

28 July 2005 Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron

Prawn Working Group Record

Attendance

- 1) The following members and observers were in attendance at the Prawn Working Group (PWG) meeting:

Rob Giddins (Industry)	Mark Millward (Industry)
Rosemary Millward (Industry)	Nick Schulz (Industry)
Jim Prescott (AFMA)	Dave Johnson (AFMA)
Clive Turnbull (QDPI&F)	John Kung (QDPI&F)
Kenny Bedford (TSRA – Erub)	Peter Yorkston (TSRA)
Samuel Tamu (TSRA – Warraber)	Charles David (TSRA – Yam)
Lota Warria (TSRA – Yorke)	
Barry Ehrke (Observer - Industry)	Martin Scott (Observer - AFMA)
Mick George (Observer - AFMA)	Rob Ferguson (Observer - DEH)
John Marrington (Observer - AFMA)	

Opening

- 2) The Chair, John Pollock, opened the meeting at 1500 hrs. The Chair clarified that he was chairing the meeting as Jim Gillespie has been seconded to another Department as part of a Queensland government senior executive mobility program, and his replacement Allan Parsons was not available for the PWG. The Chair further clarified that he would be chairing the meeting in an independent capacity.

Apologies

- 3) Apologies for the following PWG members were noted:
- Burt Mattisac (TSRA – Stephens Is)
 - Don Mosby (Observer - TSRA)
 - Barry Wilson (Industry)
 - Bob Robbins (Industry)
- 4) The following proxies were noted:
- Rob Giddins for Barry Wilson
 - Nick Schulz for Bob Robbins

Adoption of meeting agenda

- 5) Agenda was adopted (Attachment A) with a notation that the compliance item would be presented in session by John Marrington or out of session depending on when the report was received from QBFP.

Ratification of previous meeting record

- 6) Ratified without amendments

Action Items from previous meeting

- 7) The status of action items from the previous PWG meeting was discussed and noted per the table below:

No	Action	Action Officer/ Agency	Status	Comments
1	Minutes from October and December 2003 TSFPW meetings to be revised and distributed with attachments	Alistair Bain/AFMA	Completed	Revised minutes distributed with no further comments received.
2	Prepare and distribute advice on comparative impacts of twin and quad gear	AFMA	Completed	References provided to PWG members for studies done in other prawn fisheries on environmental impacts and conversion ratios.
3	Management to follow up the definition and intent of the words "activated licence" with the PZJA	Christian McDonald/ DAFF	Not completed	Determined at this PWG as not necessary.
4	Industry to consider and suggest improvements to the one page table on design of observer program and provide feedback to management.	TSPEHA	Completed	Suggestions received from TSPEHA and incorporated into table.
5	Management to clarify percentage of compliance costs recovered from Industry	AFMA	Completed	Table to be provided to PWG members detailing proportion of costs allocated.
6	Prepare background paper on an alternative management arrangements workshop, including a statement of purpose and objectives.	AFMA	Re-considered and determined unnecessary	
7	Prepare and distribute a draft proposal for industry consideration on mechanisms for Australian operators to access preferential days not utilised by PNG in the TSPZ	Christian McDonald/ DAFF	Ongoing	Unable to be progressed until outcomes of negotiations with PNG and TSI on licences is known
8	Chair of TSFPWG to write to Chair of AFMA, requesting a one month extension to the Bycatch Action Plan deadline.	Jim Gillespie	Completed	Extension granted by AFMA Chair in July 2004.
9	Prepare and distribute a breakdown of costs associated with the implementation of a Torres Prawn Fishery observer program	Jim Prescott/ AFMA	Completed	Sent to members 9 th August 2004.
10	Prawn Working Group to agree out of session to the implementation of an observer program in the fishery, and to include the associated costs in the Bycatch Action Plan.	John Marrington	Completed	Email of 9 th August 2004 noted and that no response would be taken as acceptance.

11	Prepare a paper on proposed mechanisms for addressing obligations under the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.	Trysh Stone	Completed	Issue discussed at Agenda Item 12
12	Investigate possible improvements to the current VMS manual reporting system. Circulate to members out of session.	Jim Prescott	Ongoing	Unsure of the need to change. System appears to work well. John Marrington to provide verbal report.
13	Follow up issue of working group meeting costs with Minister's office	Trysh Stone	Completed	Follow up with Ministers office has found that the Minister made no undertaking to pay for the meeting.
14	Develop a proposal for the establishment of a Resource Assessment Group to provide scientific advice in relation to stock assessments and other matters relevant to the Torres Prawn Fishery.	AFMA	Completed	Provided to PWG members at this meeting

- 8) Action Item 12 – John Marrington presented a verbal report on the procedures for manual reporting in the event of VMS breakdowns. No negative feedback has been received on procedures to date. John Marrington also highlighted a concern that vessels with VMS breakdowns in Torres Strait were also being decremented East Coast Trawl Fishery days – this has created unnecessary work between agencies to rectify the situation.

ACTION ITEM 1 – Chair to write on behalf of PWG to QDPI&F to request that Queensland address the issue of Effort Units being automatically deducted from ECTF when a VMS unit breaks down while a vessel is in Torres Strait.

Managing Effort - Alternatives from the Workshop held 26-28 July 2005

- 9) Summary of proposals from the Alternative Management Workshop 26-28 July 2005 held at the Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron is at Attachment B.
- 10) Recommendations for managing effort as arising from the Alternative Management Workshop are at Attachment C.
- 11) Clarification was sought on the tasks required to update the stock assessment. These tasks were identified as:
- Collecting gear sheet information from remaining trawlers (Clive Turnbull).
 - Inclusion of 2006 Logbook data into the stock assessment (Clive Turnbull) (Industry is concerned that the update of the stock assessment for the 2007 season should include data from the 2006 season).
 - Given the time lag between which logbook records are submitted and when they are available for input into the stock assessment, the PWG discussed the possibility of 2006 logbook data being incorporated into the stock assessment

for consideration by the PWG. As this would be unlikely, the PWG considered a viable alternative of making its decisions using the most up to date data set of 2006 data with the inclusion of a sensitivity analyses.

- The PWG agreed on a process of tying in a PWG with a TSPEHA AGM in 2006 so that entitlement holders are made aware of management developments.
- 12) The PWG noted the following caveats by members on support for the recommendations (outlined in Attachment C)
- TSPEHA – concern that the tiger prawn spawning area closures could impact on CPUE:
 - Management - That consideration be given to allowing boats to trial fish during these spawning closures to obtain information possible through the use of Scientific Permits.
 - TSRA – that during closures (spawning or otherwise), concern over impact of crews frequenting Islander communities eg Erub. Industry through Rob Giddins allayed this concern for the spawning closures specifically, as other areas will still be open to trawling so that vessels/crews will still be working.
 - Suspension of 20% surrender (boat replacement policy) should commence when details of adjustment are announced.
 - Industry believe that E_{MSY} will increase as a result of the (2006) adjustments.
 - TSRA: agreed to support these recommendations in-principle. That this is the first step in management and further consideration will need to be given to Islander and other management issues through good cooperation.
 - Management: In relation to Industry’s “Legal cap” – will need to clarify ‘units’ (as per last paragraph of Mark Vail press release).
- 13) Implementation Plan for 2006 arrangements: the PWG identified the following action items:

ACTION ITEM 2 - VMS section (QDPI&F) need to be updated for new monitoring and notification requirements. John Kung.

ACTION ITEM 3 - Administrative arrangements – Need to let licence holders know what is happening and process in train. Mick George

ACTION ITEM 4 – Production of maps identifying closure areas (Recommendations 2 and 4 of attachment C)

- ***Clive Turnbull to produce month to month data to identify tiger closure areas. Industry specified that they were happy to use Clive’s data***
- ***Map production team = Clive Turnbull, Barry Ehrke, Rob Giddins.***
- ***Agreed Process – Following production of the maps, to go back to the Prawn Working Group out of session.***

ACTION ITEM 5 - Recommendation 1 (of attachment C): DAFF (Dave Johnson to coordinate) to obtain legal advice on impact of these recommendations on Treaty obligations in relation to PNG’s access entitlements.

ACTION ITEM 6 - TSPEHA requests that they be provided with the questions asked and the outcomes pertaining to the Treaty legal advice (from Action item 5)

- 14) The PWG acknowledged that future stock assessment research will depend on available funding. Currently, prawn research is conducted through Clive Turnbull's project funded by the CRC Torres Strait with no provision made for assistance from other scientists such as Michael O'Neill (QDPI&F).

ACTION ITEM 7 – PWG to come up with a proposal for funding of research.

- 15) For the process relating to arrangements for 2006, the PWG was advised that if a TSFMAC meeting is not held in the remainder of 2005, then the recommendations from this PWG will be considered by the PZJA in December 2005, in order that arrangements can be made in time for the 2006 licensing year and season.

Strategic Assessment

- 16) The Agenda paper presented by Rob Ferguson (DEH). The PWG was advised that the strategic assessment needs to be completed by 1 December 2005 when the current export accreditation expires – Therefore will need to go to PZJA out of session.
- 17) The PWG was also advised that the majority of recommendations are similar to those issued to other prawn fisheries such as ECOTF and NPF. Recommendations also do not create new work as most are touched on by the BAP and other processes/commitments in place.
- 18) Mick George has developed a project implementation plan that is a work in progress (the draft was included with meeting papers). This will be finalised once the recommendations have been endorsed and project costings developed.

RECOMMENDATION

The PWG noted that the recommendations arising from the Strategic Assessment will be finalised by December 2005 and that a project implementation plan is being developed. Resourcing and costings will be finalised when the recommendations are finalised and endorsed.

Observer Program

- 19) The PWG discussed the uses of the observer program data:
- Strategic assessment
 - Validate logbook data
 - Contribute to stock assessment
 - Address Islander concerns; and
 - Accurately describe bycatch data not recorded through the logbook mechanism.
- 20) Industry raised concern over the initial placement of observers on vessels but that the process is improved now.
- 21) The Chair suggested that once a year, the PWG identifies its data needs.
- 22) Discussion occurred on how the outcomes of the Observer Program can be communicated to all stakeholders. Industry was concerned that the extension of

results had not been budgeted for however Mick George advised that the production of a report upon completion of the program was budgeted for.

ACTION ITEM 8 – Martin Scott to make available his PowerPoint presentation at the AMW to the interested PWG members.

ACTION ITEM 9 – A summary of outcomes of the Observer Program be provided at the completion of the project. Mick George

RAG process for the Prawn fishery

- 23) Jim Prescott identified that the PWG in the past has not made good use of research or focused on science. The PWG held over discussion of a Prawn RAG to the next meeting of a PWG.
- 24) Industry supported a RAG for this fishery in-principle but was concerned that funding obligations of licence holders through the prawn levy will increase. Mark Millward flagged that as an alternative the TSPEHA could contribute through some other means rather than through the prawn levy.

ACTION ITEM 10 – Jim Prescott to identify and develop costings for a Prawn RAG. Rosemary Millward to identify methods of funding a RAG i.e. outside of a levy process.

Outcomes from May 2005 TSFMAC and PZJA

- 25) The agenda paper was presented by Mick George.
- 26) Industry questioned the outcomes of membership nomination/appointment process. The Chair advised that while the July PZJA Record of Decisions has not been finalised, this issued was discussed at that meeting.

Finance Report

- 28) The agenda paper was presented by Mick George.
- 29) Industry queried the Queensland component 2005/06 prawn budget. John Kung provided a verbal report on the Queensland component. In summary, while proposed spending has decreased by \$4,600, the overall Queensland budget has increased by 8.9% to \$137,293 as a direct result of transferring the entire VMS component of the budget from AFMA to QDPI&F.

- 30) Clarification was provided on the compliance component of the budget. Mick George confirmed that the past compliance costs that was levied was in line with the stated policy and correct. Overall compliance costs are determined when the Queensland and AFMA budgets are combined to determine the prawn levy towards the end the year. The PWG was advised that agencies are currently examining improvements for the budgeting process.

National Plan of Action for Sharks

- 31) John Kung presented a verbal report on this agenda item.
- 32) The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-Plan) was endorsed by all governments in April 2004. The Shark Plan contains 43 action items to address shark target fishing and bycatch. The elements of the plan represent a significant work load. John Kung requested that this agenda item be held over to the next meeting of the PWG so that synergies between the Shark Plan, the prawn fishery's strategic assessment recommendations and Bycatch Action Plan can be identified. It is expected that the majority of requirements of the shark Plan will be picked up by the strategic assessment requirements and BAP.
- 33) A second issue relating to sharks for this fishery was discussed. This issue is the retention of shark caught by trawl gear. Currently, a bycatch limit of 5 sharks are allowed to be retained by trawlers, however this is inconsistent with an earlier gazetted notice that sharks are only permitted to be caught by line methods.
- 34) The PWG agreed that the issue of the Shark Plan and shark bycatch retention be addressed at the next meeting of the PWG.

ACTION ITEM 11 – PWG to discuss Shark Plan requirements and shark bycatch retention at next meeting of PWG

ACTION ITEM 12 - Clarify the legality of recreationally caught sharks on board trawlers. QB&FP

Comparative impacts of twin vs quad gear

- 35) Mick George presented a verbal report on this agenda item. A comparative study is currently being conducted in the NPF. Two issues are evident relating to environmental impacts of the gear types and gear efficiency.

ACTION ITEM 13 - circulate out of session the NPF report when it becomes available. Mick George

Compliance

- 36) A compliance report was not made available at the time of the meeting. The PWG agreed that John Marrington would circulate the report out of session.

ACTION ITEM 14 - Provide compliance report out of session. John Marrington

Other business

Sunk Trawlers off Yorke Island

- 37) Lota Warrior asked who is responsible for removing the recently sunk vessels off Yorke Island. Lota informed that meeting that the people at Yorke Island believe that oil leaking from these vessels is affecting traditional fishing for sardines. Members informed Lota that the impacts of a sinking were not the business of the fisheries management agencies, but that advice would be sought on which agencies were responsible and what the plans were in this case.

ACTION ITEM 15 - Find out what the remedial actions are and which agencies are responsible and advise Lota Warrior. QDPI&F

Update on US TED Accreditation

- 38) Mick George flagged with the PWG the latest developments in US TED accreditation. This process has previously been lead by Trysh Stone who has now moved out of the Torres Strait fisheries.

ACTION ITEM 16 - Mick George to follow up with Trysh Stone and provide an update out of session.

- 39) Industry raised the issue of TED developments in the ECOTF and how these would affect Torres Strait operators fishing the EC with Torres TEDs. The PWG discussed this in relation to accreditation in that the trawled product would need to be discriminated from the jurisdictions.

Next Meeting

- 40) The PWG agreed on a 1-day meeting to be held Tuesday 18 October in Cairns to deal with Alternative Management Arrangements, subject to TSRA consultation on venue.

The meeting closed at 1800 hrs.

Recommendations

For 2006 fishing season

1. Reduce total fishing cap to 12,000 Allocated fishing Days (AFDs)
 - a. Cap includes use by ALL licence holders – Australian, Islander & PNG (*need to check the treaty provision for PNG and if this is able to be implemented*)
 - b. Close the fishery when this limit is reached (maintaining the legal cap of 13,393 days)
2. Introduce a trigger to close key tiger prawn fishing areas
 - a. When 9,200 AFDs reached, close the areas identified (*need to identify these areas*)
3. Use VMS to decrement AFDs, with warning provided when fleet is within 5% of both limit (*need to check implementation capabilities of VMS*)
4. Close key tiger prawns spawning areas for example 2 weeks (eg; during September or October). (*Need to define if key discrete spawning areas able to be identified and if 2 weeks is enough/not enough time to meet objectives?*). Would need to undertake sampling of the areas during closures using scientific permits to monitor effectiveness. Also need to consider the impact on CPUE for the next year.
5. Legal Cap – maintain AFDs at current level (13,393) or whatever number is resultant following buyback/transfers/amalgamations (i.e. restructuring) each licence is issued current allocation (subject to restructuring) but can only fish (use) these AFDs when the fishery is open
 - a. AFMA & DPI&F note that this is industries position
6. Commitment to review the arrangements including an update of the stock assessment at prior to the commencement of the 2007 season
7. 20% surrender on upgrade
 - a. Suspend for 12 months (2006) to assist industry adjustment. Review at end of 2006. (Final timing to be dependent on implementation of the buyback)
8. Maintain 50 days minimum holding and 10 day transfers package
9. Recognition that level is set close to the limit reference point (Emsy) for 2006 as an interim measure. The outcomes of the 2006 changes are to be included in an update of the stock assessment at the end of 2006 with a view to moving to a target reference (~ 80% of Emsy). Whether this target reference point is higher or lower than 9,200 AFDs the target reference point is the level used.

Strategic Assessment

10. The PWG noted that the recommendations arising from the Strategic Assessment will be finalised by December 2005 and that a project implementation plan is being developed. Resourcing and costings will be finalised when the recommendations are finalised and endorsed.

Action Items

No	Action	Action Officer/ Agency
1	Chair to write on behalf of PWG to QDPI&F to request that Queensland address the issue of Effort Units being automatically deducted from ECTF when a VMS unit breaks down while a vessel is in Torres Strait.	Chair of PWG
2	VMS section (QDPI&F) need to be updated for new monitoring and notification requirements.	John Kung
3	Administrative arrangements – Need to let licence holders know what is happening and process in train.	Mick George
4	Production of maps identifying closure areas (Recommendations 2 and 4 of attachment C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clive Turnbull to produce month to month data to identify tiger closure areas. Industry specified that they were happy to use Clive's data • Map production team = Clive Turnbull, Barry Ehrke, Rob Giddins). • Agreed Process – Following production of the maps, to go back to the Prawn Working Group out of session. 	Clive Turnbull Clive Turnbull, Barry Ehrke, Rob Giddins PWG
5	Recommendation 1 (of attachment C): DAFF (Dave Johnson to coordinate) to obtain legal advice on impact of these recommendations on Treaty obligations in relation to PNG's access entitlements.	Dave Johnson
6	TSPEHA requests that they be provided with the questions asked and the outcomes pertaining to the Treaty legal advice (from Action item 5)	Dave Johnson
7	PWG to come up with a proposal for funding of research.	PWG
8	Martin Scott to make available his PowerPoint presentation at the AMW to the interested PWG members.	Martin Scott
9	A summary of outcomes of the Observer Program be provided at the completion of the project	Mick George
10	Jim Prescott to identify and develop costings for a Prawn RAG. Rosemary Millward to identify methods of funding a RAG i.e. outside of a levy process.	Jim Prescott Rosemary Millward
11	PWG to discuss Shark Plan requirements and shark bycatch retention at next meeting of PWG	PWG
12	Clarify the legality of recreationally caught sharks on board trawlers.	QB&FP
13	Circulate out of session the NPF report on comparative effects of quad vs twin gear when it becomes available	Mick George
14	Provide compliance report out of session	Jon Marrington
15	Find out what the remedial actions are in relation to the sunk trawlers off Yorke Island and which agencies are responsible and advise Lota Warrior.	John Kung
16	Follow up with Trysh Stone the status of US TED accreditation and provide an update out of session.	Mick George

Torres Prawn Working Group

**28 - 29 July 2005
Cairns**

Agenda

Preliminaries

1. Opening
2. Attendance/ Apologies
3. Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes from July 2004 meeting
5. Actions Arising

Future Management of Torres Prawn Fishery

6. Managing Effort: Alternatives from the Workshop
7. Strategic assessment: Recommendations from DEH and implementation schedule/process
8. Observer Program

Discussion / Information Items

9. Outcomes from May & July (if relevant) TSFMAC
10. Outcomes from February & July PZJA Meetings
11. Finance Report
12. National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:
Proposed mechanisms for addressing obligations
13. Comparative impacts of twin and quad gear
14. Compliance
15. Other Business

NEXT MEETING

Summary of proposals from the Alternative Management Workshop 26-28 July 2005 held at the Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron

A number of presentations were made giving a background of the fishery and the delay-difference model prepared by Clive Turnbull for the workshop. Presentations on research projects currently being undertaken in Torres Strait and a presentation by the Spencer Gulf Prawn fishery representatives were also part of the workshop to help stimulate discussions.

The following points were raised by workshop participants during the discussion components of the workshop, but were not final positions of any participants. More detailed proposals were presented during the workshop from industry (see Proposal 1 attached below), and other participants provided oral presentations of options.

- 1) Allocated Fishing Days Legal cap
 - a) There was a strong feeling of the need to preserve the asset value of the total allocated days by industry representatives by maintaining the current allocated fishing days at their current level (i.e. no reduction in days allocated).
 - b) There was a clear understanding by all participants that all days allocated in the fishery would not be used (i.e. fishing habits and patterns would not change from current activities).
- 2) Allocated Fishing Days Fishing cap
 - a) The use of trigger points, such as daily catch rates or total effort days (9,197 days) were discussed to control effort in the tiger prawn fishery
 - b) The use of Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE) instead of days as measure was also raised as a possibility
 - c) The need to consider the effect on endeavour prawns of any controls on tiger prawn fishing was raised, with a 2nd trigger point (12,000 days) discussed as a way of limiting effort
 - d) It was noted that the trigger cap proposals were based on no change to fishing patterns in the fishery
 - e) Discussions on target reference points and limit reference points as fishing caps were discussed, with the need to move towards target reference points noted to maintain long term sustainability
 - f) The need to review the reference points determined in 12 months following the restructure of the fleet (after vessel reductions), and an update of the model to include data from the restructured fleet was discussed
- 3) Use of moon closures in the fishery
 - a) The remoteness of the fishery was raised as a concern, with the cost to transfer crews during closure back to the mainland noted as prohibitive, and a concern with crews spending time on Islands also raised as a concern by operators.
 - b) The benefit of potential short term economic impact of closures for the region was raised, with the example of the closures in the TRL fishery given as providing opportunities for Torres Strait communities
- 4) Mid season closure
 - a) A closure in the prawn fishery sometime during June/July/August may assist the TRL fishery
- 5) Effects of changes in effort or fishing patterns on other fisheries and on the lifestyles of islanders needs to be considered as part of the process
- 6) It was suggested that effort discussions should be focused on biomass available and not in terms of days
- 7) Staged reductions

- a) Jim Prescott presented an example of a staged effort reduction that included elements of buyback and uncompensated reductions to the workshop. He noted that this was something that he had worked on and brought to the workshop without having discussed it with the management agencies and presented it stimulate discussion and did so without prejudice. Industry did not accept this proposal and noted that they did not want any form of a staged reduction
 - b) Two forms of the spread sheet were shown, one which resulted in a bit more than 9600 days in total (See proposal 2. Table 1 below) and another with more than 10000 (See proposal 2. Table 2 below). The spreadsheet allowed for some of the allocated days to go unused and both examples used a figure of 15% for that purpose and to explore how the final number of days fished compared with Emsy, for example
 - c) A number of participants raised concerns with the effect on the value of entitlements if a staged reduction approach was adopted
 - d) It was noted that a staged reduction process may assist stocks to better adjust as opposed to one large reduction
- 8) Seasonal “shifting” closures (opening areas as season progressed) were proposed as a means of promoting larger prawn sizes (increasing value of catch) and also helping to preserve the biomass of the stock
 - 9) Accessing additional fishing grounds (west of warrior) to share biomass across areas was also suggested to assist in sustainability of the stocks
 - 10) The potential to use other government programs (eg Prawn Industry Partnerships) to assist industry to adjust was raised
 - 11) Many noted the need to find or develop a model to assess the effects on stocks of endeavour prawns to changes in effort, fishing patterns and seasons as an important issue that must be addressed
 - 12) The use of the delay difference (Beverton Holt) model with updated figures to set effort levels for tigers for coming seasons was discussed as an important part of the process
 - 13) Industry representatives asked for the supply of preseason survey information to the industry to allow for adjustment of fishing patterns in response to stock levels and distribution if required

Proposal 1. Key Industry Interests/Concerns

1. to ensure a sustainable fishing effort control is in place for the tiger prawn stock;
2. to ensure a sustainable fishing effort control is in place for the endeavour prawn stock; and
3. to maintain Industries assets (i.e. licences and allocated fishing days entitlements – whether these are held by Australian industry or PNG).

Industry proposes the following arrangement to deliver what we believe is a good outcome for both the sustainability issues and the asset retention issues.

Historically we have all thought the fishing cap or caps had to be the same as the “legal” allocated fishing days cap. Given the major problems caused by this assumption, we tried to find better ways to achieve both the sustainability and asset retention outcomes.

In summary we propose that;

1. the existing total fishery effort cap of 13,454* allocated fishing days remain in place as the legal allocation cap and also the endeavour prawn fishing cap;
*this number will reduce as licences are amalgamated or sold out through the buy back arrangement announced by the A/g Prime Minister today (27 July 2005).
2. Within this overall fishing cap, have a “sub-cap” or control point for maximum sustainable fishing effort for tiger prawns.
 - Fish as normal, taking a mix of tiger and/or endeavour prawns until total fishing effort reaches 9,200 Allocated fishing Days (AFDs) measured by VMS
 - If/when 9,200 AFDs actual fishing effort is reached, then licensees are notified and identified areas of the fishery are closed to stop targeting of tiger prawns on the key tiger prawn grounds. This still allows fishing to continue in areas remaining open for endeavour prawns. Note that some small number of tiger prawns will still be taken but David Die felt that this would not be enough to cause any significant impact on tiger stock sustainability.

Decisions to be made to support the above proposal

1. Identify tiger grounds to close if fishing effort reaches 9,200 AFDs;
2. decide if the 20% surrender provision on upgrades should remain in place or cease for a year while the fishery restructures as a result of the buy back process (eg amalgamation of days onto one licence and other licence(s) cancelled so that boat numbers are reducing and sustainability provisions improve;
3. maintain 50 day minimum holdings of AFDs as per the original decision of the PZJA or not;
4. if a licence trades below 50 days does the licence then get automatically cancelled or not; and
5. Maintain licence and AFDs trading provisions as per existing arrangements.

Proposal 2. Table 1 - Staged reduction proposal to 9,686 nights

	EPEH	TSI	PNG	Total	EPEH reduction	PNG reduction	%EPEH reduction	% PNG reduction	PNG % of fishery		adjustment
2005	13396	825	1925	16146					12%		1
2006	9971	0	1925	11896	1500		15%	0%	16%		
2007	8471	0	1725	10196	1500	200	18%	12%	17%		
2008	8046	0	1640	9686	425	85	5%	5%	17%		
2009	8046	0	1640	9686							
2010	8046	0	1640	9686							
Overall % reduction	40%	100%	15%								
Uncompensated reduction	24%	0	15%								
Percent catch reduction	17%										
Actual effort, ie less percentage not fished (change below)	6839		1394	8233							
	15%										
			Note that in B3 the reduction includes the removal of PNG's 1925 equivalent access by tender. This will probably remove days distributed through the season by removing packages. If average package then it should remove about 11 licences.								

Proposal 2. Table 2 - Staged reduction proposal to 10,614 nights

	EPEH	TSI	PNG	Total	EPEH reduction	PNG reduction	%EPEH reduction	% PNG reduction	PNG % of fishery		adjustment
2005	13396	825	1925	16146					12%		0.75
2006	10346	0	1925	12271	1125		11%	0%	16%		
2007	9221	0	1775	10996	1125	150	12%	8%	16%		
2008	8902	0	1711	10614	319	64	4%	4%	16%		
2009	8902	0	1711	10614							
2010	8902	0	1711	10614							
Overall % reduction	34%	100%	11%								
Uncompensated reduction	16%	0	11%								
Percent catch reduction	16%										
Actual effort, ie less percentage not fished (change below)	7567		1455	9021							
15%											
			Note that in B3 the reduction includes the removal of PNG's 1925 equivalent access by tender. This will probably remove days distributed through the season by removing packages. If average package then it should remove about 11 licences.								

Recommendations for managing effort as arising from the Alternative Management Workshop

1. Reduce total fishing cap to 12,000 Allocated fishing Days (AFDs)
 - a. Cap includes use by ALL licence holders – Australian, Islander & PNG (*need to check the treaty provision for PNG and if this is able to be implemented*)
 - b. Close the fishery when this limit is reached (maintaining the legal cap of 13,393 days)
2. Introduce a trigger to close key tiger prawn fishing areas
 - a. When 9,200 AFDs reached, close the areas identified (*need to identify these areas*)
3. Use VMS to decrement AFDs, with warning provided when fleet is within 5% of both limit (*need to check implementation capabilities of VMS*)
4. Close key tiger prawns spawning areas for example 2 weeks (eg; during September or October). (*Need to define if key discrete spawning areas able to be identified and if 2 weeks is enough/not enough time to meet objectives?*). Would need to undertake sampling of the areas during closures using scientific permits to monitor effectiveness. Also need to consider the impact on CPUE for the next year.
5. Legal Cap – maintain AFDs at current level (13,393) or whatever number is resultant following buyback/transfers/amalgamations (i.e. restructuring) each licence is issued current allocation (subject to restructuring) but can only fish (use) these AFDs when the fishery is open
 - a. AFMA & DPI&F note that this is industries position
6. Commitment to review the arrangements including an update of the stock assessment at prior to the commencement of the 2007 season
7. 20% surrender on upgrade
 - a. Suspend for 12 months (2006) to assist industry adjustment. Review at end of 2006. (Final timing to be dependent on implementation of the buyback)
8. Maintain 50 days minimum holding and 10 day transfers package
9. Recognition that level is set close to the limit reference point (Emsy) for 2006 as an interim measure. The outcomes of the 2006 changes are to be included in an update of the stock assessment at the end of 2006 with a view to moving to a target reference (~ 80% of Emsy). Whether this target reference point is higher or lower than 9,200 AFDs the target reference point is the level used.