



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Northern Prawn Management Advisory Council (NORMAC)

Videoconference Meeting Minutes

16 August 2022

10:30am – 12:30pm AEST

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Meeting Participants

Position	Participant
Chair	John Glaister
NORMAC members	David Carter, Industry member Michael O'Brien, Industry member Arthur Raptis, Industry member Ian Knuckey, Research member Jo McCrea, Environment / Conservation member Brodie Macdonald, AFMA member
Invited participant	Annie Jarrett, NPFI ¹
AFMA Employees	Elissa Mastroianni (Executive Officer) Cate Coddington
Observers	Roy Deng, CSIRO Sean Pascoe, CSIRO Andy Prendergast, Austral Bryan Van Wyk, Austral
Apologies	
Ian Boot, Industry member and Gregory Albert, Industry member.	

¹ Northern Prawn Fishery Industry

Agenda Item 1. Preliminaries

a. Welcome and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:30am (AEST) with an Acknowledgement of Country. Apologies were noted from Ian Boot and Gregory Albert, industry members. Arthur Raptis, industry member, joined the meeting late at 12pm AEST.

b. Declarations of interest

The Chair requested that NORMAC members consider the standing table of declared interests (see **Attachment A**). One update was provided by the Research Member. The MAC agreed that the contribution of CSIRO participants on Agenda Item 4 was valuable and that any potential conflict with this item could be appropriately managed.

c. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change (see **Attachment B**).

d. Minutes from previous meetings

It was noted that the minutes from the 20 May 2022 meeting were accepted out-of-session and are published on the AFMA website.

Agenda Item 2. Harvest Strategy review

The MAC considered the revised Harvest Strategy, including the following major changes:

- Broad changes to the introductory and background sections of the Harvest Strategy to reflect the current arrangements and modernise the Harvest Strategy.
- Inclusion of a specific review period of the Harvest Strategy of 5 years.
- Clarification of the components within the tiger prawn fishery section including clarification on the decision rules to reflect their current application.
- Required updates to the redleg banana prawn fishery section to incorporate the new decision rule.
- Updates to the byproduct species triggers based on a recent review of the available information including:
 - Scampi – 30 tonne annual catch trigger; and
 - Scallops and Cuttlefish – 50 tonne review trigger.
- Inclusion of the key elements to be undertaken under a review trigger event for byproduct species.

The MAC noted that Harvest Strategy had been considered by both the NPRAG and the Harvest Strategy Working Group since May 2021 and approved by the RAG at its 15 July 2022 meeting.

The MAC endorsed the updated NPF Harvest Strategy, including the key changes (detailed above).

Agenda Item 3. NPF Management Plan

The MAC noted that the suggestions from the May 2022 meeting had been included in the draft NPF Management Plan, and that some additional minor amendments from the Office of Parliamentary Counsel had also been included. The MAC noted that once the final version is endorsed by NORMAC, AFMA will then commence the next stages of the amendment process (e.g., approval by the AFMA Commission,

ministerial consultation, public consultation etc.). **The MAC endorsed the proposed amendments to the NPF Management Plan as detailed in the paper.**

The MAC noted that the next steps will include consultation and the Environment/Conservation Member highlighted that P3 of MSC certification has specific requirements for consultation, external review, and monitoring and evaluation and these will need to be considered for the Management Plan. The ABARES stock status reports and annual reporting under WTO conditions were also identified as good examples of external reviews. It was suggested that MAC processes for reviewing and assessing the performance of the plan could be strengthened by including consideration of the plan as a standing item on the NORMAC agenda.

Action: NORMAC EO to include an assessment of the NPF Management Plan in achieving its objectives as a standing item on the NORMAC agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Research

a. 2023-24 Research Statement and research scopes

The MAC considered the 2023-24 Research Statement and research scopes and noted that the NPRAG had considered and endorsed the statement at its 15 July 2022 meeting. **The MAC endorsed the draft NPF Annual Research Statement 2023-34**, including the following research priorities:

1. Strategic review of the NPF tiger prawn stock assessment.
2. Detailed analysis of environmental variables that could affect tiger prawn population dynamics.
3. Estimation of banana prawn price flexibilities.

The MAC noted these would be provided to the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) at the annual meeting the following week.

The Environment/Conservation Member highlighted concern from conservation groups that while there had been research into sawfish impacts and interactions to date, there had been less focus on mitigation. The AFMA Member noted that the Research Statement and scopes being discussed were for consideration for ARC funding, and that FRDC funding into mitigation has been allocated. The MAC noted that there have been several trials and initiatives aimed at mitigating sawfish impacts, some of which have been industry led. The MAC agreed that a summary of previous and ongoing research into sawfish, including mitigation, would be useful and should be compiled.

Action: NPFI/CSIRO to compile a summary of previous and ongoing research into sawfish, including mitigation.

b. Tiger prawn stock assessment updates

The MAC noted that the recommendation to reduce the TAE by closing the tiger season on 1 November has been supported by the AFMA Commission. The MAC also noted that the NPRAG discussed the need to run an additional assessment in 2023 at their 15 July meeting. Considering the current economic conditions in the fishery, the precautionary nature of the decision to close the tiger prawn season on 1 November, and the workshop to review the tiger prawn stock assessment model to be held on 23-24 November, the RAG decided that running an additional assessment would of little value.

The MAC endorsed the NPRAG decision not to run the tiger prawn stock assessment in 2023, given the current economic climate and noting the work being undertaken on the stock assessment at present (including the scheduled November workshop).

c. Red and blue endeavours

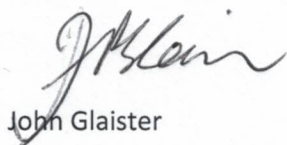
The MAC noted that Stage 2 (CPUE standardisation) of the Red and Blue endeavour project was a success. The results also indicated that the greater understanding of fishing power increases in endeavour prawns will allow more accurate abundance estimations which may indicate these stocks are above MSY. The MAC also noted that the RAG has recommended the progression to Stage 3 (develop stock assessment methods) of this project. The MAC endorsed the RAG recommendation to Stage 3 as proposed.

Agenda Item 5. Other business

The AFMA Member informed the MAC that Jeremy Smith will be acting in the NPF Manager role while Darci Wallis is on extended leave.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:28.

Signed (Chairperson):



John Glaister

26 September 2022

List of Attachments

- A) Table of declared interests
- B) NORMAC86 Agenda

ATTACHMENT A: Table of declared interests

Participant	Declared Interest
Chair	
John Glaister	NORMAC Chair, ex-AFMA Commissioner, no pecuniary interest in the fishery.
Members	
Greg Albert	NPF Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Ian Boot	Industry member – NPRAG Managing Director of Austfish, a company that operates NPF vessels. Has a commercial interest in the fishery. NPF broodstock permit holder. Participates in scampi fishing.
David Carter	NPF Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Ian Knuckey	Director – Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd Director – Olrac Australia - a company associated with electronic logbooks. Scientific member – NORMAC Chair – NPRAG Member – North Marine Parks Advisory Committee Chair – Tropical Rock Lobster RAG Chair – Victorian Rock Lobster RAG Works with Indigenous communities in capacity building activities Chair – South Australia’s Gulf of St Vincent prawn fishery’s research committee Scientific member – South Australia’s Gulf of St Vincent prawn fishery’s management advisory committee Current consultancy with NT Fisheries designing a snapper species survey Various research interests in other Commonwealth and State fisheries. No direct pecuniary interests in the NPF
Brodie Macdonald	Employed by AFMA, A/g Senior Manager – Northern Fisheries. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise
Jo McCrea	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
Michael O’Brien	Commercial fishing licence holder in the NT Demersal Fishery General Manager, Australia Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd FRDC Seafood Industry Safety Initiative (SISI), Member NTRAC member NORMAC Member NPF Stay A Float trusted Advocate
Arthur Raptis	NPF Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) holder, interested in the successful management of a profitable and sustainable fishery
Invited Participants	
Annie Jarrett	CEO – NPMI MSC – Asia Pacific director Commonwealth Fisheries Association Director Chair – Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries (ACPF) Member of the FRDC selection panel

Participant	Declared Interest
	Invited participant - NPRAG No pecuniary interests Represents the interests of industry.
AFMA	
Cate Coddington	Employed by AFMA. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Elissa Mastroianni	Employed by AFMA. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Observers / Presenters	
Roy Deng	Employed by CSIRO. Research provider. Member of a research body providing scientific advisory services to the fishery management. May in future seek and receive funding for research in the fishery.
Sean Pascoe	Employed by CSIRO. Research provider. Has in the past and may in future seek and receive funding for research in the fishery.
Andy Prendergast	General manager responsible for Austral fisheries, Prawning division
Bryan van Wyk	Industry member – NPRAG Employed by Austral Fisheries, a company with SFR holdings in the fishery.

ATTACHMENT B: NORMAC 86 Agenda

Time	Item	Purpose	Presenter
1030	1. Preliminaries a. Acknowledgment of Country, welcome and apologies b. Declarations of interest c. Adoption of Agenda d. Minutes from previous meeting	For action	Chair (15 mins)
1045	2. Harvest Strategy review	For endorsement	AFMA (1hr & 15 mins)
1200	3. NPF Management Plan	For endorsement	AFMA (25 mins)
1225	4. Research a) 2023-24 Research Statement and research scopes b) Tiger prawn stock assessment updates c) Red endeavour prawn stock assessment project	a) For endorsement b) For endorsement c) For information	AFMA (1 hr)
1325	5. Other business		(5 mins)
1330	<i>End of Meeting</i>		