

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Working Group
Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron
5 July 2004

Draft Minutes

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Agenda Item 1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

1. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking individuals to briefly introduce themselves. The following people attended the meeting.

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Jack Billy	TSRA	Jim Gillespie	QDPI Fisheries
Kenny Bedford	TSRA	John Kung	QDPI Fisheries
Peter Yorkston	TSRA	Alistair Bain	AFMA
Don Mosby	TSRA	Dan Sweeney	QBFP
Lota Warri	TSRA	Christian McDonald	DAFF
Samuel Tamu	TSRA	Trysh Stone	AFMA
Barre Kare	PNG Fisheries	Jim Prescott	AFMA
Peter Lee	Lee Fishing Co Pty Ltd	Clive Turnbull	QDPI Fisheries
Nick Schulz	Schulz Fisheries	Michael O'Neil	QDPI Fisheries
Barry Wilson	TSPEHA	Richard McLoughlin	AFMA
Mark Millward	TSPEHA	Rob Robbins	Processor
Rosemary Millward	TSPEHA	Len Lumley	Industry, Skipper

2. Jim Prescott distributed a revised agenda and a summary of responses and comments on the 'Future Management Arrangements' discussion paper (see agenda item 7). A revised budget sheet (agenda item 10) was also distributed, as the existing copy in the agenda papers was difficult to read.

Apologies

3. Apologies were expressed on behalf of Rocky Stevens and Barry Ehrke.

Adoption of Agenda

4. The agenda was adopted with the addition of Prawn Working Group meeting costs added to the agenda under Agenda Item 16. Other Business.

Agenda Item 2. Adoption of Minutes

5. Rosemary Millward commented that this paper was the first time the TSPEHA had seen the draft minutes from the October and December 2003 TSPFWG meetings and their association had a number of concerns with them.
6. It was acknowledged that the process in distributing minutes requires improvement and it was agreed that a list of recommendations would be presented at the conclusion of this meeting for members agreement

7. The TSPEHA made a number of comments on the draft minutes from the October and December 2003 TSPFWG meetings. Some were of a minor editorial nature, while other comments were to clarify the positions of Industry and Management.
8. The TSPEHA did not support the wording of Recommendation 1 from the December TSPFWG to the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee. Their position is that the recommended total effort in the fishery should be 11,353 days not just for 2004, but until such time as it was necessary to change it. Other members commented that the recommendations had been circulated for comment between the PWG and TSFMAC meetings.
9. Ken Bedford of the TSRA commented that the minutes from the October meeting did not reflect the TSRA position regarding Torres Strait Islander involvement in the proposed Crew Member Observer program.

ACTION ITEMS

- Minutes from October and December 2003 TSPFWG meetings to be revised to address TSPEHA and TSRA comments and distributed with attachments.
- Prepare and distribute advice on comparative impacts of twin and quad gear (carryover from December 2003)

Agenda Item 3. Actions Arising

10. The TSPFWG noted the status of Action Items from the December 2003 meeting. These are summarised in the table below.

No	Action	Status	Comments
1	Revise summary of comments on discussion paper prior to TSFMAC	Done	
2	Seek legal advice on allocation and trade of preferential and supplementary days	Done	DAFF has sought legal advice, which has been incorporated, into the revised position paper. This advice cannot be released due to issues of legal privilege and sensitive ongoing negotiations with PNG. Rosemary Millward registered her protest that this advice will not be released.
3	AFMA to provide legal advice on whether Islanders could purchase and attach days to a TSI licence	Done	AFMA's advice is that TSI licences should be granted under section 19 of the Torres Strait Act and therefore they would be able to trade days. Trysh Stone indicated she was not able to comment on whether these licenses could be used as collateral but licence conditions can be written so that the licence as a whole cannot be sold but can be leased.
4	Management agencies and TSRA to resolve what changes in conditions on the licences will be needed to achieve TSRA's goals for the use of the three licences	Ongoing	A meeting with Mike Fordham in January 2004 resolved that the same conditions should apply on islander licenses as existing commercial licenses. Rosemary Millward expressed her disappointment that there is no paper about TSRA allocation and that formal conditions on those licences should be up for discussion before proceeding to the

			TSFMAC. Trysh Stone advised that this is covered in the discussion paper (Agenda Item 7) and will be covered in greater detail during this agenda item.
5	Management to follow up the definition and intent of the words “activated licence” with the PZJA	Outstanding	Rosemary Millward asked that a formal written response to this question be provided to Industry. OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEM
6	Industry to do a circular to seek information on early unloading data from as many operators as possible	Done	
7	QDPI to specify exactly what information is required in relation to early unloading, and provide this to industry	Done	
8	Industry to consider and suggest improvements to the one page table on design of observer program and provide feedback to management.	Outstanding	Document to be be recirculated for comment
9	AFMA and QFS to provide a YTD budget statement to the TSFPWG	Done	This was presented at the July 2004 meeting of the TSFPWG.
10	Management to clarify percentage of compliance costs recovered from Industry	In Progress	Advice to be provided out of session
11	Distribute budget to all sectors of the fishery	Done	This was presented at the July 2004 meeting of the TSFPWG.

Agenda Items 4 & 5. Recommendations to TSFMAC and PZJA Outcomes

11. The TSPFWG briefly reviewed the previous recommendations presented to the TSFMAC and the PZJA. It was noted that not all recommendations presented to the MAC were considered at the PZJA. It was agreed that these would be reviewed at the end of the meeting with a view to forwarding the relevant items back to the MAC.

Agenda Item 7. Responses to Discussion Paper

The TSPFWG considered this agenda item ahead of Item 6.

12. Rosemary Millward informed the TSPFWG that the Prime Minister is considering a letter from the Deputy PM and portfolio Minister on the effort cap issue. The TSPEHA position is that the PM is nearing a decision and that the TSPFWG should not consider this issue as it would be unwise to anticipate or circumvent this decision.

13. Trysh Stone advised that her instructions in relation to this issue were that the PM's decision would be the Australian government position at the next PZJA meeting but not necessarily the position of Queensland government and the TSRA. Therefore the TSPFWG should continue with their consideration of this issue and provide advice to the MAC and to all of the members of the PZJA on this issue. Also the comments on the discussion paper should be considered as a matter of courtesy to those who have taken time to respond to the discussion paper
14. Don Mosby advised that the TSRA position is that there is an established process, which should be followed. The working group has an agreed agenda and any directions or proposals originating from the PM's office should be tabled through the PWG.
15. Following a short adjournment, during which Trysh Stone sought further instruction the TSPFWG was advised that her position had not changed and that the TSPFWG should proceed with this agenda item to allow Queensland and the TSRA to present their positions.
16. Trysh Stone presented the summary of responses to the "Future Management Arrangements" discussion paper (ATTACHMENT 1).
17. Rosemary Millward commented that commercial fishers had submitted a petition style response as the remoteness of active fishers prevented the submission of in-depth responses and that the list of comments provided in the summary was not exhaustive.
18. Peter Yorkston informed the TSPFWG that the TSRA position was that traditional inhabitants own three full access licences and do not agree that their effort should be cut in line with any proposed effort reductions.
19. The TSPEHA expressed a number of concerns with the paper including:
 - the limited time to consider the paper.;
 - the paper did not reflect industry views and that this was not appropriate for a public discussion paper;
 - paper should have waited for the outcomes of the stock assessment review;
 - paper contained many general statements and some inaccuracies. ie. it is unclear what 'leasing' means and whether it is allowable;
 - there has been no attempt by the government to undertake socio-economic analysis of the proposals;
 - concerns regarding the 'independence' of the reviewer;
 - the discussion paper was discriminatory as not all licence holders had input; and
 - The TSPEHA declared a loss of confidence in the process over the last six months.
20. Trysh Stone advised that she did not intend to respond in detail to the comments but said that she must comment on the allegations concerning the independent reviewer. She said Dr Die did not have any involvement in the TS prawn fishery prior to his departure from Australia. He did declare under his contract that he

had worked with Clive Turnbull and Michael O'Neill (the scientists who produced the assessment model) some years previously on other issues.

21. Prior to the review Michael O'Neill and Clive Turnbull provided background information to David Die as preparation for the review. David Die had no input into the Torres Strait tiger prawn stock assessment results presented during the review in October of 2003. The review recommendations are his only input on the tiger prawn stock assessment.
22. The use of both surplus production and delay difference models for the Torres Strait tiger prawn stock assessment was flagged under item 5.2 of the December 2002 PWG meeting and agenda item 8 of the March 2003 PWG meeting. At these meetings it was suggested that David should review all of the models, not just the surplus production model. This was clearly provided for in the Terms of reference of the consultancy.
23. Industry representatives were given the opportunity to have direct input on the Terms of Reference by attending the 11th June 2003 video hook up with David Die. Industry representatives, although invited, did not attend the video hook up. Greg Anderson provided a list of industry concerns to AFMA, which were passed on to David. These together with other concerns raised with David are documented as Appendix B in Dr Die's report.
24. The modelling work reviewed by David was complete at the time of the review. At that time it was written up as a component of a draft FRDC final report. This report was sent out for review by FRDC, reviewer's comments addressed and the final report should be available as a public document from FRDC in the near future.
25. Dr Die provided a copy of his draft report to Jim Prescott and asked him to proof read it for him to check for typographical and grammatical errors. English is a second language for Dr Die. AFMA would be pleased to table a copy of the marked up report and the email traffic associated with the industry requests if asked.

Agenda Item 6. Review of Latest Stock Assessment Advice

26. Clive Turnbull gave an update on progress addressing David Die's recommendations to improve the stock assessment. In summary all high priority recommendations had been addressed, other than a couple which related to management rather than stock assessment. Most medium priority recommendations have also been addressed, with a couple planned for completion in the near future.
27. Mr Turnbull explained that from a stock assessment perspective it is beneficial to use a variety of models to check results. The delay difference model, which incorporates monthly data, was constructed in 99/00 as part of an FRDC project and specifically designed as this fishery has high seasonal variability.

28. Mr Turnbull commented that these improvements to the stock assessment have resulted in an improved reliability of the model. Michael O'Neill added that all but 3 of the 21 recommendations have been addressed, the assessment is as good as it can be at this point in time and that the modellers have confidence in the data being used.
29. Mr Turnbull explained that the model assumed an effort creep estimate of less than 1% a year, which is lower than has generally been thought in the past. This is consistent with the industry position that earlier estimates were too high.
30. The industry position was that stock assessment modelling is not the only tool available in fisheries management and that the outcome of the delay difference model was a shock to industry. Industry believes that cutting days using the model is not necessarily the best way to manage the fishery and there is a need to balance this approach with other management strategies. In particular, Industry has scientific advice that specific spawning closures would have a more beneficial effect and this highlights that there is widely varying scientific opinion on the best approach.
31. Trysh Stone agreed that there is a need for balance with other management strategies and that a workshop proposed for August/September 2004 would be beneficial in this regard.
32. Rosemary and Mark Millward presented the TSPEHA position that there is a need for balance between sustainability and socio-economic concerns. They believe there is a reluctance to deal with the economic issues, which need to be dealt with immediately, rather than at some time in the future. For 2 years industry have asked for socio-economic analysis to be undertaken and had no response. Industry's position regarding latent effort was that it had already been removed from the fishery and that all existing effort has been bought and paid for.
33. Trysh Stone advised that the government position is that latent effort is effort that is not currently being used but can be in the future. Jim Prescott pointed out that historically around 9000 days have been used to generate the annual catch in the TSPF.
34. Industry considered that no matter how the cap is set, less effort would be exerted due to unforeseen circumstances. If the cap were lowered to 9000 days, actual effort would fall to 5000-6000 days. This would be detrimental to the fishery, which will then be unable to generate its maximum economic return.
35. Trysh Stone agreed that some days would be lost to unforeseen events, but that in her experience, when changes are introduced fisher behaviour changes too, and people will fish to maximise the use of their available days.
36. The Chair requested that stakeholders indicate their preferred model, level of effort, timeframe for implementation and position on the ability of TSI licences to transfer days.

37. **TSPEHA:** indicated they preferred the Fox, Annual Surplus Production model and an effort level of 11,353 days as agreed by all agencies previously. They preferred an immediate reduction as the uncertainty is harming industry and commented that any conditions on existing licences are cleared through the TSPFWG and the TSFMAC and that TSI licences should be subject to this same process.
38. **Commonwealth:** preferred the Delay Difference Model with the Beverton Holt stock recruitment relationship as recommended by the independent reviewer. The recommended effort cap under this model is 9197 days. The Commonwealth supported an incremental adjustment over 4 years, with amounts of each adjustment known in advance. TSI licences should take proportional cuts, and be able to operate, lease and trade on the same basis as other (commercial) operators.
39. **TSRA:** Support the use of the Delay Difference recommended by the independent reviewer, 9197 days. Support an incremental adjustment over 4 years. TSRA position is that traditional inhabitants own the licences and therefore should be able to lease and trade on the same basis as other operators, but there should be no reduction now or in the future of these licences or the days assigned to them.
40. **Queensland:** Support the Beverton Holt Delay Difference model based on the seasonal and stock recruitment characteristics of the fishery, 9197 days.
41. There was a brief discussion regarding the workshop proposal. Industry expressed concerns regarding funding for the workshop and how alternative management strategies might affect the effort capping proposal. The Chair suggested that a clear statement of the purpose and objectives of the workshop would be valuable in guiding stakeholder's positions toward this proposal.

ACTION ITEM

AFMA to provide background to an alternative management arrangements workshop, including a statement of purpose and objectives.

Agenda Item 8. PNG Preferential Fishing Days

42. Christian McDonald informed the TSPFWG that a key issue from a 7 June 2004 bilateral meeting between Australia and PNG was a proposal for mechanisms to utilise PNG's unused fishing nights in the TSPF. Australia was investigating avenues to utilise unused PNG nights in both Australian and PNG waters. A multiple year arrangement had not been supported by PNG and Australia was now developing a proposal to access PNG nights in Australian waters on an annual basis.
43. Industry and the TSRA advised that they supported the development of a proposal to utilise preferential entitlements in the Australian waters of the TSPZ. Industry and the TSRA favoured a pro-rata basis of allocation of available preferential

nights and recommended that the deadline for licence nominations each year be 1 December.

44. Industry requested further detail on the method for allocating these nights to Australian fishers as the allocation mechanism for deciding which boats get access was unclear. Trysh Stone commented that access to the PNG side of the fishery was a new opportunity that should be available to all Australian operators and not necessarily restricted to Torres Prawn Fishery endorsed boats.
45. It was generally agreed that the proposal needs further work and Christian undertook to develop this proposal further and present it for the consideration of the TSPFWG out of session.

ACTION ITEM

Christian McDonald to further develop the proposal to access PNG preferential nights and to provide this to the TSPFWG out of session.

RECOMMENDATION

The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that:

- a) Australia utilise preferential entitlement in the Australian waters of the TSPZ; and
- b) the appropriate date for the deadline for PNG to nominate for cross border endorsement be 1 December each year;
- c) the optimal date and timing of the mid-season review be early June and second phase allocation of preferential nights be 1 July; and
- d) the PZJA note that a proposal, including the rules for managing the system, is being developed for submission to the NFA Board to access preferential days.

Agenda Item 9. Draft Outcomes from the Australian/ PNG Bilateral Fisheries Meeting

46. Christian McDonald briefly outlined the paper, highlighting that PNG are not prepared to enter into multi-year preferential access deals and that PNG consider that their plan to develop refuelling facilities in Daru is likely to increase their effort in the future.
47. Trysh Stone pointed out that PNG's legal access of 25% is not represented in their current allocation of 7*275 nights due to an historical error. This is why the proposed effort reductions don't affect PNG operators until late in the process. Regardless of what total effort is used as a measure, 16000 or 13000 nights, the range of PNG's current access is approximately 13-14%, rather than the 25% to which they are entitled.

Agenda Item 10. Finance Report

48. The PWG noted the 2003/04 expenditure to 31 May 2004 and accepted the 2004/05 Prawn Fishery budget. Alistair Bain explained that the budget for the coming financial year was largely based on earlier annual budgets, with the compliance component revised downwards due to less programmed charter days than previous years.
49. John Kung reported that Queensland is approximately 12% underspent on their year to date budget.

Agenda Item 11. US Assessment of TEDs

50. Trysh Stone advised that following a recent visit, US officials recommended various parameters to apply (TED dimensions etc) in the Torres Prawn Fishery. The Commonwealth's response to this has been to highlight that TEDs in this fishery have equivalent effectiveness as US designs.
51. The TSPFWG agreed that export-wise the US market was of low priority but image-wise it is considered to be important. Trysh undertook to keep members informed of any developments out of session.

Agenda Item 12. Bycatch Action Plan and Strategic Assessment

Bycatch Action Plan

52. Richard McLoughlin informed the TSPFWG that the AFMA Environment Committee had considered the BAP and explained the need to identify costs associated with any actions to be implemented within the first twelve months.
53. It was noted that this fishery had largely addressed most of the required actions. It was agreed that finalising and costing the observer program design would satisfy the Environment Committee's BAP requirements.
54. Richard McLoughlin reminded the TSPFWG that a finalised and approved BAP was a necessary requirement in order to obtain export approval for the fishery under the Department of Environment and Heritage's strategic assessment process. Therefore it was necessary to commit to the observer program and that the working group would need to sign off on the observer budget out of session.

ACTION ITEMS

- Jim Prescott to finalise and circulate costings for the proposed observer program
- Working Group Chair to write to AFMA Chair requesting a one month extension to the 29 July 2004 deadline.
- 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that the PZJA approve the draft Bycatch Action Plan for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and note that program costings are to be resolved and built into the fishery budget

Strategic Assessment

55. The Chair outlined the implications of the DEH export accreditation process and the Working Group reviewed the Environment Committee's changes to the draft strategic assessment report. Most changes were of a minor editorial nature and readily agreed to by the working group.
56. There was some wording, which related to the effort cap that AFMA agreed to change to more "neutral" wording given the differing views within the group.

RECOMMENDATION

The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that the PZJA approve the draft Strategic Assessment Report for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery for submission to DEH.

Agenda Item 13. National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks

57. The Chair commented that a readily achievable action to reduce the fisheries impact on sharks would be to adopt a nil retention policy. Industry expressed the view that their current 5 carcass possession limit was effective at minimising impacts on sharks and suggested a shark ID guide may be beneficial for the fishery, although there were some concerns regarding the difficulty in identifying sharks to species level.
58. The Working Group noted the obligations arising from the NPOA and members agreed to access the website out of session and familiarise themselves with the requirements of the Plan.

ACTION ITEM

AFMA to a paper for the next meeting of the TSPFWG on proposed mechanisms for addressing obligations under the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.

Agenda Item 14. VMS Update

59. Jim Prescott outlined how the system has been operating so far and asked Industry if there were any concerns he should be aware of. Industry members commented that the cost of 3 hourly manual reporting was prohibitively expensive.

ACTION ITEM

AFMA to investigate improvements to the VMS system and circulate to members out of session.

Agenda Item 15. Compliance Report

60. Dan Sweeney advised it had been a busy year for compliance with only 2 staff to manage foreign and domestic fisheries in the Torres Strait area. Of the 135 days programmed for domestic compliance in the Torres Straits, only 3 have been achieved in 2003/2004. Four breaches have been detected for the year, (this

includes in-port inspections in Cairns as well as at sea patrols). These breaches were for possession of shark-fin and undersized crays and undersized bugs in freezers in Cairns.

61. The Working Group was advised that there had been 60 Foreign Fishing Vessel (FFV) incursions in the past year. This had increased every year for the past three years and the outlook is for the situation to worsen rather than improve in the near future.

Agenda Item 16. Other Business

Costs of Prawn Working Group Meeting

62. Mark Millward questioned whether the Minister's office was able to provide funding to cover the additional costs of holding the working group meeting in Cairns. His recollection was that Minister McDonald had previously undertaken to pay for this meeting. Trysh Stone advised that this was not her recollection of the meeting and that one of the points raised is that industry pay for the costs so they should be able to have the meeting where it is convenient for them. She agreed to follow this up with the Minister's office.

ACTION ITEM

Trysh Stone to follow up issue of working group meeting costs with Minister's office.

TSI Licence Conditions

63. Industry returned to the question of what conditions would apply to TSI licences that were issued in the Torres Prawn Fishery. Trysh Stone advised that the Commonwealth position on this is the same as outlined in the discussion paper and that TSI licences would have same conditions as existing commercial licences.
64. The TSPFWG agreed that the Prawn Working Group should be informed if the PZJA decides that differing conditions should apply to these licences.

Effort Reduction

65. Industry expressed concerns that a phased approach to effort reductions would disadvantage operators who purchase extra nights, as the additional nights purchased would then be subject to further annual reductions.
66. The Prawn Working Group noted that Industry preferred a one-off reduction in effort rather than a phased approach.

Torres Prawn Scientific Committee

67. The Chair informed the working group that the stock assessment workshop held on 28 June had discussed the potential of forming a specific Fisheries Assessment Group to deal with issues relating to the Torres Prawn Fishery. It was agreed that

the SAC had a very broad agenda as it dealt with all fisheries and that a assessment group dedicated to Torres Prawn issues would be beneficial.

ACTION ITEM

AFMA to develop a proposal for the formation of a dedicated Torres Prawn Fisheries Assessment Group and present it to the working group out of session.

Torres Prawn Working Group Chair

68. The Chair advised that his current term was due to expire before the next scheduled meeting. Industry, Government and the TSRA supported retaining Jim Gillespie as the Working Group Chair for a further 12 months.

RECOMMENDATION

The PWG recommended that Mr Jim Gillespie continue as the chair of the Prawn Working Group (this will be reviewed in 12 months).

December 2003 TSPFWG Recommendations

69. The Working Group briefly reviewed the recommendations from the last meeting and agreed that the following recommendations should be placed back on the table at TSFMAC to be presented to the PZJA.

RECOMMENDATION

- If there is a reduction, the PZJA should retain the 50 minimum days, but boats that fall below 50 days following reduction be allowed to continue to operate. Once they trade days or transfer the licence, the 50 day minimum requirement should apply.
- the policy on trading days in multiples of 10 be abolished and that this be reviewed at the end of the year.
- the *Fisheries Levies Act 1991* be amended to allow the collection of levies from licences that may not be active in the fishery.

70. Members indicated their agreement with the working group recommendations as presented by John Kung. The meeting closed at approximately 7:00pm

Actions Arising

Action	Action Officer/ Agency
Minutes from October and December 2003 TSFPW meetings to be revised and distributed with attachments	Alistair Bain
Prepare and distribute advice on comparative impacts of twin and quad gear	AFMA
Management to follow up the definition and intent of the words “activated licence” with the PZJA	Christian McDonald/ DAFF
Industry to consider and suggest improvements to the one page table on design of observer program and provide feedback to management.	TSPEHA
Management to clarify percentage of compliance costs recovered from Industry	AFMA
Prepare background paper on an alternative management arrangements workshop, including a statement of purpose and objectives.	AFMA
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
Chair of TSFPWG to write to Chair of AFMA, requesting a one-month extension to the Bycatch Action Plan deadline.	Jim Gillespie
Prepare and distribute a breakdown of costs associated with the implementation of a Torres Prawn Fishery observer program	Jim Prescott
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
Prepare a paper on proposed mechanisms for addressing obligations under the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.	Trysh Stone
Investigate possible improvements to the current VMS manual reporting system. Circulate to members out of session.	Jim Prescott
Follow up issue of working group meeting costs with Minister’s office	Trysh Stone
Develop a proposal for the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Committee to provide scientific advice in relation to stock assessments and other matters relevant to the Torres Prawn Fishery.	AFMA

Recommendations

1. The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that:
 - a) Australia utilise preferential entitlement in the Australian waters of the TSPZ; and
 - b) the appropriate date for the deadline for PNG to nominate for cross border endorsement is 1 December each year;
 - c) the optimal date and timing of the mid-season review be early June and second phase allocation of preferential nights be 1 July; and
 - d) the PZJA note that a proposal, including the rules for managing the system, is being developed for submission to the NFA Board to access preferential days.
2. The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that the PZJA approve the draft Bycatch Action Plan for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and note that program costings are to be resolved and built into the fishery budget
3. The PWG recommends to the TSFMAC that the PZJA approve the draft Strategic Assessment Report for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery for submission to DEH
4. The PWG recommended that Mr Jim Gillespie continue as the chair of the Prawn Working Group (this will be reviewed in 12 months).
5. If there is a reduction, the PZJA should retain the 50 minimum days, but boats that fall below 50 days following reduction be allowed to continue to operate. Once they trade days or transfer the licence, the 50-day minimum requirement should apply.
6. The policy on trading days in multiples of 10 be abolished and that this be reviewed at the end of the year.
7. The *Fisheries Levies Act 1991* be amended to allow the collection of levies from licences that may not be active in the fishery.