

Improving demonstrated environmental accountability in the Northern Territory Fishing Industry

Iain Smith



Australian Government

**Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation**



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Project 2004/008

**Improving demonstrated environmental accountability in the Northern Territory
Fishing Industry**

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OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop and implement comprehensive Codes of Practice in eight wild catch fisheries.
2. To develop full Environmental Management Systems for three wild catch fisheries.
3. To facilitate the development of a comprehensive communication strategy within industry and between industry and the wider community in regard to the benefits flowing from these initiatives.
4. To assist in engendering at the grass roots level within industry, a culture of continual improvement in environmental performance and maximisation of product quality and value.
5. To assist in the review of the existing NT Crab Fishery Code of Practice.

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

<p>OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE</p> <p>A wider and deeper culture within the professional industry of support for EMS as an integral tool for the future prosperity of the industry and sustainability of individual fisheries.</p> <p>Increasing consumer and community confidence in the fishing industry's environmental performance.</p> <p>Another important element towards increasing security of resource access for the professional fishing industry based on factual and quantifiable information available to all.</p> <p>The following of the relevant Codes of Practice should contribute to improving profitability within the professional fishing sector through both market price and continuing sustainable co-management of fisheries.</p> <p>A heightening of awareness and understanding of the importance that existing and future entrants into various fisheries demonstrate compliance with the principles developed through the EMS vehicle for environmental performance and sustainability of harvesting practices.</p>
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At the start of the project it was planned to develop eight Codes of Practice for eight wild catch fisheries and develop full Environmental Management Systems for three of these.

Commenced in June 2004 with the employment of a University of Queensland graduate in environmental management, the project essentially stopped in August 2004 when the project officer abruptly resigned due to a personal situation. However the eight weeks that he was

employed saw the beginning of what ended up being a very significant change in attitude of key industry people to both the concept and practicality of an environmental focus in business operations and fisheries management.

The result has been the development and introduction of what is understood to be the most comprehensive EMS strategy ever successfully implemented in any fisheries management regime in Australia, and probably the world.

From January 2005 project officer Katherine Sarneckis has continued engagement with industry at a number of levels and this has resulted in nine EMS's being completed, an outcome which was certainly not envisaged as being possible within the two year time frame at the commencement of the project.

A key to this has been the marked ability of the project officer to engage with licensees and clearly articulate concepts and details involved in developing an EMS in a way which makes them feel ownership of the process.

A strategy adopted very early in the project to pursue a standard format for each EMS certainly paid dividends and will continue to do so in the future, as many people operate across a number of fisheries over a period of time.

The creation of fishery specific reference groups at the outset enabled a much smoother parallel development of the EMSs and ensured that when the various drafts were circulated among all relevant licensees their contents had already had a very significant industry input.

There has been a major attitudinal shift within industry generally as a result of the project, with industry's environmental responsibility and performance now widely understood. The communication strategy within the general Northern Territory community has commenced and will continue at strategic intervals to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of industry's environmental credentials.

The positive legacy within both the seafood industry and the wider community of the project is expected to be apparent for many years to come.

KEYWORDS: **Environmental Management System, Code of Practice, Code of Conduct, wild catch, fishing industry.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was made possible by the financial support of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and the NT Government. In addition many volunteered hours were spent by key people in the Northern Territory fishing industry to ensure the project was a success.

BACKGROUND

In the three years in particular prior to the commencement of the project, the levels of impact on the environment of professional fishing practices had become a significant factor in the on-going debate within the general community about the future of the professional industry. At the same time, the concept of ecosystem based fisheries management had been gradually gaining understanding within the fishing industry and certain areas of the wider Northern Territory community. In 1999-2000 the Seafood Council facilitated the development of the NT Crab fishery Code of Practice, which resulted in significantly increased prices for NT mud crabs in southern markets, was widely praised by industry and Governments around Australia and was used as a “template” for the development of the WA Crab fishery Code of Practice.

In 2002, following an incident involving interactions between Barramundi fishery nets and dugongs, the Northern Territory Seafood Council developed a best practice document titled “*Protected species awareness information for commercial fishing operations – Dugong*”. The document is still current and describes the Dugong, its distribution and vulnerability, guidelines for using nets to minimise interactions with Dugong and practical advice on how to increase the animal’s chances of survival if caught in a fishing net.

Additionally in mid 2002 the Northern Territory government established the Aquatic Resource User Group Forum, involving government, professional industry, recreational and Aboriginal Land Council representatives, to discuss issues of resource allocation within a structured and factual framework.

These initiatives resulted in a significantly heightened awareness within industry of the importance of being able to demonstrate sustainability as well as practicing it. At a series of General Meetings in late 2002, Licensee Associations discussed the place that Environmental Management Systems can have in demonstrating sustainability. The time was right to develop such systems and capitalise on initiatives already in place or in progress.

In 2003, the Northern Territory Barramundi fishery was selected as one of six fisheries around Australia to be part of a national pilot project funded by the National Heritage Trust to develop and introduce Environmental Management Systems. The national project, which was managed by Seafood Services Australia, commenced in 2003 and the Barramundi EMS development was managed by the Northern Territory Seafood Council.

The commencement of the Barramundi fishery EMS was in turn, the catalyst for a number of other wild catch licensee groups in the Northern Territory to further discuss Ecologically Sustainable Development, leading to decisions to develop a number Codes of Practice for other wild catch fisheries and the consideration of comprehensive EMSs after that.

To facilitate these initiatives the Northern Territory Seafood Council, with the financial support of the NT Government, applied for project funding to the Fisheries Research Development Corporation. The complex and ambitious project was both approved and begun in 2004.

NEED

At the time of the project application being submitted in December 2003, predominantly negative media coverage, primarily of the Barramundi fishery, brought home to licensee groups how important it was to their future investments to be able to physically demonstrate responsibility and environmental awareness to both the Government and the wider Northern Territory community.

The difficulty facing those licensee groups was that the Northern Territory Seafood Council, which administers them, did not have the staff to adequately assist the developments they sought.

The FRDC and NT Government funding enabled the Seafood Council to employ a project officer to realise the development and introduction of the identified Codes of Practice and EMSs.

During the period of the project, the need for such development was graphically highlighted through events involving the Shark fishery (now called the Offshore Net and Line fishery). An environmental lobby group vigorously campaigned to have all Shark fishing cease in northern Australian waters at the same time that the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage was indicating that it was reluctant to approve exports from the NT fishery under the EPBC Act.

The fact that Shark licensees could demonstrate that a Code of Practice had been developed and a full fishery EMS was in development was a key element in averting such a disaster for licensees. This was noted by many licensees in other fisheries and provided further proof of the potential importance of such material.

OBJECTIVES

The original objectives were;

6. To develop and implement comprehensive Codes of Practice in the:

- NT Shark fishery
- NT Spanish Mackerel fishery
- NT Coastal Net fishery
- NT Coastal Line fishery
- NT Demersal fishery

NT Timor Reef fishery
NT Trepang fishery
NT Aquarium fishery

7. To develop full Environmental Management Systems for the:

NT Shark fishery
NT Spanish Mackerel fishery
NT Timor Reef fishery

8. To facilitate the development of a comprehensive communication strategy within industry and between industry and the wider community in regard to the benefits flowing from these initiatives.

9. To assist in engendering at the grass roots level within industry, a culture of continual improvement in environmental performance and maximisation of product quality and value.

10. To assist in the review of the existing NT Crab Fishery Code of Practice.

During 2005 the following additions were made to the fisheries for which full EMSs would be developed:

NT Coastal Line fishery
NT Finfish Trawl fishery
NT Aquarium fishery
NT Demersal fishery
NT Mud Crab fishery
NT Trepang fishery

All the objectives were achieved with the exception of assisting in the review of the existing NT Crab fishery Code of Practice. This was delayed pending a Ministerial decision on the future of this fishery. The decision handed down in March caused a great deal of difficulty for the Crab industry and it will be later in 2006 before this review is undertaken.

METHODS

The commencement of the development of an EMS for the Barramundi fishery under a National Heritage Trust funded project was the catalyst for interest in the FRDC project. The lesson learnt when developing the NHT project was to use industry people who understood the value of demonstrated ecological credentials as “champions” of Codes of Practice and wider EMSs. This strategy was employed when developing the FRDC project.

General Meetings of relevant licensee groups were used as forums to discuss the proposal and how each group could participate. By agreeing to participate they took ownership of the processes involving them, albeit with varying degrees of enthusiasm, as was to be expected when new concepts are discussed.

Initially a meeting was convened between the Chief Executive Officer and Environmental Project Officer of the Northern Territory Seafood Council and the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the fisheries involved to decide on the priorities of the relevant key outcomes required.

Fisheries were also prioritised to ensure that those most often receiving negative media coverage were completed as soon as possible. The Shark fishery (now renamed the Offshore Net and Line fishery) was the first to be addressed as a result of this.

Industry ownership is vital to the success of the EMSs but members of some sectors are often unavailable for months at a time due to the nature of fishing operations. This limited the amount of contact time with most licensees that was available during the development of initial drafts. To overcome this small reference groups were established for each participating fishery. These groups were responsible for identifying the key elements to be included in the relevant Codes of Practice and industry “best practice” pertinent to them. These remained established until each Code of Practice was published. The membership of the reference groups were;

Offshore Net & Line:	Rob Lowden, Robert Ladlow, Nick Steele
Timor Reef:	Wayne Bishop, Neville Gill, Horst Fischer
Demersal:	Wayne Bishop, Neville Gill, Horst Fischer
Coastal Line:	Tony Franklin, Tony Conway, Phillip Greet, Grant Rubock
Spanish Mackerel:	Peter Manning, Milton Miller, Norm Hedditch, David Caracciolo
Trepang:	Rob Fish
Finfish Trawl:	Bill Passey
Aquarium:	Brian Koennecke, Russel Butel

The general layouts of the Codes of Practice included the following elements;

- Objectives
- Introduction
- Synopsis of fishery and indicative area in map form
- Preparations for fishing, including vessels, gear, OHS matters and pest control
- Using gear
- Handling and storage of product
- Transporting of product
- NT and Commonwealth waste and pollution requirements synopsis
- Threatened species, interactions and reporting requirements
- Definitions of by-catch, by-product and Ecologically Sustainable Development
- Key useful contact details

Once the initial draft of each Code of Practice was developed, special meetings of participants in the particular reference groups were held on a “as needs” basis until there was broad agreement on the content of the Code. The exposure draft was then sent to all licence holders within the particular fishery for their comments. Appendix 3 lists key contact dates with reference groups and general licensees.

The seafood industry in the Northern Territory is distinctive in regard to the wide variation in the level of education and ability to read and understand English among people engaged in it. The key elements of each EMS have been designed to ensure that simple language has been used wherever possible and documents such as the Codes of Practice are laid out in a practical, easy to read format.

RESULTS/DISCUSSION

- **An industry Code of Conduct**

Initially it was thought that each fishery might have its own Code of Conduct. However, it soon became apparent that one industry wide Code of Conduct could cover all the fisheries and could also be used as a strategy to help unify people who work in the industry. Most people usually identify with a particular sector rather than the wider industry itself and the Seafood Council is constantly working at the Board and administration levels to promote a more holistic view among industry participants.

By having a single Code of Conduct the image in the community of the industry as an entity rather than a collection of sectors is enhanced. The Code has been designed as a stand alone document as well, which allows greater flexibility in its promotion within both industry and the community.

- **Codes of Practice for the following fisheries**

- Aquarium
- Coastal Line
- Demersal
- Finfish Trawl
- Offshore Net and Line
- Spanish Mackerel
- Timor Reef
- Trepang

Prior to this project the only Code of Practice in the NT industry was that for the Mud Crab fishery, developed in 2000 by the Seafood Council and the NT Crab Fishermen’s Association. As was found during its development, the development of the 8 Codes in

this project made people articulate what they were doing and this in turn, made many think about why the practices are beneficial. The positive benefit of doing this has been commented on by a number of people who took part in the process.

Another benefit of the development of the Codes is the provision of an insight into various fisheries practices for Government and the general community. The value of this was markedly demonstrated in the latter half of 2005 in regard to the Offshore Net and Line (formally Shark) fishery. At that time there had been a concerted media campaign over a period of some eighteen months by environmental activists to close down the fishery in northern Australian waters on the grounds that it was ecologically unsustainable.

The fact that industry had developed its own fishery Code of Practice and was then in the progress of developing a wider EMS was a powerful tool in persuading the Department of the Environment and Heritage to grant the fishery export approval for three years under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act. This was noted by other industry sectors at the time.

- **Protected species information and advice on managing interactions with fishing gear for the following species;**

Crocodiles

Turtles

Sawfish

In 2002, following incidents involving dugong and Barramundi fishing nets, the Seafood Council produced a document on that species and how to deal with interactions that may occur.

During this project the dugong document was reviewed and it was decided that its layout and style of advice should be adopted for crocodiles, turtles and sawfish. It is understood that this is the first time in Australia that such material for these species has been developed by industry. Relevant experts on the species were consulted and the final documents have been approved by those experts as being both factual and practical.

- **Comprehensive EMSs for the following fisheries;**

Aquarium

Coastal Line

Demersal

Finfish Trawl

Offshore Net and Line

Spanish Mackerel

Timor Reef

Mud Crab

In deciding on the various elements that should be included in each EMS, the structures of several EMSs from around Australia were studied. Some were more complex than others but none completely accorded with what was envisaged for the NT industry. Consequently, while believed to be unique in their final structure, the NT project EMSs contain key elements of a range of other EMSs. It is clear that the evolution of EMSs benefits from the close study of those developed before and, where necessary, adapting elements to fit the local situation.

The following elements make up the full EMSs.

- Executive Summary

- Licensee Group environmental/ecological vision

- Brief summary of the parameters of the fishery, including gear types used and management arrangements.

- A register of legislation relevant to the fishery

- Industry Code of Conduct

- Fishery Code of Practice

- Documentation relating to protected species interaction relevant to the particular fishery

- Fishery strategic plan from an industry perspective

- An analysis of potential environmental risks in the fishery

- An action plan covering the environmental objectives for the fishery risk

- An annual reporting template for the EMS

At the outset it was decided that because the scope of each EMS would be at the whole of fishery level, it was not feasible to design and implement a system that required third party auditing.

The next step was to design a process of auditing by each licensee group which did not entail individual operators having to fill out an annual assessment report, as individually they did not all have the information to be able to assess progress at a fishery wide level.

It was decided that the best strategy would be to conduct a formal collective assessment against the report template at each Annual General Meeting of the relevant licensee group. This allows a fair evaluation by industry in the knowledge that it will be widely circulated to key stakeholders other than those in industry. The report template has been approved by industry itself and the benefits of this strategy include a continuing awareness of responsibilities under Ecologically Sustainable Development by industry participants. The report template contains the summary of the strategies and performance measures identified in the Action Plan.

During the study of EMSs in other fisheries management jurisdictions the concept of recording legislation at the Territory and Commonwealth levels relevant to industry

was picked up. The result is that for the first time such a list has been compiled for the Northern Territory.

The extent of the list has surprised everyone involved with the project and it has been referred to the Board of the Northern Territory Seafood Council for consideration on the best way to ensure that the key provisions of the legislative requirements are conveyed to the general industry. Twenty two pieces of key legislation have been identified.

BENEFITS AND ADOPTION

In the project application the following performance indicators were proposed to measure the benefits of the project.

- **A wider and deeper culture within industry of support for EMS.**

The most significant indicator of the success of this aim is that, while the original application targeted eight fishery Codes of Practice and three full fishery EMSs to be developed, the outcome is nine Codes of Practice and nine full EMSs. This result has far exceeded expectations at the commencement of the project and it is industry itself that has demanded this. As stated earlier, it is understood this is a first for any Australian fisheries management regime and it is believed, a first in the world.

- **Increased community confidence in industry's environmental performance.**

This is not easy to accurately quantify at this stage, as the EMSs were only launched publicly in mid June 2006. However, as detailed earlier, the experience of Offshore Net and Line fishery licensees in 2005 demonstrated the positive impact a Code of Practice and the development of an EMS can have on the image a fishery within Government, media and the general community.

Over coming months and years it is anticipated that similar benefits will be enjoyed by other fisheries as well.

- **Increased security of resource access for industry.**

This is an issue in which a range of key elements must combine to produce the desired result. An important element is the belief at Government and community levels that industry is environmentally aware and responsible and can demonstrate this by means of the formal systems and practices it adheres to. The EMSs developed during the project will go a significant way towards proving to Governments and the community that the fishing industry is ecologically sustainable

and environmentally friendly. It is believed that the cumulative benefits over a relatively short period of time will more than justify the time and effort spent on the project.

- **Improved profitability of industry as a result of project outcomes.**

A key prerequisite for industry profitability is the establishment of relatively set goal posts within which businesses can make investment decisions with confidence. Another key prerequisite is Government and community confidence that the harvest level and practices in a fishery are sustainable.

When conceiving the project, a major underlying premise was to enable industry to prove its credentials in, commitment to and reliance on continuing environmental sustainability. While the EMSs are being released at the end of the project, there are already strong indications that the views of Government regulators and public opinion have begun changing to the benefit of industry.

In September 2005 the Seafood Council mounted a major display in Sydney at the World Congress on Seafood Safety, Quality and Trade. A central feature of that display was the ecological sustainability of the Northern Territory industry and industry's initiatives and commitment to maintaining this sustainability. The general reaction of international and Australian delegates alike was very positive. A number of overseas buyers approached those manning the display to discuss the opportunities for purchasing Northern Territory product, all expressing interest surprise and approval at the EMS development initiative. This was noted by the Northern Territory Government and positively supported by the Minister for Fisheries.

It is anticipated that in the months and years following the project's completion, the environmental credentials of industry as a result of the development of the EMSs will be central to attitudinal change towards industry, a more stable investment climate and a more positive consumer sentiment when making decisions about the purchase of Northern Territory seafood as a preferred product.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The development of the EMSs was seen by the Seafood Council at the outset as a major step towards changing Government and community attitudes towards industry, and hence industry stability and profitability.

The indications of changing perceptions about industry sustainability and responsibility, both from within and outside industry, need to be nurtured by industry on an ongoing basis.

The materials developed during the project have been specifically designed to assist this process over coming years. Publication such as Codes of Practice, the Code of Conduct and

interaction with protected species can be used in promotion of the industry in a variety of forums at local, Territory, national and international levels.

The Seafood Council has reallocated its financial resources to ensure that the Environmental Project Officer employed for the project is retained by the Council, thus ensuring a continuity of expertise and enthusiasm within it for guiding continuing improvement under the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The annual checklist against EMS objectives by industry has been designed to keep these in front of licensees on an ongoing basis, while providing continued evidence of industry commitment to sustainability to both Government and the wider community.

The NT Fisheries management agency has agreed to provide copies of the Code of Conduct, relevant Codes of Practice and protected species interaction publications to all new entrants to the industry at the supervisory level when they are interviewed prior to receiving approval to conduct a fishing operation.

The Seafood Council has committed to an ongoing communication strategy using the EMSs as a central feature of demonstrated environmental responsibility, together with appropriate industry funding. The Council has also already commenced discussions on strategic actions to develop a generic Northern Territory product branding campaign. A key element of this will be the industry's environmental credentials as demonstrated by the EMSs.

PLANNED OUTCOMES

A wider and deeper culture within the professional industry of support for EMS as an integral tool for the future prosperity of the industry and sustainability of individual fisheries.

This outcome has exceeded the expectations of even the most optimistic people in industry at the commencement of the project. A key indicator of this success is the fact that within a relatively short period after the project's commencement, an additional five fishery licensee groups were sufficiently convinced of the benefits of an EMS for their future prosperity that they requested full EMSs be developed for their respective fisheries.

The strategies put in place by licensee groups during the development of the EMSs and the ongoing support of the Seafood Council to ensure these are pursued will further strengthen over the next few years the realisation within industry of what an integral part of its successful future the EMSs play.

Increased consumer and community confidence in the fishing industry's environmental performance.

As already documented in this report, there are a number of examples of this increasing confidence starting to emerge. Given the amount of misinformation, disinformation and wrong assumptions about the performances and attitudes of the wild catch sector of the seafood industry, it will be a gradual process to change the consumer and community views that have become entrenched over the past two decades.

A key factor in industry's inability over the period to stem the tide of that negative view has been the lack of proof that could be provided to counter the claims of those vested interest groups intent of fostering it.

Increased security of resource access for the professional fishing industry based on factual and quantifiable information available to all.

Government will always reserve the right to reallocate resources to different user groups. However arbitrary decisions such as the NT industry has experienced in the past are now more difficult to make. A key factor is being able to demonstrate environmental responsibility and sustainability within a recognised and widely supported framework such as an EMS. A better informed public and Government is less likely to support some of the claims by different lobby groups who want to restrict or deny access to resources by the professional industry.

A positive spinoff benefit of the EMS developments is the increased understanding within key sections of industry of the need to actively assist in developing factual information in a number of areas before a crisis occurs. There is already a more proactive approach occurring within some fishery licensee groups and this is expected to increase over the next twelve months.

Improved profitability within the professional fishing sector through both market price and continuing sustainable co-management of fisheries.

The development of a brand identity for NT seafood has been spoken about on occasions over the past twenty years or so but has never progressed very far.

With the positive experience of the EMS developments now being appreciated, branding of NT seafood is being discussed again, but this time with a much greater will among key industry people to make it occur.

With the EMSs now in place, an NT seafood brand will be able to capitalise on the demonstratable "clean, green" image of the NT industry.

A culture within industry that demands that future entrants into various fisheries demonstrate compliance with the principles developed through the EMS vehicle for environmental performance and sustainability of harvesting practices.

Arrangements are being put in place with the NT Fisheries Group to ensure that every new permanent and temporary licensee coming into the NT industry in future receives a copy of the relevant EMS when they are interviewed by Fisheries staff prior to commencing operations.

There is already evidence of attitudinal change across the industry as a result of the EMS developments. The leaders of the various Licensee Committees and Associations are also Board directors of the Northern Territory Seafood Council and they are committed to continue promotion of ecological and environmental responsibility within their particular sectors.

CONCLUSION

At the commencement of the project there was quite a degree of scepticism within industry about the value of EMSs to businesses operating in it. The end of the project sees a lessening of that scepticism and a significantly greater understanding of the importance of being able to publicly demonstrate ecological and environmental responsibility. This has resulted in nine full EMSs being developed, three times the number that was targeted in the objectives of the project application.

A notable outcome of these developments is the drop in the number of claims appearing in the media by activist groups of the unsustainability of different fisheries managed under Northern Territory legislation. As word of the industry's environmental initiatives spreads within the community such claims are expected to become quite rare.

An ongoing communication strategy between industry and the community will be organised by the Seafood Council to ensure that industry's environmental credentials are kept in public view. This will include the media and appropriate forums such as Shows and the Darwin Seafood Festival as well as the Seafood Council website.

Within industry a key element in the ongoing communications strategy is the annual reporting requirement against Action Plan Objectives agreed to by each of the relevant licensee groups. At the 2006 round of Annual General Meetings the issue of how best to deal with the large crew turnover in the Northern Territory industry will be on agendas, as it is vital that new crew members are made aware of their environmental responsibilities.

Because of the continuing uncertainty at Ministerial level about the future of the Coastal Net fishery, no Code of Practice was developed for it. However the Trepang and Finfish Trawl

fisheries have had full EMSs developed for them, an outcome that was not anticipated at the start of the project.

There is no doubt that the success of the project's outcomes is largely due to Katherine Sarneckis, the project officer employed for it. The Seafood Council has rearranged its finances to continue to employ Katherine after the project finishes and her knowledge and enthusiasm in the environmental area will be a key factor in ensuring that the benefits to industry from the project will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

The investment of the FRDC, the Northern Territory Government and Northern Territory Seafood Council members in the project has been well worthwhile as the benefits to industry far outweigh the cost of that investment.

APPENDIX 1: STAFF

Iain Smith, Chief Executive Officer

Katherine Sarneckis, Environmental Project Officer

Adam McKerrow, Environmental Project Officer

APPENDIX 2: KEY CONTACT DATES

Jun - Aug 2004	Adam McKerrow met with Shark, Timor Reef, Demersal, Spanish Mackerel reference groups
25-Jan-2005	Meeting with Aquarium Reference Group to discuss content
25-Jan-2005	Meeting with Spanish Mackerel Reference Group to discuss initial draft content
27-Jan-2005	Met with Nick Steele, Shark Reference Group to discuss fishing operations
31-Jan-2005	Contact with Shark Reference group to confirm draft content
31-Jan-2005	Spanish Mackerel content confirmed with Reference Group
01-Feb-2005	Met with Finfish Trawl Reference Group to identify elements for inclusion
03-Feb-2005	Sent Shark draft to Fisheries, and Police Marine Fisheries Enforcement Unit for comment on elements
10-Feb-2005	Timor Reef & Demersal Reference Group -elements and current draft.
11-Feb-2005	Discussed elements of Timor Reef Code of Practice with Horst Fischer
14-Feb-2005	Met with Trepang Reference Group to identify elements
24-Feb-2005	Discussed Spanish Mackerel Code of Practice with Milton Miller
25-Feb-2005	Discussion with Coastal Net Reference Group
09-May-2005	Finfish Trawl Code of Practice feedback received.
13-May-2005	Trepang information supplied for Code of Practice
16-May-2005	Coastal Line Code of Practice sent out to Coastal Line licence holders for comment
17-May-2005	Aquarium Code of Practice sent out to aquarium licence holders for comment
18-May-2005	Revised draft of Finfish Trawl sent out for comment
18-May-2005	Spanish Mackerel Code of Practice sent out to Spanish Mackerel licence holders for comment
23-May-2005	Contacted Shark licence holders to discuss feedback
31-May-2005	Timor Reef Code of Practice sent out to Timor Reef licence holders for comment
31-May-2005	Demersal Code of Practice sent out to Demersal licence holders for comment
08-Jun-2005	Meeting with Trepang licensee to finalise information for draft

10-Jun-2005 Trepang Code of Practice sent to licensee for comment
24-Jun-2005 Revised Trepang Code of Practice sent to all licence holders for comment
25-Jan-2006 Spanish Mackerel EMS sent out for comment/approval
15-Feb-2006 Offshore Net and Line (Shark) EMS sent out for comment/approval
23-Feb-2006 Timor Reef EMS sent out for comment/approval
2-Mar-2006 Mud Crab EMS sent out for comment/approval
3-Mar-2006 Coastal Line EMS sent out for comment/approval
27-Mar-2006 Demersal EMS sent out for comment/approval
16-May-2006 Aquarium EMS sent out for comment/approval
06-Jun-2006 Finfish Trawl EMS sent out for comment/approval