

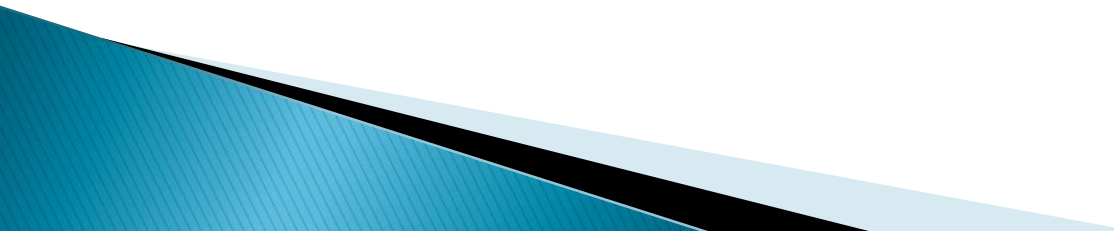
Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity in the Small Pelagic Fishery

Meeting with stakeholders
2 May 2014

The panel

- ▶ Ms Mary Lack (Chair), Director, Shellack Pty Ltd
 - ▶ Dr Catherine Bulman, Research Scientist, CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research
 - ▶ Assoc. Prof. Simon Goldsworthy, Principal Scientist, Threatened, Endangered and Protected Species, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)
 - ▶ Prof. Peter Harrison, Director, Marine Ecology Research Centre, Southern Cross University (SCU)
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Secretariat – Dept of the Environment

- ▶ Ms Genine Sutton
 - ▶ Dr Candace McBride
 - ▶ Mr Nathan Hanna
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Today's meeting

1. Update stakeholders on the Panel's:

- ▶ task
- ▶ processes
- ▶ work to date

2. Clarify issues around the Panel's work

3. Identify any new information/sources



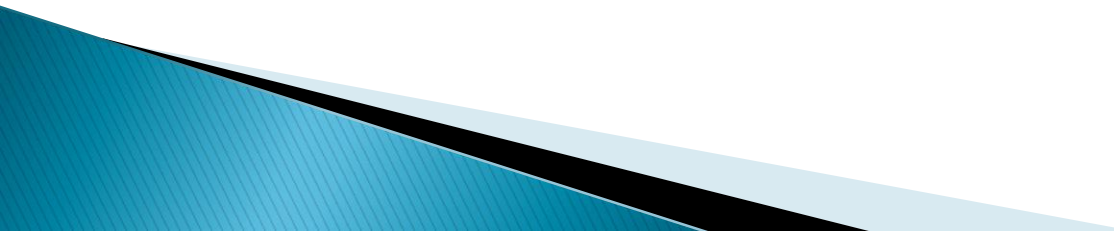
Background

- ▶ *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* was amended
 - Declared commercial fishing activity
- ▶ Interim declaration
 - Environment and Fisheries Ministers agree
 - There is uncertainty about the environmental impacts of the commercial fishing activity
 - The commercial fishing activity should be prohibited while consultation occurs
- ▶ Submissions

Background

- ▶ Submissions considered by the Minister
- ▶ Final declaration made
 - Environment and Fisheries ministers agreed
 - There is uncertainty about the environmental impacts of the commercial fishing activity
 - An expert panel should conduct an assessment
 - The commercial fishing activity should be prohibited while the expert panel conducts an assessment

The Declared Commercial Fishing Activity (DCFA)

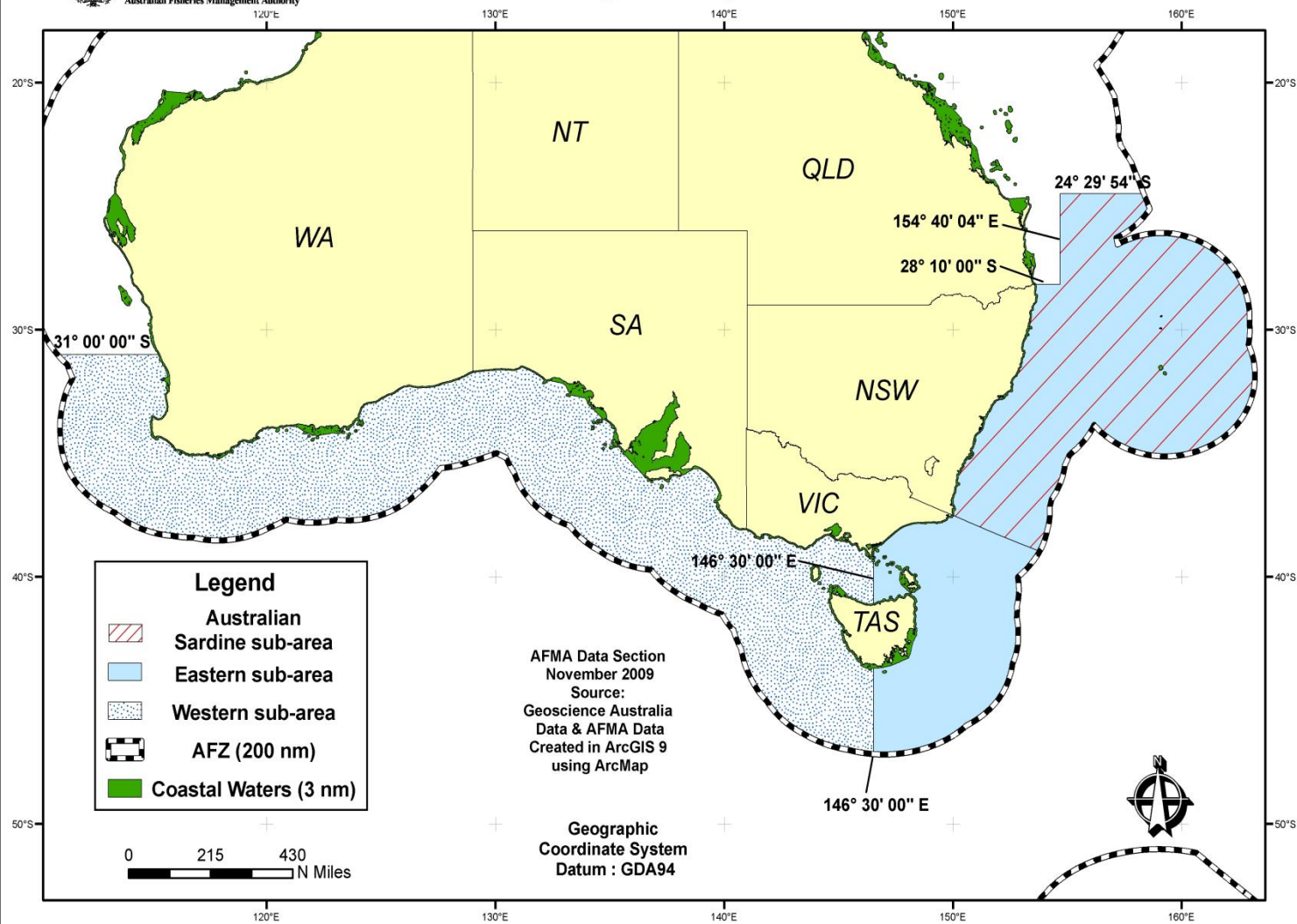
- ▶ A commercial fishing activity that:
 - Is in the area of the Small Pelagic Fishery
 - Uses the mid-water trawl method; and
 - Uses a vessel which is greater than 130 metres in length, has an on-board fish processing facility and has storage capacity for fish or fish products in excess of 2000 t
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Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Small Pelagic Fishery – Sub-areas.

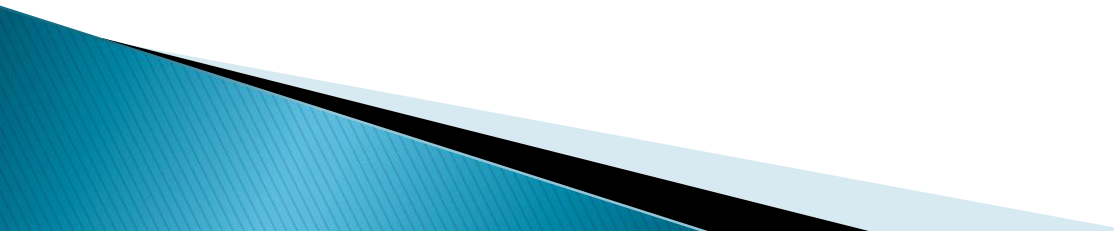
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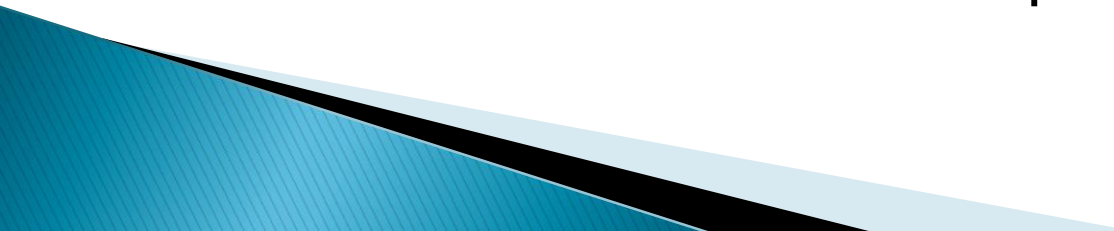
The Panel

- ▶ Environment and Fisheries ministers agreed terms of reference and reporting date for the expert panel
 - Report due by 22 October 2014
- ▶ Panel was appointed by the Environment Minister in January 2013
- ▶ Panel and terms of reference announced February 2013
- ▶ Panel first met in February 2013


Terms of Reference

- ▶ The ToR:
 - ▶ require the Expert Panel to assess the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity, particularly the potential for the activity to result in adverse environmental impacts; and
 - ▶ prescribe the manner in which the Panel will carry out the assessment
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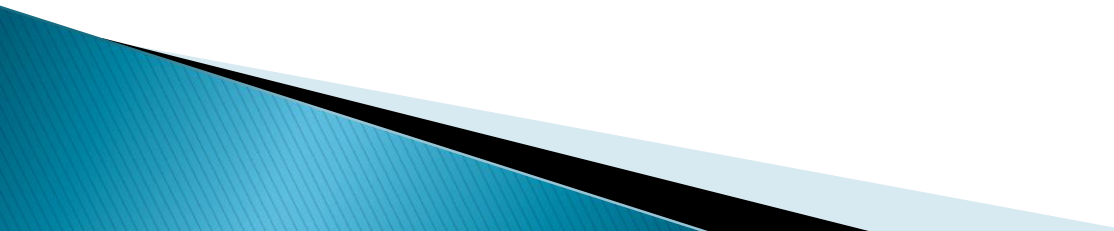
The task: assess environmental impacts of the DCFA

1. The nature and extent of interactions with EPBC Act protected species (particularly seals and dolphins)
 2. The potential for any localised depletion to have adverse impacts on the Commonwealth marine environment including protected predator species
 3. Measures that could be taken to avoid, reduce and mitigate those impacts
 4. Identify monitoring or research that could reduce uncertainties about those potential impacts
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Informing the assessment

- ▶ Examine scientific literature and research /monitoring
 - ▶ Consult with/seek submissions from experts in relevant scientific disciplines and those with expertise relating to the DCFA
 - ▶ Commission research
 - ▶ Broader consultation
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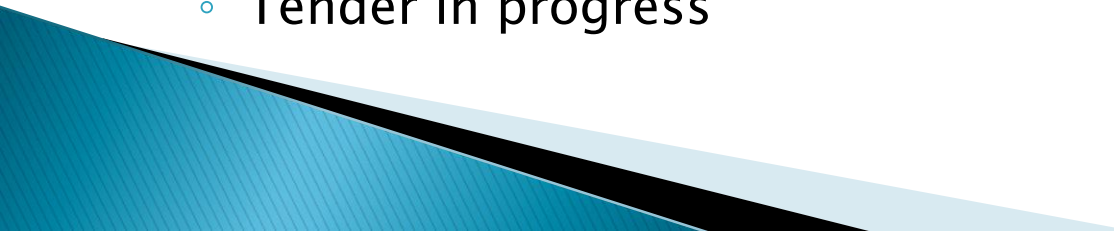
Information gathering

- ▶ Substantive submissions to the interim declaration
 - ▶ Meetings with experts
 - ▶ Invited submissions
 - ▶ Responses to specific requests for information and assistance
 - ▶ Scientific and fisheries management literature
 - ▶ Commissioned research
 - ▶ Stakeholder consultation
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Research

- ▶ Two literature reviews
 - impacts on protected species by large mid-water trawl vessels (ToR 1)
 - completed
 - impacts of localised depletion of small pelagic fishes on predators and ecosystems (ToR 2)
 - completed
- ▶ Mapping of protected species and fishing activity in the SPF (ToR 1 and 2)
 - underway

Research

- ▶ Review of previous genetic studies and in view of recent advances in molecular analysis recommend cost-effective options for undertaking further genetic surveys of SPF species (ToR 4)
 - underway
 - ▶ Technical review of bycatch mitigation devices for marine mammals in mid-water trawl gear (ToR 3)
 - Underway
 - ▶ Technical Assessment: Role of spatial management in mitigating the effects of the DCFA on protected species [ToR 3]
 - Tender in progress
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Consultation: Scientific Experts

▶ CSIRO

- Marine resource assessment
- Ecosystem modelling
- Oceanography

▶ FRDC

- Relevant research

▶ Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

- Fishing practices
- Bycatch mitigation

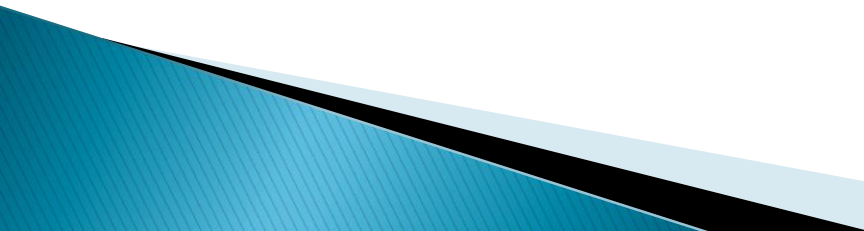
Consultation: Scientific Experts

- ▶ University of Western Australia
 - Marine ecology
- ▶ SARDI
 - Relevant research
 - Fisheries resource assessment
- Private Consultants
 - DEPM

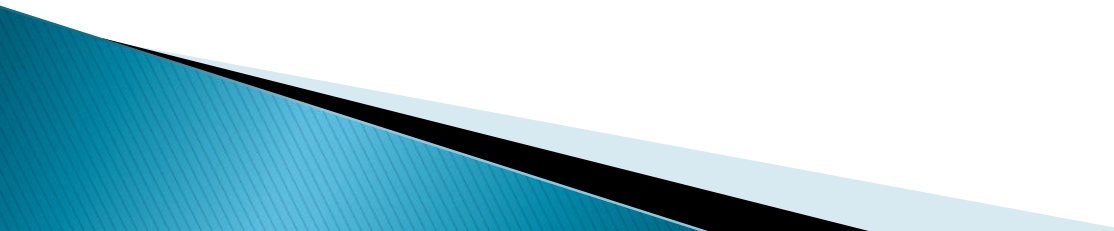
Consultation –management and EPBC Act

- ▶ Existing and proposed management
 - AFMA
 - IMAS
 - CSIRO
 - Independent consultant
- ▶ EPBC Act requirements
 - Briefings from the Department of the Environment

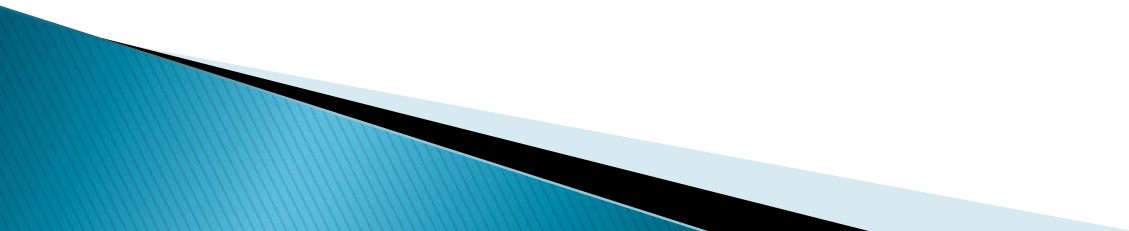
Consultation –fishing operations and bycatch mitigation

- ▶ Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
 - ▶ Mid–water trawl fishing operators
 - SPF/DCFA
 - HIMI
 - SESSF
 - Overseas fisheries including New Zealand
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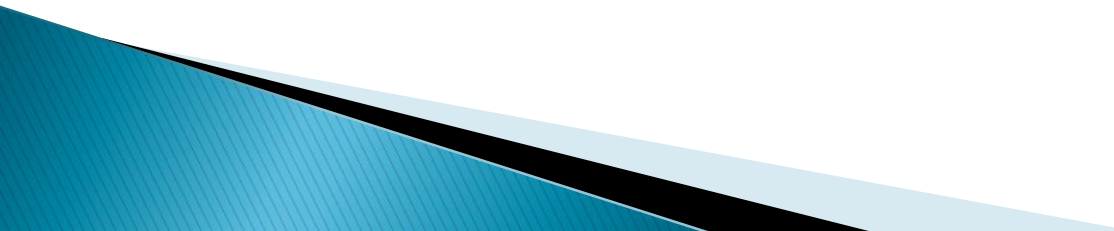
Consultation – other

- ▶ Meeting with Australian Government agencies
 - ▶ Three meetings today
 - NGOs, Indigenous community and scientists
 - Recreational fishers
 - Commercial fishing industry, scientific and management advisory bodies and State government agencies
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Questions?

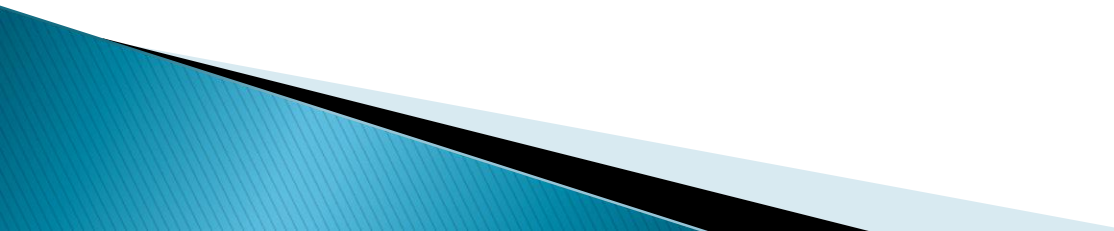


Discussion

- ▶ Issues raised by the Terms of Reference?
 - ▶ Other information or sources of information?
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Terms of Reference

The Expert Panel will assess and advise on:

- ▶ the likely nature and extent of direct interactions of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity with species protected under the EPBC Act, particularly seals and dolphins;
 - ▶ the potential for any localised depletion of target species (arising from the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity) to result in adverse impacts to the Commonwealth marine environment, including the target species' predators protected under the EPBC Act;
 - ▶ actions that could be taken by operators of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity or relevant regulatory authorities to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the activity;
 - ▶ monitoring or scientific research that would reduce any uncertainties about the potential for adverse environmental impacts resulting from the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity;
 - ▶ any other matters about the environmental impacts of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity that the Expert Panel considers relevant to its assessment; and
 - ▶ other related matters that may be referred to it by the Minister.
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In carrying out its assessment, the Expert Panel will:

- ▶ examine existing scientific literature, other relevant information and any ongoing research or monitoring projects relevant to the impacts of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity;
 - ▶ consult with and seek submissions from experts in relevant scientific disciplines where the Expert Panel believes this is necessary to clarify areas of uncertainty about the environmental impacts of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity;
 - ▶ consider the fisheries management arrangements under which the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity is proposed to operate and the extent to which those management arrangements address the relevant environmental impacts and uncertainties;
 - ▶ take account of the requirements of the EPBC Act as they relate to the operation and accreditation of Commonwealth fisheries;
 - ▶ commission, through the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, new reviews, research projects, modelling or analyses which the Expert Panel believes are necessary to fill critical knowledge gaps and where the results of those projects and analyses will allow the Expert Panel to fulfil its terms of reference;
 - ▶ consult with relevant experts, including in the operations of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity, on the nature and effectiveness of measures available to reduce direct interactions with EPBC Act protected species and the potential ecological effects of any localised depletion resulting from the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity; and
 - ▶ identify further necessary and practicable monitoring or research projects that would reduce critical uncertainties for decision making relevant to any future operations of the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity.
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