



Queensland
Government



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Dear Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Licence Holder

Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Harvest Strategy 2011

On 8 July 2011 the Protected Zone Joint Authority approved the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Harvest Strategy (the Harvest Strategy). The Harvest Strategy sets out the decision rules and management actions necessary to achieve defined biological, cultural and economic objectives for the fishery, and the rules used to set the Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for the fishery each year.

The Harvest Strategy has a short term target of the biomass level associated with Maximum Sustainable Yield (B_{MSY}), which will ensure the stocks are fished sustainably. The Harvest Strategy also has a long term target of the biomass level associated with Maximum Economic Yield (B_{MEY}), which aims to maximise the long term profitability of the fishery and typically places the stock at a higher biomass level than that associated with B_{MSY} . The approach of having a short term and long term target was supported by the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee and the specialist Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Harvest Strategy working group.

The decision rules which are set out in the Harvest Strategy are catch and effort triggers, which one reached, will trigger a specific management response, such as the move towards a B_{MEY} target in the long term. The Harvest Strategy also outlines processes for monitoring the fishery and conducting assessment to ensure the overall condition and performance of the fishery continues to be monitored.

It is important to note that the TAE has been set in accordance with the recently approved Harvest Strategy since 2006 and no changes will be made when setting the TAE for the 2012 fishing season. A copy of the Harvest Strategy is available on the PZJA website: www.pzja.gov.au. Please contact Ms Lisa Cocking, Senior Management Officer, Torres Strait Prawn Fishery for more information on lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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