



Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**The Northern Prawn Fishery  
Amendment Management Plan 1999**

**Report by the  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport Legislation Committee**

March 2000

© Commonwealth of Australia 2000  
ISBN 1326 - 9372

This document was produced from camera-ready copy prepared by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee, and printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Department of the Senate, Parliament House, Canberra.

---

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

### *Members*

Senator Winston Crane	LIB, Western Australia	Chairman
Senator Michael Forshaw	ALP, New South Wales	Deputy Chairman
Senator Julian McGauran	NP, Victoria	
Senator Jeannie Ferris	LIB, South Australia	
Senator Kerry O'Brien	ALP, Tasmania [substituting for Senator Sue Mackay (ALP, Tasmania)]	
Senator John Woodley	AD, Queensland	

### *Participating Members*

Senator Abetz	Senator Eggleston	Senator Mason
Senator Bartlett	Senator Faulkner	Senator McKiernan
Senator Boswell	Senator Ferguson	Senator McLucas
Senator Brown	Senator Gibson	Senator Murphy
Senator Brownhill	Senator Harradine	Senator Payne
Senator Calvert	Senator Harris	Senator Schacht
Senator Chapman	Senator Hutchins	Senator Tchen
Senator Coonan	Senator Knowles	Senator Tierney
Senator Crossin	Senator Lightfoot	Senator Watson

---

### Committee Secretariat

Mr Andrew Snedden	(Secretary)
Ms Robina Jaffray	(Principal Research Officer)
Mr John O'Keefe	(Senior Research Officer)
Ms Trish Carling	(Senior Research Officer)
Mr Stephen Frappell	(Senior Research Officer)
Ms Lyn Fairweather	(Executive Assistant)

The Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone (02) 6277 3510  
Facsimile (02) 6277 5811  
Internet [www.aph.gov.au/senate](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate)  
Email [rrat.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:rrat.sen@aph.gov.au)

Use of picture on the cover is by permission of the publishers of the *Australian Northern Prawn Fishery: The First 25 Years*.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### ***Northern Prawn Fishery Amendment Management Plan 1999***

The following matter be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 8 March 2000:

To inquire and report on the provisions of the Northern Prawn Fishery Amendment Management Plan 1999 (no NPF 02) made under the *Fisheries Management Act* 1991 and tabled in the Senate on 24 November 1999.

10 December 1999

## CONDUCT OF THE INQUIRY

On 10 December 1999, the Senate referred the provisions of the Northern Prawn Fishery Amendment Management Plan 1999 to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 7 March 2000. This date was deferred to 8 March 2000. The terms of reference were advertised in the press and on the internet in December. A total of 80 written submissions were received by the closing date of 21 January 2000. A list of the submissions is at Appendix 1.

Submissions were received from a range of individuals and organisations. In particular, the Committee received submissions from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the four industry organisations representing operators in the Northern Prawn Fishery. Other submissions were received from various fishing companies and individual operators in the NPF.

The Committee also received a written submission from the CSIRO providing detailed statistical data on the status of the northern prawn fishery. This data was supplemented by three technical submissions from David Sterling, Steve Eayrs and John Wakeford, and Kim Klaka. Finally, the Committee received a number of submissions from individuals and organisations expressing concern at the impact of the amendment management plan on shore based activities.

Hearings were held in Brisbane on 3 and 4 February 2000. Oral contributions were taken from 18 witnesses or groups of witnesses (see Appendix 2), and 135 pages of evidence were taken. The *Hansard* of the hearings is available at the Hansard site at [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au). Subsequent to the hearings, the Committee also received a number of supplementary written submissions addressing points raised in hearings.