

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fisheries Act 1988
(Northern Territory)

NORTHERN TERRITORY
FISHERIES JOINT AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIODS

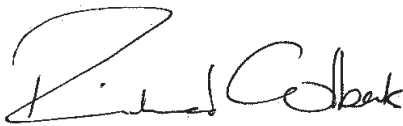
1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013



Commonwealth Member

Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck,
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Agriculture



Northern Territory Member

The Hon. Willem R. Westra van
Holthe, Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and
Resources

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
CANBERRA

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1. Introduction

This is the twenty second annual report of the Fisheries Joint Authority. This report details the activities undertaken during the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 as well as information on the status of the fisheries. It also reports on activities undertaken and the status of fisheries for the following reporting periods:

- 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009
- 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010
- 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011
- 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012.

The Joint Authority has responsibility for the management of the following fisheries in all waters adjacent to the Northern Territory:

- Timor Reef Fishery;
- Demersal Fishery (including the former Finfish Trawl Fishery);
- Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

2. Enabling legislation

The NTFJA was established in February 1983, under the then Commonwealth legislation (*Commonwealth Fisheries Act 1952*) to provide for the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory to jointly manage declared fisheries and fisheries resources in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory. With the passage of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Agreement of 1987, management of the Northern Territory (NT) pearl oyster fishery passed to the Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA).

On 3 February 1995, the NTFJA, subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the Northern Territory *Fisheries Act 1988*, assumed responsibility, in waters adjacent to the NT, for the Demersal, Timor Reef, Offshore Net and Line and Finfish Trawl Fisheries. At that time, management of pearl oysters passed to the NT. Day to day administration of these fisheries is provided by the Fisheries Division of the NT Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPFR), now referred to as the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPIF).

3. Report on the status of fisheries managed by the Joint Authority

Tables 1 and 2 (below) present a summary of the catches and status of the fisheries managed by the NTFJA. Detailed catch, effort and status information for each fishery are compiled annually and presented in the Northern Territory Fishery Status Reports, available for download at:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Fisheries/?Header=Fishery%20Status%20Reports>

...and in the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports at:

http://www.fish.gov.au/pages/safs_report.aspx

Table 1 - Commercial catches of fin fish

Species/stock	Fishery	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Goldband snappers	DF/FTF	140(DF) 46(FTF)	279(DF) 31(FTF)	92(DF) 32(FTF)	252(DF) 62(FTF)	217
	TR	496	410	470	347	365
Red snappers (<i>L malabaricus</i> , <i>L erythropterus</i>)	DF/FTF	106(DF) 851(FTF)	181(DF) 813(FTF)	92(DF) 846(FTF)	163(DF) 779(FTF)	1641
	TR	313	264	356	273	212
Group (other) species	DF/FTF	22(DF) 307(FTF)	45(DF) 270(FTF)	24(DF) 194(FTF)	83(DF) 197(FTF)	370
	TR	81	59	82	95	139
Blacktip sharks (<i>C tilstoni</i> , <i>C limbatus</i>)	ONLF	323	371	342	217	356
Blacktip sharks (<i>C sorrah</i>)	ONLF	111	86	127	83	75
Grey mackerel (<i>S. semifasciatus</i>)	ONLF	224	457	401	423	347
Other shark spp	ONLF	390	336	332	426	294
Other <u>non</u> -shark spp	ONLF	21.5	31.3	35.4	46.2	42

DF- Demersal Fishery (includes finfish trawl fishery FTF from 2012); TR- Timor Reef Fishery;
ONLF- Offshore Net and Line Fishery

Table 2 – Summary of status of assessed stocks in NTFJA Fisheries

Species/stock	Stock Status
Goldband snappers (DF/FTF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2012)
Red snappers (<i>L erythropterus</i>) (DF/FTF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2012)
Red snappers (<i>L malabaricus</i>) (DF/FTF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2012)
Blacktip sharks (<i>C tilstoni</i> , <i>C limbatus</i> , <i>C sorrah</i>) (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2011)
Grey Mackerel (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2011)

DF- Demersal Fishery; TR- Timor Reef Fishery; ONLF- Offshore Net and Line Fishery

The **Demersal Fishery** (including the previous **Finfish Trawl Fishery**) targets mainly gold-band snappers (*Pristipomoides spp.*) and red snappers (*Lutjanus malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*) (Table 1). Red emperor (*L. sebae*) and cods (*Family Serranidae*) are key byproduct species. Drop lines, traps and trawl are the main gears used in the fishery.

The **Timor Reef Fishery** primarily targets the higher-valued gold-band snapper (*P. multidentis*) and other *Pristipomoides* species (Table 1). Significant quantities of red snappers (*L. malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*), red emperors (*L. sebae*) and cods (*Family Serranidae*) are also harvested.

The commercial **Offshore Net and Line Fishery** targets black-tip sharks (*Carcharhinus tilstoni*, *C. limbatus* and *C. sorrah*) and grey mackerels (*Scomberomorus semifasciatus*) (Table 1). A variety of other sharks and pelagic finfish are also caught as byproduct. Exploitation by the FTO and recreational sectors is considered to be quite low.

According to the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report 2012, the fisheries for each of the target species listed above have been assessed to be sustainable at recent harvest levels (Table 2). In all of these fisheries, catches in adjacent Indonesian waters may be significant, and impacts on the Australian fisheries will be dependent on connectivity (fish movement and mixing) between the fisheries. This issue is elaborated upon in the Fishery Status Reports and in the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports.

4. Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

An annual meeting of the NTFJA is held in the first or second quarter of each financial year (reporting period) or as required. At each meeting key issues within the NTFJA fisheries are discussed and decisions regarding these issues may be made. For each meeting, a record of meeting discussions and decisions is drafted. Table 3 lists the date of each annual meeting and the associated Annex of this report within which the meetings minutes and decisions can be found. Table 4 lists the Commonwealth and Territory members of the NTFJA for each reporting period. The deputies of these members are stated in the Annexes (Record of decisions for each meeting).

Table 3 – Annual meeting dates and Annex containing record of meeting decisions.

Reporting period	Meeting date	Annex containing meeting minutes (including decisions)
2008-09	23 September 2008	A
2009-10	4 November 2009	B
2010-11	18 November 2010	C
2011-12	27 October 2011	D
2012-13	7 December 2012	E

Table 4 – Members of the NTFJA for each reporting period during 2008 – 2013.

Reporting Period	Commonwealth Member(s)	Northern Territory Member(s)
2008-09	The Hon. Tony Burke MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009)
2009-10	The Hon. Tony Burke MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010)
2010-11 2010-11 (cont'd)	The Hon. Tony Burke MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (1 July 2010 – 14 September 2010) Senator The Hon. Joe Ludwig MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (14 September 2010 - 30 June 2011)	The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011)
2011-12	Senator The Hon. Joe Ludwig MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012)
2012-13 2012-13 (cont'd)	Senator The Hon. Joe Ludwig MP Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Kon Vatskalis MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (1 July 2012 – 25 August 2012) The Hon. Willem Westra Van Holthe MLA NT Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (4 September 2012 – 30 June 2013)

Attachment A - 2008 meeting of the NTFJA including record of decisions

**MEETING OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
FISHERIES JOINT AUTHORITY**

23 September 2008
Ambassador Room
Crown Plaza Hotel
32 Mitchell St, DARWIN, NT

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Attendance

Members:

Delegate for the Australian Government
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Mr Roland Pittar

Deputy for the Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Ms Heather Brayford

Secretary
Ms Patti Kuhl (RDPIFR)

Observers:

Nick Rayns (AFMA)
Nancy Pedersen (DAFF)
David Wilson (BRS)
Lindsay Joll (WA FISH)
Ian Yarroll (QDPI)
Shane Hansford (QDPI)
Ian Curnow (RDPIFR)
Steve Sly (RDPIFR)

Roland Pittar (Chair) opened the meeting at 1700.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries met on 23 September 2008 to discuss current issues relevant to the NTFJA. Details of the discussion and recommendations from the meeting are detailed below.

1.1 Identification of Member's Deputies, Secretary and Delegations

The identification of present delegates and deputies to the meeting was noted, as was the appointment of a secretary and the identification of observers.

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries confirmed that their status as members' delegates and deputies was in order. Ms Patti Kuhl (RDPIFR) was appointed as the secretary to the NTFJA. Observers at the meeting were noted and are recorded as present in this record.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Members confirmed the agenda (Attachment 1).

1.3 Record of Decisions arising from the NT Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meeting of 26 September 2007

The Record of Decisions arising from the NTFJA meeting of 26 September 2007 was reviewed. It was noted all recommendations had been actioned or were in progress and was deemed to be an accurate reflection of decisions taken.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION

2.1 Update on status of Annual Report for 2006 – 2007

Members noted the progress of the 2006 – 2007 Annual Report.

Ms Brayford queried the potential for streamlining the reporting process for the NTFJA fisheries. The current process was considered time and resource intensive and it was felt there could be an improved model that may be more practical.

ACTION:	At officer level (lead by NT), explore alternative approaches to annual reporting and present to members for further consideration out-of-session.
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2.2 Update on status of NTFJA fisheries

2.2.1 Finfish Trawl Fishery

Ms Brayford provided an update on the issue of a second trawl licence in the fishery and outlined an alternative approach currently being considered incorporating the use of a market mechanism to facilitate adjustment in the offshore snapper fishery. It was noted a letter outlining this approach would be provided to the Commonwealth Minister.

Ms Brayford sought the NTFJA's 'in principle' support to further explore this proposal. This was endorsed by the Commonwealth member but would be subject to the Commonwealth Minister's approval.

2.2.2 Timor Reef Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper, particularly in relation to a proposed move to ITQs within the fishery. It was acknowledged the ITQ proposal should be developed by early next year. DEWHA would be kept up to date on any proposed changes to the management arrangements for the fishery.

2.2.3 Demersal Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the update on the status of the fishery.

2.2.4 Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and outcomes from earlier discussions by the Northern Australian Fisheries Committee in relation to future management and research directions for shark fisheries.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Members noted the work being conducted on the review of JA arrangements (being lead by DAFF).

4. NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting of the NTFJA would be held in conjunction with NAFM 2009.

5. CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 1720.



Mr Roland Pittar

General Manager Sustainable
Resource Management, Domestic
Fisheries and Aquaculture

Delegate for the Australian
Government Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority



Ms Heather Brayford

Executive Director of Fisheries

Deputy for the Northern Territory
Minister for Primary Industry,
Fisheries and Resource

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority

Attachment B - 2009 meeting of the NTFJA including record of decisions

4 November 2009
Boardroom
Crown Plaza Hotel
32 Mitchell St, DARWIN, NT

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Attendance

Members:

Delegate for the Australian Government
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Mr Roland Pittar

Deputy for the Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Mr. Ian Curnow

Secretary
Mr. David McKey (RDPIFR)

Observers:

James Findlay (AFMA)
Phil Domaschenz (AFMA)
Gavin Begg (BRS)
Lindsay Joll (WA FISH)
Heather Brayford (WA FISH)
Jim Groves (QDPI)
Shane Hansford (QDPI)

Roland Pittar (Chair) opened the meeting at 1545.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries met on 4 November 2009 to discuss current issues relevant to the NTFJA. Details of the discussion and recommendations below from the meeting are detailed.

1.1 Identification of Member's Deputies, Secretary and Delegations

The identification of present delegates and deputies to the meeting was noted, as was the appointment of a secretary and the identification of observers.

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries confirmed that their status as members' delegates and deputies was in order. Mr. David Mckey (RDPIFR) was appointed as the secretary to the NTFJA. Observers at the meeting were noted and are recorded as present in this record.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Members confirmed the agenda (Attachment 1).

1.3 Record of Decisions arising from the NT Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meeting of 23 September 2008

The Record of Decisions arising from the NTFJA meeting of 23 September 2008 was reviewed. It was noted all recommendations had been actioned and was deemed to be an accurate reflection of decisions taken.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION

2.1 Update on status of Annual Reports for 2007 – 2008, 2008 - 2009

Member's noted:

Actions taken to address the 2008 NTFJA ACTION: *At officer level (led by NT), explore alternative approaches to annual reporting and present to members for further consideration out-of-session.*

1. The NT has explored and developed an alternative approach to annual reporting. The alternative approach has been considered and approved 'out of session' and this format has been used in the 2007-2008 annual report. It is proposed that this format will continue to be evaluated and potentially be used for future reports.
2. The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2007-2008 period is currently with the NT member of the NTFJA for endorsement and forwarding to the Commonwealth member for endorsement and printing.

The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2008-2009 periods is currently being finalised by the NT. A working draft copy of the 2008-2009 report was discussed at the meeting. A draft of the report will be forwarded to DAFF for review by December 2009.

Action item 1: *The NT to provide DAFF officers with a draft copy of the 2008-2009 annual report for review by December 2009.*

2.2 Update on status of NTFJA fisheries

2.2.1 Timor Reef Fishery

Members noted:

The information provided in the background paper, particularly in relation to development of an ITQ management framework in collaboration with industry which encompasses all aspects of the ITQ proposal. A previous version of the draft framework has been provided to NTFJA officers at DAFF for information and consideration. A copy of the completed management framework is provided to members for their consideration.

Additionally, the proposed management framework has been provided to individual licence holders in the fishery for comment. It is anticipated upon completion of this consultation process the ratified framework paper will form the basis of revised fishery regulations in the form of a draft fishery management plan which will be provided to members for consideration once a formal management plan is prepared.

DEWHA has also been kept up to date on the proposed changes to management arrangements for the fishery. A copy of the proposed management framework will be provided to DEWHA officers to enable a review of the current export exemption accreditation after the stakeholder consultation process is complete.

Action item 2: *The NT member to provide the Commonwealth member with a final draft copy of the proposed Timor Reef Fishery management arrangements once available.*

2.2.2 Demersal and Finfish Trawl Fishery

Members noted:

The information provided in the background paper.

That following representations from Industry the NT FJA has provided 'in principle' support, subject to satisfactory outcomes for government regarding any increased costs for management, research and compliance, for the introduction of Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) into the management arrangements of both fisheries. A key criteria was the removal of an area known as the 'gold-band snapper habitat zone' from potential impacts of finfish trawl gear and provision of alternate areas as compensation. Potential new areas will be identified in close consultation with the DEWHA and Australian Fisheries Management Authority.

This approach would remove the compensatory issues for government and allow industry and the market to facilitate the adjustment. The department is also exploring options of continuing with an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process or alternatively setting a minimum holding of entitlement units to determine a licences endorsement to utilise finfish trawl gear. It would also leave scope in the future to investigate whether additional trawl effort would be desirable.

Stakeholders in both fisheries have been informed of the decision via a notice. The Commonwealth member has supported the NT member and the decision is now considered to be one taken by the NTFJA.

A management framework document is being developed by the department in collaboration with industry which will encompass all aspects of the ITQ proposal. The Commonwealth member is to be kept informed of progress through his department and 'in principle' approval sought upon the frameworks completion.

2.2.3 Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and outcomes from earlier discussions by the Northern Australian Fisheries Committee in relation to future management and research directions for shark fisheries.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

4. NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting of the NTFJA would be held in conjunction with NAFM / NAFC 2010.

5. CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 1615.



Mr Roland Pittar

General Manager Sustainable
Resource Management, Domestic
Fisheries and Aquaculture

Delegate for the Australian
Government Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority



Mr Ian Curnow

Executive Director of Fisheries

Deputy for the Northern Territory
Minister for Primary Industry,
Fisheries and Resource

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority

Attachment C - 2010 meeting of the NTFJA including record of decisions

18 November 2010

AFMA Offices

Canberra ACT

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Attendance

Members:

Delegate for the Australian Government
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Mr Simon Veitch

Deputy for the Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Mr. Ian Curnow

Secretary
Mr. David Mckey (DoR)

Observers:

Brodie Macdonald (AFMA)
Melissa Brown (AFMA)
Lindsay Joll (WA FISH)
Heather Brayford (WA FISH)
Jim Groves (QDPI)
Ben Westlake (QDPI)

Simon Veitch (Chair) opened the meeting at 1355.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries met on 18 November 2010 to discuss current issues relevant to the NTFJA. Details of the discussion and recommendations below from the meeting are detailed

1.1 Identification of Member's Deputies, Secretary and Delegations

The identification of present delegates and deputies to the meeting was noted, as was the appointment of a secretary and the identification of observers.

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries confirmed that their status as members' delegates and deputies was in order. Mr. David Mckey (DoR) was appointed as the secretary to the NTFJA. Observers at the meeting were noted and are recorded as present in this record.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Members confirmed the agenda (Attachment 1).

1.3 Record of Decisions arising from the NT Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meeting of 4 November 2009

The Record of Decisions arising from the NTFJA meeting of 4 November 2010 was reviewed. It was noted all recommendations had been actioned and was deemed to be an accurate reflection of decisions taken.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION

2.1 Update on status of Annual Reports for 2008 – 2009, 2009-2010

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

1. The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2008-2009 periods is currently with the AFMA for review. Once all necessary changes have been addressed, the final report will be made available to the NTFJA members for endorsement and printing.
2. The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2009-2010 periods is currently being finalised by the NT. A draft of the report will be forwarded to AFMA for review by December 2010.

Action item 1: *The NT to provide AFMA officers with a draft copy of the 2009-2010 annual report for review by December 2010.*

2.2 Update on status of NTFJA fisheries

2.2.1 Timor Reef Fishery

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

The information paper and framework document (refer attachment 1), details the final approval processes of the proposed Timor Reef Fishery Regulations (refer attachment 2). A previous version of the draft regulations has been provided to NTFJA officers at DAFF for information and consideration. A copy of the final draft regulations is provided to members for their consideration.

Final approval for implementation of the proposed Timor Reef Fishery Regulations is currently sought from the Commonwealth NTFJA member, Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. AFMA officer Brodie Macdonald indicated that AFMA could foresee no issue with the proposed regulations and that the Commonwealth Minister would consider their recommendation shortly.

SEWPaC has been kept up to date on the proposed changes to management arrangements for the fishery. A briefing to SEWPaC officers and a copy of the proposed regulations have been provided to enable a re-assessment of the current export exemption accreditation to be completed.

2.2.2 Demersal and Finfish Trawl Fishery

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

A management framework document (refer attachment 3) has been developed by the Offshore Snapper Advisory Group (OSAG) in collaboration with industry which

will encompass all aspects of the ITQ proposal. Member's noted it was Fisheries intention to seek wider public comments on the proposal for an extended period ending in late January 2011.

The Commonwealth member is to be kept informed of progress through his department and 'in principle' approval sought upon the frameworks completion.

2.2.3 Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and outcomes in relation to future management and research directions for shark fisheries.

3 OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

4 NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting of the NTFJA would be held in conjunction with NAFM / NAFC 2011.

5 CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 1415.



Mr Simon Veitch

A/g General Manager, Fisheries
Branch, Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Delegate for the Australian
Government Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority



Mr Ian Curnow

Executive Director of Fisheries

Deputy for the Northern Territory
Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries
and Resource

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority

Attachment D - 2011 meeting of the NTFJA including record of decisions

**27 October 2011
Coolangatta 2 Room
Jupiters, Gold Coast, Qld**

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Attendance

Members:

Deputy for the Australian Government
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Dr Nick Rayns

Deputy for the Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Mr. Ian Curnow

Secretary
Mr. David Mckey (DoR)

Observers:

Brodie Macdonald (AFMA)
Melissa Brown (AFMA)
Lindsay Joll (WA FISH)
Heather Brayford (WA FISH)
Peter Venslovas (AFMA)

Nick Rayns (Chair) opened the meeting at 12:40.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries met on 27 October 2011 to discuss current issues relevant to the NTFJA. Details of the discussion and recommendations below from the meeting are detailed.

1.1 Identification of Member's Deputies, Secretary and Delegations

The identification of present delegates and deputies to the meeting was noted, as was the appointment of a secretary and the identification of observers.

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries confirmed that their status as members' deputies was in order. Mr. David Mckey (DoR) was appointed as the secretary to the NTFJA. Observers at the meeting were noted and are recorded as present in this record.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Members confirmed the agenda (Attachment 1).

1.3 Record of Decisions arising from the NT Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meeting of 18 November 2010

The Record of Decisions arising from the NTFJA meeting of 18 November 2010 was reviewed. It was noted all recommendations had been actioned and was deemed to be an accurate reflection of decisions taken.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION

2.1 *Update on status of Annual Reports for 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011*

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2008-2009 periods is currently with the AFMA for printing.

The Annual Report detailing the activities of the NTFJA for the 2009-2010 periods is currently being made available to the NTFJA members for endorsement and printing.

A working draft of the 2010-2011 report will be forwarded to AFMA for review by late January 2012.

Action item 1: *The NT to provide AFMA officers with a draft copy of the 2010-2011 annual report for review by late January 2012.*

2.2 *Update on status of NTFJA fisheries*

2.2.1 *Timor Reef Fishery*

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

The amended Timor Reef Fishery Regulations were approved by the NT Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia and commenced on 1 February 2011.

A number of educational and training orientated wharf visits have been conducted by Fisheries staff with licence holders and skippers to assist with the transition to the new quota management system. A few minor administrative issues relating to timely movements reporting were identified and rectified during the transitional period.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between AFMA, NT Police and NT Fisheries is currently being finalised with a view to enhancing compliance in the TRF. This will entail AFMA undertaking day to day compliance activities related to the TRF on behalf of the NT Police via an agreed 'fee for service' arrangement.

2.2.2 *Demersal and Finfish Trawl Fishery*

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

A management framework document (Attachment A) has been developed by an Offshore Snapper Advisory Group established to work through all issues and encompass all aspects of the ITQ proposal as directed by the NTFJA.

Industry remains critical that this matter has not been resolved after a number of years. There are concerns that operators are spending more time exploring the fishery targeting gold-band species and catches may quickly approach the sustainable limit of 400t. Under the present input control management system, industry feel there is a real risk to over capitalisation by operators.

A key criteria is the removal of an area known as the 'gold-band snapper habitat area' from potential impacts of finfish trawl gear and provision of alternate areas as compensation. Potential new areas have been identified and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority has provided 'in-principle' agreement to these areas. This approach would remove previously identified compensatory issues for government and allow industry and the markets to facilitate the adjustment.

The management framework has undergone a final 60 day consultation process with copies being made available to each potentially impacted licence holder and the peak NT industry body, the NTSC. Additionally, to ensure all potential issues were identified, copies were made available to interested persons or companies outside of the NT. The comments received were generally very supportive of the proposal and new comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the final draft where appropriate.

The Commonwealth member has been provided a final draft copy of the management framework and kept informed of progress towards drafting of amended regulations. Formal approval of the final draft amended Demersal Fishery Regulations will be sought from the NTFJA once available.

2.2.3 Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and outcomes in relation to future management and research directions for shark fisheries.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Curnow provided information to the meeting indicating that discussions will be held between DOR and AFMA relating to potential for VMS services to be provided by AFMA for selected NT 'inshore' fisheries. AFMA indicated they would be amenable to provision of VMS discussions when initiated.

4. NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting of the NTFJA would be held in conjunction with NAFC 2012.

5. CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 12:47.



Dr Nick Rayns

Executive Manager, Fisheries
Australian Fisheries Management
Authority
Deputy for the Australian
Government Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Mr Ian Curnow

Executive Director of Fisheries
Deputy for the Northern Territory
Minister for Primary Industry,
Fisheries and Resource

Attachment E - 2012 meeting of the NTFJA including record of decisions

**MEETING OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
FISHERIES JOINT AUTHORITY**

7 December 2012

AFMA Offices

Canberra ACT

RECORD OF DECISIONS

Attendance

Members:

Deputy for the Australian Government
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
Dr Nick Rayns

Deputy for the Northern Territory Minister for
Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
Mr. Ian Curnow

Secretary
Mr. David Mckey (DoR)

Observers:

Bryan McDonald (DPIF)
Fiona Hill (AFMA)
Shalan Bray (DAFF)
Lindsay Joll (WA FISH)
Heather Brayford (WA FISH)
Maria Mohr (QLD DAFF)

Nick Rayns (Chair) opened the meeting at 12:30.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries met on 7 December 2012 to discuss current issues relevant to the NTFJA. Details of the discussion and recommendations below from the meeting are detailed.

1.1 Identification of Member's Deputies, Secretary and Delegations

The identification of present delegates and deputies to the meeting was noted, as was the appointment of a secretary and the identification of observers. Officials of the Commonwealth and NT Fisheries confirmed that their status as members' deputies was in order. Mr. David Mckey (DoR) was appointed as the secretary to the NTFJA. Observers at the meeting were noted and are recorded as present in this record.

1.2 Confirmation of Agenda

Members confirmed the agenda (Attachment 1).

1.3 Record of Decisions arising from the NT Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meeting of 27 October 2011

The Record of Decisions arising from the NTFJA meeting of 27 October 2011 was reviewed. It was noted all recommendations had been actioned and was deemed to be an accurate reflection of decisions taken.

2. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION / INFORMATION

2.1 Update on status of NTFJA fisheries

2.1.1 Timor Reef Fishery

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below:

The Timor Reef Fishery Regulations to introduce Individual Transferable Quota into the management arrangements of the fishery commenced on 1 February 2011.

A Memorandum of Understanding between AFMA, NT Police and NT Fisheries was signed January 2012 ensuring effective compliance of the quota arrangements in the TRF. AFMA undertakes day to day compliance activities related to the TRF on behalf of the NT Police via an agreed 'fee for service' arrangement.

Members noted no significant decision rule triggers have been met to date this year.

2.1.2 Demersal Fishery

Member's noted the information paper attached to the agenda which is summarised below.

The management arrangements of this fishery were restructured in 2012 with the implementation of an Individual Transferable Quota system to allow for better utilisation of the resources, particularly the red snapper component.

Members noted the objectives of the NTFJA relating to better utilisation of fish stocks, particularly red snappers are being achieved.

A Memorandum of Understanding between AFMA, NT Police and NT Fisheries came into effect mid- 2012. AFMA undertakes day to day

compliance activities related to the DF on behalf of the NT Police via an agreed 'fee for service' arrangement.

NT Fisheries monitors the recorded harvests from the fishery to ensure that the appropriate management action is taken when reference triggers as detailed in the Decision Rules are met. Members noted no significant decision rule triggers have been met to date this year.

2.1.3 Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and outcomes in relation to a major review of future management and research directions for shark fisheries.

2.2 Discussion to proposal to explore development of a Regional (GOC) Joint Authority structure to accommodate effective management of shared stocks.

Members noted the information provided in the background paper and Members agreed with this proposal however highlighted the importance not to lose focus on developing a Northern Shark management plan.

It was agreed that this is a positive way forward and shows a commitment to working across jurisdictions to reduce regulatory burden and manage stocks across boundaries.

Members provided in principle support for the development of a single joint authority management framework for the Gulf of Carpentaria to accommodate management of shared stocks. Members also provided in principle support for the development of a harvest strategy framework for Red snappers (and associated finfish) in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Curnow provided information to the meeting indicating that discussions will be held between DOR and AFMA relating to potential for VMS services to be provided by AFMA for selected NT 'inshore' fisheries. AFMA indicated they would be amenable to provision of VMS discussions when initiated.

4. NEXT MEETING

Members agreed the next meeting of the NTFJA would be held in conjunction with NAFC 2012.

5. CLOSE

The meeting concluded at 12:47.



Dr Nick Rayns

Executive Manager, Fisheries
Australian Fisheries Management
Authority

Deputy for the Australian
Government Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Northern Territory Fisheries Joint
Authority



Mr Ian Curnow

Executive Director of Fisheries

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