

Six-monthly bycatch action plan progress report

MAC / Fishery: SMALL PELAGIC FISHERY

BAP release date: 2 December 2005 (Board meeting #124)

Report date: 3 March 2008

Issue: Protected species		
Strategy (1) – Take all reasonable steps to ensure that species listed under Part 13 of the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> are not killed or injured as a result of fishing.		
Performance Indicator (output):	Actions taken for output	Output achieved (y/n) and date
BAP communication strategy developed that informs Permit holders on the need for accurate and complete logbook reports within 9 months of the BAP commencement.	Industry awareness on the need for accurate and complete logbook reporting will be raised primarily through direct liaison. Management staff, logbook liaison officers and observers will be responsible for communicating directly with industry.	Yes AFMA Logbook liaison officer continued to conduct port visits in 2007. Liaison officers visited in NSW and Tasmania (November 2007). The outcomes of these visits will be presented to SPFMAC on 1 April 2008.
Appropriate management measures implemented to reduce and mitigate midwater trawl dolphin and seal bycatch as determined through research within 12 months of the availability of results.	The Board approved AFMA research funding for an investigation into midwater trawl dolphin and seal bycatch mitigation measures at its meeting in October 2005 (meeting # 123).	N/A Research is ongoing. The SPFRAG discussed the draft report at its December 2007 meeting, and made recommendations for the continuation of the project. A seal bycatch mitigation workshop will be held for southern trawl fisheries later in 2008 to investigate the potential for collaboration on future projects.
Cetacean Mitigation Working Group (CMWG) members informed of any dolphin or seal interactions that occurred in the fishery within 72 hours of AFMA being notified.	Several seal interactions have been recorded by underwater camera monitoring conducted as part of the midwater trawl dolphin and seal bycatch mitigation project. The final draft report outlining all recorded interactions was circulated to CMWG members within 72 hours of AFMA receiving the report.	Yes Achieved so far but it should be noted that this is an ongoing action.
Meeting/s of CMWG convened as soon as practicable following agreement among members to do so.	There has been no call to convene a CMWG meeting.	N/A
Research proposals into potential measures to reduce and mitigate midwater trawl dolphin and seal bycatch developed within 12 months of the BAP commencement.	A research proposal was developed by the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute and supported by AFMA, DEH and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. The Board approved AFMA research funding for the project at its meeting in October 2005 (meeting # 123).	Yes Board approval given in October 2005.

Attachment 6

<p>Management strategies developed and implemented to mitigate fishing impacts on high risk protected species within 12 months of their identification through the ERA project.</p>	<p>Draft SPF ERA Level Two results were considered by SPFMAC/RAG on 29 September 2005 and 2 August 2006.</p>	<p>No The Level Two ERA results for both the purse seine and mid-water trawl sectors were finalised in June 2007. The residual risk process for each ERA will be undertaken during May-August 2008. Management responses to deal with species identified as high-risk will developed during and post this period.</p>
<p>'Onboard' protected species information sheets be provided to all Permit Holders within 6 months of the BAP commencement.</p>	<p>AFMA Management, in consultation with SPFMAC intends to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of producing a separate information sheet noting that AFMA is preparing a protected species identification guide and that Industry members have committed to developing an Industry Code of Practice/s (SPFMAC meeting 3, March 2006).</p> <p>As part of the evaluation, an assessment will be first made on the suitability of AFMA's Protected Species Identification Guide and progress made towards developing an Industry Code of Practice/s (CoP/s).</p>	<p>Yes AFMA's Protected Species Identification Guide was sent to all Commonwealth fishery operators in 2007.</p> <p>SPFMAC industry members finalised a Purse Seine CoP for distribution in February 2008. The CoP will be sent to all permit holders in March 2008. A mid-water trawl CoP is still under development, subject to the result of the dolphin and seal mitigation research.</p>
<p>Logbook and observer data reports reviewed biannually by the SPFMAC and SPFRAG and any high risk protected species identified.</p>	<p>SPFRAG agreed on a reporting process for the fishery's logbook and observer data in March 2006. The RAG agreed for the Chair, James Findlay (BRS) to prepare an annual fishery assessment report and for AFMA to provide observer reports to the RAG.</p>	<p>Yes The SPFMAC and RAG have been verbally updated on interactions with TEP species. There were no reported interactions with TEP species in logbooks from July to December 2007.</p>
<p>Logbook reporting reviewed biannually by the SPFMAC and SPFRAG to ensure their effectiveness.</p>	<p>Logbook data will be reviewed against observer data.</p>	<p>No AFMA's observer section is expected to finalise its first analysis of AFMA observer against logbook data for the fishery by April 2008.</p>
<p>Management measures applied within 3 months of any change or addition to a species listing, by AFMA, in consultation with SPFMAC and SPFRAG where appropriate.</p>	<p>No listing changes have occurred.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Attachment 6

<p>Industry midwater trawl and purse seine codes of practise finalised.</p>	<p>SPFMAC Industry members agreed at the third meeting of SPFMAC (28 March 2006) to develop a draft code of practice/s in consultation with the broader industry and to report at the next SPFMAC meeting.</p>	<p>Partial SPFMAC industry members finalised a Purse Seine CoP for distribution in February 2008. The CoP will be sent to all permit holders in March 2008. A mid-water trawl CoP is still under development, subject to the result of the dolphin and seal mitigation research.</p>
<p>Desired outcome: All reasonable steps taken to ensure that species listed in Part 13 of the EPBC Act are not killed or injured as a result of fishing.</p>		
<p>Outcome achieved: Mostly, some actions are outstanding.</p>		

<p>Issue: High risk and other bycatch species</p>		
<p>Strategy (2) – Take all reasonable steps to ensure to reduce the bycatch of high risk and other species.</p>		
<p>Performance Indicator (output):</p>	<p>Actions taken for output</p>	<p>Output achieved (y/n) and date</p>
<p>BAP communication strategy developed that informs Permit holders on the need for accurate and complete logbook reports within 9 months of the BAP commencement.</p>	<p>Industry awareness on the need for accurate and complete logbook reporting will be raised primarily through direct liaison. Management staff, logbook liaison officers and observers will be responsible for communicating directly with industry.</p>	<p>Yes AFMA Logbook liaison officer continued to conduct port visits in 2007. Liaison officers visited in NSW and Tasmania (November 2007). The outcomes of these visits will be presented to SPFMAC on 1 April 2008.</p>
<p>Management strategies developed and implemented to mitigate fishing impacts on high risk and other bycatch species within 12 months of their identification either through the ERA project or other research.</p>	<p>Draft SPF ERA Level Two results were been considered by SPFMAC/RAG on 29 September 2005 and 2 August 2006.</p>	<p>No The Level Two ERA results for both the purse seine and mid-water trawl sectors were finalised in June 2007. The residual risk process for each ERA will be undertaken during May-August 2008. Management responses to deal with species identified as high-risk will developed during and post this period.</p>

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<p>Strategic Ecosystem Based Data Plan developed for the fishery within 6 months of the BAP commencement.</p>	<p>A draft Strategic Ecosystem Based Data Plan has been prepared for the SPF (February 2006).</p> <p>In pursuit of cost-effective management finalisation of the data plan will be undertaken subject to consideration of needs arising from the December 2005 Ministerial Direction, in particular development of a harvest strategy (HS).</p> <p>SPFRAG will be conducting a Management Strategy Evaluation Workshop on 3 April 2007 to finalise its advice on a HS for the fishery.</p>	<p>No The data plan was completed to draft stage but will require revision following the development of a HS for the fishery in 2008.</p>
<p>Logbook and observer data reports reviewed biannually by the SPFMAC and SPFRAG and any high risk and other bycatch species identified.</p>	<p>SPFRAG agreed on a reporting process for the fishery's logbook and observer data in March 2006. The RAG agreed for the Chair, James Findlay (BRS) to prepare an annual fishery assessment report and for AFMA to provide observer reports to the RAG.</p>	<p>Yes Following previous reports, a report containing a summary of AFMA logbook data and AFMA observer data for 2001/02 to 2006/07 will be finalised in April 2008 and then presented to SPFRAG and MAC.</p>
<p>Logbook reporting reviewed biannually by the SPFMAC and SPFRAG to ensure their effectiveness.</p>	<p>Logbook data will be reviewed against observer data.</p>	<p>No AFMA's observer section is expected to finalise its first analysis of AFMA observer against logbook data for the fishery by April 2008.</p>
<p>A strategic research plan developed within 6 months of the BAP commencement.</p>	<p>SPFRAG agreed at its meeting in March 2006 for James Findlay to develop a strategic research and data collection plan for the fishery out-of-session and report to the RAG.</p> <p>In pursuit of cost-effective management finalisation of these plans will be undertaken subject to consideration of needs arising from the Ministerial Direction, in particular development of a harvest strategy.</p> <p>SPFRAG will be finalising the HS at its meeting on 31 March 2008.</p>	<p>No Finalisation has been delayed to incorporate actions arising from the Ministerial Direction. Key research directions for the fishery will be driven the fisheries HS.</p>
<p>Desired outcome: All reasonable steps taken to reduce the bycatch of high risk and other species.</p>		
<p>Outcome achieved: Mostly, some actions are outstanding.</p>		

Issue: Impact of total bycatch on the broader marine ecosystem		
Strategy (3) – Take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of fishing on the broader marine ecosystem.		
Performance Indicator (output):	Actions taken for output	Output achieved (y/n) and date
Within 12 months of their identification either through the ERA project or other research, development of management strategies to ensure fishing impacts on the broader ecosystem are sustainable commenced.	Draft SPF ERA Level Two results were considered by SPFMAC/RAG on 29 September 2005 and 2 August 2006.	No The Level Two ERA results for both the purse seine and mid-water trawl sectors were finalised in June 2007. The residual risk process for each ERA will be undertaken during May-August 2008. Management responses to deal with species identified as high-risk will developed during and post this period.
Research into marine ecosystem level impacts identified as a priority in the SPF Strategic Research Plan to be developed within 6 months of the BAP commencement.	Two of the four strategic research priorities for fishery relate to marine ecosystem impacts. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of small pelagic species in the ecosystem – links to harvest strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the proportion of standing SPF stocks that can be harvested annually so as to maintain ecosystem function 2. Cetacean interactions and bycatch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the nature and extent of cetacean interaction (and other protected species) occurring in the SPF • Determine the extent of bycatch in the SPF • Develop cost-effective mitigation strategies 	Yes SPFMAC and RAG agreed to the fishery's 2007/08 strategic research in March 2006 and SPFRAG has recommended that the priorities remain unchanged for 2008/09. SPFMAC supported the RAG's recommendation at its meeting in April 2007.
Desired outcome: All reasonable steps taken to minimise the impact of fishing on the broader marine ecosystem.		
Outcome achieved: Mostly, some actions are outstanding.		

Issue: Communication		
Strategy (4) – Effectively communicate the Bycatch Action Plan to industry and the wider community		
Performance Indicator (output):	Actions taken for output	Output achieved (y/n) and date
Effective education and awareness program on bycatch established and information distributed to stakeholders commenced within 9 months of the BAP commencement.	<p>The SPF BAP education and awareness program has been developed in line with 'mandatory' actions identified in AFMA's BAP communication strategy.</p> <p>The BAP has been distributed to all Permit Holders and State fisheries management agencies. The BAP is also available on AFMA's website.</p>	<p>Yes December 2005.</p>
Desired outcome: Stakeholders are aware of and understand the BAP.		
Outcome achieved: Generally yes.		