



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



AFMA UPDATE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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Trawling the net just got easier....Check out our new website!

AFMA is pleased to announce the launch of our new website, www.afma.gov.au. This is just the start of a long-term plan here at AFMA to deliver easier, more efficient online systems to help you get the information you need.

The improved website features user friendly design and better navigation, as well as the latest fisheries news and information straight from our home page. Short on time? Our search engine will help you find what you want easily and quickly.

One of the many new exciting services offered by the new website is a new QUOTABOARD service for you to privately browse or advertise quota, Statutory Fishing Rights or permits to buy, sell or lease. A new and improved QUOTAVIEW service is also now available for you to run tailored reports on your current quota status. Why not also join our new online subscriptions service to receive AFMA publications such as the AFMA Update, Fishing Future, media releases other information.

Get connected now at www.afma.gov.au!

IMPORTANT- Change to subscriptions process for AFMA Update

With our new website, from our next edition, we will be moving to using our new online subscriptions service and AFMA Update will be provided in a new HTML format by email. **This means to continue receiving AFMA Update, if you have not already done so, you will need to register at www.afma.gov.au/information/subscriptions/** and select what publications or information you want to receive from AFMA, and by what method. You will also be able to update your details at any time on this system by simply logging in.

If you are currently receiving AFMA Update by fax and do not have web access, please contact AFMA Direct 1300 723 621 and provide your details so that you can continue to receive AFMA Update from us by fax.

Your comments wanted on draft plan of management and assessment report

AFMA has developed a draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Report for the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery and an Environmental Assessment Report for new and exploratory fisheries in the CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) Region.

AFMA is seeking written comments on the draft plan and assessments by 6 October 2005 to: The Manager, Antarctic Fisheries, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, PO Box 7051 Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610; by fax to: (02) 6272 4614; or by email to antarctic@afma.gov.au.

Copies of the draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment Reports can be obtained from AFMA's website at www.afma.gov.au; by writing to AFMA at the address above; or by contacting Peter Neave at AFMA on (02) 6272 5794.

www.afma.gov.au

 AFMADIRECT 1300 723 621

Northern Prawn season update

The Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) season is progressing and is due to finish on 15 November.

In addition to a number of vessels having Crew Member Observers (CMO) on board, there are also two AFMA scientific observers rotating around the fleet. One of these observers is Adrienne Burke who works in the NPF section. The main objective of both the CMOs and scientific observers is to collect additional information on bycatch and the effectiveness of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs). Thanks go especially to the CMOs who are performing above the call of duty in collecting data that is especially hard to come by normally. There are also a couple of boats who are trialing new BRDs under scientific permits.

NPF operators are again reminded to call the AFMA duty officer (0419205329) if they spot any illegal foreign fishing vessels. Information previously provided by NPF vessels has facilitated the apprehension of some of these vessels. Industry assistance is greatly appreciated.

Last chance for comments on Small Pelagic Fishery BAP

This is a reminder that comments on the revised draft Bycatch Action Plan (BAP) for the Small Pelagic Fishery close on 23 September 2005. Please submit comments to Selina Stoute, AFMA PO Box 7051 Canberra ACT 2610, by fax on (02) 6271 6341, or email Selina.Stoute@afma.gov.au.

A copy of the draft BAP is available on AFMA's website at http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/small_pelagic/notices/.

Seafood Directions conference asks: What's the future for Australia's \$6b seafood industry?

From September 12-14 next week, Sydney will for the first time host the national seafood conference, Seafood Directions. This event is an initiative of the Australian Seafood Industry Council and Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and proudly hosted by Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd.

Organiser and Managing Director of Sydney Fish Market, Grahame Turk, said that "Seafood Directions is the biggest event on the industry's calendar. It's a unique gathering of fishermen, aquaculturists, processors, marketers, scientists and managers, and representatives of related industries and government agencies."

"The three-day program is tremendously diverse, covering everything from future trends, innovative marketing and consumer demand to resource access, building social capital and pathways to industry growth. Our goal is to consider key strategies and develop a course of action for maintaining a sustainable, profitable and resilient seafood industry in Australia."

For further information about the conference, please contact Louise Nock, Marketing Manager Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd, tel (02) 9004 1110 or 0403 537 815. For a program outline visit www.seafooddirections.com

Upcoming meetings

- The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SESSRAG) will be holding their Plenary meeting on **19-20 September 2005** at Telopea Inn on the Park in Canberra. The major item up for discussion will be the key SESSF species assessments. Agenda and papers are now up at http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/sess/sess/rag/sess_rag/
- There will be a joint South East Trawl and Gillnet Hook and Trap Management Advisory Committee (SETMAC and GHatMAC) meeting on **22 September 2005** at Telopea Inn on the Park in Canberra. The major item for discussion will be the 2006 Total Allowable Catch recommendations to the AFMA Board.