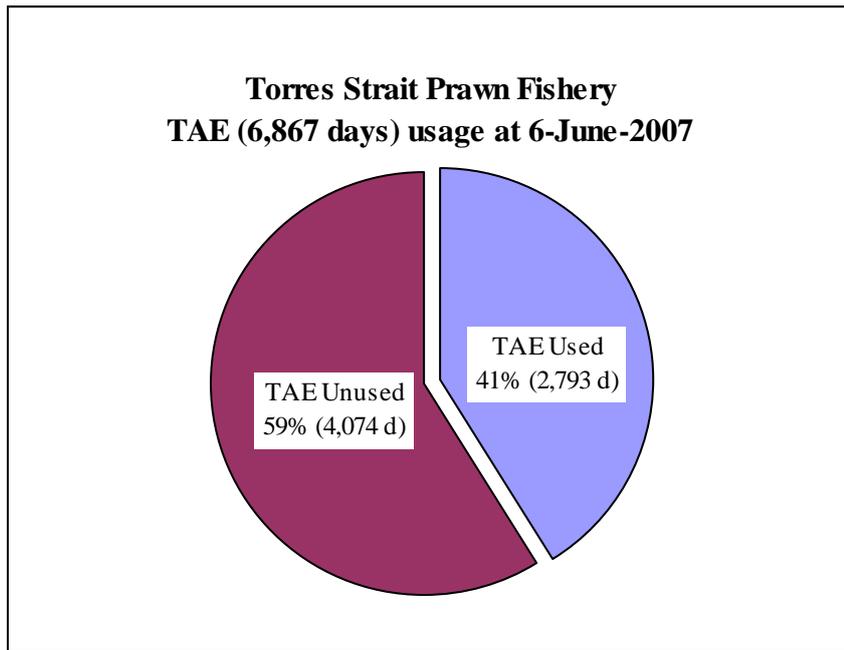


Fig. 1. Usage of Total Allowable Effort to date (6-June-2007) in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery.

Table 1. Number of licence holders who have begun fishing in the 2007 season.

	# of Licences	%	Days of TAE
Total # of licence holders	61	100	6,867
Licence holders fishing	49	80	5,924
Licence holders yet to fish	12	20	943
	(7 in no-boat status)	(11)	(538)