

Issues for consideration by the SARC identified at a meeting of the Ocean Hauling Purse Seine Shareholders Meeting held 5 August 2015

Important note: *The issues below were raised by members of the WG as expert individual views for consideration by SARC. They are not considered to be the representative view of any particular group of fishers or shareholders. The issues raised will be considered by SARC in formulating the final recommendations on linkages that will be provided to the Minister for his consideration.*

Comments on linkage recommendations

General issues:

- Apology from Gary Warren.

Ocean Hauling Purse Seine:

i) Minimum shares as current arrangements

- General agreement.

ii) Catch quota - Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) and Independent Allocation Panel (IAP)

- General agreement that quota management is the ideal management approach in this fishery, but concerns regarding the lack of information on TACC setting and IAP process.
- Clarification: For other quota recommendations ITCALs have been proposed but are absent in this share class. Why? SARC confirmed that its view is that it is best to go straight to a scientifically based TACC set by TAC committee. Status quo will continue up until the TAC is set and linkage commences.
- Some voiced concern that the resource share with Pilchard Anchovy and Baitnet sector is not set. How will this resource share be determined? There must be a sharing arrangement with that fishery and a mechanism so that PAB operate under a catch cap (if they are not under a quota also).
- Concern over the resource share between recreational fishers, and other states (TAS holding Commonwealth quota for blue mackerel), most of the others have stock assessment being supported by Commonwealth, but only 3 NSW operators contribute to that process.
- Concern that in the TAC process, the committee won't be responsible for resource sharing between competing industries (PAB vs Purse Seine vs recreational vs Commonwealth & States) – so how can we support a meaningful TAC? Needs to involve offshore constitutional settlement (OCS).
- Concern that resource sharing arrangements between NSW stakeholders has not been determined and there is no clear process regarding how this will be determined. How will the resource share between NSW commercial, NSW aboriginal and NSW recreational fishers be determined?
- Resource sharing arrangements between NSW fisheries and commonwealth fisheries and other states has not been determined for proposed quota species. How can a TAC be set with confidence if these arrangements are not known? When will OCS negotiations be progressed to address these concerns?

- TAC committee should work in parallel to the IAP to determine an appropriate TACC. As a total stock, a TAC has been established in Commonwealth, so the issue is what's the NSW allocation? Question about whether the NSW TAC will be meaningful, or will we there be an interim measure? In the absence of resource sharing policy, NSW needs to establish a TAC and then negotiate with Commonwealth.
- It was noted that the recommended biological catches (RBC) are already known for Australian Sardine and Blue Mackerel. A NSW TAC committee will likely rely on these assessments to set TACC for NSW fishers. The actual role of the TAC committee in this instance is likely to be defining what share of the overall RBC NSW fishers should be apportioned.
- For species taken in other fisheries where quota isn't recommended there's a need to identify a common period to provide equity. Don't want sequential criteria periods for allocation of quota between fisheries – creates inequity and inconsistency. Pick a common criteria period to look at shares/catch to work out TACCs.
- Can't restrict one share class as others will adapt behaviour to take advantage of it. Need to be clear on inter-NSW fisheries resource sharing – SARC to follow up and clarify this process.
- Is the period used to define the current fishery share in NSW the most appropriate? What assessment has been undertaken to ensure the period used is the most appropriate period to maintain equity between fishing sectors within NSW?
- Would like to know what NSW Government sees as its share of the resource – get on with sorting this out. Establish it and then claim it.
- Will quota be transferable between commonwealth and state? OCS issue.

iii) Remove boat licence requirement (<20m boats)

- Clarification: Under the proposed arrangements can any boat come in? Only if 20m or less.
- Some do not support removal of need to license boats as they see it as a loss of this asset value. May also see some existing operators use larger boats than they currently can.
- Larger boat licenses are scarce. This has stopped some operators using larger boats which are safer.
- Administration cost of existing licenses is minor compared to tradable value. Some not concerned about ongoing license fees.
- Suggestion that ability to access resource is somewhat linked to size of boat one can operate.
- Some would like rules so that there's a choice to have it or not. Clarified that licenses can be retained if they wish, especially where boats are used in multiple fisheries where licenses are still required under management arrangements.
- This proposed change was generally not supported at the meeting. But there was some support, with some indicating that it would be beneficial to be able to upgrade boats to 20m easily – particularly if going to quota.

iv) Remove requirement for net to be registered

- Net registrations do have value through the scarcity of certain registration types and they have been traded.
- This proposed change was generally not supported at the meeting. Although it was noted that these may not be needed once quota takes effect.

Exit Grant issues

- Concern that there aren't enough shares to cover quota. But if the allocation is too low to be viable, people won't stay.
- Concern that fishers don't know what shares are worth until IAP process has been completed – and also depends on overall TACC.
- Anticipate that there will be minimal involvement from this group in exit grant process unless the TACC is known.