

# FISHING INDUSTRY BULLETIN

## Marine Planning Consultation UPDATE

23 January 2013

### Management Plans and management arrangements

#### *a. Timing and process for finalising draft Management Plans*

At a recent meeting with NSIA, SEWPAC noted timing has not changed significantly from that previously advised. Draft management plans for each region of the marine reserve network were released on 14 January 2013, for a 30 day consultation period. More information is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/consultation/index.html>.

NSIA is preparing submissions on these draft plans (along with Class Approvals and Fishing Gear Risk Assessment Framework, see below) in conjunction with the industry reference groups. Submissions close on 14 February 2013.

SEWPAC reiterated the Environment Minister's commitment to finalising the plans by the middle of the year. This will involve tabling in Parliament in mid-late March 2013. The South-East region is on the same timing for passing through Parliament, but will come into effect one year earlier, on 1 July 2013.

#### *b. Class Approvals*

It is understood that development of Class Approvals for each region have a different timeframe from the management plans and do not need to be finalised until closer to the Management Plans coming into effect in July 2014. Notwithstanding, SEWPAC are looking for feedback on issues at the regional level regarding management. This will be incorporated into the management plan submissions as it will provide fuller context for the management arrangements.

#### *c. FGRA Issues*

SEWPAC have also recently provided a draft Fishing Gear Risk Assessment (FGRA) Framework for industry comment. Industry has been calling for this important element of management decision making for some time. An initial review of this draft framework is being prepared for consideration by the industry reference groups.

Industry views on an appropriate FGRA framework will be provided to SEWPAC, for consideration and further industry engagement thereafter, by 14 Feb 2013.



Commonwealth  
Fisheries Association



NSIA

## Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package

As previously advised, although NSIA has withdrawn from consultation on development of the Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package (FAAP), it continues to pursue a fair and adequate FAAP. Further information is available at 'Don't sink our fishing communities' -

<http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/fair-adjustment-assistance-for-fishing-communities>

The Government is continuing to develop the elements of the FAAP as announced in November 2012 (link to SEWPAC website is <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/faap.html> ). The following information was provided by SEWPAC to NSIA representatives at a meeting held on 15 January 2013:

### ***Finalising Transitional Business Assistance Guidelines***

State and Commonwealth fisheries management agencies are being consulted on various aspects including data requirements and role of government agencies in delivery of the FAAP. It is understood that this component of the FAAP will likely commence after 1 July 2013.

### ***Timing and process for design and rollout of other FAAP components***

#### Vertically integrated business impacts.

Potentially impacted businesses are understood to have been identified through the ABARES surveys, and direct contact. It was noted that SEWPAC are currently developing guidelines for this component. Funding will come from the capped funds (as announced by the Ministers) and SEWPAC reiterated what has been stated by Minister Burke previously, that other 'non-direct' impacts are not being considered at this time.

#### Transitional Business assistance

SEWPAC acknowledged that there may be business cases that do not meet the best 3 years catch of the last 5 year (to June 2012) "default" criteria, due to the nature of some fisheries involved. Consideration is being given to if and how these businesses may be eligible and assisted under the announced FAAP. For example, in some fisheries, long cycles may be evident, or variable catch evident. NSIA representatives welcomed the recognition that there are circumstances that potentially need to be considered outside of the "default" transitional assistance guidelines.

#### Sectoral Measures

This component is about adapting to changes resulting from the reserves network, and may also be used to help broader fisheries issues where impacts of the reserves are evident across a fishery. Funding measures under this component will be delivered through a competitive grants program through Caring for Country. The delivery schedule for this component is the second and third years. The recently released Caring For Country *Prospectus of Investment 2013-2014* outlines this component - <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/prospectus/pubs/prospectus.pdf>

#### Entitlement buyout

This component will be the last to be developed given requirements for scientific and management advice required to inform the required fishery management changes. SEWPAC reiterated the Minister's position that no component of the program deals explicitly with impacts on asset value.

## SEWPAC structural and senior personnel changes

From the end of February 2013, SEWPAC have advised that a restructure within the Department will mean that the Marine Division will no longer exist. The current Marine Reserves section (management, operations etc) will move to Parks Australia. Parks Australia currently has responsibility for marine reserve planning and had delegated this task to the Marine Division.

The current Marine Environment policy and programs section (including the FAAP team) and Sustainable Fisheries section) will be part of the “Heritage and Wildlife” section.

A number of staff changes are also occurring, including Stephen Oxley moving on to the Department’s Policy Division.

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*The work of the Commonwealth Fisheries Association in building the capacity of the commercial fishing industry to engage nationally in consultation and coordination on matters related to the establishment and management of new Commonwealth Marine Reserves and the design of an associated adjustment assistance package is supported through funding from the Australian Government’s Marine Bioregional Planning Program.*