Re-Allocating Resources Between Fishing Sectors in Torres Strait Commercial Fisheries - History of Management Arrangements and Stakeholders Involved in Torres Strait Fisheries

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Legislative Framework

Torres Strait Treaty

- Cooperation in the conservation, management and optimum utilisation of the commercial fisheries in the Torres Strait Protected Zone

- Regard to the traditional way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants, including the protection of traditional inhabitant subsistence fishing
Legislative Framework cont’d

Torres Strait Fisheries Act

- 1984 Act (20 + years old)
- To give effect in Australian law to the fisheries elements of the Treaty
  - Single objective; lifestyle and livelihood of traditional inhabitants
  - Sustainability not an objective of the Act
Management of the Fisheries

PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY (PZJA)
COMMONWEALTH MINISTER (CHAIR), QUEENSLAND MINISTER AND THE TSRA CHAIR

TORRES STRAIT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSFMAC)

SPECIFIC WORKING GROUPS
* Prawn
* Lobster
* Finfish (Spanish mackerel & Reef line)
* Hand collectables

TORRES STRAIT FISHERIES SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSFSAC)

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Consultative Process
Commercial Fishing

Prawn fishery

• A$15.582 million GVP (2004/05)
• 1,475 tonne catch (2004/05)
• 70 Licences (All TVH)
• No traditional inhabitant activity in the fishery
• Tiger, Endeavour and King prawns
Commercial Fishing

Lobster fishery

- A$12.281 million GVP (2004/05)
- 685 tonne catch (2004/05)
- 24 TVH Licences (60 tenders)
- 409 TIB Licences
Commerial Fishing

Finfish fishery

- Spanish mackerel
  A$1.272 million GVP (2004/05)
- 685 tonne catch (2004/05)
- Reef line A$0.810 million GVP (2004/05)
- 71 tonne catch (2004/05)
- 25 TVH Licences (80 tenders)
- 434 TIB Licences
Commercial Fishing
Current Issues

• Effort
• Biological status
• Consultation
• Management of straddling fish stocks
• Research
The Way Forward?
Thank you