



## AFMA MOVES TO ENSURE RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL PELAGICS FISHERY

AFMA has frozen boat nominations for fishing permits in the Small Pelagics Fishery to ensure the rational and sustainable development of the fishery. Only vessels currently nominated against permits will be allowed to operate in the fishery until the Board has made a final decision on the long-term management arrangements and on allocation of fishing rights. AFMA is concerned that the increasing and ongoing speculation over the possible entry of large fishing vessels into the fishery could lead to rapid over-capitalisation in the fishery.

In response to increasing interest in the fishery, AFMA has already issued a discussion paper on long-term management arrangements and allocations in the fishery. An investment warning has also been issued to existing and potential operators advising that any future catches or investment in the fishery (effective from 6 July 2004) would not be taken into account in any future process of allocating fishing rights in the fishery. All stakeholders are encouraged to make submissions to the discussion paper by the closing date of 30 September 2004. The paper is available on AFMA's website at [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/pelagic/notices/default.php](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/pelagic/notices/default.php). The issues will be considered by the AFMA Board at its November meeting.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The next meeting of the AFMA Board will be held in Melbourne on 7-8 October. As has become customary with all our board meetings, a 'Meet the Board' gathering will be happening at **5pm on Thursday 7 October at the Chifley at Metropole, Brunswick St, Fitzroy**. This is an opportunity to meet face to face with the new Board Chair, Tony Rundle, and other AFMA directors, in an informal way. All are welcome, although please let us know if you would like to attend on 1300 723 621.

AFMA's 2004 Annual Public Meeting will be taking place at the last Board meeting of the year, to be held in Ulladulla on Thursday 25 November. This meeting will provide an overview of the past year's activities and progress as well as outline the future directions for the Authority. More information about this will come to you in upcoming editions of AFMA Update, but please save this date if you would like to attend.

## OBSERVERS TO MONITOR SBT FISHING ON EAST COAST

At its most recent meeting in Canberra on 31 August-1 September, the AFMA Board decided that AFMA will target a 10% observer coverage rate for longline fishing for SBT in the area of the ETBF. The Board also agreed that the costs of this coverage in the core SBT fishing area will be shared equally amongst ETBF and SBT concession holders.

## HOW DO YOU HANDLE YOUR SWORDFISH?

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is conducting a project aimed at looking at ways to improve the quality of postharvest broadbill swordfish. Presentations on this topic by the FRDC's Andrew Forrest & Steve Slattery are expected to be held between 1 and 6 October 2004 at various east coast ports. To register your interest in attending a presentation, phone 07 34068623 or email at [Steve.Slattery@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:Steve.Slattery@dpi.qld.gov.au)

## NOT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!

Congratulations to mothership *Roper K*, owned by the MG Kailis Group, which services the trawlers of the Northern Prawn Fishery. Since 1995 the vessel has been saving all the aluminium cans collected from the boats for recycling. The fishing industry has long been suspected of causing marine pollution, but for some years now the trawlers have recognised their responsibility to keep the oceans clean. Every two weeks the *MV Roper K* removes the waste from 30 trawlers free of charge and takes it ashore for dumping and recycling- even the waste oil is recycled. On 4 September, a \$1200 donation was made to the Darwin Branch of St John's Ambulance- representing 100,000 beer and soft drink cans

collected since 2000. We worked out that's about 37,500 litres over four years, 781 L a month, or about 26 L a day... not a bad effort!

## NEW MAC APPOINTMENTS

The AFMA Board recently appointed a new Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery MAC (GABMAC) and rolled over the Northern Prawn Fishery MAC (NORMAC) until 31 March 2005. In addition, Mr David Guillot was appointed as an Industry Member on the South East Trawl Fishery MAC (SETMAC). Details of these appointments will be available on AFMA's website shortly.

## ASFB 2004

The 2004 Australian Society for Fish Biology Workshop and Conference (ASFB2004) is happening in Adelaide next week from 19-24 September. This year, the ASFB workshop will take the form of a **National Symposium on Ecosystem Research and Management of Fisheries**. This symposium will address the growing legislative and social pressure for marine and freshwater scientists to investigate the ecological roles of fisheries species, and for resource managers to ensure that fisheries are managed according to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development. AFMA is proud to be a supporting sponsor of this event. For more information about the symposium and conference, visit [www.asfb.org.au](http://www.asfb.org.au).

## OUTCOMES OF THE EASTERN TUNA MAC

The first meeting of the new Eastern Tuna Management Advisory Committee was held in Sydney on 2 September 2004 and was presided over by the new Chair, Mr Bill Nagle. Decisions of note were:

- An in-principle decision was made to ban wire traces on all vessels other than those licensed to operate in Area E of the ETBF as a measure to reduce shark interactions. AFMA and MAC members will be seeking any views on this 'in-principle' decision for consideration at the next meeting of the MAC on 18-19 October.
- The MAC agreed not to progress the 98-gram line weighting trial due to lack of operator interest. The MAC discussed alternative suggestions to deal with seabird bycatch mitigation, in particular a proposal to review the weighting regime requirements and welcomes any input from industry. The matter will receive further attention at the 18-19 October MAC meeting at Ulladulla.

## YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE...

### Torres Strait Beche-de-mer and Torres Strait Finfish fisheries assessment reports.

AFMA has prepared draft assessment reports for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery and Torres Strait Finfish Fishery, as required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage will use the assessment reports and public comments received to make decisions on the strategic assessment of the fishery management arrangements. AFMA invites comments from interested persons on the draft assessment reports by the closing date of 15 October 2004. Submissions should be sent to Mr John Adams, Environment Policy Section, AFMA, Box 7051 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2611, fax: (02) 6272 5167 or e-mail: [john.adams@afma.gov.au](mailto:john.adams@afma.gov.au).

## MANAGING BYCATCH IN THE SMALL PELAGICS FISHERY

AFMA is seeking comments on the draft bycatch action plan for the Small Pelagics Fishery. The period for public comments ends on 8 October 2004. Comments should be sent to Andrew McNee, Senior Manager, Tuna and Billfish Section, AFMA, Box 7051 Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610, fax: (02) 6272 5167 or e-mail: [cliff.lloyd@afma.gov.au](mailto:cliff.lloyd@afma.gov.au).

**Copies of the above reports are available from AFMA's website ([www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au)), by writing to AFMA at the above address or by phoning AFMA on 1300 723 621.**

### AFMA UPDATE FEEDBACK

Please FAX this page back on (02) 6272 3087

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