

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVSIORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 4 14-15 June 2007
Compliance Report: 2007 season - Update on activities	Agenda Item No.11

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the QB&FP operations within the Torres Strait is to carry out surveillance and enforcement duties to support the legislation and the policies of the PZJA. Specifically:

- 1) To provide an education and extension service for both traditional and commercial fisher persons to enhance the development and management of the fisheries within the Protected Zone.
- 2) To undertake such duties as required by the PZJA to protect the resources of the TSPZ and to enhance their exploitation by persons permitted to utilise those resources in keeping with the spirit of the Treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The program is run from the Thursday Island office of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol with support from offices in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville.

DISCUSSION

The attached report (Attachment 11A) outlines the activities and results of the QB&FP Thursday Island, Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) for the period July 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. The draft report is for all fisheries within the Torres Strait. However, within the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, there were two issues observed.

- Production of documentation (operators fail to have the vessels fishing and safety manuals, including manning certificates and the vessels fishing authority);
- Carriage of safety equipment in accordance with registration requirements.

In addition, of the 26 planned monitoring days for the period, only 14.5 have been completed to date. Platform availability has been the primary obstacle in meeting the objectives.