

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 15 17 June 2014
REPORTS Domestic Compliance Report	Agenda Item No. 3.3 For Noting

RECOMMENDATION

3.3.1 The TSPMAC **NOTES** the domestic compliance arrangements and achievements in the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) for the 2013/14 financial year.

BACKGROUND

The Department Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) through the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QB&FP) carry out the domestic compliance program for the Torres Strait.

In December 2012 the QB&FP Thursday Island office closed and compliance activity for Torres Strait is now carried out by the Cairns QB&FP office.

The Cairns office is resourced with 9 staff members comprising of a District Manager, an Administration Officer 1 Investigator and 6 Field Officers.

This financial year (as of the 27/5/14) a total of 57 at sea patrol days have been undertaken by the QB&FP. This is part of the 60 programmed patrol days with the aid of the local police vessel. Additional patrol days have also been conducted around Thursday Island utilizing the 6m Police RHIB. The patrol is on target to complete 65 days in the Zone.

A number of pending and finalized prosecutions occurred during the reporting period. These included unlicensed fishing, breach of license conditions, commercial sale of no take species and infringements issued for offences under the *Transport Operations Marine Safety Act 1994*.

Investigations are ongoing or have been referred to Commonwealth Director Public Prosecution (CDPP).

DISCUSSION

At sea patrol target days will be met as agreed to by the end of this financial year. Joint operations utilizing the Qld Police vessel has worked and is subject to a review and fine tuning of the arrangements.