1. The trawl industry over the last year or more has expressed concern about declining scallop catches.
2. Catch rates between January 2015 and April 2016 were the lowest in 39-year record of catches. A stock assessment was completed in October 2016 and shows that the biomass is potentially as low as 6% of its original biomass, and is at the lowest in the recorded history of the fishery.
3. Urgent action is needed to protect the sustainability of the stock.
4. Cabinet noted the significant concerns about scallops in Queensland and agreed to take urgent steps to protect the sustainability of the stock, including closing the Scallop Replenishment Areas permanently (half of which are due to open rotationally on 3 January 2017), and implementing a winter spawning closure for scallops from 1 May to 31 October each year.
5. Cabinet endorsed that the amendments to the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 2010* be recommended to the Governor in Council for approval.
6. Cabinet noted the communication plan to provide as much notice to trawl operators and processors as possible in advance of the changes.
7. *Attachments*
* [*Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) (Scallops) Amendment Management Plan 2016*](Attachments/2016%20Plan.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)