

OCEAN TRAWL GEAR & MULLOWAY REDUCTION WORKING GROUP MEETING FINAL OUTCOMES

1:30pm – 4.00pm
Wednesday 5 December 2012
PFA Board Room; River Street, Maclean

Attendees:

Robert Toyer (Chairperson)
Gordon Farrell
Darren Hale (DPI)
Jacob Crisp (DPI)

Apologies:

Stephen Kerr
Phil Ward
Garry Joblin
Donald Anderson
Graeme William

Item 1: Action status list (since forum)

Action status list (below) noted.

Action	Responsibility	Status
DPI to draft and refer to attendees a cost-effective industry-driven process for developing and testing the new gear configuration(s).	Darren Hale	Complete (enclosed)
Robert Toyer to work with Wally Hill and other attendees to draft a plan for the preferred configuration to be tested – to be referred to others for consideration/input.	Robert Toyer	Pending
DPI to pursue media release ASAP and draft dot points for potential media releases by OceanWatch and the Professional Fishermen's Association.	Darren Hale	Pending (Draft with DPI media unit; OceanWatch & PFA media releases not to be pursued)

Item 2: Permits

DPI to prepare a permit as soon as practical, having regard to the following:

- Permit to cover all fishers who attended the initial forum (or their nominated fishers);
- Permit to provide for modifications necessary to accommodate:
 - o First and foremost, the South Australian grid & T90 concept modified to suite local conditions. Specifically: grid bar spacing up to 50mm; <40mm mesh to posterior of codend; posterior of codend >150 meshes in circumference; larger overall size for grid if needed.
 - o Alternate configurations: 'witches hat' if determined by DPI to be unlawful under current regulation coupled with a square-mesh panel BRD smaller (length/breadth) than currently lawful.
- Permit to include conditions requiring:
 - o Permit holders to refer diagrams/descriptions of devices being tested to DPI (for referral to local FOs);
 - o Permit holders to complete data sheets for monitoring the effectiveness of devices tested.

Given the administration associated with issuing further permits, it was agreed that no further permits would be issued other than to cover one additional fisher from Evans Head and one additional fisher from Ballina upon expression of interest.

Other fishers in the OTF (i.e. without permits) may also test new configuring subject to compliance with current legislation. Should a particular configuration show promise and require modification conflicting with current legislation, the configuration may be referred for consideration and testing by the working group.

Item 3: Member updates

A range of configurations are in the process of being constructed, all based on the South Australian grid & T90 concept or components thereof as agreed at the initial forum.

Item 4: Other gear options

There is interest in testing alternative configurations, noting agreement that the testing of alternative configurations must not divert focus and refinement of the South Australian grid & T90 concept.

Item 5: Draft process

The draft process (copy attached) was adopted.

Item 6: Other business

1. It was noted that Matt Broadhurst will not be available to assess the working groups preferred configuration(s) this summer and will require advance notice of the working group's preferred configuration(s) for testing.
2. It is proposed to upgrade the Ocean Trawl homepage on the DPI website to communicate progress on this process.

End.

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING AND ASSESSING A NEW GEAR CONFIGURATION TO REDUCE INCIDENTAL CATCHES OF MULLOWAY

