

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting 46 27 August, 2008
OTHER BUSINESS Aquaculture and the TSSAC	Agenda Item No. 5.3 FOR DISCUSSION

PURPOSE

That the TSSAC **DISCUSS** where aquaculture research projects fit into research priorities for consideration of the TSSAC.

BACKGROUND

Under the management framework as defined by the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) all aspects of aquaculture in the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) are assigned as the responsibility of Queensland and therefore delegated to the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F). As part of this agreement DPI&F have agreed to investigate the possibilities for future aquaculture development within the TSPZ.

Under this arrangement the DPI&F will continue to offer strategic advice for future development, administrative and operational functions which include licensing and extension to facilitate the development of aquaculture within the region.

DPI&F are a concurrence agency for all development applications involving aquaculture and assess aspects of the application that pertain to aquaculture operations (including biosecurity, health) and aquatic habitats and pest fish (including marine plants and declared Fish Habitat Areas) under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

The Aquaculture Policy and Industry Development (APID) unit are responsible primarily for the provision of industry development of existing and future aquaculture developments including the development of appropriate policy for aquaculture within Queensland. Stakeholder consultation has been recognised as a vital step in achieving successful aquaculture development for regional areas.

The APID will continue to engage with the relevant authorities and key stakeholders within the Torres Strait region including Commonwealth and State governments but most importantly the Traditional owners. This will ensure that any future aquaculture development is fully supported, planned and sustainable.

DISCUSSION

The Committee should discuss the linkages of fisheries management under the PZJA with APID group and determine the role that TSSAC plays in considering future aquaculture research and or development projects. Discussion should focus on what structure is needed to ensure that all relevant parties are involved in the discussions and decision process. Consideration should also be given to the funding of any particular future research/development projects.

RECOMMENDATION

To be discussed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil