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Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC)

**DRAFT MINUTES
TSPMAC NO. 7
11 DECEMBER 2008**

TELECONFERENCE

CHAIR: Mr. Jim Gillespie

AGENDA



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**TORRES STRAIT PRAWN
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING No. 7
December 11th, 2008: Commencing at 9:30 am (QLD time) 10:30am (EDST)
Teleconference**

Preliminaries – Chairs opening remarks/Adoption of Agenda/Disclosure of Interests/Apologies

AGENDA

1 Meeting Administration

- 1.1 Ratification of TSPMAC No. 6 meeting record (AFMA)
- 1.2 TSPMAC Membership - review and call for new members (AFMA)

2 Reports

- 2.1 Industry report – 2008 season summary (TSPEHA)

3 Management

- 3.1 Management Plan – Update (AFMA)
- 3.2 TAE for 2009 season (AFMA/QDPI&F/BRS)
- 3.3 Strategic Assessment – WTO approval (DEWHA/AFMA)
- 3.4 Proposed anchorage exclusion zones (CFG/TSRA)
- 3.5 PZJA decision making processes (AFMA)

4 Finance

- 4.1 2009 Season Levies (AFMA/QDPI&F)

5 Other business

- 5.1 Out-of-session TSPMAC decisions (AFMA)
- 5.2 External leasing (TSPEHA)
- 5.3 Dates for next meeting

Individuals wishing to attend the meeting as an observer are required to contact the Chair (Mr. Jim Gillespie: care of Lisa Cocking, TSPMAC Executive Officer; lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au) notifying him of your desire to attend.

DECISION RECORD - TSPMAC No. 7

PRELIMINARIES

Disclosure of interest

7.0.3 The TSPMAC **NOTED** the disclosure of interests provided by each member.

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

Ratification of TSPMAC No. 5 meeting record

6.1.1.1 The TSPMAC **AGREED** to adopt the minutes from the July 10-11, 2008 TSPMAC meeting (TSPMAC No. 6).

Actions and/or Business arising from previous TSPMAC meetings

6.1.2.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** the information updates provided regarding the action items from previous TSPMAC meetings, noting that these will be addressed at TSPMAC #8 scheduled for February 2009.

TSPMAC Membership – review and call for new members

6.1.3.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that the terms of appointment of current members are due to expire next year and that, in accordance with PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No 1 (October 2005), AFMA intends to call for nominations to fill these positions before Christmas.

REPORTS

Industry report – 2008 season summary/update

6.2.1.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** the industry report provided at the meeting in respect to the 2008 season for the TSPF.

Data report – Final 2008 catch and effort data

6.2.2.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** the preliminary information presented on the trends in 2008 catch and effort data compared with earlier seasons.

MANAGEMENT

Management Plan - Update

6.3.1.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that the draft Torres Strait Prawn Management Plan has been submitted to the PZJA for approval.

6.3.1.2 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that a copy of the draft Plan was provided at **Attachment 3.1A**.

TAE for 2009 season

6.3.2.1 The TSPMAC

- (a) **NOTED** that the sustainability reference point agreed by PZJA for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery is 9,200 days.
- (b) **AGREED** to recommend to the PZJA that the TAE for 2009 be set at 12,325 fishing days on the basis that:
 - i) the Management Plan is implemented;

- ii) the PNG allocation is not used by PNG;
 - iii) the PNG allocation is transferred to Australia by Ministerial consent but is not otherwise made available to Australian operators; and
 - iv) the days held by DAFF are not otherwise made available to Australian operators.
- (c) **NOTED** that under this proposal, the maximum possible activation of effort in the fishery would not exceed 9,200 days which is the current, accepted sustainability reference point.
- (d) Further **NOTED** that this interim effort allocation proposal will be for the 2009 season only as the long-term harvest strategy for the fishery will be developed during 2009.
- (e) **NOTED** that under the Management Plan, the units allocated to Australian operators will not exceed 6867.
- (f) **AGREED** to recommend to the PZJA that if the Management Plan is not implemented for 2009, the TAE should be set at 9,200 fishing days consistent with the current, accepted sustainability reference point.

Strategic Assessment – WTO approval

6.3.3.1 The TSPMAC NOTED

- (a) the progress in assessing the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF) under Parts 10, 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).
- (b) the temporary extension to export approval for the TSPF until 2 December 2008 as a result of delays in finalising the Management Plan for the TSPF. Once the Plan is determined it will be necessary to formally accept the WTO conditions, which will require Ministerial correspondence to finalise.

Proposed anchorage exclusion zones

6.3.4.1 The TSPMAC **DISCUSSED** the CFG proposal regarding the anchorage exclusion zones, however agreed that a decision could not be made without appropriate maps being provided to members.

6.3.4.2 The TSPMAC **AGREED** to make a recommendation to the PZJA regarding this issue once a map of the area and co-ordinates were provided to members out of session.

PZJA Decision making process

6.3.5.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that industry members have raised concerns with senior PZJA agencies officials over the way that decisions are progressed to the PZJA.

6.3.5.2 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that senior PZJA agency officials agreed that clarification of how decisions are progressed to the PZJA would be beneficial.

6.3.5.3 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that a similar concern was expressed in a Commonwealth managed fishery several years ago and in response a protocol was developed between AFMA and the relevant MAC.

6.3.5.4 The TSPMAC **AGREED** to develop an appropriate protocol paper for the TSPMAC, reflective of decision making processes for PZJA fisheries, including consideration of discussion from previous TSPMAC meetings.

6.3.5.5 The TSPMAC **AGREED** that industry would nominate a representative to assist with developing the protocol paper.

FINANCE

2009 Season Levies

6.4.1.1 The TSPMAC **NOTED** that:

- (a) the proposed levies for the Torres Strait Prawn fishery for the 2009 fishing season as set out in the draft *Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment Regulations 2008* will comprise a \$5833.39 per licence (fixed cost) and a \$32.35 (variable cost) for each individual allocated fishing day (or unit under the new Management Plan);
- (b) the conclusion of the Australian Government's \$500,000 levy relief program, which applied for the 2007 and 2008 seasons, has resulted in a substantial rise in levies for the 2009 season; and
- (c) the draft *Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment Regulations 2008* are awaiting PZJA OOS endorsement prior to submission to the next available Federal Executive Council meeting for approval to ensure that these will have effect before the fishing season commences on 1 March 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

Out-of-session TSPMAC decisions

6.5.1.1 The TSPMAC **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the out of session teleconference held on 12 August 2008 with some minor amendments.

6.5.2.1 The TSPMAC **CONFIRMED** the following decisions made out of session at the August 2008 teleconference:

FINANCE

FY 08/09 TSPF Budget

1.1 The TSPMAC **AGREED** that as industry members were not present, there was no need to re-present the budget paper during the teleconference, as the paper and recommendations remained unchanged from those presented at the TSPMAC No. 6 meeting and, due to TSPMAC industry members' absence at TSPMAC No. 6, the paper had been added to the teleconference agenda for their information.

MANAGEMENT

2.3 The TSPMAC **AGREED** that responses will be sent to all stakeholders who made comment during and immediately after the public comment period of the Plan.

2.5 The TSPMAC **RECOMMENDED** that the PZJA **NOTE** that all members of the TSPMAC, with the exception of the four industry members who did not participate in discussions, **ENDORSED** the Draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan.

Dates for next meeting

6.6.4.1 The TSPMAC **AGREED** to reconvene on 9-10 February, 2009.

The following members and observers were in attendance at TSPMAC 7.

Members	Permanent observers
Chair – Mr Jim Gillespie	DAFF – Brendan Nerdal
QDPI&F – Mr Shane Fava	AFMA – Mr Malcolm Southwell
AFMA – Mr Phil Domaschenz	
AFMA & EO – Ms Darci Wallis	
Research – Mr Clive Turnbull QDPI&F	Observers
Industry – Mr Mark Millward	Steve Hall – TSRA
Industry – Mrs Rosemary Millward	Jeremy Smith - DEWHA
Industry – Mr Rob Giddins	Eddie Jebreen – QDPI&F
CFG – Charles David	
CFG – Francis Pearson	

PRELIMINARIES

Welcome

Mr Jim Gillespie, the TSPMAC Chair opened the teleconference at 10:40am. Mr Domaschenz advised the MAC that there were some temporary staffing changes at AFMA, noting that Lisa Cocking is on extended recreation leave and Darci Wallis is acting in her position until March. Mr Stan Lui will be returning to the Torres Strait Managers position in March and in the mean time Phil Domaschenz will be acting in the position.

Apologies

The executive officer noted apologies were received from Mr Barry Wilson and Mr Lota Warria for not being in attendance at the meeting.

Disclosure of interest

The following conflicts of interest were recorded for TSPMAC members and permanent observers in attendance at TSPMAC 6:

Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee disclosure of interests

Member or permanent observer	MAC position	Potential/actual conflicts of interest	Perceived conflicts of interest
Jim Gillespie	Chair	No commercial conflicts of interest. QLD Government employee.	
Darci Wallis	EO, AFMA	No commercial conflicts of interest. Commonwealth Government employee.	
Phil Domaschenz	AFMA member	No commercial conflicts of interest. Commonwealth Government employee.	
Malcolm Southwell	AFMA	No commercial conflicts of interest. Commonwealth Government employee.	
Shane Fava	QDPI&F member	No commercial conflicts of interest. QLD Government employee.	
Jeremy Smith	DEWHA	No commercial conflicts of interest. QLD Government employee.	
Clive Turnbull	Research member – QDPI&F	No commercial conflicts of interest. QLD Government employee.	Project leader of DAFF funded TSPF research project
Steve Hall	TSRA member	TSRA.	

Charles David	CFG	Holder of a TIB finfish and TRL license.	
Brendan Nerdal	DAFF – permanent observer	No commercial conflicts of interest. Commonwealth Government employee.	
Rosemary Millward	Industry Member	Holder of Torres Strait Prawn licence	
Mark Millward	Industry Member	Holder of Torres Strait Prawn licence	
Rob Giddins	Industry Member	Holder of Torres Strait Prawn licence	

1.1 Ratification of meeting minutes from TSPMAC 6

The executive officer advised that the draft minutes of the TSPMAC 6 meeting held on 10 and 11 July 2008 had been circulated to members on 25 July 2008 and an amended version was distributed to members on 27 October 2008. The Chair asked whether there were any further comments on the minutes. Mr Domaschenz advised that some additional comments from Clive Turnbull were circulated prior to the teleconference for inclusion and these were accepted. Industry stated that they did not receive copies prior to the TSPMAC #7 papers being circulated and questioned why. It was agreed that all members should be given copies of the minutes, regardless of whether they attended the meeting. Mr Southwell apologised for this oversight and advised that this would be followed up. Following the meeting correspondence records confirmed that the minutes had only been sent to meeting participants. This was an oversight and not intentional. AFMA will endeavour to avoid a recurrence of this oversight.

ACTION – AFMA to follow up if industry members were not sent copies of the minutes of the previous meeting prior to the distribution of the TSPMAC #7 papers.

Industry requested that copies of the emails sent prior to the previous meeting outlining the reasons why they didn't attend be included as attachments to the minutes. It was also questioned why the meeting the day before the TSPMAC with industry wasn't mentioned in the minutes. Industry requested that one of the comments in the minutes regarding industry not attending the meeting be altered to include all members to show some consistency. It was noted that this comment reflects the meeting record, however it was agreed that all members should endeavour to attend all meetings as much as possible. Industry questioned item 6.4.1.2 from the decision record, however noted that this would be discussed under agenda item 3.1. Industry also had some comments regarding external leasing, and noted that this would be discussed in item 5.2. No further comments were received and the TSPMAC agreed to ratify the minutes as per the 27 October 2008 version found at Attachment 1.1A of TSPMAC 7 papers.

The MAC agreed to adopt the minutes from the July 10-11, 2008 TSPMAC meeting (TSPMAC #6).

1.2 Actions arising from previous TSPMAC meetings

Mr Domaschenz presented the actions arising from previous meetings and asked that relevant TSPMAC members and observers to provide the TSPMAC with the progress on their respective action items.

Actions and/or business arising from previous TSPMAC meetings.

TSPMAC 6.1	DAFF and the TSPMAC Executive Officer to liaise with TSPMAC industry representatives to determine whether the current draft PZJA decision record is providing the information which was intended when industry requested the record at TSPMAC 5.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Ongoing. Mr Nerdal from DAFF advised that a summary was provided by DAFF going back to 1999, however industry stated that the decisions from 1992/93 were required. DAFF agreed to liaise with industry to ensure the summary includes the correct information.
TSPMAC 6.2	AFMA to confirm whether the AFMA VMS system is able to pick up TSPF vessels that are not cross endorsed Commonwealth vessels (i.e. QLD ECOTF vessels).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. The AFMA Compliance section has advised that AFMA has no jurisdiction over QLD vessels.
TSPMAC 6.3	TSPMAC to undertake an annual self assessment against PZJA indicators outlined in PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008).	TSPMAC 6		Ongoing. AFMA will seek MAC input prior to TSPMAC #8 for discussion at the meeting as part of the self-assessment process.
TSPMAC 6.4	At TSPMAC 7, seek agreement from TSPMAC industry representatives and other TSPMAC members and permanent observers who were not present at TSPMAC 6 to abide by the PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008) policies.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC Chair	Incomplete. To be completed at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.5	QDPI&F Research to work with ABARE to obtain historical prawn and fuel prices for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F Research	Ongoing. Clive Turnbull advised that he has received the ABARE data, and would present this information at TSPMAC # 8
TSPMAC 6.6	AFMA to draft fishery specific objectives for the TSPF observer program which include scientific, cultural and social objectives and circulate these to the TSPMAC out of session for comment.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. AFMA has commenced work on this, and further information will be provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.7	The TSPMAC Executive Officer to ask industry representatives if they would like any other fishery specific objectives to be considered for the TSPF observer program.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Incomplete. An update will be provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.8	AFMA to investigate if an incentive program could be implemented in the TSPF Observer Program such as providing “free” days to vessels that take observers for a certain period of time.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. Will be presented at TSPMAC #8.

TSPMAC 6.9	DAFF to investigate whether the Australian Government days could be allocated for “free” to operators as a part of an observer incentive program.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Incomplete . Free days cannot be allocated for the 2009 season as the PNG and DAFF days have already been allocated, however DAFF will investigate the possibility for 2010. .
TSPMAC 6.10	AFMA to hold discussions with their observer program section to look at incentives in other fisheries.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. Will be presented at TSPMAC#8.
TSPMAC 6.11	QDPI&F to provide information to AFMA regarding their observer program and how they improve uptake of observers.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Incomplete.
TSPMAC 6.12	QDPI&F management to talk to QDPI&F licensing about better methods of transferring money for licenses such as Electronic Funds Transfers.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Complete. Currently operators can pay via cheque or credit card (2/3 day turnaround). To use EFT is possible, however the finance agency would need to liaise with the licensing section to identify where the funds came from, which would be a 2 week turnaround. QDPI&F are currently undergoing a review of licensing procedures and this will be investigated further.
TSPMAC 6.13	QDPI&F to determine whether an alternative payment system, such as Electronic Funds Transfer, can be used by TIB license holders in order to make the process for obtaining these licenses more simple.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Complete. This has not been pursued for the same reasons outlined in action item 6.12.
TSPMAC 6.14	DAFF to determine Biosecurity Australia’s definition of the term “disease status” for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC 6.15	DAFF to determine whether PNG caught product will need to be clearly marked with the jurisdiction in which it was caught.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC 6.16	DAFF to draft a letter to AQIS on behalf of the TSPMAC Chair which will inform them of the starting date of next season and ask whether their quarantine database will be up and running by the start of the season. The letter should also request that if possible, it would be useful for the system to be in by 1 March if not by end of 2008.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC	AFMA to add the higher risk species from the CSIRO	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing.

6.17	seabed mapping project to the “species of interest” list for additional data to be collected during the scientific observer program.			This will be undertaken in conjunction with AFMA’s work on the observer program for presentation at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.18	AFMA to work with the TSRA and AFMA communications section to consider a method disseminating the information from Mr Turnbull and Dr Pitcher’s reports to the indigenous sector.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.19	AFMA to liaise with TSPMAC industry representatives and determine whether they would still like observer status on the TSSAC.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . Will be addressed at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.20	AFMA to determine whether the lack of external leasing in the TSPF Plan is in breach of the national competition policy.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. An update provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.21	Establish a harvest strategy working group including the TSPMAC research member and one member from AFMA, QDPI&F, DAFF, TSRA and industry (each agency to nominate a member).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . Will be undertaken as part of the HS development during 2009.
TSPMAC 6.22	AFMA to follow up on possible funding options for further monitoring of ghost nets and liaise with TSRA while progressing this.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.23	AFMA to liaise with industry to request the development of an industry code of conduct relating to the disposal of marine debris for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.24	AFMA and QDPI&F to discuss hiring a contractor to survey the trawl rubbish in the areas around Yorke and Coconut Islands and quote the removal.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.25	AFMA to develop a research proposal to the TSSAC on potential funding sources.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.26	After results of the BRD, TED and try net survey are received AFMA to discuss the potential for observers to conduct BRD trials through the AFMA observer program.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . AFMA is finalising the survey and will undertake the survey in early 2009, this item will be completed once the results are received.
TSPMAC 6.27	AFMA to develop a proposal for consideration by the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee, to	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .

	conduct a technical review of some of the BRDs used on prawn vessels operating in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery			
TSPMAC 6.28	Executive Officer to liaise with the Australian Maritime College and request that they provide a presentation on the light trials at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Complete . AMC will be present at TSPMAC #8 to provide a presentation.
TSPMAC 6.29	AFMA to apply a 3 tiered approach to the TED, BRD and try net survey, which includes; 1. sending out surveys to all licenses holders and wait two weeks for a response; 2. following up surveys with a phone call offering phone surveys; 3. QB&FP and AFMA observers to conduct surveys whilst in the field.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. AFMA is finalising the BRD survey and will undertake the survey in early 2009.
TSPMAC 6.30	QDPI&F to send footage from the US TED trails to the TSRA and bring the footage for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Carry Over to TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.31	CFG representatives to develop a full proposal regarding the proposed anchorage exclusion zones around Warrior and Dungeness Reefs to all vessels over 6m, for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	TSRA	Ongoing. The proposal was considered at TSPMAC #7, however industry requested co-ordinates and maps before making a decision. This will be completed OOS or considered at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.32	The TSPMAC executive officer to start the recruitment process for electing a new TSPMAC industry member to the TSPMAC.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Complete. The selection process has been completed and is awaiting acceptance from the candidate. The new industry member should be present at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.33	AFMA to present a recommendation to the PZJA Standing Committee seeking their approval to have an external industry member on the panel as this is a deviation from the usual processes outlines in PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. The MAC's recommendation was provided to the PZJA Standing Committee, however the SC requested that FMP 1 be followed as the SC noted that the recommendation was made by the MAC when industry members were not present.

TSPMAC 6.1 – Mrs Millward stated that it was previously advised that this process would take 12 months, and disagreed with this timeline. The chair stated that DAFF was taking time on this issue to ensure that a thorough job was completed. Mr Nerdal provided an update on this issue advising that Lisa Cocking had completed a summary going back as far as 1999, however industry requested that the decisions from 1992/93 be included in this summary. Industry advised that this information should be included in the annual reports. Industry stated that this was requested to ensure that all decisions by the PZJA were included in the management plan. Mr Nerdal agreed to liaise with industry to ensure the correct information will be provided.

ACTION – Brendan Nerdal (DAFF) to liaise with industry (particularly Rosemary Millward to ensure that the summary is providing the correct information.

Ongoing or incomplete action items from previous meetings

Action reference number	Action	Date item was added	Responsibility	Status
TSPMAC 5.2	Compile a PZJA decision register which includes the date of the PZJA meeting, the decision title and the gazettal notice and date. A progress report will be provided at TSPMAC 6.	TSPMAC 5 – 4-5 December 2007	DAFF	Ongoing. DAFF/AFMA has compiled a summary of decisions dating back to 1999 and will liaise with industry to include previous decisions.
TSPMAC 4.2.	DAFF to meet with the AQIS imported foods program to determine if the testing regime for prawns from PNG waters can be reduced for vessels that have already obtained approval from AQIS to export prawns caught in Australian waters.	TSPMAC 4 – 14 June 2007	DAFF	Ongoing. DAFF will provide information to TSPMAC EO.
TSPMAC 4.11.	QDPI&F and AFMA to further identify options for the setting of reference points in the TSPF as part of an overall harvest strategy.	TSPMAC 4 – 14 June 2007	QDPI&F/ AFMA	Ongoing. More information will be provided at TSPMAC #8.
	Quarterly updates on the progress of the research plan are provided to the TSPMAC.	TSPMAC 1 – 13&14 June 2006	QDPI&F/ Clive Turnbull	Ongoing. QDPI&F to provide a verbal update at TSPMAC #8.

The MAC noted the status updates regarding the action items from previous TSPMAC meetings.

1.3 TSPMAC Membership – review and call for new members

Mr Domaschenz informed the MAC that most memberships of TSPMAC expire in April 2009, with two memberships expiring in February. Industry questioned this and requested that the dates be confirmed, as Mrs Millward thought that her membership expired in 2010, not 2009. The MAC noted that AFMA will call for membership nominations before the end of the year, with decisions made in the New Year. The process for appointed members was questioned and Ms Wallis advised that calls for nominations are sent out to all concessions holders and also advertised on the PZJA website. Letters are also sent out to relevant agencies requested that staff be nominated for MAC positions.

ACTION – AFMA to confirm membership expiry dates of the two industry MAC members Rosemary Millward and Rob Giddins.

ACTION - AFMA to call for nominations for the MAC membership positions before the end of the year.

AFMA provided an update on the outcome of the recent industry appointment process and was advised that this process was nearly finalised and the new member would be present at TPSMAC #8. Industry questioned who the industry member on the panel was and Ms Wallis advised that Jim Gillespie, Yvonne Zunic, Ron Earle and Andrew Thwaites were on the selection panel. Mr Southwell advised that the selection process followed the processes set out in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper (FMP) No. 1, however stated that AFMA would advise in the minutes how the industry member was chosen for the panel. The chair advised that Ron Earle declared his commercial interest at the selection panel meetings. The selection panel consisted of the TSPMAC Chair plus one member from AFMA, QDPI&F as well an industry member, consistent with FMP 1. AFMA in consultation with the MAC Chair and PZJA agencies selected an industry representative from the Torres prawn industry.

ACTION – AFMA to provide advice in the TSPMAC #8 minutes as to the process for selecting Ron Earle to the selection panel.

Industry recommended that the panel for the upcoming MAC appointment process be completely independent in the Torres Strait fisheries and not be an existing licence holder.

Mr Southwell advised that as industry were not present at the last meeting PZJA Standing Committee asked agencies to follow FMP 1, however industry's recommendation would be considered for this selection process. Industry stated that this was not mentioned in the meeting held with industry the previous day. The chair informed the MAC that all of their comments would be noted, and requested that the MAC note this agenda item as per the recommendation.

The MAC noted that the term of appointment of current members is due to expire next year and that AFMA intends to call for nominations to fill these positions before Christmas as part of the selection process for new membership.

REPORTS

2.1 Industry report – 2008 season summary (TSPEHA)

Mrs Millward informed members that industry participation in the fishery was lower than previous years and stated that industry is suffering from management decisions in 2005 which reduced the effort in the fishery by 32%. This situation in the fishery has been worsened due to increasing fuel prices and lower prawn prices and currently the fishery is not in a viable state. Other issues in the fishery at the moment are the loss of infrastructure due to the reduction in effort in the fishery, security of tenure and changes in staff across the management agencies. Airline flights out of Yorke Island have ceased and this is causing issues for both commercial fisherman and the islanders by increasing the costs of travel, repairs and other services.

The frequency of the mother boat services has also decreased and the ships are now only travelling to the Torres Strait fortnightly or monthly. The boats require supplies and fuel more frequently than this and retaining good skippers has also become more

difficult. Industry stated that the 2009 TAE proposal is too late and that government has destroyed industry with the previous management decisions.

The chair asked industry if these issues had been discussed with the mothership companies, as it may be possible to have government representation at these meetings as well. Industry responded that no-one wants to invest in the fishery and there are not enough core boats to sustain the infrastructure.

Industry informed the MAC that catch rates had been good overall this season, with good king prawn catch rates in the bottom of the fishery. Industry advised that due to the limited effort in the fishery this season they were not able to provide more information on the state of the fishery. Mr Southwell asked industry whether they had any views on the outlook for the next 12 months with the recent reduction in fuel prices and changes to exchange rates. Industry responded that they couldn't respond to this as it is so dependant on outside factors that are uncertain. Currently Japan is not taking tiger prawns due to the economic recession, and future purchasing by the European Union is uncertain. Currently the major market is domestic and prices are likely to drop after Christmas.

The MAC noted the industry report provided in respect to the 2008 fishing season in the TSPF.

2.2 Data report – Trends in catch and effort data 2008

Clive Turnbull presented the trends in 2008 catch and effort data and advised that this was based on a data dump in mid-October. During the 2008 season around 4,100 days were utilised (based on VMS data), down 700 days from the 2007 season. Industry questioned the actual days, based on logbook data and Clive advised that this would be around 3,900 days. Mr Turnbull stated that both the catch and effort reduced after July 2008, however the catch rates for tiger prawns have been much higher than the average CPUE in both 2007 and 2008. The endeavour prawn catch rates are also slightly higher than the average and both stocks look to be in a healthy state.

Industry requested that the advice from Mr Turnbull that shows much higher than average tiger prawn CPUE be recorded in the minutes, as industry has been saying for years that this stock is healthy. Industry stated that the government is not making any efforts to assist industry, however the best catch rates in recent years are being seen with tiger prawns.

Industry requested that a formal submission be made to the PZJA highlighting the dire circumstances that the fishery is currently in. It was suggested that this be completed in the following week to seek urgent financial assistance. Mr Fava stated that a paper went to the PZJA last year with recent trends and some of the issues facing the fishery. Mr Southwell suggested that this could be submitted as supporting material with the TAE proposal. Industry stated that the PZJA need to be pro-active on this issue, rather than just noting the issues. The chair noted that the infrastructure issues also affect the islanders as well as the fisheries. Mr David stated that there are poor services from Seaswift as there is no competition and prices are high. It was suggested that the TSRA present a case on behalf of the islanders, with assistance from government agencies and industry. The MAC also agreed to provide a specific paper to the Minister outlining the issues currently facing the TSP and some possible solutions.

ACTION – TSRA to inform management of the infrastructure issues that are not only affecting the Torres Strait Prawn fishing industry but also impacting on the Torres Strait Islander’s way of life.

ACTION – DAFF, QDPI&F and AFMA to discuss and include an attachment to the TAE proposal to the PZJA outlining the issues affecting the fishery and some possible solutions.

The MAC noted the preliminary the information presented on the trends in the 2008 catch and effort data compared with earlier years.

MANAGEMENT

3.1 Management Plan – Update

Mr Domaschenz advised that the Draft TSP Management Plan was provided as part of the MAC papers and the MAC noted that this has been to the PZJA Standing Committee. The Draft Plan is currently with the Minister and once determined will be registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI). Mr David asked if the exclusion zones (as per agenda item 3.4) are included in the management plan. Mr Southwell advised that the management plan is a higher level legislative instrument that defines the area of the fishery. Spatial closures for example are implemented through means such as fishery management instruments and conditions on licenses. Industry questioned if the licences will be granted or renewed under the plan and Mr Fava confirmed that these will be renewals however will have a new licence number attached. QDIP&F have put a new system in place and therefore each licence will have a new number on it, industry requested that this only be done if necessary.

The MAC noted that the draft Torres Strait Prawn Fishery Management Plan has been submitted to the PZJA for approval.

3.2 TAE for 2009 season

Mr Domaschenz advised that as the sustainable reference point for the fishery is 9,200 days, the following proposal allows the full 9,200 days to be allocated to the Australian operators as PNG have offered up their days for the 2009 season. There are two options within this proposal depending upon whether the Management Plan is determined before the start of the season. If the Plan is not in place then the TAE will be set at 9,200 days, which will all be allocated to Australian operators. If the Plan is in place then the TAE will be set at 12,325, with the effort capped at 9,200 days as the PNG and DAFF days will not be available. Due to the formula in the Plan this is the only option for allocating extra units at the start of the season. There are four conditions to this option:

- i) the Management Plan is implemented,
- ii) the PNG allocation is not used by PNG,
- iii) the PNG allocation is transferred to Australia by Ministerial consent but is not make available to Australian operators,
- iv) the days held in trust by DAFF are not otherwise made available to Australian operators.

Industry raised concern that this option is confusing, as the TAE is increased above the sustainable limit but capped at 9,200. Government agencies noted that the effective total level of effort in the fishery will not be exceeding 9,200 fishing days

but agreed with industry that this option is not as clear as desired, however they advised that this is the only way to allocate the additional PNG effort under the Plan. The chair stated that this proposal is a vehicle in allocating 9,200 days to Australian operators. Industry expressed concern regarding the perception of a TAE increase, and questioned why the DAFF and PNG days could not be allocated without a TAE increase. The MAC was advised that when the license is issued at the start of the season without any extra cost, these days will be already allocated instead of a process during the year. Mr Southwell stated that the briefing to the PZJA will be clear to ensure that the PZJA is aware that the effective effort will be capped at 9,200 fishing days.

Mr David advised that the islanders have had concerns over the years regarding the impact of the prawn fishery and the damages to the other traditional fisheries in the Torres Strait. It would need to be made very clear to the islander communities that this proposal and the Harvest Strategy would not extend the fishery above the sustainable limit.

The MAC noted the comments by the islander community groups regarding their concerns.

The MAC discussed rewording of recommendation 6.3.2.1B to ensure that the intent of the proposal is clear, due to the concerns raised by industry of the perception of an increased TAE. Industry supported the intent of the proposal; however had concerns about a TAE increase due to perception issues. Industry also had some concerns about the legal issues and requested legal advice of the implications of this proposal. Mr Nerdal advised that DAFF will be seeking legal advice before sending this proposal to the Minister and will approach the MAC if this advice is negative. The MAC agreed on the following wording:

“The MAC recommends that the PZJA determine an actual TAE for 2009 of 9,200 days, based on a nominal TAE of 12,325, to allow for Australian utilisation of PNG days.”

ACTION – Based on the legal advice received by DAFF regarding the TAE proposal, the TSPMAC EO will organise a phone hook-up of the MAC if necessary.

Industry gave in principle support to the proposal, however still have some concerns about the perception and potential legal implications. The reminder of the MAC supported the proposal with the revised wording on recommendation 6.3.2.1B.

The MAC noted that the sustainability reference point agreed by PZJA for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery is 9,200 days.

The MAC agreed to recommend to the PZJA an actual TAE for the 2009 season of 9,200 days, based on a nominal TAE of 12,235 days to allow for the Australian utilisation of the PNG days.

The MAC noted that under this proposal, the maximum possible activation of effort in the fishery would not exceed 9,200 days which is the current, accepted sustainability reference point.

The MAC further noted that this interim effort allocation proposal will be for the 2009 season only as the long-term harvest strategy for the fishery will be developed during 2009.

The MAC noted that under the Management Plan, the units allocated to Australian operators will not exceed 6867.

The MAC agreed to recommend to the PZJA that if the Management Plan is not implemented for 2009, the TAE should be set at 9,200 fishing days consistent with the current, accepted sustainability reference point.

3.3 Strategic Assessment – WTO approval

Mr Smith provided a background on this issue and stated that the TSPF was granted export approval for a period of three years until 29 November 2008. Due to the delays in the Plan being determined this export approval was extended until 2 December 2008 to allow export of product caught at the end of the season. This temporary extension will allow finalisation of the Plan and the assessment before the start of the 2009 fishing season. Once the Plan is determined it will be necessary to formally accept the WTO conditions, which will require Ministerial correspondence to finalise.

The MAC noted the temporary extension of the export approval for the fishery.

3.4 Proposed anchorage exclusion zones

Mr Hall provided an update and background on the proposed anchorage exclusion zones. Mr David advised that the islanders wanted this closure in place to protect the reef and bombies as these are important habitat for turtles, dugongs, finfish and crayfish. Industry requested a map of this closure, as they couldn't make a decision without seeing the exact area of the closure.

ACTION – TSRA to provide the map and co-ordinates to the TSPMAC EO for circulation to the MAC.

The MAC agreed to discuss this issue at the February meeting or at the December phone hook-up, if this is required.

3.5 PZJA decision making processes

Mr Domaschenz provided background to this agenda item and advised that the attached example paper was developed for another Commonwealth fishery to ensure the communication protocol. Industry questioned whether the outcomes of the recent industry meeting with Standing Committee were available. Mr Southwell advised that developing this paper is the response to one of the concerns raised at the industry meeting and also advised that a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) paper has been developed in response to the other concerns. This document will be circulated after the Management Plan has been considered by the PZJA. The protocol paper would outline the roles and responsibilities between the RAGs, MACs and the PZJA when making decisions affecting the Torres Strait fisheries. Industry questioned if a previous protocol paper had been developed and it was suggested that this paper be further updated if necessary.

ACTION – AFMA to liaise with other agencies and industry to develop the protocol paper, however locate the previous paper to assist with this development.

That the TSPMAC noted that industry members have raised concerns with senior PZJA agencies officials over the way that decisions are progressed to the PZJA.

That the TSPMAC noted that senior PZJA agency officials agreed that clarification of how decisions are progressed to the PZJA would be beneficial.

That the TSPMAC noted that a similar concern was expressed in a Commonwealth managed fishery several years ago and in response a protocol was developed between AFMA and the relevant MAC.

That the TSPMAC agreed to develop an appropriate protocol paper for the TSPMAC, reflective of decision making processes for PZJA fisheries while considering relevant papers from previous MAC meetings.

The TSPMAC AGREED that industry would nominate a representative to assist with developing the protocol paper.

FINANCE

4.1 2009 Season Levies

Mr Domaschenz asked the MAC to note the proposed levies for the 2009 season and also that the Australian Government levy relief program has concluded which has resulted in a rise in levy costs. Industry questioned if it were possible to request additional levy relief for the next couple of years. It was responded that this was not within AFMA's power, as this decision would be made by the PZJA and would also need cabinet approval. It was questioned if a reduction in staff numbers was possible and it was advised that agencies are currently looking at the budgets for the 2010 and 2011 year to reduce management costs. Mr Southwell stated that since the original presentation of the budget at the MAC, costs have been reduced by around \$37,000. Industry also questioned the observer costs, as the coverage could reduce with the effort reduction in the fishery. There were 180 observer days budgeted for last season, and the MAC agreed that the observer coverage needs to match the effort. It was noted that if the money isn't utilised then it is returned to the budget in following years.

The MAC noted:

- a) the proposed levies for the Torres Strait Prawn fishery for the 2009 fishing season as set out in the draft Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment Regulations 2008 will comprise a \$5833.39 per licence (fixed cost) and a \$32.35 (variable cost) for each individual allocated fishing day (or unit under the new Management Plan);*
- b) the conclusion of the Australian Government's \$500,000 levy relief program, which applied for the 2007 and 2008 seasons, has resulted in a substantial rise in levies for the 2009 season; and*
- c) the draft Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment Regulations 2008 are awaiting PZJA OOS endorsement prior to submission to the next available Federal Executive Council meeting for approval to ensure that these will have effect before the fishing season commences on 1 March 2008.*

OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Out-of-session TSPMAC decisions

The MAC was asked to adopt the minutes of the August out of session teleconference of the MAC. Mrs Millward stated that the minutes do not show her presence and questioned if others recall her being at the meeting. The MAC did not recall any industry members being present at the teleconference and suggested that there were other teleconferences that were held around the same time where industry was

present. Industry requested that their comments regarding the draft Plan be included as additional attachments to the minutes. Industry requested that the wording on page 7, paragraph 3 be altered, as it currently states that Mrs Millward claims to have written 15 pages of comments on the Draft Plan however this needs to be altered as the current wording is harsh and is not necessarily accurate. Industry also requested that the wording in the 6th paragraph also needs to be reworded as the industry members stated they do represent the whole of industry.

The MAC adopted the minutes of the out of session TSPMAC meeting on 12 August with the changes as outlined above.

5.2 External leasing

Industry advised that this issue had been raised before and that they didn't think that external leasing allowed in the fishery, noting that the PZJA did not intend to allow this in the management arrangements. Mr Fava stated that the arrangements to allow for external leasing had been in place for some time. Industry stated that currently there are two ways to lease externally, a permanent transfer where the licence is transferred into someone else name with an outside contract to transfer the licence back and also to transfer the days onto an outside boat which allows external leasing without the transfer of operators. Industry questioned the change in policy that had occurred to allow this. Mr Fava stated that there has been no policy change, this has always been possible however it has only recently been utilised. Industry stated that enquires had been made by Lisa Cocking and she reported that QDPI&F are advising outside operators that this is possible. Industry expressed concern as this is decreasing the asset value of the licences. Mr Fava stated that he would follow this issue up with the licensing section.

ACTION – Shane Fava to discuss with licensing regarding the issue of external leasing and to provide a report at the February meeting.

5.3 Date of Next Meeting

The MAC agreed to set a date for 9-10 February 2009 in Cairns. The chair stated that three face to face meetings are held most years mostly in Cairns, however suggested that one of the three meetings be held on Thursday Island.

Close

The Chair thanked members and observers for attending the meeting via teleconference. The meeting closed at 14.45pm AEDST.

Action reference number	Action	Date item was added	Responsibility	Status
7.1	AFMA to follow up why industry members were not sent copies of the minutes of the previous meeting prior to the distribution of the TSPMAC #7 papers	TSPMAC 7	AFMA	
7.2	DAFF to liaise with industry (particularly Rosemary Millward) to ensure that the summary is providing the information sought.	TSPMAC 7	DAFF	
7.3	AFMA to confirm membership expiry dates of the two industry MAC members Rosemary Millward and Rob Giddins.	TSPMAC 7	AFMA	
7.4	AFMA to call for nominations for the MAC membership positions before the end of the year	TSPMAC 7	AFMA	
7.5	AFMA to provide advice in the TSPMAC #8 minutes as to the process for selecting Ron Earle to the selection panel	TSPMAC 7	AFMA	
7.6	TSRA to inform management of the infrastructure issues that are not only affecting the Torres Strait Prawn fishing industry but also impacting on the Torres Strait Islander's way of life.	TSPMAC 7	TSRA	
7.7	DAFF, QDPI&F and AFMA to discuss and prepare an attachment for PZJA TAE paper outlining the issues affecting the fishery and some possible solutions.	TSPMAC 7	DAFF, QDPI&F and AFMA	
7.8	DAFF will seek legal advice on the Prawn TAE proposal before it goes to PZJA. If the legal advice is not supportive, the TSPMAC EO will organise a phone hook-up of the MAC	TSPMAC 7	DAFF, TSPMAC EO	
7.9	TSRA to circulate the map and co-ordinates to the TSPMAC EO to forward on to the MAC	TSPMAC 7	TSRA	
7.10	AFMA to liaise with other agencies and industry to develop the protocol paper, however locate the previous paper to assist with this development	TSPMAC 7	AFMA	
7.11	QDPI&F to discuss with licensing regarding the issue of external leasing and to provide a report at the February meeting	TSPMAC 7	QDPI&F	

Ongoing or incomplete action items from previous meetings

TSPMAC 6.1	DAFF and the TSPMAC Executive Officer to liaise with TSPMAC industry representatives to determine whether the current draft PZJA decision record is providing the information which was intended when industry requested the record at TSPMAC 5.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Ongoing. Mr Nerdal from DAFF advised that a summary was provided by DAFF going back to 1999, however industry stated that the decisions from 1992/93 were required. DAFF agreed to liaise with industry to ensure the
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				summary includes the correct information.
TSPMAC 6.2	AFMA to confirm whether the AFMA VMS system is able to pick up TSPF vessels that are not cross endorsed Commonwealth vessels (i.e. QLD ECOTF vessels).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. The AFMA Compliance section has advised that AFMA has no jurisdiction over QLD vessels.
TSPMAC 6.3	TSPMAC to undertake an annual self assessment against PZJA indicators outlined in PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008).	TSPMAC 6		Ongoing. AFMA will seek MAC input prior to TSPMAC #8 for discussion at the meeting as part of the self-assessment process.
TSPMAC 6.4	At TSPMAC 7, seek agreement from TSPMAC industry representatives and other TSPMAC members and permanent observers who were not present at TSPMAC 6 to abide by the PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008) policies.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC Chair	Incomplete. To be completed at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.5	QDPI&F Research to work with ABARE to obtain historical prawn and fuel prices for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F Research	Ongoing. Clive Turnbull advised that he has received the ABARE data, and would present this information at TSPMAC # 8
TSPMAC 6.6	AFMA to draft fishery specific objectives for the TSPF observer program which include scientific, cultural and social objectives and circulate these to the TSPMAC out of session for comment.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. AFMA has commenced work on this, and further information will be provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.7	The TSPMAC Executive Officer to ask industry representatives if they would like any other fishery specific objectives to be considered for the TSPF observer program.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Incomplete. An update will be provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.8	AFMA to investigate if an incentive program could be implemented in the TSPF Observer Program such as providing “free” days to vessels that take observers for a certain period of time.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. Will be presented at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.9	DAFF to investigate whether the Australian Government days could be allocated for “free” to operators as a part of an observer incentive program.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Incomplete . Free days cannot be allocated for the 2009 season as the PNG and DAFF days have already been allocated, however DAFF will investigate the possibility for 2010. .
TSPMAC 6.10	AFMA to hold discussions with their observer program section to look at incentives in other fisheries.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. Will be presented at TSPMAC#8.
TSPMAC	QDPI&F to provide information to AFMA regarding	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Incomplete.

6.11	their observer program and how they improve uptake of observers.			
TSPMAC 6.12	QDPI&F management to talk to QDPI&F licensing about better methods of transferring money for licenses such as Electronic Funds Transfers.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Complete. Currently operators can pay via cheque or credit card (2/3 day turnaround). To use EFT is possible, however the finance agency would need to liaise with the licensing section to identify where the funds came from, which would be a 2 week turnaround. QDPI&F are currently undergoing a review of licensing procedures and this will be investigated further.
TSPMAC 6.13	QDPI&F to determine whether an alternative payment system, such as Electronic Funds Transfer, can be used by TIB license holders in order to make the process for obtaining these licenses more simple.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Complete. This has not been pursued for the same reasons outlined in action item 6.12.
TSPMAC 6.14	DAFF to determine Biosecurity Australia's definition of the term "disease status" for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC 6.15	DAFF to determine whether PNG caught product will need to be clearly marked with the jurisdiction in which it was caught.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC 6.16	DAFF to draft a letter to AQIS on behalf of the TSPMAC Chair which will inform them of the starting date of next season and ask whether their quarantine database will be up and running by the start of the season. The letter should also request that if possible, it would be useful for the system to be in by 1 March if not by end of 2008.	TSPMAC 6	DAFF	Complete. Brendan Nerdal to provide responses to TSPMAC EO on this issue.
TSPMAC 6.17	AFMA to add the higher risk species from the CSIRO seabed mapping project to the "species of interest" list for additional data to be collected during the scientific observer program.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. This will be undertaken in conjunction with AFMA's work on the observer program for presentation at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.18	AFMA to work with the TSRA and AFMA communications section to consider a method disseminating the information from Mr Turnbull and Dr Pitcher's reports to the indigenous sector.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .

TSPMAC 6.19	AFMA to liaise with TSPMAC industry representatives and determine whether they would still like observer status on the TSSAC.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . Will be addressed at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.20	AFMA to determine whether the lack of external leasing in the TSPF Plan is in breach of the national competition policy.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing. An update provided at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.21	Establish a harvest strategy working group including the TSPMAC research member and one member from AFMA, QDPI&F, DAFF, TSRA and industry (each agency to nominate a member).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . Will be undertaken as part of the HS development during 2009.
TSPMAC 6.22	AFMA to follow up on possible funding options for further monitoring of ghost nets and liaise with TSRA while progressing this.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.23	AFMA to liaise with industry to request the development of an industry code of conduct relating to the disposal of marine debris for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.24	AFMA and QDPI&F to discuss hiring a contractor to survey the trawl rubbish in the areas around Yorke and Coconut Islands and quote the removal.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.25	AFMA to develop a research proposal to the TSSAC on potential funding sources.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.26	After results of the BRD, TED and try net survey are received AFMA to discuss the potential for observers to conduct BRD trials through the AFMA observer program.	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete . AFMA is finalising the survey and will undertake the survey in early 2009, this item will be completed once the results are received.
TSPMAC 6.27	AFMA to develop a proposal for consideration by the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee, to conduct a technical review of some of the BRDs used on prawn vessels operating in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Incomplete .
TSPMAC 6.28	Executive Officer to liaise with the Australian Maritime College and request that they provide a presentation on the light trials at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Complete . AMC will be present at TSPMAC #8 to provide a presentation.
TSPMAC	AFMA to apply a 3 tiered approach to the TED, BRD	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Ongoing.

6.29	and try net survey, which includes; 4. sending out surveys to all licenses holders and wait two weeks for a response; 5. following up surveys with a phone call offering phone surveys; 6. QB&FP and AFMA observers to conduct surveys whilst in the field.			AFMA is finalising the BRD survey and will undertake the survey in early 2009.
TSPMAC 6.30	QDPI&F to send footage from the US TED trails to the TSRA and bring the footage for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	QDPI&F	Carry Over to TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.31	CFG representatives to develop a full proposal regarding the proposed anchorage exclusion zones around Warrior and Dungeness Reefs to all vessels over 6m, for presentation at TSPMAC 7.	TSPMAC 6	TSRA	Ongoing. The proposal was considered at TSPMAC #7, however industry requested co-ordinates and maps before making a. This will be completed OOS or considered at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.32	The TSPMAC executive officer to start the recruitment process for electing a new TSPMAC industry member to the TSPMAC.	TSPMAC 6	TSPMAC EO	Complete. The selection process has been completed and is awaiting acceptance from the candidate. The new industry member should be present at TSPMAC #8.
TSPMAC 6.33	AFMA to present a recommendation to the PZJA Standing Committee seeking their approval to have an external industry member on the panel as this is a deviation from the usual processes outlines in PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008).	TSPMAC 6	AFMA	Complete. The MAC's recommendation was provided to the PZJA Standing Committee, however the SC requested that FMP 1 be followed as the SC noted that the recommendation was made by the MAC when industry members were not present.