



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) 83**

### **Videoconference minutes**

**Date: 01 October 2020**

**Time: 10.00 am – 01.00 pm (AEDT)**



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# Attendance

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Name	Membership Type (i.e. chair)
John Glaister	NORMAC Chair
David Carter	Industry member
Greg Albert	Industry member
Ian Boot	Industry member
Arthur Raptis	Industry member
Ron Earle	Industry member
Jo McCrea	Environment/conservation member
Ian Knuckey	Research member
Steve Bolton	AFMA member
Steve Eves	NORMAC EO
Annie Jarrett	Invited participant – NPFI
Trevor Hutton	Observer – CSIRO
Phil Robson	Observer – Raptis
Andy Prendergast	Observer – Austral
Adrienne Laird	Observer – NPFI
Bryan van Wyk	Observer – Austral
Darci Wallis	Observer, NPF Manager, NPRAG AFMA member
Rik Buckworth	Observer – consultant, NPRAG scientific member
Robert Curtotti	Observer – ABARES
Eva Plaganyi	Observer – CSIRO
Laura Blamey	Observer – CSIRO

## 1 Preliminary business

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### 1.1 Chairs opening remarks

The Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC) Chair, John Glaister, opened the videoconference at 10.00 am (AEDT) on 01 October 2020 with an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were noted from the state representative, Darren Roy.

### 1.2 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

### 1.3 Declaration of interests

The Chair advised that NORMAC consider the standing table of declared interests (Attachment 2) and individually declare whether the stated interests are accurate, and if not, provide an update. Updated interests were declared by Ian Knuckey, Rik Buckworth and Bryan van Wyk, noted by the

MAC and updated in Attachment 2. No apparent conflicts of interest were identified that would prevent individuals participating in discussions.

## 1.4 Minutes from previous meeting

It was noted that the Minutes from the 20 February 2019 meeting were accepted out-of-session and are published on the AFMA website.

## 1.5 Actions arising

NORMAC noted the list of action items and progress that had been made against each of the items.

## 1.6 Correspondence received/sent

The list of correspondence provided under item 1.6 was noted.

# 2 Reports and updates

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## 2.1 NPF Industry Report

Industry provided an update on operations during 2020 with the following key points noted:

- The calendar year has not been a good year financially; however, there has been some positive improvement in the markets with increased retail interest.
- The key challenge during 2020 was the logistical movements of crew although fortunately, the full personnel needs could be met and all personnel kept safe. The Industry is looking forward to what is predicted to be a significant wet season and the positive effect it will have on the fishery in 2021.
- NPMI entered into a new two-year co-management contract with AFMA in 2019-20. New activities include responsibility for NPMI to tender, contract and manage vessels to undertake the recruitment and survey at-sea monitoring projects and formal recognition of NPMI's role in managing broodstock collection in the NPF, including NPMI being responsible for recommendations on permit allocations.
- Full implementation of approved BRDs that have been shown to reduce bycatch by at least 30 per cent became mandatory for the tiger prawn season from 1 August 2020. The [final report](#) on the BRD development and scientific trials conducted as part of the NPF Bycatch Strategy 2015-2019 has been finalised and distributed to industry and other interested parties. Implementation of the new BRDs has not yet occurred in the banana prawn season as the 30 percent reduction has only been achieved in the tiger prawn fishery (which has significantly more bycatch) and implementation of the new devices in the banana prawn season could result in substantial prawn loss.
- NPMI will be undertaking an analysis of the quantity of tiger prawns caught in the banana prawn season (as a proportion of the yearly tiger prawn catch) to determine a trigger value for review of BRD use in the banana prawn season for vessels shifting to targeting tiger prawns. NPRAG will consider the outcomes of this work at the November meeting. The use of other approved BRDs will continue to be mandatory in the banana prawn season until a review has occurred.
- Thirteen crew member observers (CMOs) collected data during 2019, two in the banana prawn season and 11 in the tiger prawn season. A total of 3,414 shots were monitored by CMOs (13% of the fleets fishing activity) for protected and at-risk species, well above the required target of 2,350 shots. Two CMOs collected data during the 2020 banana prawn season and ten CMOs are collecting data in the current tiger prawn season.

- NPF is working with several research providers to improve management and mitigation of sawfish interactions in the NPF. Projects include:
  1. Can sawfish bycatch within the NPF be mitigated using an electric field? [Final Report](#) Flinders University, Charles Darwin University, NPF
  2. How does trawl gear configuration affect sawfish catches: mitigating interactions with sawfish in the NPF. CSIRO, NPF
  3. Assessing the impacts of trawl gear on sawfishes in the Northern Prawn Fishery with the aim to identify and test mitigation measures ensuring the long-term sustainability of Sawfish populations in northern Australia. CSIRO, NPF
  4. Is the Northern Prawn Fishery interacting with a single population, or multiple populations of the Narrow Sawfish *Anoxypristis cuspidata*? CDU, NPF
  5. Sawfish Bycatch Sampling. NPF, AFMA, CSIRO, DAWE
- The second audit of the second NPF MSC certification period was completed in March 2020, with all conditions required by the second audit having been met. All conditions under the current certificate pertain to Red Endeavour Prawns and Redleg Banana Prawn assessments.
- Harvest strategies/assessment methodologies for Red Endeavour Prawns to meet Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) requirements remain challenging. The MSC assessment criteria requirement for stocks to be managed to fluctuate around the species target reference point (TRP) is very challenging in a multi-species 'tiger' prawn fishery. It is not possible to manage a multi-species fishery of this nature for all species to be fluctuating around the TRP at the same time. NPF continues to liaise with the NPRAG and MSC to determine whether a multi-species approach, which allows some species to be managed with lower reference points, can be adopted for the NPF.

## 2.2 AFMA Management Report

NORMAC noted the following updates from the AFMA management team:

- The NPF ecological risk assessment (ERA) Working Group met on 17 September 2020 to consider and provide feedback on the updated Banana Prawn and Tiger Prawn sub-fishery ERA results. The advice from this meeting, including the final risk ratings, along with other comments on the Draft Final Report will be incorporated into the Final Report. NPRAG will consider the final report at its November meeting. The drafting of the Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery ERA will commence in the coming months.
- AFMA has progressed the development of the NPF Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS), which combines all the management elements of the fishery into a single integrated document. Advice on the key components of the FMS will be sought from NPRAG and NORMAC over the coming months. The FMS is scheduled to be finalised during the first half of 2022.
- AFMA is currently undertaking a review of the existing EM program and how this will be delivered beyond 2022. The review has included outreach to industry and NGOs on their views of the existing EM program and the AFMA Commission will consider the recommendations of the review later in 2020.
- The agency data capture (ADC) project commenced in 2019 to create an improved platform for data coming in and out of AFMA, replacing the ageing data infrastructure, which is inflexible and requires complex data management processes to integrate all the current data sources received by AFMA. The key benefits of the project include:
  - All data coming in through the ADC platform can be validated against a live system, as it's submitted (minimising errors);
  - Changes to data fields can be implemented faster;

- Improved data controls; and
- Future data sharing becomes easier.
- Following a query about the gear trial areas off Cairns, Queensland fisheries advises that the use of these areas for gear trials is not permitted within Queensland legislation and that these practices should no longer continue. AFMA is currently consulting with Queensland on how this can be permitted, recognising this has been a long-standing practice.

The MAC also noted a summary of catch data from 2018, 2019 and 2020 (to date), compliance activity during 2019-2020, observer coverage during 2019-2020, and a summary of protected species interactions during 2019.

## 2.3 NPF Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG) Update

NORMAC noted an update from the NPRAG Chair on key items of business during 2019-2020, including:

- Broodstock collection and *Penaeus monodon* stock assessment
- Sawfish bycatch
- Tiger prawn assessment
- JBG Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery
- Banana prawn MEY trigger
- Harvest strategy and bycatch strategy reviews
- NPF data and monitoring plan
- NPF ERA
- Climate change adaptation project
- Species split project
- AFMA Scientific Observers
- FRDC report – Market integration and demand for prawns in Australia
- Australian fisheries bycatch report
- NT data analysis of commercially important species
- NPF independent monitoring survey vessel charter
- Supply chain traceability
- Bio-economic model including banana prawns
- NESP Gulf river project
- Current and future research priorities

The MAC discussed the key items the NPRAG had focussed on during 2019-2020, covering the following points:

There were high levels of sawfish interactions during targeted broodstock fishing in 2018, with a significant decrease in 2019-2020. Two factors are likely to have contributed to the reduction in interactions; the specific area where the 2018 interactions occurred hasn't been fished since 2018 and changes to the management arrangements (i.e. the introduction of the move-on provision and increased observer coverage). As real-time information wasn't available at this time, NPRAG wasn't immediately aware of this significant increase until after the fishing season. With continuing improvements in real-time monitoring, like electronic logbook reporting being introduced before the next broodstock fishing season NPRAG will be better able to monitor interactions and respond to any issues in the future.

NORMAC considered the arrangements to monitor the longer term impacts of climate change and how that is incorporated in the management framework, noting the marine environment is changing and research undertaken now will better prepare the fishery to respond in the future. Two projects

are currently underway in the NPF: the models of intermediate complexity for ecosystem assessment (MICE) project, looking at impacts of water extraction in Gulf of Carpentaria (GoC) catchments; and, the Redleg Banana Prawn management strategy evaluation (MSE).

Recent published research indicates El Niño will become more frequent and more intense. The effects of persistent El Niño events were observed in the Redleg banana prawn sub-fishery and the mangrove dieback in recent years.

## 2.4 Northern Development Update

NORMAC noted an update on Northern water developments and research to better understand the impacts on the GoC from altered flow regimes in the adjoining catchments. Recent research includes:

- Continuing innovation and improvement of flow / catch modelling in the GoC: Modelling of river flow reduction on banana prawn catch due to water extraction scenarios for irrigated agriculture.
- Roper River Water Resource Assessment (RoWRA).
- Queensland Water Resource Plans.

## 2.5 Jurisdiction update

NORMAC noted an update on key events in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia fisheries.

Key events in Queensland included:

- Fisheries reform
- Wildlife trade operation approvals
- Operations of the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery
- Impacts to the trawl fishing industry as a result of COVID-19
- Developmental Fishing Permit Applications for GoC Developmental Finfish Trawl Fishery

Key events in Northern Territory included:

- A review of management arrangements of the Demersal Fishery and adjacent Timor Reef Fishery has been undertaken by the Offshore Snapper Fishery Management Advisory Committee (OSFMAC).
- The proposed management framework provides for the merging of the Demersal and Timor Reef Fisheries and implementation of stock-based management based on stock structures of target species identified through research completed in 2018. Once the proposed management framework is finalised it will go out for broader stakeholder consultation.

Updates were noted for Western Australian fisheries including the Kimberley Prawn, Broome Prawn, Nickol Bay Prawn, Onslow Prawn, Exmouth Gulf Prawn, Shark Bay Invertebrate Resource and Abrolhos Islands Scallop Trawl Fishery.

## 2.6 Conservation report

NORMAC noted the report from the environment/conservation member on some global and domestic conservation trends and priorities for the conservation sector. Key points included:

- The conservation sector is monitoring changes brought on by COVID-19 and has observed the world is unable to take unprecedented action in response to significant threats, for example climate change and biodiversity loss. There's hope the current pandemic is a



reminder that there is a clear link between human welfare/livelihoods and environmental issues.

- From an environmental perspective, there is concern regarding conservation risks brought about by COVID-19. These include consumer focus shifting to prioritising cost over sustainability, cutting back on environmental management as a cost-saving measure, locking in unsustainable business practices that may have only intended to be short-term measures, supply chain inefficiencies due to shifts in priorities, species and gear changes to respond to markets without robust data to determine the sustainability of the changes.
- However, opportunities have also been identified including an increased interest in consumer's understanding of where their food comes from. Consumers on an individual level understand they can make choices and changes that protect themselves and the broader environment, and the conservation sector is advocating supporting stimulus packages that deliver sustainable outcomes in addition to economic outcomes. The Northern Prawn Fishery is in a competitive position to capitalise on these priorities, due to Marine Stewardship Certification (MSC) for example.
- Interestingly, there is evidence third-party certification organisations have become busier during COVID-19. This may be due to businesses responding to consumer preferences or may simply be due to the time involved in attaining certification that has been provided through the slow-down in activity during COVID-19.
- The key conservation stakeholders involved in marine conservation are the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Humane Society International (HSI), and TRAFFIC. These organisations often work collaboratively regarding Australian domestic fisheries issues, together with the PEW Charitable Trust.
- Specific NPF related issues the conservation sector has a particular interest in are: protected species issues, including sawfish interactions and the cumulative impact from all marine users in the GoC; general bycatch; data reliability including traceability, transparency, real-time availability and independently verified, and; impacts of altered flow regimes in the GoC.

### 3 JBG Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery

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The MAC noted the results of the Redleg Banana Prawn management strategy evaluation (MSE) project and discussed the trade-offs of the proposed harvest control rules (HCRs) before recommending its preferred HCR.

In 2015 and 2016, catch and effort in the Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery were anomalously low and considered insufficient to reliably fit the assessment model. The increasing uncertainty in assessing the stock in years with insufficient data highlighted a gap in the current NPF harvest strategy. The current strategy inadequately accounts for risk to the stock in years with low fishing effort combined with low CPUE or years with environmental anomalies, such as persistently strong El Niño years. A MSE approach was taken to simulation-test the performance of proposed revisions to the HCRs with the objectives of lessening risks to over-fishing and delivering better economic returns.

Four proposed HCRs, designed and selected through stakeholder engagement, together with the current HCR, were tested, including:

- HCR1: Current rule in which the limit reference point  $B_{LIM}$  ( $0.5B_{MSY}$ ) is the trigger. If the spawning biomass falls below this value for two consecutive years, then the fishery is closed the following year.



- HCR2: Current rule + permanent closure of the first fishing season (April – June).
- HCR3: Current rule + environmental (SOI) trigger to close the first season. If the SOI < -7 in January, then the first fishing season (April – June) is closed.
- HCR4: Current rule + a monthly CPUE trigger to close the fishery. If the monthly CPUE drops below 500 kg/day, the fishery closes for the rest of the season (either season 1 or season 2) and will re-open the following season.
- HCR5: As in HCR1, but with a more conservative limit reference point trigger of  $0.6B_{MSY}$ .

The MSE results were presented to NORMAC members prior to the meeting. The MAC also noted that the NPF Resource Assessment Group (NPRAG) recommended that, relative to the current HCR, three rules performed better than the others, namely HCR2, HCR3 and HCR4:

- HCR2, which permanently closes the first fishing season (April – June), achieved very low risk to the stock and risk of fishery closure, but reduced the occurrence of occasional large catches. However, catch value in the second season was predicted to be good and catch variability the lowest amongst the options. The performance of HCR2 was fairly robust to uncertainties in the sensitivity testing and is logistically the easiest to implement and enforce, but prevents fishers from accessing the larger prawns that may be left over from the previous year.
- A closure of the first fishing season using an environmental trigger (HCR3) and an in-season CPUE trigger to pause fishing (HCR4) performed similarly to each other but the risk of fishery closure and the stock falling below  $B_{LIM}$  were somewhat greater than HCR2, but considerably reduced compared with the current HCR1.
- Of the three preferred HCRs, the performance of HCR3 (particularly in terms of risk of depletion below the limit reference point) was the least robust to additional uncertainties as part of sensitivity testing. This is likely because it only pauses fishing if triggered by an anomalously strong El Niño year, but it nonetheless performed better than the current HCR1, whereas HCR4, which would pause fishing more frequently if needed, appeared to be most robust to uncertainties.
- HCR3, which relies on environmental data that are available from early March, would be logistically less demanding to implement than HCR4. HCR4 is reliant on adequate catch rate data and careful monitoring of any unintended consequences of implementation. It demands more time and effort from the scientific processes, Industry, and the management authority to implement and is thus logistically complex and more expensive, although may be most effective of the strategies in controlling total effort.

The NPF Industry Pty Ltd (NRFI) advised that the Industry had discussed the trade-offs of the proposed HCRs and recommended that NORMAC adopt HCR2. It noted that HCR2 is a highly precautionary and risk-averse approach that is administratively less complex and costly than the other HCRs and is likely to:

- improve fishery recruitment
- allow prawn growth and deliver a better quality product
- deliver a better economic return from the fishery (given the general size and price difference of prawns between fishing seasons)
- potentially reduce interactions with bycatch, including protected and at-risk species
- reduce effort in the tiger prawn fishery in the second half when boats will have greater incentive to move to the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf
- maintain and improve the status of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Redleg Banana Prawn stock, in particular, meeting the conditions of the current certification.

The MAC noted that NPFI also recommended that, should HCR2 be adopted, the performance of the rule should be monitored as part of the Redleg Banana Prawn stock assessment each year and fully reviewed to assess its performance within five-years.

An additional point was raised that any change to the NPF Harvest Strategy due to updating the Redleg Banana Prawn HCR needs to be communicated effectively as the market tends to respond to changes in management arrangements. It was pointed out that the Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery is MSC certified which is sometimes overlooked by some sectors. The MAC agreed that the reasons for adopting a revised HCR should be clearly communicated following the Commission's consideration.

The Environment/conservation member advised that HCR2 is likely to be the preferred rule from the conservation sectors perspective and pleasing to see the rule supported by all stakeholders. An additional suggestion was to monitor the effect of effort shifting in the first season from the Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery into other NPF areas, especially in terms of the effects on bycatch and protected species. CSIRO observers also supported the industry recommendation of HCR2 based on its performance within the MSE.

It was noted that a trade-off of closing the Redleg Banana Prawn sub-fishery first season would be a reduction in the data collected each year. There is a project currently underway to revise the Redleg Banana Prawn stock assessment (to be completed in 2021) that will improve some of the stock assessment parameters, but there may also be an opportunity to supplement the assessment with additional data sources such as price data or size/grade data. Furthermore, it was noted that not all the Redleg Banana Prawns are caught within the assessment area (JBG) and changes to the stock dynamics of Redleg Banana Prawns outside this area from the implementation of HCR2 may need to be considered.

**NORMAC unanimously supported HCR2 and agreed with the process discussed to update the NPF Harvest Strategy.**

NORMAC agreed that if the HCR was supported by AFMA Commission, the new rule should be implemented prior to season one 2021 and the process of updating the harvest strategy to incorporate the new rule should commence at the NPRAG meeting in November 2020.

**ACTIONS:**

- AFMA to collaborate on providing clear communication for the reasons for adopting a revised Redleg Banana Prawn HCR.
- CSIRO to provide some wording that accurately communicates the science behind the Redleg Banana Prawn harvest control rule decision.

## 4 NPF Indicators Report

NORMAC noted that over the last four years NPFI and NPRAG, together with the MAC, had developed performance indicators and a framework to monitor performance indicators, as well as defining targets and processes that would trigger any future structural adjustment in the fishery. A draft of the Industry NPF Performance Monitoring Report 2020 (NPMR) and NPF Structural Adjustment Framework were provided to the MAC for discussion. It was noted the NPMR provides fishery trends to inform investment in the fishery and early warning to AFMA and industry to develop structural adjustment risk strategies if required.

It was also noted that at its meeting on 29-30 September 2020, NPFI had accepted the NPF Structural Adjustment Framework as presented and accepted the first NPMR as presented (noting

that this will be updated by NPMF each year and provided to the RAG, MAC and AFMA Commission).

The MAC discussed the NPMR and framework and questioned whether the framework was robust enough to respond to all scenarios. The current framework involves both primary indicators being triggered in each of three consecutive years before a management response is implemented. It was suggested the fishery could have four years out of five that the indicators are triggered but there would be no management response if the indicators weren't triggered in the third year. The overall trend would likely be concerning but the current framework wouldn't lead to the management response developed under the framework being undertaken. It was advised that the development of the framework was a four-year process and the various scenarios were comprehensively considered. There are numerous possible scenarios, but because of the dynamic effects of a prawn fishery and the year-to-year fluctuations, it is undesirable to make reactive management changes when the indicators may be reflecting an anomalous year. Further, the Industry would be aware of the trend and could respond before the three-year framework was triggered. The MAC and RAG will also be reviewing the NPMR every year and if required a response to any concerning trend could be recommended, regardless of the framework approach. The current management regime is robust and Industry are confident in its ability to generate adjustment if need be. It was noted that AFMA is involved in monitoring the trends and can implement additional management measures if appropriate.

It was suggested that for ease of reading, it would be useful to include a summary statement under the two critical indicators graphs contained in the NPMR. Currently, the reader is required to interpret the graphs without any explanation of the key results. It was also suggested that there has been a lot of work progressed in the fishery recently on endeavour prawns since the development of the NPMR and the framework, and it may be worth considering how the information could be incorporated.

**ACTIONS:**

- NPMF to update the NPMR to summarise the key results for the two critical indicators graphs and consider how to incorporate endeavour prawns into the framework and next report.

## 5 Broodstock

### 2020 broodstock collection

NORMAC noted that NPMF continues to manage *Penaeus monodon* broodstock collection out of the NPF as part of the NPMF/AFMA co-management contract. This year was the first year that NPMF entered into contracts for broodstock supply directly with individual farm operators, rather than with the Australian Prawn Farmers Association (APFA). The system has worked well with NPMF contracting an independent liaison person to manage trip scheduling, trip orders and farm liaison. This has provided independence and transparency for both the farms and NPMF.

The meeting noted that 2020 Black Tiger Prawn catches have been sporadic with considerable differences between numbers, size and sex of animals between timing of trips/moon phases. In 2020, protected species interactions (primarily sawfish) during targeted broodstock operations has again been quite low with only fourteen interactions to date (an average of two per trip). There has been no fishing in the West Bathurst area where sawfish interactions were higher in 2018.

The level of catch/discards of NPF target species (in similar fishing grounds) is also quite low this year, although the reason is currently unclear. Both contracted broodstock vessels have complied with catch reporting requirements, including protected species identification.

NPFI undertook dedicated remote briefing sessions for broodstock collection boats/crew in Darwin in April and June, respectively, to ensure all requirements relating to permit conditions (including catch and protected species reporting) are clearly understood. No observer trips were scheduled for the first half of the year due to COVID-19 however, two to three observer trips are expected to take place over the next two months.

### ***P. monodon* stock assessment**

The MAC noted an update on the *P. monodon* stock assessment project. Two data sets were standardised, the targeted broodstock data set and the commercial fishing data set. The targeted broodstock data set is quite short and reliable data is only available from 2017 to 2019 as discards weren't recorded before this. The targeted broodstock data indicates a trend, but the data series is too short at this stage to reliably confirm the trend. The commercial data appears to indicate that the catch is driving the catch per unit effort (CPUE) time series.

Following feedback at an internal CSIRO meeting in August 2020, the stock assessment was updated to analyse the data from a targeted broodstock area. The update has been included in the final draft report, which will be ready for presentation to the NPRAG at its November 2020 meeting.

The MAC noted there will be further consideration of broodstock management arrangements, following NPRAG consideration of the final report, including any potential risk to the stock and scope for increasing the current supply limit of 9000 individuals.

## **6 NPF Management Plan**

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NORMAC noted the drafting of the revised NPF Management Plan is underway and the proposed draft of the changes. The main proposed changes to the plan are to make reference to updated government policies including the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy and Bycatch Strategy policies remove redundant clauses and to incorporate agreed policy change regarding minimum holdings and to correct the current number of SFRs in the fishery. The draft plan incorporates Industry comments already provided through NPFI.

The MAC discussed the draft plan and suggested potential changes including:

- Ensuring that, when referring to key commercial species and byproduct species, there isn't a group of species that are unintentionally left out, that is species that are neither 'key' commercial nor byproduct.
- In the definitions, when referring to the Fisheries Management Strategy, it only refers to the harvest strategy. There are other key documents that should perhaps also be referred to including bycatch strategy, data strategy and compliance strategy to make the significance of these documents clear.
- Under the 'measures' section, it may be worth including a reference to 'validated' data.
- Under 'performance criteria', the status of the biological resource and environmental conditions seems to be similar to other clauses in the plan, such as key commercial and byproduct species, but in different language. It was suggested that the language is kept consistent throughout the document and where possible using language consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy and Bycatch policies would be useful.
- It may be worth cross-checking the plan with the recommendations in the structural adjustment framework to ensure there aren't any inconsistencies.
- Recognising the co-management arrangement between NPFI and AFMA.

It was suggested that the AFMA management team will work with individuals to incorporate their comments and if there were any additional comments members would provide them to AFMA

within a week. A revised draft will then be circulated to the MAC for final review and endorsement out-of-session. The plan will then progressed to the legal drafting stage.

**ACTION:**

- Members to provide any additional comments within a week of the meeting to AFMA.
- AFMA management team to work with individuals to incorporate their comments in the draft NPF management plan and then circulate a revised draft to the MAC for final review and endorsement out-of-session.

## 7 Other business

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No other items of business were included in the agenda.

## 8 Next meeting

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The Chair advised the next meeting is scheduled for February 2021 and ended the meeting at 12.45 pm.

**Signed (Chairperson):**



John Glaister

28 October 2020

**List of Attachments**

- 1) NORMAC annotated agenda
- 2) NORMAC declared conflicts of interest
- 3) NORMAC action items

# Attachment 1 – NORMAC 83 agenda

## NORMAC Tele/videoconference

01 October 2020

10:00 am – 13:00 pm (AEDT)

Dial in number: 02 8318 0009

Conference ID: 635 182 765#

Title	Presenter	Outcome
<b>1. Preliminary Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Chair's opening remarks</li> <li>1.2 Adoption of agenda</li> <li>1.3 Declaration of interests</li> <li>1.4 Minutes from previous meeting</li> <li>1.5 Actions arising</li> <li>1.6 Correspondence sent/received</li> </ul>	Chair	Noting
<b>2. Reports / Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 NPF Industry report</li> <li>2.2 AFMA management report</li> <li>2.3 NPRAG update</li> <li>2.4 Northern development update</li> <li>2.5 Jurisdictional update</li> <li>2.6 Conservation report</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes: The MAC notes the various update reports.</i></p>	NPFI AFMA Member NPRAG Chair CSIRO Darren Roy Jo McCrea	Noting
<b>3. JBG Redleg banana prawn sub-fishery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final report on the Redleg Banana Prawn MSE project</li> <li>• Note RAG comments on potential harvest control rules</li> <li>• Recommendation on preferred harvest control rule</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes: The MAC to note the results from the MSE project and recommend its preferred harvest control rule on the basis of the project results and NPRAG's comments.</i></p>	CSIRO/AFMA	Recommendation
<b>4. NPF indicators report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual industry report on monitoring fishery performance indicators</li> </ul>	NPFI	Noting

<p><i>Outcomes: The MAC to note the annual industry indicators report.</i></p>		
<p><b>5. Broodstock</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on NPF broodstock fishing</li> <li>• Progress report on <i>P. monodon</i> stock assessment</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes: The MAC to note a report on broodstock fishing during 2019-2020 and a progress report on the P. monodon stock assessment.</i></p>	CSIRO/NPFI/AFMA	Noting
<p><b>6. NPF Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the revised NPF management plan</li> <li>• Implications of the revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy</li> </ul> <p><i>Outcomes: The MAC to discuss proposed changes to the NPF management plan and consider implications of the revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy.</i></p>	AFMA	Discussion
<p><b>7. Other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		



## Attachment 2 – NORMAC Declared Conflicts of Interest

Participant	Membership	Interest declared
John Glaister	NORMAC Chair	NORMAC Chair, ex-AFMA Commissioner. Chair - Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee Chair - Torres Strait Rock Lobster Working Group Member - North Marine Parks Management Advisory Committee. No pecuniary interest in the fishery.
Jo McCrea	Environment/conservation member	Bio.inspecta, Development Manager Freelance sustainable seafood advisor/consultant NSW Ministerial Advisory Council, Conservation Member National Fishery Advisory Council, Conservation Member FRDC Leadership Group for development of Strategic R&D Plan AFMA Climate Change Adaptation Project, Steering Committee Member Recent prior, WWF AUS, Head of Sustainable Seafood Program 2012-Aug '20
David Carter	Industry member	NPF Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Greg Albert	Industry member	NPF SFR holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Ron Earle	Industry member	NPF SFR holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Arthur Raptis	Industry member	NPF SFR holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Ian Boot	Industry member	Managing Director of Austfish, a company which has SFR holdings in the fishery. Previous NPF broodstock permit holder
Ian Knuckey	Research member	Director - Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd Director - Olrac Australia – a company associated with electronic logbooks.

Participant	Membership	Interest declared
		<p>Scientific member – NORMAC</p> <p>Member – North Marine Parks Advisory Committee</p> <p>Chair - Tropical Rock Lobster RAG</p> <p>Chair - Victorian Rock Lobster RAG</p> <p>Scientific member - SESSF shark RAG</p> <p>Scientific member – GABRAG</p> <p>Works with Indigenous communities in capacity building activities</p> <p>Chair - South Australia’s Gulf of St Vincent prawn fishery’s research committee</p> <p>Scientific member - South Australia’s Gulf of St Vincent prawn fishery’s management advisory committee</p> <p>Current consultancy with NT Fisheries designing a snapper species survey</p> <p>Has a son working on a vessel in the NPF.</p> <p>Various research interests in other Commonwealth and State fisheries.</p>
Steve Bolton	AFMA member	AFMA employee. No pecuniary interest
Steve Eves	Executive Officer	NORMAC EO and AFMA employee. No pecuniary interest
<b>Invited participants</b>		
Darren Roy	Invited participant – Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Queensland Government representative. No pecuniary interest
Annie Jarrett	Invited participant – NPFI	<p>CEO- NPFI</p> <p>Member of the MSC Stakeholder Council</p> <p>Chair - Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries (ACPF).</p> <p>Some research items are of relevance to NPFI.</p>
<b>Observers</b>		
Trevor Hutton	Observer – CSIRO	CSIRO employee. Participates in projects related to the NPF that currently receives funding and will seek to receive funding in the future
Eva Plaganyi	Observer – CSIRO	CSIRO employee. Participates in projects related to the NPF that currently receives funding and will seek to receive funding in the future
Laura Blamey	Observer – CSIRO	CSIRO employee. Participates in projects related to the NPF that currently receives funding and will seek to receive funding in the future

Participant	Membership	Interest declared
Phil Robson	Observer – Industry (Raptis)	Fleet Manager for company with SFR holdings in the fishery
Andy Prendergast	Observer – Industry (Austral)	Fleet Manager for company with SFR holdings in the fishery
Bryan van Wyk	Observer – Industry (Austral)	Employee of a company with SFR holdings in the fishery.
Adrienne Laird	Observer – NPFI	Employed as a contractor by NPFI. Some research items are of relevance to NPFI.
Darci Wallis	Observer – AFMA	AFMA employee, NPF Manager. No pecuniary interest.
Rik Buckworth	Observer – consultant, NPRAG scientific member	<p>Scientific Member - Torres Strait Finfish RAG</p> <p>Director - Aquatic Remote Biopsy Pty Ltd</p> <p>Director - Sea Sense Australia Pty Ltd</p> <p>University Professional Fellow – Charles Darwin University</p> <p>Appointed as a CSIRO Fellow in 2020</p> <p>Current consultancy contract with NPFI to review Red Endeavour Prawns</p> <p>Chair of the NT Aquarium Fishery Management Advisory Committee</p> <p>Various consultancy work with NT Fisheries</p> <p>Current consultancy contract with AFMA and QDAF for a project in the Torres Strait</p> <p>Researcher involved particularly in stock assessment research in NPF. Has in the past and may in future seek and receive funding for research in the fishery.</p>
Robert Curtotti	Observer – ABARES	Economics research provider. No current pecuniary interest in fishery. Potential to seek and receive funding for research in the fishery in future.

## Attachment 3 – NORMAC action items

Person/Organisation responsible	Actions arising	Progress update
<b>NORMAC 81 – 22 February 2018</b>		
AFMA	AFMA to follow up with the relevant bodies [on coordination between gear surveys] and provide feedback [on the purpose and status of the surveys]	<b>Complete</b> – NPFI conducts its own gear survey that isn't provided to AFMA. AFMA conducts its own survey every few years to obtain gear data.
<b>NORMAC 82 – 20 February 2019</b>		
AFMA	AFMA to liaise with catch log to make the gear field in e-logs mandatory so that operators can report the actual gear used on each trip throughout the season	<b>Complete</b> – new updates to e-logs should make it mandatory to report gear.
AFMA	AFMA to write to Qld, NT and WA asking them to coordinate a joint jurisdictional report for future NORMAC meetings	<b>Complete</b>
AFMA	AFMA to liaise with Queensland fisheries to ensure the new VMS system being rolled out will not cause any unnecessary compliance problems for NPF operators	<b>Complete*</b>
AFMA	AFMA to provide NORMAC with a broodstock discussion paper for its comment following the NPRAG's recommendation	<b>Ongoing</b> – final assessment report due to be discussed at November NPRAG meeting.
NORMAC	NORMAC to provide comments on the draft NPF management plan out-of-session	<b>Complete</b> – agenda item 6.
AFMA	AFMA to return the NPF management plan to NORMAC for finalising once it has gone through the legal drafting process	<b>Ongoing</b>
AFMA	AFMA to provide NORMAC with a discussion paper out-of-session on species categorisation for ERA purposes and implications under the revised harvest strategy and bycatch policies	<b>Ongoing</b>

**\*VMS on Commonwealth/Queensland multi-jurisdiction vessels** – AFMA provides a VMS platform (Trackwell), through contracted VMS Airtime providers (inmarsat and CLS). Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) uses a number of different type-approved vessel tracking units (VTU) and Airtime providers (such as Polestar) to monitor on its licenced fishing vessels.

AFMA's monitoring program has some different rules to QDAF and uses a more limited number of type-approved VTUs. Not all Queensland licensed vessels use a VTU that is compatible with AFMA's program, and in this case may need two VTUs to be fitted on-board.

AFMA pays its Airtime providers directly for poling AFMA type-approved VTUs and recovers these costs through the levy base, whereas QDAF requires operators fishing in its jurisdiction to have a poling contract directly with their Airtime providers. There is a significant difference in the number of operators fishing in each jurisdiction, with QDAF responsible for some 1000 fishing vessels.

Operators using a QDAF type approved VTU that is compatible with AFMA's program (IDP units – which are linked to Polestar) can either choose to de-active their Airtime account with Polestar while fishing in the NPF, but must also inform AFMA so it can activate poling under its system. Some operators choose to continue their contract with Polestar whilst fishing in the NPF.