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Fisheries management report

Management Plan Kimberley Prawn Fishery

Prepared by
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Fisheries management paper No. 49



Fisheries Department of Western Australia
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December 1992

NOTE

The following plan was published in draft form as Fisheries Management Paper No. 45, as proposed by Mr G. Stewart of Graeme Stewart and Associates, after consultation with government and industry. The final plan was modified by Fisheries Department policy officers after further consultation with industry and was adopted in November 1992 by the Minister for Fisheries.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a management plan for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery which operates in Western Australian coastal waters of the Indian Ocean and Timor Sea off the Kimberley coastline lying east of Koolan Island, 123°45' east longitude and west of Cape Londonderry, 126°58' east longitude.

Kimberley Prawn Fishery access restrictions were first specified in Western Australian Fisheries Notice No. 170 published in Government Gazette No. 2 of 4 January, 1985.

Present exploitation is low and access is limited to:-

Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences endorsed with transferable access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery (nine trawlers).

Trawlers with access to either the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf or Nickol Bay Limited Entry Prawn Fisheries (57 trawlers).

Trawlers with Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences assigned with a Class B or Class C unit in accordance with the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan (107 trawlers).

This represents a total of 173 trawlers.

Some of these trawlers have access to other State or Commonwealth trawl fisheries including the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery, the North West Deep Water Trawl Fishery, the Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery, the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery.

The major portion of trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery are trawlers with access to the Northern Prawn Fishery which hold Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences and no other trawl fishery licences. There is a major restructure of the Northern Prawn Fishery to be completed by 1 April 1993 which will impact on the continued access of these trawlers to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

In 1985 the Commonwealth Government commenced a Voluntary Adjustment Scheme for the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet which became a compulsory fleet reduction scheme with the introduction of Plan of Management No. NPF2 on 9 November 1990. The reduction scheme removed 20% of the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet between December 1990 and 1 April 1992 and will reduce the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet by approximately 35% of the remaining Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers by 1 April 1993.

A Kimberley Prawn Fishery management plan was held in abeyance pending final details of the Northern Prawn Fishery compulsory reduction scheme because of the interaction of the Northern Prawn Fishery with the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

This management plan offers options to any owner of a trawler with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery whose trawler loses access, through an adjustment scheme, to any fishery which is a prerequisite for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

As at 1 December 1992 this concession will not be available to trawler owners who dispose of their access to the other trawl fishery on a commercial basis. However legal clarification of this point is being sought by the Fisheries Department.

This management plan accommodates the Plan of Management No. NPF2 (Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan) and subsequent amendments, the adjustment which has already occurred in the Northern Prawn Fishery, anticipates the remaining adjustment in the Northern Prawn Fishery and allows for adjustment schemes in the other trawl fisheries which give trawlers access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

For Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers with Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences which have surrendered Northern Prawn Fishery units in accordance with Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan - Part 7, Division I since 3 November 1990 (30 trawlers - of which 20 could qualify for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery under the provisions of this plan), there is the possibility that some will commence full time exploitation of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery which hitherto has experienced only part time or no effective exploitation from these trawlers.

For trawler owners with Western Australian licences who have surrendered or do surrender their Northern Prawn Fishery units in accordance with Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan - Part 7 Division I and do not have access to any other trawl fishery qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, this plan recommends payment of a fee for continued full time access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. It also requires those trawlers which commence full time access, by their owners paying a fee, to comply with the Western Australian Fisheries Department's 375 unit capacity rules for trawl fisheries within three years of entering the fishery.

Alternatively it offers those trawler owners the opportunity to relinquish access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery in return for a financial consideration.

The plan recommends no changes to the existing Kimberley Prawn Fishery access for trawlers:-

Having access by way of transferable endorsement or by having a Limited Entry Licence for either the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf or Nickol Bay Prawn Fishery;

Holding a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and being licensed to operate in the Northern Prawn Fishery;

Holding a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence, losing access to the Northern Prawn Fishery by the compulsory reduction of units imposed by Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan - Part 7, Division II and maintaining access to another Western Australian trawl fishery which qualifies the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

Trawler owners with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery prior to the introduction of this Plan and who do not change the status of any of the licences attached to that trawler will be issued a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence which will introduce an annual licence fee but will not change the operations of the trawler.

Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licensed trawler owners who have the status of their licences attached to that trawler changed as the result of an adjustment scheme will be given the option of:-

- (a) paying a Full Time Access Licence Fee and being issued a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, which will have a higher annual licence fee; or
- (b) offering to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence to the Minister for Fisheries for cancellation and payment of a consideration.

Trawler owners with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery prior to the introduction of this Plan and who surrendered the qualifying trawl access to a management authority after 9 November 1990 in accordance with an adjustment scheme in the qualifying trawl fishery will have the option of applying for a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence or offering to surrender the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence (and hence Kimberley Prawn Fishery access) for a financial consideration as described in (a) and (b) above.

The plan recommends a substantial initial licence fee for trawler owners applying for a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence.

The fees collected from Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders will be used to meet offers from Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders wishing to surrender their Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence and Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence following surrender of their other trawl access to an adjustment scheme.

The plan also recommends that trawling for finfish not be permitted within the boundaries of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

2. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) (i) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall include all types of bottom trawl activity in Western Australian coastal waters of the Indian Ocean and Timor Sea off the Kimberley coastline lying east of Koolan Island, 123° 45' East longitude and west of Cape Londonderry, 126° 58' East longitude.
- (ii) That finfish trawling shall not be permitted in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.
- (b) (i) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall be declared a Limited Entry Fishery under Section 32 of the Fisheries Act, 1905 and that two classes of Limited Entry Licence shall be issued, Class 1 and Class 2.

- (ii) That Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders with a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence identified by a registration number in the sequence P200 to P500 shall be restricted in Western Australia to operating in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery only and shall not take prawns by any means other than the method of demersal trawling.
- (iii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall be restricted in Western Australia to operating in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery only and shall not take prawns by any means other than the method of demersal trawling.
- (c) That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence shall be issued to:-
 - (i) Licensed Western Australian Fishing boats or replacement boats having a transferable endorsement for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery originally issued in 1985 based on their demonstrated commitment to otter trawling for prawns within the area of the fishery;
 - (ii) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats having access to either the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf or Nickol Bay Limited entry prawn fisheries;
 - (iii) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats with the registration number not in the sequence LFBP200 to LFB P500 inclusive assigned sufficient units to operate in the Northern Prawn Fishery;
 - (iv) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats with the registration number in the sequence LFBP200 to LFB P500 inclusive assigned sufficient units to operate in the Northern Prawn Fishery.
- (d) (i) That owners of trawlers which were eligible for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as at 9 November 1990 when Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. 2 was introduced; and
 - the trawler does not have a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence with a registration number in the sequence LFBP200 to P500 inclusive; and
 - surrender to an authority under an adjustment scheme another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery; and
 - the trawler does not have another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery; and

- the trawler has not been replaced since the other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery was so surrendered (except in the case of a total constructive loss)

shall, within 60 days of the date of surrender of that other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation, or within 60 days of the introduction of this plan;

- apply for a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery Licence; or
- offer to surrender the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and associated Kimberley Prawn Fishery Licence to the Minister for Fisheries for an amount not exceeding \$10,000.

If no option is taken within 60 days, the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and Kimberley Prawn Fishery licence shall be cancelled.

- (ii) That one of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences may be the accumulation of funds from Class 2 licence fees.
- (iii) That owner of a trawler which was eligible for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as at 9 November 1990 when Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. 2 was introduced; and

the trawler had a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence with a registration number in the sequence LFBP200 to P500 inclusive; and

another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery is surrendered to an authority under an adjustment scheme; and

the trawler does not have another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery;

shall have the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence (and access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery) cancelled.

- (e) That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence issued in accordance with 2(c)(i) shall remain transferable provided the trawler shall retain at least one other licence, access authorisation, endorsement or applicable units for a trawl fishery after the transfer of the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence. All other Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences shall be transferable provided all licences associated with and attached to the trawler with the Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence including the Fishing Boat Licence are transferred to the same new owner at the same time.

- (f) (i) That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holder shall have the option of offering to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence to the Minister for Fisheries, for an amount not exceeding \$10,000, at any time there is a change of status to any of the licences and endorsements attached to the trawler to which the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence is issued as the result of an adjustment scheme.
- (ii) That any Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Licence surrendered cannot be re-acquired based on the same qualifying trawl access.
- (iii) That one of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences shall be the accumulation of funds from Class 2 licence fees.
- (g) (i) That if a licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall be a prawn trawler and shall become the licensed boat and the replaced boat shall lose all claims to access.
- (ii) That if a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall not exceed 375 units trawler capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) and shall be a trawler fitted with gear suitable to trawl for prawns in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.
- (iii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences attached to boats which exceed 375 units of trawler capacity at 1 April 1996 or three years after being granted a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry licence, whichever is the later, shall be cancelled.
- (iv) That when a Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery licensed trawler becomes a total constructive loss for insurance purposes, the Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, as the case may be, shall be transferred to the replacement boat.
- (v) That there be no boat replacement policy for Class 1 licence holders.
- (h) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licenced trawlers exceeding 375 units capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) at 1 April 1996, or three years after being granted the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, whichever is the later, shall have the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence cancelled.
- (i) That the maximum combined headrope length and combination of net used in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall not exceed the maximum combined headrope length and combination of net permitted in the Northern Prawn Fishery from time to time. (At 1 April 1992 not more than two nets shall be towed and the maximum combined headrope length of the two nets shall not exceed 51.25 metres or 28 fathoms.)

- (j) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall maintain seasonal closures generally compatible with the Northern Prawn Fishery. The extended closures in York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf shall remain.
- (k) (i) That Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay an annual licence fee apportioned equally among licence holders such that the total of the fees collected equal 1% (one per cent) of the gross value of the average production of the fishery over the previous three years valued at the prior year's prices, or a fee deemed appropriate by the Minister for Fisheries.
- (ii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay a Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee of \$25,000 for the first year of access. Thereafter the annual Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee shall be \$5,000.
- (iii) That fees collected from Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence Fees shall be used for the purpose of accepting offers to surrender Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences and offers to surrender Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences offered in accordance with 2(d).
- (l) That the Western Australian Minister for Fisheries shall have the authority to consider applications for licences of a special nature on a case by case basis and to impose special conditions on boats granted licences.
- (m) That the management arrangements for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery be reviewed and amended as necessary, given changes to management arrangements in other prawn trawl fisheries.

3. INTRODUCTION

On 9 February 1983 the territorial sea baseline was determined by a Proclamation made pursuant to Section 7 of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973 with effect from 14 February 1983. The baseline was generally defined as "low water mark" but where there were gulfs and headlands, bay-closing straight lines were adopted connecting the 'jaws' surrounding gulfs and significant geological features.

The Kimberley coast east of 123° 45' is characterised by numerous islands, headlands and gulfs. A baseline off the Kimberley coast was established from Koolan Island north to Cape Talbot in a series of straight lines generally connecting the outer-most islands along the coast and therefore capturing most of the islands and large tracts of water adjacent the Kimberley coast as "internal waters of the State". State jurisdiction includes all internal waters of the State and extends three nautical miles seaward from the baseline.

The western limit of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery coincides with the commencement of the offshore straight line baseline at Koolan Island, 123° 45' east longitude and extends to the east of the eastern termination of the continuous offshore baseline (at Cape Talbot) to Cape Londonderry, 126° 58' east longitude.

- (f) (i) That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holder shall have the option of offering to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence to the Minister for Fisheries, for an amount not exceeding \$10,000, at any time there is a change of status to any of the licences and endorsements attached to the trawler to which the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence is issued as the result of an adjustment scheme.
- (ii) That any Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Licence surrendered cannot be re-acquired based on the same qualifying trawl access.
- (iii) That one of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences shall be the accumulation of funds from Class 2 licence fees.
- (g) (i) That if a licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall be a prawn trawler and shall become the licensed boat and the replaced boat shall lose all claims to access.
- (ii) That if a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall not exceed 375 units trawler capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) and shall be a trawler fitted with gear suitable to trawl for prawns in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.
- (iii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences attached to boats which exceed 375 units of trawler capacity at 1 April 1996 or three years after being granted a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry licence, whichever is the later, shall be cancelled.
- (iv) That when a Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery licensed trawler becomes a total constructive loss for insurance purposes, the Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, as the case may be, shall be transferred to the replacement boat.
- (v) That there be no boat replacement policy for Class 1 licence holders.
- (h) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licenced trawlers exceeding 375 units capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) at 1 April 1996, or three years after being granted the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, whichever is the later, shall have the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence cancelled.
- (i) That the maximum combined headrope length and combination of net used in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall not exceed the maximum combined headrope length and combination of net permitted in the Northern Prawn Fishery from time to time. (At 1 April 1992 not more than two nets shall be towed and the maximum combined headrope length of the two nets shall not exceed 51.25 metres or 28 fathoms.)

- (j) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall maintain seasonal closures generally compatible with the Northern Prawn Fishery. The extended closures in York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf shall remain.
- (k)
 - (i) That Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay an annual licence fee apportioned equally among licence holders such that the total of the fees collected equal 1% (one per cent) of the gross value of the average production of the fishery over the previous three years valued at the prior year's prices, or a fee deemed appropriate by the Minister for Fisheries.
 - (ii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay a Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee of \$25,000 for the first year of access. Thereafter the annual Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee shall be \$5,000.
 - (iii) That fees collected from Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence Fees shall be used for the purpose of accepting offers to surrender Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences and offers to surrender Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences offered in accordance with 2(d).
- (l) That the Western Australian Minister for Fisheries shall have the authority to consider applications for licences of a special nature on a case by case basis and to impose special conditions on boats granted licences.
- (m) That the management arrangements for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery be reviewed and amended as necessary, given changes to management arrangements in other prawn trawl fisheries.

3. INTRODUCTION

On 9 February 1983 the territorial sea baseline was determined by a Proclamation made pursuant to Section 7 of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973 with effect from 14 February 1983. The baseline was generally defined as "low water mark" but where there were gulfs and headlands, bay-closing straight lines were adopted connecting the 'jaws' surrounding gulfs and significant geological features.

The Kimberley coast east of 123° 45' is characterised by numerous islands, headlands and gulfs. A baseline off the Kimberley coast was established from Koolan Island north to Cape Talbot in a series of straight lines generally connecting the outer-most islands along the coast and therefore capturing most of the islands and large tracts of water adjacent the Kimberley coast as "internal waters of the State". State jurisdiction includes all internal waters of the State and extends three nautical miles seaward from the baseline.

The western limit of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery coincides with the commencement of the offshore straight line baseline at Koolan Island, 123° 45' east longitude and extends to the east of the eastern termination of the continuous offshore baseline (at Cape Talbot) to Cape Londonderry, 126° 58' east longitude.

The Kimberley Prawn Fishery was first controlled by State Fisheries Notice No. 170 of 4 January 1985. Regulations controlling the Kimberley Prawn Fishery remained essentially the same until Fisheries Notice No. 271 of 6 November 1987 extended the eastern boundary of the fishery to the Western Australian border (129° East longitude).

Following the introduction of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements in 1988, the Commonwealth assumed complete jurisdiction over the catching of all species of prawns using any method from shore to the outer limit of the Australian Fishing Zone from 126° 58' east to the State border at 129° east. The assumption of jurisdiction is published in Commonwealth Gazette No S109 of 14 April 1988.

The Fisheries Department of Western Australia rules subsequently to Fisheries Notice No. 271 managed the Kimberley Prawn Fishery in line with the Northern Prawn Fishery primarily in relation to opening and closing dates, which coincide with those of the Northern Prawn Fishery. This has minimised the impact of Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers on the fishery. Extended closures have been introduced for York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf.

Whilst limited in number and sporadic in their operation, Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers account for an increasing proportion of the effective trawling effort in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. With the reduction of the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet there is the possibility that displaced Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers will redirect their activity to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery and the Western Australian wetline fishery. This latter actually would most likely occur through the attempted transfer of licences to smaller boats.

A draft Management Plan for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery was published in December 1991 and was followed by Fisheries Department meetings with industry in February and July 1992. This management plan incorporates decisions made at that meeting.

4. THE KIMBERLEY PRAWN FISHERY

(a) Description

The management zone of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery is shown on Map 1 (Appendix 2). The Kimberley Prawn Fishery has been recognised in Western Australia since 1985 with nine trawlers having transferable Kimberley Prawn Fishery endorsements but primarily it has been a complementary fishery for trawlers with access to the Nickol Bay, Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay Limited Entry prawn fisheries and more recently the Northern Prawn Fishery.

Production from the grounds has been minimal and sporadic. For most trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, their access to alternative (generally more lucrative) fisheries has been sufficient to limit their trawling in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. There are some individual masters who have recorded consistent commercial quantities of prawn catch in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, but most masters of trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery consider it a "specialist" fishery and their own expertise best utilised in the other fisheries.

Many Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers which return to Fremantle for annual refit have fished the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as they transit on their way to Fremantle.

(b) Management

Management of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery has to date been minimal. The resource has been so lightly exploited that it has not been justified to devote management resources to the fishery.

Management is limited to access restrictions, a total closure from 1 December in one year to 31 March in the next and from 8 June to 1 August each year, co-coinciding with the Northern Prawn Fishery seasonal closures.

The parallel closure of the Kimberley Prawn Fishery with the Northern Prawn Fishery ensures that the great majority of Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers, which are the most numerous of the other classes of trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, do not fish the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

Surveillance of seasonal closures is largely performed as part of the surveillance of Northern Prawn Fishery season closures thereby minimising enforcement costs.

Within the Kimberley Prawn Fishery the waters of York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf are closed from 1 December each year until 31 July the following year inclusive.

5. MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

The management proposals set out in this section are the outcome of discussions with representatives of:-

the Northern Fishing Companies Association;

the Western Australian Northern Trawler Operators' Association Inc.;

the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council;

Fisheries Department of Western Australia; and

from the industry meeting held at the Western Australian Fisheries Department on 13 February 1992.

(a) Definition of the fishery

A trawl net can be pulled along the bottom for catching demersal fish (including prawns) or through the water column as a midwater trawl for non-demersal fish. It is difficult to distinguish between these activities unless the equipment can be closely inspected but for enforcement purposes separation of demersal and non-demersal operations is easily determined by examining catch composition. It is unlikely prawn trawlers will move to midwater trawling.

This management plan aims to control demersal prawn trawling in Western Australian coastal waters off the Kimberley coast.

There will be no finfish trawling in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

Recommendations

- (i) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall include all types of bottom trawl activity in Western Australian coastal waters of the Indian Ocean and Timor Sea off the Kimberley coastline lying east of Koolan Island, 123° 45' east longitude and west of Cape Londonderry, 126° 58' east longitude.
- (ii) That finfish trawling shall not be permitted in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

(b) Access to the fishery

To achieve efficient management of the fishery, the Kimberley Prawn Fishery should be declared a Limited Entry Fishery under Section 32 of the Western Australian Fisheries Act, 1905. The declaration of a Limited Entry Fishery provides use of a range of measures with full legislative force which in turn allows greater control to be exercised over the fishery. It also allows access fees to be levied on those receiving the benefits of participating in a Limited Entry Fishery and can include a mechanism for adjusting fleet size.

Two classes of Limited Entry Licences are proposed:-

Class 1 - For those trawler owners who have had traditional access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery and continue to have that same access with little or no change to their operations.

Class 2 - For those trawler owners who lose or surrender their right of access to another trawl fishery through an Adjustment Scheme, which qualified their trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

The existing limitations which apply to Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence holders identified by registration numbers in the sequence P200 to P500 will continue when these trawlers are granted Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences.

Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders will have their Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence, the trawler and the Kimberley Prawn Fishery "linked" for the purpose of entry into the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. A Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence trawler will not be permitted to operate in any other Western Australian fishery and shall not take any species of fish in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery by any means other than trawling.

Recommendations

- (i) That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall be declared a Limited Entry Fishery under Section 32 of the Fisheries Act, 1905 and that two classes of Limited Entry Licence shall be issued, Class 1 and Class 2.

- (ii) That Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders with a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence identified by a registration number in the sequence P200 to P500 shall be restricted in Western Australia to operating in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery only and shall not take prawns by any means other than the method of demersal trawling.
- (iii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall be restricted in Western Australia to operating in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery only and shall not take prawns by any means other than the method of demersal trawling.

(c) Existing status of fishery and licences

There are three identifiable groups of trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery:-

- (i) Licensed Western Australian fishing boats with transferable Kimberley Prawn Fishery endorsements (9 trawlers);
- (ii) Licensed Western Australian fishing boats licensed to fish in either the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf or Nickol Bay limited entry prawn fisheries (57 trawlers);
- (iii) Trawlers which have Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences and sufficient units to operate in accordance with the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. NPF 2 at the time of its introduction on 9 November 1990 (107 trawlers);

Within group (iii) there are two types of Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence holders:-

Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences identified by a registration number in the sequence LFB P200 to LFBP500 inclusive (37 trawlers);

Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences identified by a registration number not in the sequence LFBP200 to LFBP500 inclusive, sometimes referred to as an Open West Coast Licence (70 trawlers).

Included in some of the categories are trawlers which have access to other State or Commonwealth trawl fisheries such as the Shark Bay Scallop Fishery, the North West Deep Water Trawl Fishery, the Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery, the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery and the East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery.

Recommendations

That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Fishery Limited Entry Licence shall be issued to:-

- (i) Licensed Western Australian Fishing boats or replacement boats having a transferable endorsement for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery originally issued in 1985 based on their demonstrated commitment to otter trawling for prawns within the area of the fishery.
- (ii) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats having access to either the Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf or Nickol Bay Limited entry prawn fisheries.
- (iii) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats with the registration number not in the sequence LFBP200 to LFBP500 inclusive assigned sufficient units to operate in the Northern Prawn Fishery.
- (iv) Licensed Western Australian Fishing Boats with the registration number in the sequence LFBP200 to LFBP500 inclusive assigned sufficient units to operate in the Northern Prawn Fishery.

(d) Criteria for continued access

As stated in 5(c), it is recommended there be no change to the existing access arrangements for Kimberley prawn licensees provided all licences attached to the trawler remain as they were at the time the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. NPF2 was introduced on 9 November 1990. All these licences will be issued Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences.

At the industry meeting held at the Fisheries Department on 13 February 1992 it was recognised that some trawlers eligible for a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Limited Entry Licence as at 9 November 1990 have already lost that eligibility or could lose that eligibility by the administration of an adjustment scheme removing the trawler from a fishery which gave the trawler eligibility for entry to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

Recognising that a management authority acting in one fishery may bring about unintended consequences in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery where all but nine trawlers owe their access to the fishery upon their continued access to other fisheries, the industry decided that special concessions be given to trawler owners who participate in an adjustment scheme in the other fishery which qualifies the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery provided the licence in that fishery is surrendered to the management authority. The concession will give the trawler owner the option of continuing in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery under certain special conditions.

Industry decided that the concession will not be available to trawler owners who dispose of the access to the other fishery on a commercial basis.

The major existing adjustment scheme affecting trawler owners with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery is incorporated in the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan, as amended, which will remove approximately 45% of all trawlers from the Northern Prawn Fishery fleet between 9 November 1990 and 1 April 1993.

For the Northern Prawn Fishery the industry decision at the 13 February 1992 meeting means trawlers which have surrendered, or do surrender, Northern Prawn Fishery units in accordance with the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan - Part 7, Division I, have the potential to redirect their fishing effort to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery on a full time basis.

Within this group there are the two types of Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence which have been referred to in section 6(c)(iii). The option to continue in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery is only available to one group.

Holders of Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences who were eligible to apply for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as at 9 November 1990 and holders of Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery Licences with a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence registration number not in the sequence P200 to P500 who surrender to a management authority under the terms of an adjustment scheme the licence(s) which qualified the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery will have the option of maintaining access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery provided the licence holder pays a Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee. Upon payment of the fee, the trawler will be issued a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence.

Alternatively they will have the option of offering to surrender the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and Kimberley Prawn Fishery Licence to the Minister for Fisheries for an amount not exceeding \$10,000. One of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences will be the accumulation of funds from Class 1 licence fees.

In the case of trawlers with access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery because of their Northern Prawn Fishery unit holdings, the Northern Prawn Fishery units must be surrendered in accordance with the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan - Part 7, Division I.

Holders of Western Australian Fishing Boat licences in the sequence P200 to P500 will not be offered the option of continuing in the fishery if they surrender, dispose of, or have cancelled, their access to a fishery which is a prerequisite for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. This presently only affects Northern Prawn Fishery units.

Recommendations

- (i) That owners of trawlers which were eligible for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as at 9 November 1990 when Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. 2 was introduced; and
- the trawler does not have a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence with a registration number in the sequence LFB P200 to P500 inclusive; and
 - surrender to an authority under an adjustment scheme the other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery; and
 - the trawler does not have another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery; and
 - the trawler has not been replaced since the other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery was so surrendered (except in the case of a total constructive loss);
- shall, within 60 days of the date of surrender of that other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation, or within 60 days of the introduction of this plan;
- apply for a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery Licence; or
 - offer to surrender the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and associated Kimberley Prawn Fishery licence to the Minister for Fisheries for an amount not exceeding \$10,000.

If no option is taken within 60 days, the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and Kimberley Prawn Fishery licence shall be cancelled.

- (ii) That one of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences may be the accumulation of funds from Class 1 licence fees.
- (iii) That owner of trawlers which was eligible for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as at 9 November 1990 when Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan No. 2 was introduced; and
- the trawler had a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence with a registration number in the sequence LFBP200 to LFBP500 inclusive; and

the other licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery is surrendered to an authority under an adjustment scheme; and

the trawler does not have another licence, units, endorsement or access authorisation qualifying the trawler for access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery;

shall have the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and associated access to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery cancelled.

(e) Transferability

The Kimberley Prawn Fishery Limited Entry Licence issued under criteria 5(c)(i) will remain transferable, noting that if it is the only trawl licence attached to a trawler, the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence must be transferred with it to the new owner or be cancelled. If other trawl licences are attached to the same trawler, a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence issued under criteria 5(c)(i) may be transferred from the trawler to another trawler which has a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence.

The Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence issued under criteria 5(c)(ii) or 5(c)(iii) is transferable provided it is transferred with all other licences and endorsements for the boat as required by the 1987 Australian Fisheries Council licence splitting policy.

Recommendation

That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence issued in accordance with 5(c)(i) criteria (9 trawlers) shall remain transferable provided the trawler shall keep at least one other licence, access authorisation, endorsement or applicable units for a trawl fishery after the transfer of the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence. All other Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences shall be transferable provided all licences associated with and attached to the trawler with the Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence including the Fishing Boat Licence are transferred to the same new owner at the same time.

(f) General option to relinquish Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence

While there can be no structured way of reducing the number of trawlers in the fleet, it is desirable that trawler owners with multiple endorsements and licences be given the opportunity to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence if they so wish. The Plan therefore provides Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders the opportunity to offer to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence to the Minister for Fisheries at any time there is a change of status to any of the licences and endorsements attached to the trawler to which the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence is issued.

One of the criterion for determining acceptance of offers to surrender licences will be the accumulation of funds from Class 2 licence fees.

It should also be noted that following surrender of a Class 1 licence, the trawler owner cannot apply at a later date to re-acquire the Kimberley Prawn access based on the same qualifying trawl access. That is all rights, including any future rights to the Kimberley Prawn Fishery, are lost on surrender of the Class 1 Limited Entry Fishing Licence.

Recommendation

- (i) That a Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holder shall have the option of offering to surrender the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence to the Minister for Fisheries, for an amount not exceeding \$10,000, at any time there is a change of status to any of the licences and endorsements attached to the trawler to which the Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence is issued as the result of an adjustment scheme.
- (ii) That any Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Licence surrendered cannot be re-acquired based on the same qualifying trawl access.
- (iii) That one of the criterion for determining the acceptance of offers to surrender licences shall be the accumulation of funds from Class 2 licence fees.

(g) Boat replacement

The plan is designed to allow prawn trawling in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. It is not intended to allow boats to enter Western Australian waters or to commence some other type of fishing method or to fish for finfish in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery. Therefore replacement boats must be equipped for prawn trawling.

Lost (total constructive loss for insurance purposes) Class 1 and Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry licensed trawlers will be permitted to replace lost boats provided that Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry licensed trawlers or their replacement boat complies with the general Western Australian 375 unit capacity limit by 1 April 1996 or within three years of the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence being granted, whichever is the later.

Recommendation

- (i) That if a licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall be a prawn trawler and shall become the licensed boat and the replaced boat shall lose all claims to access.
- (ii) That if a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery Licensed boat is replaced, the replacement boat shall not exceed 375 units trawler capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) and shall be a trawler fitted with gear suitable to trawl for prawns in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

- (iii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery Licences attached to boats which exceed 375 units of trawler capacity at 1 April 1996 or three years after being granted a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, whichever is the later, shall be cancelled.
- (iv) That when a Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Fishery licensed trawler becomes a total constructive loss for insurance purposes, the Class 1 or Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, as the case may be, shall be transferred to the replacement boat.
- (v) That there be no boat replacement policy for Class 1 licence holders.

(h) Maximum units of capacity

In accordance with the Western Australian Fisheries Department boat replacement policy for Western Australian trawl fisheries, trawlers entering the Kimberley Prawn Fishery as Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence trawlers shall not exceed 375 units of capacity as determined by the formula at Appendix 1. Recognising the time required for trawlers to comply with this requirement, by either boat modification or boat replacement, Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence trawlers shall be allowed three years to comply. If the trawler still exceeds 375 boat units at that time, the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence shall be cancelled.

Recommendation

That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licenced trawlers exceeding 375 units capacity (based on the formula in Appendix 1) at 1 April 1996, or three years after being granted the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence, whichever is the later, shall have the Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence and the Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence cancelled.

(i) Gear

The Kimberley Prawn Fishery will remain open for all Northern Prawn Fishery trawlers with a Western Australian Fishing Boat Licence. To simplify surveillance and avoid cross- technology in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery the gear permitted shall be identical to the maximum gear permitted in the Northern Prawn Fishery from time to time. As at 1 April 1992 the maximum gear to be towed in the Northern Prawn Fishery is 2 nets with a maximum headrope length of 51.25 metres (28 fathoms). It is recognised that this specification may vary from time to time.

Recommendation

That the maximum combined headrope length and combination of net used in the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall not exceed the maximum combined headrope length and combination of nets permitted in the Northern Prawn Fishery from time to time. (At 1 April 1992 not more than two nets shall be towed and the maximum combined headrope length of the two nets shall not exceed 51.25 metres or 28 fathoms.)

(j) Area and seasonal closures

The existing seasonal closures co-coincide with the season closures for the Northern Prawn Fishery and it is recommended that this arrangement be maintained to:-

Simplify surveillance by aligning opening dates with the adjacent Northern Prawn Fishery.

Minimise the entry of Northern Prawn Fishery licensed trawlers into the Kimberley Prawn Fishery.

The longer closures for York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf should be maintained.

Recommendation

That the Kimberley Prawn Fishery shall maintain seasonal closures generally compatible with the Northern Prawn Fishery. The extended closures in York Sound, Collier Bay and Admiralty Gulf shall remain.

(k) Access fees

As the fishery is to be a Limited Entry Fishery it is appropriate that licence holders pay an annual access fee to help recover the cost of management and to reflect the benefits of having access to the resource.

Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders have not changed their potential to exploit the resource and it is recommended their access fee be in line with the generally accepted practice of collecting approximately one per cent (1%) of the gross value of production from the fishery over the previous three years valued at the prior year's prices.

Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence should pay an initial licence fee which reflects their change of status from a complementary licence holder to a licence holder totally dependent upon the Kimberley Prawn Fishery for income. An ongoing higher fee reflects their dependence on the fishery and therefore their ongoing need to exploit the resources at a high level. The fee is also set at a high level to deter licence holders from retaining a Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence for its speculative potential.

(k) Recommendations

- (i) That Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay an annual licence fee apportioned equally among licence holders such that the total of the fees collected equal 1% (one per cent) of the gross value of the average production over the previous three years valued at the prior year's prices or a fee deemed appropriate by the Minister for Fisheries.

- (ii) That Class 2 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licence holders shall pay a Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee of \$25,000 for the first year of access. Thereafter the annual Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fee shall be \$5,000.
- (iii) That fees collected from Class 2 Limited Entry Licence Fees shall be used for the purpose of accepting offers to surrender Class 1 Kimberley Prawn Limited Entry Licences and offers to surrender Western Australian Fishing Boat Licences in accordance with 2(d).

(l) Ministerial discretion

Whenever access to a fishery is restricted, access criteria must be established. There may be some trawlers which do not meet the access criteria, but may be considered as a special case by the Minister for Fisheries. The Minister may also impose special conditions where access is granted outside the access criteria.

To meet the circumstances the Minister has broad discretionary powers under the Fisheries Act 1905.

Recommendation

That the Western Australian Minister for Fisheries shall have the authority to consider applications for licences of a special nature on a case by case basis and to impose special conditions on boats granted licences.

(m) Amendments to Plan

The management arrangements set down in this plan for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery are based to a large extent on arrangements for the Commonwealth Northern Prawn Fishery in relation to the compulsory Adjustment Scheme, boat replacement policy and current licence splitting policy.

It is likely that the Commonwealth may amend from time to time its policies in relation to the Northern Prawn Fishery. It is therefore essential that the arrangements for the Kimberley Prawn Fishery are reviewed in light of such amendments to ensure the general thrust of arrangements remains the same.

Recommendation

That the management arrangements for the Kimberley Prawn fishery be reviewed and amended as necessary, given changes to management arrangements in other prawn trawl fisheries.

APPENDIX 1

BOAT UNIT FORMULA

(Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay)

Calculation of units of fishing capacity as set out in the relevant Fisheries Notices.

$$\text{Boat units} = \left\{ \frac{L \times B \times D \times 0.6}{2.83} \right\} + \text{IEP}$$

Where in brief:

L = overall length in metres

B = maximum breadth in metres

D = moulded depth in metres

IEP = installed engine power measured in kW

* = the "block coefficient" and is the accepted ratio of the volume of a standard trawler hull shape when compared to the volume of a block of the same dimensions.

All units are metric except the conversion factor of 2.83 which brings the measurement back to nautical tons, for which there is no metric equivalent.

Example:

For a typical boat:

$$\frac{21\text{m long} \times 7\text{m wide} \times 4\text{m deep} \times 0.6}{2.83} + 250\text{kW} = 375 \text{ units}$$

- No.27 A review of the Shark Bay pearling industry. (1989) (Dr. D.A.Hancock, Ph.D, D.Sc)
- No.28 Southern demersal gillnet and longline fishery. (1989)
- No.29 Distribution and marketing of Western Australian rock lobster. (P. Monaghan) (1989)
- No.30 Foreign investment in the rock lobster industry. (1989)
- No.31 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee report to the Hon Minister for Fisheries September 1989. (1989)
- No.32 Fishing Licences as security for loans. (P. Rogers) (1989)
- No.33 Guidelines for by-laws for those Abrolhos Islands set aside for fisheries purposes. (Noel Moore) (1989)
- No.34 The future for recreational fishing - issues for community discussion. (Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee) (1990)
- No.35 Future policy for charter fishing operations in Western Australia. (P. Millington) 1990.
- No. 36 Long term management measures for the Cockburn Sound restricted entry fishery. (Peter Millington) (1990)
- No.37 Western rock lobster industry marketing report 1989/90 season. (MAREC Pty Ltd - July 1990)
- No. 38 The economic impact of recreational fishing in Western Australia. (R.K. Lindner, P.B. McLeod)(1991)
- No.39 Establishment of a registry to record charges against fishing licences when used as security for loans. (P. Rogers) (1991)
- No.40 The future for Recreational Fishing - Forum Proceedings. (Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee) (1991)
- No.41 The future for Recreational Fishing - The Final Report of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. (Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee) (1991)
- No. 42 Appendix to the final report of the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. (1991)
- No.43 Appendix to the final report of the RFAC. Statistical summary of public responses to key issues. (Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee Western Australia) (1991)
- No. 44 A study into the feasibility of establishing a system for the buy-back of salmon fishing authorisations and related endorsements.
- No. 45 Management Plan, Kimberley Prawn Fishery.
- No. 46 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee, Chairman's report to the Minister. 1992
- No. 47 Long term management measures for the Cockburn Sound restricted entry fishery. Summary of submissions and final recommendations for management. Peter Millington (October 1992)
- No. 48 Pearl oyster fishery policy guidelines (Western Australian Pearling Act 1990). Western Australian Fisheries Joint Authority. (November 1992)
- No. 49 Management Plan, Kimberley Prawn Fishery (December 1992)

Fisheries management papers

- No.1 The Report of the Southern Western Australian Shark Working Group. (1986) (Chairman P. Millington)
- No.2 The report of the Fish Farming Legislative Review Committee. (1986) (Chairman P. Rogers)
- No.3 Management Measures for the Shark Bay Snapper 1987 Season. (1986) (P. Millington)
- No.4 The Esperance Rock Lobster Working Group. (1986) (Chairman A. Pallot)
- No.5 The Windy Harbour - Augusta Rock Lobster Working Group. (1986) (Interim Report by the Chairman A. Pallot)
- No.6 The King George Sound Purse Seine Fishery Working Group. (1986) (Chairman R. Brown)
- No.7 Management Measures for the Cockburn Sound Mussel Fishery. (1986) (H. Brayford)
- No.8 Report of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory meeting of 27 January 1987 (1987). (Chairman B. Bowen)
- No.9 Western Rock Lobster Industry Compensation Study. (1987) (Arthur Young Services)
- No.10 Further Options for Management of the Shark Bay Snapper Fishery. (1987) (P. Millington)
- No.11 The Shark Bay Scallop Fishery. (1987) (L. Joll)
- No.12 Report of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee to the Hon Minister for Fisheries 24 September 1987. (1987)
- No.13 A Development Plan for the South Coast Inshore Trawl Fishery. (1987)
- No.14 Draft Management Plan for the Perth Metropolitan Purse Seine Fishery. (1987) (P. Millington)
- No.15 Draft management plan, Control of barramundi gillnet fishing in the Kimberley. (1988) (R. S. Brown)
- No.16 The South West Trawl Fishery Draft Management Plan. (1988) (P. Millington)
- No.17 The final report of the pearling industry review committee. (1988) (F.J. Malone, D.A. Hancock, B. Jeffriess)
- No.18 Policy for Freshwater Aquaculture in Western Australia. (1988)
- No.19 Sport Fishing for Marron in Western Australia - Management for the Future. (1988)
- No.20 The Offshore Constitutional Settlement, Western Australia 1988.
- No.21 Commercial fishing licensing in Western Australia. (1989)
- No.22 Economics and marketing of Western Australian pilchards. (1988) (SCP Fisheries Consultants Pty Ltd)
- No.23 Management of the south-west inshore trawl fishery. (1989) (N. Moore)
- No.24 Management of the Perth metropolitan purse-seine fishery. (1989). (Noel Moore)
- No.25 Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee report to the Minister for Fisheries November 1988. (1989)
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