

Notes and action points from Deepwater Operators meeting, Christchurch, 3/12/19

Attendees:

Present	Affinity
Steve Ham (Skype), Howard Reid, Tiffany Bock, Dave Foster	MPI / Fisheries New Zealand
Richard Wells, Dean Baigent	Deepwater Group
Brodie Plum, Andy Smith	Talley's Group
Geoff Clark	Sealord Group
Colin Williams, Dean Jurasovich	Sanford
Tim Law	Maruha
Jane Maskill, Chris Carey	IFL
Daniel Kim, Howie Peeti	DWNZ
Phil Smith	Jaico
Paul Hufflett	Aurora / Solander
Colin Smith	Westfleet
Dave Wakefield, Josh te Kaat	Pania Reef

Compliance-related

Discussion included:

- Ongoing need for fisher awareness of spatial restrictions/regulations
- Update on the portal where files containing all spatial restrictions will be available; this will go live on 29 January 2019
- Acknowledgement that the primary focus for the Compliance Directorate over the last year has been the rollout of ER/GPR
- Compliance has been developing Fisheries Compliance Services Operating Standards. These are for internal use only with the purpose of ensuring national consistency
- Compliance is hoping to have an updated operating model developed next year. The intention is that this will be public-facing in order to increase transparency around how the cost-recovered funding is used.
- The draft guidelines for greenweight reporting produced by DWG including versions aimed at the scampi trawl and LIN BLL fleets
- the DWG proposal to develop "briefing notes for skippers" as another tool for ensuring awareness of relevant matters

Actions

- Talley's to provide details on the overlap between fishing in the Pegasus Canyon, including turns, and the area closed to trawling by vessels >46m
- MPI will send details of the portal to DWG for wider distribution prior to go live
- DWG to update the draft guidelines for greenweight reporting based on comments received at the meeting

Management / operational issues

Discussion included:

- Commercial catch balancing forum
- Reporting of deck strikes
- Future management actions for SWA stocks
- The recent change in observer processes whereby the observer pre-departure safety check is undertaken by a non-sea going assessor
- Fish plan chapters
- SPRFMO reporting
- Interim observer trip report
- Protected species update
- October 2020 sustainability round
- Basking shark sample collection
- Kingfish tagging

Actions

- Fisheries New Zealand / MPI will retain the ratings system on the interim observer trip report. Current wording on the interim trip report will be reviewed with a view to the observer not endorsing fisher activities as having been compliant or not.
- Fisheries New Zealand to circulate the observer safety check list used by the non-sea going assessor. This check list differs slightly from that used by the sea going observer. Also circulated is a letter sent to operators regarding the check list, and a bullying policy letter that will go to the operator in the absence of a documented bullying and harassment policy. The pre-placement assessment process is new and is not set in stone. For that reason all documents are subject to change.
- Fisheries New Zealand to undertake a preliminary investigation about the possibility of adding PIL 7/8 stocks to the 2nd Schedule of the Act (thus providing for in-season TAC increases)