

37th Protected Zone Joint Authority Meeting

Meeting Outcomes

Thursday 28 January 2021

Teleconference

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the 37th meeting of the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) at 11:30am AEST with an Acknowledgment of Country. An attendance list is provided at **Attachment A**.

1. The Global Total Allowable Catch for the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery

- 1.1. The PZJA **AGREED** that the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery (TRL Fishery) global Total Allowable Catch (TAC) will be 623.5 tonnes (unprocessed weight) for the 2020-21 fishing season.
- 1.2. The Chair noted the Global TAC increase compared to last year (582.1 tonnes) which will be welcomed by fishing stakeholders. It proves that the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery Harvest Strategy implemented since November 2019 is effective. The Chair also commended everyone involved with this achievement.

2. Total Allowable Catch for Spanish mackerel and coral trout for the 2021-22 Torres Strait Finfish Fishery

- 2.1. The PZJA **AGREED** that, for the 2021-22 fishing season of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery, the total allowable catches (TAC) for Spanish mackerel will be 74 tonnes and 135 tonnes for coral trout.
- 2.2. The PZJA **NOTED** that AFMA will complete relevant administrative processes to implement the TACs for the Finfish Fishery for the 2021-22 fishing season, in particular:
 - a. placing conditions on sunset licences under section 22 of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* (the Act) to give effect to individual catch allocations recommended to AFMA by the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA);
 - b. in agreeing to the total catch to be allocated to sunset licences, regard is given to likely catches expected under Traditional Inhabitant boat (TIB) licences. TIB licences are not subject to formal catch limits in the Finfish Fishery; and
 - c. if required, additional measures will be developed to ensure catches do not exceed the agreed TACs.
- 2.3. The Chair noted good works that have been put into making this decision and commended everyone who involved.

3. Other business

The Queensland member noted that Minister Furner is keen for a PZJA face to face meeting in April 2021, which was supported by the Chair.

The AFMA CEO noted advice from Australian Border Force that COVID 19 remains a threat and that border exemption would not be issued for PNG vessels to operate in Australia under cross-endorsement in 2021.

The TSRA Member noted that TSRA will conduct an induction process next week with incoming TSRA Board. An inaugural meeting will be held for the new board commencing on the week of 15 February 2021 to elect the new TSRA Chairperson.

Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:47am AEST.

Meeting attendance

28 January 2021

PZJA members

Chair

- Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniham, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries

Members

- Leilani Bin-Juda, Chief Executive Officer
- Mr Graeme Bolton, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry (Queensland)

Government Delegations

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

- Wez Norris, Chief Executive Officer
- Steve Bolton, Senior Manager, Northern Fisheries
- Saiful Marbun, Senior Management Officer

Office of the Hon Mark Furner MP

- Nathan Legge, Policy Advisor

Torres Strait Regional Authority

- Mark Anderson, Manager, Fisheries Programme

Apologies

PZJA member

- The Hon. Mark Furner MP, Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities
- Mr Napau Pedro Stephen AM, Chair Torres Strait Regional Authority