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President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

# Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement Australian Northern Prawn Fishery Notice of Remote Risk-Based Framework Process

MRAG Americas announces that a remote RBF process will be undertaken for the assessment of red endeavour prawns in the Australian Northern Prawn fishery. After seeking clarification on the status of red endeavour prawns (*Metapenaeus ensis*) from CSIRO, it has become necessary to undertake a risk-based assessment for this species. Although this approach is similar to the Ecological Risk Assessment previously undertaken for the fishery, there are minor differences. Also, it is close to 10 years since the Ecological Risk Assessment was undertaken, hence the updated risk assessment is required to account for changes that may have occurred. The Assessment Team has requested that stakeholders provide additional information on red endeavour prawns via the questionnaire below. Completed questionnaires will be used to inform a revised Scale, Intensity and Consequence Analysis (SICA). Stakeholders wishing to participate should fill out the questionnaire and return by 2 June, 2017.

In addition, information to support the SICA will be collected at a scheduled meeting of the Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group on 11 May, 2017, at the Brisbane Riverview Hotel, Kingsford Smith Dr & Hunt St, Hamilton, Queensland, Australia. Stakeholders wishing to do so may attend this meeting in lieu of submitting the questionnaire via email (please contact Richard Banks, as below, if you wish to attend this meeting).

Completed questionnaires can be sent to the following: Amanda Stern-Pirlot: <u>amanda.stern-pirlot@mragamericas.com</u> Erin Wilson: <u>erin.wilson@mragamericas.com</u> Richard Banks: <u>richard@consult-poseidon.com</u>

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Submitted by: Amanda Stern-Pirlot 2 May 2017

#### SICA questionnaire for Northern Prawn Fishery

Red endeavour prawns (*Metapenaeus ensis*) March 2017

As part of the MSC assessment for the NPF, the Assessment Team requests further information from various stakeholders (e.g. managers, fishermen, NGOs) on red endeavour prawns to inform a revised Scale, Intensity and Consequence Analysis (SICA).

The lack of a formal stock assessment undertaken for red endeavour prawns requires that the MSC risk-based framework be used in assessing the species against the MSC criteria. A SICA analysis was undertaken for the fishery in 2007 as part of the AFMA/CSIRO Ecological Risk Assessment project. However, the time that has passed since that analysis requires that the SICA be updated. The 2007 analysis focussed on brown tiger prawns as the most vulnerable component of the fishery given their history of being overfished around that time. The following questions are intended to assess the relevance of that analysis to red endeavour prawns and whether or not circumstances have changed since the 2007 analysis.

To aid your judgement, the map from Pitcher et al., 2015 shows predicted species assemblages within the NPF managed areas based on historical survey datasets and the table shows what percentage of each area (each colour on the map) is currently fished and what percentage of each area is closed to fishing.



Figure: Map of the NPF region showing clustered patterns of species composition change predicted by relationships with multiple environmental gradients.

# Table: Intersection of species assemblages by area, in the NPF region with closed areas and with trawl effort.

Assemblage	Area(km <sup>2</sup> )	Total%Closed	%_Trawled	%_Swept
1	16,306	22.6	1.0	1.2
2	59,520	29.2	5.7	7.9
3	21,421	13.3	3.0	4.1
4	19,572	24.1	1.7	2.8
5	20,402	37.1	0.5	0.7
6	30,760	55.6	0.1	0.1
7	13,934	14.2	0.0	0.1
8	33,338	15.0	1.5	2.0
9	33,846	7.1	13.0	24.7
10	77,804	2.7	1.0	1.9
11	59,536	0.2	0.0	0.0
12	66,193	5.3	0.6	0.9
13	49,670	3.4	0.0	0.0
14	23,942	25.0	4.0	5.6
15	38,150	45.3	0.0	0.0
16	28,415	10.1	0.0	0.0
17	27,622	25.7	1.4	2.3
18	36,978	57.1	0.0	0.0
19	18,015	28.5	0.0	0.0
20	25,289	13.5	0.0	0.0
21	18,144	53.0	0.0	0.0
22	14,060	52.9	0.0	0.0
	732,919	20.5	1.6	2.7

Source: Pitcher et al., 2015

## **Spatial Scale Overlap**

**Question 1**. Where do you think commercial size red endeavour prawns (*M. ensis*) <u>are</u> <u>distributed</u>, i.e. not just where they are caught. Please answer the question by indicating with an x in column Q1of the table. Note: colours and numbers correspond to areas on the map.

**Question 2**. According to your knowledge, in which area/s on the map are red endeavour prawn <u>caught</u> in the NPF. Please answer with an x in column Q2.

**Question 3**. In areas where red endeavour prawns are caught, for each area, approximately what is the percentage contribution of red endeavor to the total prawn commercial catch? Please write the percentage in the column Q3 for each area identified at Q2.

Area	Q1	Q2	Q3
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
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16			
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20			
21			
22			

**Question 4**. From your experience and knowledge, is there a certain depth where most red endeavour prawns are caught, or are they caught uniformly over the fished areas? Please tick which applies.

<10m	10-14m	15-19m	20-24m	25-29m	30-34m	35-39m	>40m

MRAG Americas announcement—Remote RBF (SICA) Northern prawn

### Temporal Scale Overlap

**Question 5**. Are there certain times during the tiger fishing operation when most of the red endeavour prawns are caught or are they caught evenly for the whole fishing period? Please tick which applies.

June	July	August	September	November		

**Question 6**. Thinking of your answer to the Q5, how often would you say red endeavour prawns are caught in the NPF tiger prawn fishery in each fished area? Please tick a box in the following table.

AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	17
1 day every 10 years or so													
1 day every few years													
1-100 days per year													
100-200 days per year													
200-300 days per year													
300-365 days per year													

#### Intensity

**Question 7**. Based on the spatial and temporal overlap between the NPF tiger prawn fishery and the distribution of the red endeavour prawns identified at previous questions, how discernible is the effect of the overall level of fishing activity on the stock of the red endeavour prawns in Northern Australia? Please tick one box for each area.

Level/ AREA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	14	17
Negligible													
Minor													
Moderate													
Major													
Severe													
Catastrophic													

**Negligible** = remote likelihood of detection of activity at any spatial or temporal scale **Minor** = activity occurs rarely or in few restricted locations and evidence of activity even at these scales is rare

**Moderate** = moderate detection of activity at broader spatial scale, or obvious but local detection

Major = detectable evidence of activity occurs reasonably often at broad spatial scale

**Severe** = easily detectable localised evidence of activity or widespread and frequent evidence of activity

**Catastrophic** = local to regional evidence of activity or continual and widespread evidence

Comments (Please add any information you have to support your answers to the questions):