

COME ALONG TO THE SCALLOP FISHERY PORT VISITS

AFMA staff will be visiting key ports in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery during 21- 23 February to give scallop fishers the opportunity to discuss the new 2005 management arrangements for the fishery. We'd also like to hear your views about the future of the fishery and what you see as the key issues for the next few years.

These visits are not in the format of a regular meeting with start and end times. Just drop in at a time that suits you – or feel free to contact us beforehand and let us know what time you expect to arrive.

Lakes Entrance – Fishermen's Co-op
Monday 21 February 1-5pm
Tuesday 22 February 8.30am-12pm

Melbourne — Seafood Industry Victoria
177 Toorak Road, South Yarra
Wednesday 23 February 9am-5pm

AFMA staff have already met with Commonwealth scallop fishermen in Tasmania following a recent meeting. However, any interested fishers based in Tasmania who would like a further opportunity to talk directly with AFMA staff about the 2005 management arrangements can contact us on the number below.

For more information or to register your interest in meeting with AFMA staff, contact Elizabeth Cotterell on 1300 723 621.

BOARD MEETING COMING UP!

The AFMA Board will hold its next meeting in Canberra on 28 February – 1 March. Continuing its commitment to meet with each Management Advisory Committee (MAC) at least once per year, the Board will be meeting with the Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee to discuss key management issues facing the Northern Prawn Fishery. The Board will also be considering AFMA's draft budget for the 05/06 financial year as well as fishery specific reports from a number of MACs including SBTMAC, SOUTHMAC, SETMAC and GABMAC.

YOUR COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL SPECIES LISTED AS THREATENED

The Department of Environment and Heritage's invitation to comment on a number commercial fish species nominated for listing as threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) will close on **28 February 2005**. The species nominated include:

- **Eastern gemfish** (*Rexea solandri*)
- **Harrison's dogfish** (*Centrophorus harrisoni*)
- **Endeavour dogfish** (*Centrophorus moluccensis*)
- **Southern dogfish** (*Centrophorus uyato*)
- **Orange roughy** (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)
- **School Shark** (*Galeorhinus galeus*)
- **Southern bluefin tuna** (*Thunnus maccoyii*)

AFMA is putting together a response with the Bureau of Rural Sciences and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and is seeking the views of AFMA Management Advisory Committees (MACs) on the nominations. A draft response will be circulated to the relevant MACs for their comment, and the closing date for comments by portfolio agencies is 28 March 2005. AFMA encourages industry and other stakeholders to provide their own submissions regarding the nominations.

For further information on nominations under the EPBC Act, please contact Cliff Lloyd, AFMA Environment Policy Section, on (02) 6272 4432. All the nominations are currently available for viewing on DEH's website at <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/public-comment/index.html>

NORTHERN PRAWN MEETING REMINDER

The Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) will be meeting at the Carlton Crest Hotel Brisbane from 16-18 February. The main issues to be discussed include alternative management options for the fishery and a discussion on the 2005 banana prawn season dates. Observers should contact the Executive Officer of NORMAC if they wish to attend.

RECONCILE YOUR QUOTA!

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) operators would have recently received their final 2004 Quota Transaction Statements in the mail with advice that the cut off date for any 2004 leasing or checks of data was 3 February 2005.

AFMA is now in the process of ensuring any 2004 lease applications have been processed and any requests to check data have been completed. We anticipate running the 2004 to 2005 under catch (scalefish species) / over catch (shark species) calculation by the end of February 2005. Once completed, AFMA will notify operators as soon as possible. AFMA is aware that after the calculation of the 2004 to 2005 over catch (shark species), some operators still remain in excess of quota held for 2004. Operators should address any enquiries regarding this issue to the Senior Manager, Licensing and Compliance.

EXPLORATORY FISHING – WE’D LIKE YOUR COMMENTS

AFMA has undertaken a review of its policy on the Exploration of Fish Resources. The redrafted version of Fisheries management Paper No. 5 is available on the AFMA website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/pubs/fmps/default.php> for your consideration and comment by **11 March 2005**. You can also get hard copies by calling AFMA DIRECT on 1300 723 621.

The changes to the policy principally relate to the addition of Management Plans as a tool under which exploratory access may be granted. This alternative approach is consistent with existing legislation and government policy and does not change the overall principles of the development of new fisheries.

AFMA also proposes to make access rights in an exploratory fishery non-transferable. Our goal is to enable and encourage the development of new fisheries, consistent with AFMA's legislative objectives by creating certainty, fairness and transparency in the way we manage the process.

If you would like to discuss the policy or your input please contact Vanessa Findlay, Senior Manager-Policy and Strategy on phone (02) 6272 5124, fax (02) 6272 5036 or email vanessa.findlay@afma.gov.au.

NEW TYPE APPROVED FOR VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

AFMA has recently type approved an Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) for use with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), the **Furuno Mini-C Mobile Earth Station Transceiver Model Felcom 16 with Encrypted GPS utilising firmware version DCE F16 V03+FFA**. Antenna Mount with the Furuno Felcom 16 in accordance with either of the following two options:

- Pipe No: 20-007-3011-2, Code No. 100-183-262 ‘Mast Pipe’; or
- a pipe of this description suitable for marine use

An updated list of type approved ALC's can be found on the AFMA website. Please contact Richard Bland on (02) 6272 5298 or 0418 468 134 if you need any further information.

NEW DETENTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ILLEGAL FISHERS

From late this year, apprehended foreign fishing crews will no longer be held on board their boats. Instead, they will be detained at a land-based facility in Darwin as they await prosecution or repatriation back home.

In a statement released by Senator Ian Macdonald on 31 January 2005, the Federal Government is to refurbish its unused detention centre in Darwin to house illegal fishermen caught in Australian waters. Permanent processing facilities will also be set up in Gove in the NT's north east Arnhem Land, Broome in Western Australia, and Horn Island in Queensland, where fishermen would be processed before being transferred to Darwin. Also as part of the arrangements, new facilities will be provided across northern Australia to burn illegal boats.

With 19 illegal fishing vessels apprehended to date this year, Senator Macdonald said it was important to continue upgrading our efforts to address the problem. Accordingly, AFMA is busy organising the new detention arrangements.

AFMA UPDATE MAILING DETAILS

Name _____

Contact phone _____

(Please tick)

Please remove this number from the AFMA Update fax list →

Fax _____

I would prefer AFMA Update emailed to me, not faxed →

Email _____

FAX this page back on (02) 6272 5036 or phone 1300 723 621

 **AFMADIRECT 1300 723 621**