

Vol 2, Issue 9, 6 May 2005

## INDUSTRY PUTS HAND UP TO SUSTAIN BLUE GRENADIER STOCKS

At its April meeting, the AFMA Board agreed to a compromise management strategy proposed by SETMAC for blue grenadier in 2005. The four factory trawl operators have agreed to voluntarily constrain their catch for 2005 to around 3200 tonnes. A harvest strategy is being developed by the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark resource Assessment Group (SESSRAG) for implementation in 2006 which will include options to reduce incidental juvenile mortalities elsewhere in the fishery. For more information please contact Paula Shoulder, Senior Manager Southern Fisheries on (02) 6272 3250 or [paula.shoulder@afma.gov.au](mailto:paula.shoulder@afma.gov.au).

## AMBER LIGHT FOR BLUE-EYE TRANSFERS!

AFMA has given the amber light to full transferability of blue-eye trevalla quota between the GHAT and SET sectors after the Board accepted the advice of the South East Trawl Management Advisory Committee (SETMAC) and the Gillnet Hook and Trap Management Advisory Committee (GHATMAC) to remove the restrictions on transferability. However restrictions will not be lifted until the implementation of a harvest strategy that addresses sustainability issues that led to the restriction being imposed. For more information please contact Paula Shoulder, Senior Manager Southern Fisheries, on (02) 6272 3250 or email [paula.shoulder@afma.gov.au](mailto:paula.shoulder@afma.gov.au).

## FISH RECEIVERS: VALIDATION OF SBT EXPORT DOCUMENTS

Commonwealth licensed fish receivers, registered with AFMA, are replacing fisheries and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) officers as validators of Trade Information Scheme (TIS) documents for all exports of SBT. **These new validation arrangements, as outlined in the 7 April edition of AFMA Update, commenced on 1 May 2005.** There is now a one month changeover period during which time Fish Receiver Permit (FRP) holders, PIRSA and AQIS are able to sign the documents. **This will change to FRP holders only as of 1 June 2005.** Fish receivers who wish to validate these exports documents must ensure they have provided the relevant information to AFMA (forms available from AFMA). For further information please contact Colleen Cross on (02) 6272 5286 or 1300 723 621

## AFMA RESEARCHER WINS GRAND PRIZE IN 'SMART GEAR' COMPETITION

Congratulations to Steve Beverley from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community who has won the Grand Prize in an international 'Smart Gear' competition run by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Beverley submitted his invention of a weighted setting technique for longlines that not only reduces the incidental catch of turtles but may actually improve the efficiency of catch of target species such as bigeye tuna. The method was successfully tested recently as part of an AFMA-funded research project. While promising, more trials would be needed to gain robust results. For more information about the technique, see the March edition of Fishing Future on AFMA's website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/pubs/newsletters>.

## HANDBALL THOSE LOGBOOKS TO SKIPPERS!

Concession holders are reminded to please pass logbooks onto skippers as soon as possible after they receive them from AFMA. Logbooks must be present on all vessels and completed correctly.

## AFMA BOARD HEADS NORTH FOR MAY MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held in Cairns on 19-20 May 2005. As part of its regular program of meeting with Management Advisory Committees (MACs), the Board will be joined by the Eastern Tuna MAC on 19 May.

There will also be an informal "meet the AFMA Directors" get-together from 5.00 to 6:30pm at the Cairns Yacht Club, Wharf Road, Cairns. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Milica Milanja at AFMA on (02) 6272 4923 or 1300 723 621 by 16 May.

## NORMAC MEETING IN BRISBANE

The next Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) meeting is proposed to be held in Brisbane, rather than Cairns, on 21 June with NPFIO to meet at 8.30 – 12.30 and then NORMAC 59 to commence at 1.15 pm. The main issue for the afternoon will be an expenditure review and strategic direction discussion. NORMAC will continue on the 22 June to discuss all other items on the agenda. For more info, please contact Wade Whitelaw on Ph: 02-6272 5039 or 1300 723 621.

## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR THE EASTERN TUNA AND BILLFISH FISHERY

The Eastern Tuna Management Advisory Committee is currently calling for individuals or research institutions to submit research proposals for possible funding in 2006. All research proposals received must be related to the priorities and strategic research plan available at <http://www.afma.gov.au/services/research/calls.php>. All proposals should be submitted to the Eastern Tuna MAC Executive Officer Ian Freeman, 53 Dirty Creek Rd Corindi NSW 2456, by facsimile on (02) 6649 2414, or email [ifree@bigpond.com](mailto:ifree@bigpond.com) by COB Monday 25 July 2005.

## ILLEGAL FISHING OPERATION NABS 29 BOATS

On 11 April 2005, AFMA and state and territory fisheries officers were deployed on Australia's largest ever air and sea operation targeting border incursions by foreign fishing boats off our northern coastline. *Operation Clearwater* was a whole of government operation involving hundreds of personnel from AFMA, fisheries agencies, Customs, The Australian Defence Force and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, coordinated by Coastwatch.

29 illegal fishing boats and 257 crew members were apprehended during the 11 day operation, which began in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Overall 64 crew will be charged with fishing illegally in Australian waters as a result of the operation. A further 16 individuals are still under investigation. Over 12 tonnes of fish, 300kg shark fin, 600 shark pieces and 87 kilometers of longlines have been confiscated. The operation has been hailed a huge success – a job well done to all involved!

## HOLY MACKEREL...WHAT WAS THAT?

Now for some light relief....A Queensland fisherman may have been the victim of a revenge attack last week, after a 1.5m mackerel jumped into his boat, decked him, and then took off! The fisherman suffered bruised ribs, a cut face and arms and a dented ego after the kamikaze fish leapt head-on into his 4m tinnie. "It felt like I'd just run into a brick wall, because I was going 20 knots one way and it was speeding the opposite direction. I remember it coming out of the water and the next thing I knew I'm in the back of the boat winded, trying to get my breath", the fisherman said. After flooring the fisho, the mackerel speared back into the water, making its escape. *Source: Courier Mail*

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### AFMA UPDATE FEEDBACK

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