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PFA RESPONSE TO TAC SETTING PROCESS

The PFA and NSW Seafood Industry Council contracted the services of Prof Daryl McPhee to assist in developing our responses to the DPI's call for comments regarding the Total Allowable Catch Setting process.

The main issues recognised so far has been the need for:

- Overarching policy and guideline required
- Industry involvement in TAC setting deliberations for each species and inclusion on the committee
- Integrated fisheries management approach (commercial, recreational and Indigenous sector considerations)
- Cost effective process that doesn't become a financial burden to the industry
- Adaptive strategies
- Logbook return accuracy and issues re discard rates within the Commonwealth Recommended Biological Catch)
- Economic considerations
- Precautionary Principles
- Where stocks are shared by the State and Commonwealth fisheries, any TACC calculation should not advantage or disadvantage one jurisdiction over another.

The responses to the TAC process are due today. Please contact us if you would like us to email you a copy of our response.

EELS PROJECT

The PFA has been working with a seafood marketer/exporter to trial several different recipes and eel types to perfect a product to be marketed and exported to high end Asian restaurants. After a lengthy process we are now seeing a premium product and are working together to start finalising the product. A meeting with high-end restaurateurs is planned for mid-August to showcase some of the product.



There are still questions regarding product quality and control that need significant research and refinement, but the advice is very positive. PFA has made an additional application to the FRDC to seek assistance with this research and advice. The PFA will be holding a meeting with our PFA eel fishers shortly to finalise costings and logistics to meet a supply agreement – depended on the showcase results. **Stay tuned!!!!**

FLOAT FREE- EBIRBS REQUIRED ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

AMSA has advised that their standards have been amended to require that the following types of commercial fishing vessels (as well as other types of domestic commercial vessels) to carry a float-free EPIRB by the 1 January 2019:

- **those that are equal to or greater than 12 metres in length and operate beyond 2 nautical miles seaward from land**

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- **those that are less than 12 metres in length operating in B or C waters but only if the vessel does not have level flotation.** Vessels that are less than 12 metres with level flotation (and those vessels operating between 2 nautical miles out to 'C waters') can continue to carry the kind of EPIRB currently required and will not be affected by these changes, and

This requirement will commence on **1 January 2019 – however, a 24-month transitional period has been allowed so that the new requirements will not become mandatory until 1 January 2021. Operators who wish to start carrying a float-free EPIRB prior to this date are encouraged to do so.**

Generic equivalent solution for vessels less than 7.5 metres

AMSA has advised that carriage of a float-free EPIRB on some smaller, open vessels may be challenging. Over the coming months, AMSA will be developing a general equivalent solution (GES) for vessels less than 7.5 metres in length affected by these changes. Vessel owners do not need to apply to use the GES. AMSA will be consulting on this draft GES in due course.

Next steps

AMSA will shortly publish guidance to assist owners and operators of DCVs with the new requirements relating to float-free EPIRBs. This guidance will include information on, for example, the safety benefits of carrying a float-free EPIRB, things to consider when installing a float-free EPIRB unit to ensure it works effectively, how to register your float-free EPIRB with AMSA and maintaining your float-free EPIRB. **The PFA will email out these guidance notes to all members.** Consequential changes will also be made to Marine Order 503, Exemption 02 and Exemption 40 to ensure that '**existing vessels**' and **non - survey vessels** affected by the changes are also required to carry a float-free EPIRB by 1 January 2021.

PFOS & PFOA

The American PFOs and PFOA standards have been revised causing Australia to now review their standards. We are awaiting advice on the impacts this may have to commercial fishing operations. As more and more areas across Australia (those normally found close to airports or training bases) are being found to have some level of contamination this is an extremely concerning situation for our industry on a National scale. We are awaiting a full briefing once the review is finalised and will keep all members informed.

IMPORTATION OF LIVE BLACK TIGER PRAWNS

An application has been made to allow the importation of live P Monodon (black tiger prawn broodstock) from pathogen-free countries into Australia. The public consultation process is being run by the Federal Dept of Environment & Energy – link below www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/comment/import-black-tiger-prawns-for-aquaculture The PFA and Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries (ACPF) will commence consulting with members to formulate an ACPF submission when Rachel returns to her office later in the week. This will be a controversial issue and we will need to build a strong case, with a view to finding a consensus position.

PRAWN FISHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries (ACPF) of which the PFA is a member, provides up to **\$4000 to a fisher to investigate a problem** (e.g. bycatch solutions, on-board

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processing, community acceptance/social license, etc) as part of ACPF's People Development budget. ACPF is calling for fishers who have a prawn fishing problem to solve by: -

- Travelling to another prawn fishery, or another fishery sector, to investigate solutions to the problem they've identified:
- Attending a related conference/seminar on the topic, and
- Reporting back to one of ACPF's Board meetings (usually March and September each year) with their recommendations

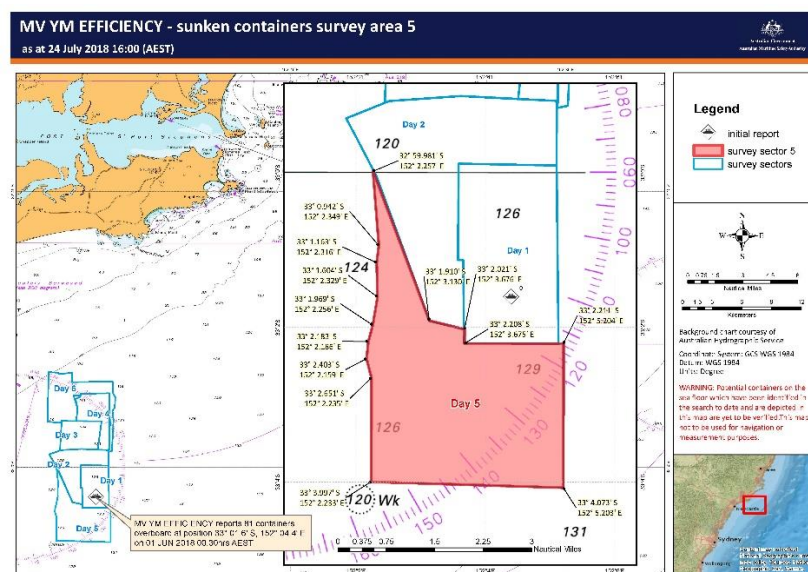
ACPF would like to hear from any interested fisher with the problem they would like to tackle, their plan of investigation and the proposed budget. Download application form from <http://australianwildprawns.com.au/prawn-fisher-exchange/>, fill in your details electronically & email application to Rachel King, acpf.eo@gmail.com. Applications close 7 August 2018.

CONTAINERS

The additional survey requested by industry were completed last week. Port of Newcastle have advised that the final report and analysed data will be with AMSA by end of week. AMSA has received the analysed hydrographic data and is currently validating the Port of Newcastle analysis.

The problem with releasing the raw data remains - The raw data positions are not accurate for navigation purposes. Once analysed there will be a one metre error. The analysis is also showing that several targets are not containers but possible debris fields. This debris may be mobile, so initial positions provided may no longer be valid. RMS need to clearly differentiate between the two otherwise they could be providing information to the fishers that does not enable them to manage risks.

I have also received advice that there are no targets in the area surveyed to the south – see maps below. We are discussing with AMSA and RMS about loading the GPS points onto a USB Sticks to distribute to fishers enabling fishers to directly load the coordinates.



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The following advice has been provided directly by the DPI for the PFA. We intend to constantly have this direct communication from DPI available to our members as we believe it is important to have these DPI statements or reminders. If you have questions re the info please contact DPI directly.

MESSAGE FROM NSW DPI FISHERIES

Key dates

Fri 27 July Closing date for public submissions on the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 17 species or species groups:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/open-for-comment>

Information to be provided by prawn trawlers before issue of new effort quota shares

DPI will be writing to holders of inshore and offshore prawn shares soon for advice on the hull units to be used to allocate effort quota shares. It will be important for shareholders to respond to DPI in a timely manner. For more information on the process for allocating effort quota shares, refer to the Fact Sheet that was mailed to shareholders in April. A copy of the Fact Sheet can also be found at:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/806463/Ocean-Trawl-Inshore-and-Offshore-Prawn-Day-Regime-Fact-Sheet-Apr-18.pdf

Total Allowable Catch for Eastern Rock Lobster for 2018/19

The Total Allowable Fishing Committee has determined that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Eastern Rock Lobster for the fishing period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 is 170 tonnes.

The increase in TAC for this period is a result of cumulative investment in science, management and compliance for the lobster fishery, and careful management decisions to rebuild the lobster stock.

Quota will be allocated on Monday 30 July and will be visible and available in FishOnline systems from Wednesday 1 August. An allocation notice will be emailed to shareholders once quota is allocated.

Commercial Fisheries Hotline - 1300 726 488

The content of this update is provided for information purposes only. The information on these updates are provided on the basis that all persons accessing the information undertake their own responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of it.