



Australian Government  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



# AFMA UPDATE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Vol 2, Issue 13, 1 July 2005

## AFMA BOARD DROPS IN ON EDEN

AFMA Board directors met in the south coast port of Eden for their June meeting on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Also held was an informal get-together of the AFMA Board with industry representatives on Wednesday evening. The Board would like to express its appreciation for the industry members, and others, who took the time to give direct feedback on how the fisheries off the NSW coast are going. While at Eden, the Board also took the opportunity to tour the new Southland Fish Supplies seafood processing facilities, and was particularly impressed by the company's value adding and efforts to attract the tourism dollar. This was all part of the AFMA Board's ongoing commitment to regular visits to key ports at least once a year to meet face to face with industry.

Key decisions from the Board meeting will be provided in the next AFMA Update following advice to Management Advisory Committees.

## LOCATION OF SBT CORE AND BUFFER ZONES IN THE ETBF

The area of the southern bluefin tuna (SBT) core and buffer zones of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery have been revised, with the new arrangements to commence on 8 July 2005. The northern boundary of the buffer zone will be located at **31 degrees south**. The northern boundary of the core zone will be located at **32 degrees south**.

## CALLING ALL RESEARCH PROJECTS!

AFMA is calling for applications for funding of research projects to commence in July 2006. The AFMA Research Committee/ Commonwealth Fisheries Research Advisory Body is responsible for assessing applications for funding of research for Commonwealth fisheries.

Researchers are invited to develop pre-proposal applications under the following four broad areas:

1. Innovative approaches to fisheries management
2. Economics of fisheries
3. People and industry development
4. Cross-fishery issues

More information and the pre-proposal application form are on AFMA's website at [www.afma.gov.au/services/research/calls.php](http://www.afma.gov.au/services/research/calls.php). Applicants are invited to discuss their applications with AFMA's Research Manager, Dave Alden, on 02 6272 5180 or [dave.alden@afma.gov.au](mailto:dave.alden@afma.gov.au) prior to submitting a pre-proposal application. Pre-proposal applications must be submitted by **1 August 2005** by email to the ARC/ComFRAB at [research.secretary@afma.gov.au](mailto:research.secretary@afma.gov.au).

AFMA's Management Advisory Committees make separate calls for research applications to address fishery-specific research issues. These can also be found on AFMA's website at [www.afma.gov.au/services/research/calls.php](http://www.afma.gov.au/services/research/calls.php).

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## LATEST NORTHERN PRAWN REPORT

The CSIRO research project 'Documenting the history of and providing protocols and criteria for changing existing or establishing new closures in the NPF' has been finalised and can now be found on the AFMA website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/services/research/reports/default.php>. The report documents the historic management closures in the Northern Prawn Fishery and provides a format for assessing potential similar actions.

## CREW MEMBER OBSERVERS (CMO) PROGRAM CONTINUES

Bycatch monitoring will continue in the second season in the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) but on a smaller scale than previous seasons. Crew member observers will be asked to collect data on sea snakes and record interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species. They will also be requested to make estimates of bycatch from dusk and dawn shots.

If any crew members and/or skippers in the NPF are interested in participating in this project, please contact Adrienne Burke on (02) 6272 4834 or email [adrienne.burke@afma.gov.au](mailto:adrienne.burke@afma.gov.au).

## EASTERN TUNA MAC MEETING COMING UP

The next meeting of the Eastern Tuna Management Advisory Committee (MAC) will be held on 11-12 July at the Sydney Fish Markets. Items on the agenda include broadbill swordfish management and the implementation of the new Management Plan for the ETBF.

## NORTHERN PRAWN FISHERY MAC UPDATE

The latest meeting of the Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) was held in Brisbane on 21 and 22 June. The main items on the agenda included a review of the fisheries management and research budgets and programs, the 2004 tiger prawn stock assessment report and the Resource Assessment Group's advice on the possibility of reopening the fishery in August, an overview of the Management Strategy Evaluation Project and various items in relation to improving the current gear unit system of management.

NORMAC recommended that the 2005 tiger prawn season fishing season be implemented from 1 August to 15 November 2005. Statutory Fishing Right holders will be advised of the outcome of the Board's consideration of this recommendation as soon as a decision has been made. The NORMAC Chair's summary can be found at <http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/npf/mac/default.php>.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE CATCH INFORMATION?

Last edition, we announced AFMA's improved *CatchWatch* service, which will report Catch vs Total Allowable Catch (TAC) information for the Southern and Eastern Shark and Scalefish Fishery (SESSF). This monthly report, which includes undercatch and overcatch information, will be distributed by e-mail to reduce costs. If you wish to receive *CatchWatch*, please send an e-mail to [clare.hogan@afma.gov.au](mailto:clare.hogan@afma.gov.au) or fill in the details below and **fax this page to AFMA on 02-6272 5036**.

**Please put me on the AFMA *Catchwatch* distribution list:**

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