



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Black teatfish Industry Workshop**

**8-10 February 2021, Mer**

**Final outcomes**



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## Workshop background

The black teatfish industry workshop was organised for fishers from the Kemer Kemer Meriam and Kulkalgal Nations to further discuss the timing for the proposed reopening of black teatfish in 2021, explain the requirements for daily catch landing and reporting that will apply to the reopening and provide the opportunity for participants to discuss cultural protocols. AFMA invited Mr Timothy Skewes to provide an update on the results of the scientific stock survey undertaken in 2019/2020. Mr Skewes is a project team member on the survey and also a long standing scientific member on the PZJA Hand Collectable Working Group (HCWG).

AFMA worked with PZJA HCWG Traditional Inhabitant (TI) members Mr Michael Passi, Mr Maluwap Nona and Mr Nicholas Pearson to invite industry members to attend the workshop. PZJA Finfish Working Group TI member Mr Rocky Stephen, Mr Michael Passi and Mr Maluwap Nona assisted with drafting the workshop agenda. PBC Chairs from Kemer Kemer Meriam and Kulkalgal Nations and Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK) Torres Strait Sea and Land Council representative were also invited at the recommendation of the PBC Chairperson for Mer, Mr Doug Passi, to guide discussions on protocols. A full list of the workshop participants is provided in **Attachment 1**.

The workshop was Chaired and facilitated by Mr Passi with assistance from Mr Nona, Mr Stephen and AFMA.

## Day 1 – Monday 8 February 2021

A workshop dinner was held at the Mer Community Hall for workshop participants.

## Day 2 – Tuesday 9 February 2021

### Welcome and introductions

The workshop commenced on 9 February with an opening prayer from Ms Amina Ghee, followed by a Welcome to Country address from Peibri Tribal Elder Victor Mabo. The Mer Gedkem Le Chair Mr Falen Passi then welcomed everyone to the workshop, including the:

- Eastern cluster Representative Mr Jimmy Gela
- The GBK Chair Mr Ned David as represented by Mr Charles David
- Malu Lamar Chairperson Mr Maluwap Nona
- Acknowledgement of the PBC Chairs of the four Nations

Mr Michael Passi, the lead workshop Chair, welcomed everyone to the workshop and thanked the Mer PBC for hosting the workshop on the Island.

Mr Nona provided an address to workshop participants in his capacity as the Malu Lamar Chair. Mr Nona advised that Malu Lamar's role is to support industry to look after their fisheries resources. Mr Nona acknowledged the hard work of industry members and the HCWG to date to get the fishery to where it is. Mr Nona also acknowledged the equitable access rights to commercial fishing conferred on Torres Strait Islanders through the Traditional Inhabitant Boat (TIB) fishing licence.

Mr Passi emphasised the need for everyone to respect each other during the workshop and highlighted the importance of discussing cultural protocols. PBC Chair Mr Passi urged industry members at the workshop to first consider cultural protocols before going out to fish under the TIB licence.

Participants recognised that AFMA cannot enforce cultural protocols that apply to the different islands but that once developed, it is important for AFMA to share any protocols that are put forward by Kemer Kemer Meriam or Kulkalgal with all TIB licence holders. \

Mr Passi provided an outline of the Agenda for the workshop and a brief overview of the objectives of the workshop, these being:

- get further industry advice on the timing for the reopening of black teatfish
- explain the daily landing and reporting requirements that will be in place during the reopening
- provide the opportunity for participants to discuss cultural protocols
- provide an update on the outcomes of the scientific stock survey

Mr Passi also provided a brief overview of the consultation undertaken to date regarding the timing of the black teatfish reopening and emphasised the importance of reporting catches through catch disposal records. Additional details on the feedback received from industry on the timing of the reopening is provided in this report.

## Part 1: How did we get here?

AFMA introduced Session 1 of the workshop and invited Mr Passi, Mr Nona and Mr Stephen to outline the key milestones in the management arrangements for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer (BDM) Fishery since the last black teatfish re-openings in 2014 and 2015, which include:

- 2016-2019 – development and implementation of the BDM Harvest Strategy (HS) which was endorsed by the PZJA on 19 Nov 2019 and has been in effect since 1 January 2020. The new BDM HS has informed the process for reopening the black teatfish fishery.
- December 2017 - implementation of the Fish Receiver System and mandatory reporting of catches on the TDB02 catch disposal record.
- December 2019 - January 2020 - Scientific stock survey in Eastern Torres Strait (last survey was in 2009).

- 27 August 2020 - PZJA agreed to set a 20t TAC for the trial reopening subject to daily catch landing and reporting and black and white teatfish were listed on Appendix II of CITES.

Mr Passi and Mr Stephen gave a recap on how the Fish Receiver System (FRS) came to be mandatory and recognised industry's role in driving this and its importance to industry to ensure that the resources are managed sustainably now and for future generations. They emphasised the importance of reporting catches through the CDRs – previous re-openings resulted in over catches of the TAC as the previous reporting system was voluntary.

Mr Passi and Mr Stephen also thanked industry for their role in driving the development of the BDM Harvest Strategy, a management system that ensures the fishery remains sustainable and lays the foundations that a successful industry can be built on. They both emphasised the importance of the FRS and the Harvest Strategy in making sure that catch limits are not exceeded. Mr Passi advised how the harvest strategy recognises that cultural lore practices can form part of the overall harvest strategy for the fishery.

The Malu Lamar Chairperson Maluwap Nona commented that industry has come so far since the last reopening of black teatfish and congratulated everyone for all their effort that has resulted in the fishery being in the good position it is in now.

The 2019/20 scientific stock survey undertaken by the CSIRO is also a significant milestone for the fishery as it provides important scientific data that, together with the catch data from the Catch Disposal Records (CDRs) submitted through the FRS, is used to set sustainable catch limits for the fishery. The last scientific stock survey was undertaken in 2009.

Mr Passi commented that it would be good for divers to provide feedback on the outcomes of the project based on their traditional knowledge to assist the project team with the interpretation of some of the findings.

## Outcomes of scientific survey

Mr Timothy Skewes, project team member on the scientific survey project and also the Scientific member on the PZJA HCWG gave a presentation on the objectives and outcomes of the 2019/20 scientific stock survey. The project also undertook the mapping of the reefs around Ugar and Campbell reefs to support development of a community sea cucumber aquaculture project. A copy of the presentation is attached to this report. Participants were provided with the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the survey with Mr Skewes and ask questions. Some participants recommended that future scientific stock surveys might include other sites as part of future scientific stock surveys – e.g. barrier reef and central Torres Strait areas and surveys during spawning to better understand species biology.

## Industry feedback received to date on timing of the reopening

Michael Passi, Maluwap Nona and AFMA outlined to workshop participants the industry feedback received to date on the timing of the reopening and the rationale behind each suggested timing as summarised in the table below:

Island	Date of AFMA visit	Who visited	Feedback on timing for black teatfish reopening	Reason for suggested timing for the reopening and comments
Erub	27-28 Oct 2020	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Andrew Trappett (AFMA) Jo Langstreth (QDAF, Finfish biological sampling project)	Feb 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fishing black teatfish earlier in the year will not disturb their spawning in June/July.</li> <li>TRL fishery open which may mitigate effort displacement seafood prices are still high during this time of year due to increased demand because of Chinese New Year festivities etc.</li> </ul>
Ugar	30-Oct-20	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Sereako Stephen, Ugar PBC Chair and Malu Lamar Director Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA) Jo Langstreth (QDAF, Finfish biological sampling project)	Oct/Nov 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better weather for fishing thus making it safer to do daily trips;</li> <li>do not want to rush the reopening;</li> <li>Generally of the view that opening date should work for Eastern Islands;</li> <li>Called for meeting of Eastern cluster to reach consensus on the timing of the reopening.</li> </ul>
Mer	2-Nov-20	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA) Jo Langstreth (QDAF, Finfish biological sampling project)	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants advised the community would convene a further meeting with PZJA HCWG TI members Michael Passi and Maluwap Nona at the end of the meeting round to identify a timing for the reopening as well as cultural protocols that the Island may seek to develop for the reopening.</li> </ul>

Island	Date of AFMA visit	Who visited	Feedback on timing for black teatfish reopening	Reason for suggested timing for the reopening and comments
Warraber	3-Nov-20	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA) John Jones (AFMA)	Feb/Apr 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per feedback from Erub (Feb) and HCWG industry member recommendations (April), participants at the session advised that fishing black teatfish earlier in the year will not disturb their spawning in June/July.</li> <li>TRL fishery open which may mitigate effort displacement seafood prices are still high during this time of year due to increased demand because of Chinese New Year festivities etc.</li> </ul>
Poruma	4-Nov-20	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA)	Oct/Nov 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better weather allows for daily trips to and from fishing grounds to meet daily reporting requirement.</li> </ul>
Iama	5-Nov-20	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA) Hannah Howard (AFMA)	Oct-Jan 2021/2022 or timing proposed by Kemer Kemer Meriam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better weather allows for daily trips to and from fishing grounds to meet daily reporting requirement.</li> <li>Hookah closure in the TRL Fishery (Dec-Jan) removes temptation for some operators of fishing using gear that is prohibited in the BDM Fishery.</li> <li>Ultimately will agree with the timing put forward by Kemer Kemer Meriam given the fishing grounds are in their sea country.</li> </ul>
Masig	11-12 Jan 2021	Michael Passi, PZJA HCWG TI member (Kemer Kemer Meriam) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Kayoko Yamashita (AFMA)	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advised that there is benefit of trialing an opening that coincided with the opening of other fisheries i.e. TRL and different to the timing of the two previous openings that resulted in overcatch of the TAC.</li> <li>Suggested that a Feb opening could be trialed in the future to coincide with the market for Chinese New Year.</li> </ul>



Island	Date of AFMA visit	Who visited	Feedback on timing for black teatfish reopening	Reason for suggested timing for the reopening and comments
Badu	18-Nov-20	Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Wez Norris (AFMA CEO) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Georgia Langdon (AFMA) Hannah Howard (AFMA)	April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was the majority participant view and participants advised that the timing put forward by Kemer Kemer Meriam should be given priority.</li> <li>1 participant opted for an Oct/Nov opening.</li> </ul>
Kubin (Moa)	19-Nov-20	Selina Stoute (AFMA) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Kayoko Yamashita (AFMA) Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal)	Dec-Jan 2021/22 or timing proposed by Kemer Kemer Meriam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hookah closure in the TRL Fishery (Dec-Jan) removes temptation for some operators of fishing using gear that is prohibited in the BDM Fishery.</li> <li>Ultimately however will agree with the timing put forward by Kemer Kemer Meriam given the fishing grounds are in their sea country.</li> </ul>
St Paul (Moa)	20-Nov-20	Maluwap Nona, Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member (Gudumalulgal) Selina Stoute (AFMA) Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Kayoko Yamashita (AFMA)	timing proposed by Kemer Kemer Meriam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for timing to be proposed by Kemer Kemer Meriam. It would be good for the opening to coincide with that of another Fishery i.e. TRL</li> </ul>
Thursday Is and surrounds	3-Dec-20	Danait Ghebregabhier (AFMA) Kayoko Yamashita (AFMA) John Jones (AFMA)	Oct/Nov 2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants (2 out of a total of 3) preferred the idea of rotating the opening of fisheries so there is only one open at a time. Thought it better to open black teatfish when the TRL Fishery is closed and toward the end of the year when people are looking for an extra income to cover expenses.</li> </ul>



## Update on new management arrangements in the fishery CITES listing, licence conditions

AFMA provided an outline of the new management arrangements in place in the fishery, including the implications of the listing of black and white teatfish on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and the new licence conditions that will apply to TIB and fish receiver licence holders during the black teatfish reopening.

CITES is a binding international agreement aimed at preventing international trade from driving unsustainable population decline in species listed under the Convention. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) is Australia's CITES Scientific Authority and has made a positive non-detriment finding of the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery subject to the conditions of the Fishery's wildlife trade operation (WTO) approval. One of these conditions places a TAC limit of 20t and 15t for black and white teatfish respectively, based on the sustainable catch limits in place for the species.

More information on the CITES Appendix II listing and the WTO approval processes for the fishery can be found on [DAWE's website](#).

Catches of black teatfish during the reopening will need to be landed and reported to AFMA on a daily basis. Fishers will be required to land their products daily to a licenced AFMA fish receiver. The fish receivers will need to weigh and record black teatfish catches on the TDB02 Catch Disposal Record and submit it to AFMA on a daily basis by taking a picture of the front page and sending it to AFMA via text message, email or fax. For this reason it is important that:

- Fishers and fish receivers make sure that their licences are not expired;
- Fishers have access to a licenced fish receiver every day that they can land their catch to;
- That fish receivers are in a location with telephone reception or internet access to be able to report landed black teatfish catches to AFMA on a daily basis; and
- That fish receivers have advised AFMA of the location of all the premises where they are likely to receive fish e.g. if they are going to camp at a different location for the duration of the opening.

AFMA also advised participants that there will be a dedicated compliance program in place before, during and after the reopening to maintain the integrity of the fishery and ensure that there is no fishing or stockpiling happening before the opening.

## Part 2: Timing of black teatfish reopening

### Break-out group session: Industry discussion on the timing of the reopening

AFMA staff and HCWG Scientific Member Tim Skewes left the workshop providing participants with a closed session to discuss the preferred timing for the opening and cultural protocols that might apply. The Chair requested AFMA officers and Mr Skewes to return to the workshop following break-out discussions on preferred timing.

Michael Passi and Maluwap Nona introduced the start of the session to discuss advice from each break-out group. They advised that an April reopening, if agreed, should be towards the end of the month to allow for industry and AFMA to prepare.

Each break-out group presented the outcomes of their discussions as summarised in **Table 1** (images of the presentations are also provided at **Attachment 2**). Given the three different timings suggested (April 2021, September 2021 and Dec/Jan 2021-22) for the opening and the pros and cons of each option, participants continued to discuss the most ideal timing for the reopening with the intention of agreeing on a final date by the end of the workshop.

As part of the discussion, industry considered the following key points:

- **Safety considerations** – Ugar participants outlined that safety is their main priority and that they consider fishing in April to be too risky for them due to bad weather. They proposed a September opening instead and whilst the weather is still rough they felt that it would not be as bad as April and they would be willing to travel to and from the fishing grounds then. Whilst participants generally agreed that weather is an important aspect of safety, there was an acknowledgement that an opening during good weather would not restrict the level of fishing effort on black teatfish.
- **Black teatfish spawning season considerations** – whilst all participants were cognisant of the need to time the reopening as far away from the black teatfish spawning season (June/July) as practically possible, Ugar participants proposed holding off on the opening until after the spawning season. There was an extensive discussion between the participants on whether to fish before or after the spawning season and the HCWG Scientific member provided some scientific information to inform the discussion as follows:
  - Whilst the exact impacts of fishing pressure on spawning black teatfish are not well understood there is currently TAC in place to ensure that harvest is sustainable and minimum legal size limits in place that are aimed at allowing them to reproduce at least once before they get fished.
  - If the fishery was managed based only on fishing effort, fishing some species just before or during spawning means they might become more susceptible to fishing if they aggregate during spawning or if taken after spawning, they

might not be in optimum condition due to a thinner body wall which means fishers would need to catch more of them to make up the tonnage.

- **Not delaying the opening** – given the management, reporting and monitoring arrangements that have been implemented since the last reopening and the scientific information available for the fishery, a number of participants were of the view that the reopening does not need to be delayed.

After extensive deliberations, all participants, excluding those from Ugar, agreed to support a black teatfish reopening commencing on 30 April 2021. The participants from Ugar withdrew from the recommendation making process as they could not agree to support an April reopening due to safety considerations. Ugar participants chose to withdraw rather than object as they did not want to stand in the way of a recommendation being agreed by the workshop.

Traditional Elder Dennis Passi and Councillor Noah extended an invitation to the Ugar participants for Ugar fishers to stay on and fish out of Mer during the reopening to mitigate the risk of having to undertake daily trips from Ugar in bad weather.

The Ugar participants noted the invitation from Mer to stay on the Island for the duration of the reopening to mitigate any safety risks associated with undertaking daily fishing trips from Ugar and agreed to pass on the information to the rest of the Ugar Community. The Ugar participants advised that they may decide to take up the invite of accommodation on Mer during the reopening subject to a written confirmation from the Mer PBC Chair to the Ugar PBC Chair.

The Malu Lamar Chairperson and PZJA HCWG TI member for Gudumalulgal advised that the Gudumalulgal and Maluialgal Nations have communicated to him their full support for an opening timing and date nominated by the Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation.

Michael Passi thanked all the participants for their hard work to getting to this point and important milestone to reopening the fishery after a long pause.

**Table 1** Summary of advice from break-out groups on timing of opening

Community	Recommendation	Reasons
Mer	Friday 30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April – Crayfish season opening gives balance for cray fishermen to continue fishing for crayfish – no clash</li><li>• Diving meskep time (low tide) - Mer families have the opportunity to walk around the island to harvest black teat.</li><li>• Lowtide – easier for divers to collect on deeper waters</li><li>• Open before spawning season in the middle of the year</li><li>• Chinese new year seafood prices are high</li></ul>
Erub	Dec 2021- Jan 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weather (Ugar)</li><li>• After spawning</li><li>• TRL open</li></ul>

Community	Recommendation	Reasons
Ugar	11-30 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Vessel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lugger (past)</li> <li>-Outboard/Dinghy (present)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• b)Season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-closed water</li> <li>-open water</li> <li>-Monsoon weather</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scientific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-spawning June/August</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fisheries program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TRL hookah opening. Close 1 October -30 November.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Kulkaigal	12 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27<sup>th</sup> April full moon</li> <li>• Tide- new moon</li> <li>• School holidays</li> <li>• Natural sustainability measure</li> <li>• Cap on effort (TRL season)</li> <li>• Not in spawning time</li> <li>• Market value highest still</li> </ul>

## Day 3 – Wednesday 10 February 2021

### Recap from Day 2 of workshop

The workshop Chair Mr Passi, opened the workshop by providing a recap of the outcomes of the previous day, including the reopening date for black teatfish fishing on 30 April 2021 put forward by participants. Mr Passi highlighted the importance of daily catch landing and reporting by industry during the reopening to ensure that the TAC is not exceeded. On the Chair's request, AFMA presented briefly on how the FRS operates and clarified that:

- Fishers that also hold a fish receiver licence cannot land to themselves and therefore either need to nominate an agent(s) that can complete and sign the catch disposal record on their behalf or land to another fish receiver licenced by AFMA. A fish receiver does not necessarily also need to be a buyer, they just need to have a current fish receiver licence from AFMA.
- Fish receivers need to advice AFMA beforehand if they intend to receive catch at a location(s) other than that nominated on their fish receiver licence e.g. if they intend to camp on an island and continue to receive catch during the black teatfish reopening.

### Industry discussion on protocols

The Chair of GBK Torres Strait Sea and Land Council, Mr Ned David, requested the opportunity to address the Workshop. In his address he expressed that cultural protocols need to be considered as a priority and not as an afterthought to administration related matters. Mr David recommended a major reform of the current TIB licencing system

advising that the open access rights and interests conferred by the licence clashes with Traditional Owner rights and cultural protocols.

Mr David advised participants that the GBK will develop a template for the development of land and sea protocols. The GBK will also write to the PZJA seeking major licencing reform.

Following the GBK Chair's address, workshop participants opted to not have discussions at the workshop to develop protocols but that each community should convene its own meeting to develop their individual protocols. Mr Charles David agreed to share the protocols that lama has developed specifically for fisheries and submitted to GBK for consideration and endorsement.

Cr Noah supported the call for licencing reform and speculated whether Councils would have a role in overseeing the protocols.

The Malu Lamar Chair Mr Nona agreed to support the development of protocols and the licencing reform if it received written requests to do so from Traditional Owners. Mr Nona emphasised the need for the details of the reform and the development of protocols to be driven from the community level rather than a top-down regional approach.

## Sea-ranching project presentation

Given the level of interest expressed during the workshop on the potential of sea cucumber farming in the Torres Strait, Mr Stephen and Mr Simon Naawi presented on the BDM sea ranching initiatives that they are currently pursuing on Ugar and Masig, respectively. Both industry members noted that community engagement is key for the success of sea ranching in the Torres Strait.

Mr Naawi outlined his plans in relation to his planned sea cucumber aquaculture project as follows:

- Mulusager company has been established to look into sea ranching opportunities for Sandfish on Masig
- Masig PBC has approved the set-up of the processing facility
- a Hong Kong investor has been secured to buy the product
- planning for the sea ranching operation, once it is up and running, to be a self-funding venture in the long run
- will seek approval from AFMA regarding the process for collecting Sandfish from the wild as broodstock for sea ranching purposes.

Mr Stephen presented on the research project that he is currently undertaking in partnership with the CSIRO, looking at the feasibility of sea cucumber ranching and aquaculture on Ugar. If successful, this type of initiative has the potential to be applied in other parts of the Torres Strait. Mr Stephen advised that he is encourage by the

overwhelming amount of support that he has received to date including from the Ugar community, HCWG, Member from Lockhart and the CEO of the CSIRO.

Mr Stephen sought support from the PBC Chairs and industry members present at the workshop given the potential benefits to the rest of the Torres Strait Region if the project is successful. Erub Councillor Mr Jimmy Gela, Mer Councillor Mr Aven Noah and the Malu Lamar Chair Mr Nona provided their endorsement and support for the aquaculture projects on Ugar and Masig.

The PBC representative for Iama Mr David provided in principle support for the projects and advised that he will be taking the request back to the Iama community for formal support.

Participants noted that the rules and regulations relating to aquaculture are managed by Queensland whilst fishing for wild BDM is authorised by the PZJA.

## Workshop close

The Chair Mr Passi thanked all participants for their time and invited elder Mr Dennis Passi, Councillor Noah and Mr Nona to provide closing remarks.

Pastor Jeffrey Ses closed the workshop in prayer around 1 pm.

# Attachments

## Attachment 1 - Attendance List

**Table 1. Attendance list. Please note that some participants may not have attended all sessions of the workshop.**

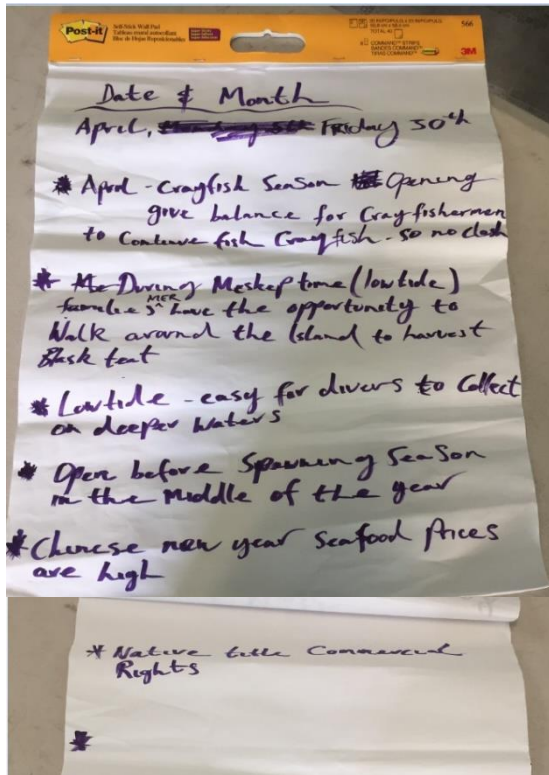
Name	Community	Organisation
Simon Naawi	Masig	Fisher
Kulia Nona	Mer	Fisher
Falen Passi	Mer	Mer Gedkem Le PBC Chair
Sam Kelly	Mer	Fisher
Robert Pilot	Mer	Fisher
David Gisu	Mer	Fisher
Sabu Wailu	Mer	Fisher
James	Mer	Fisher
Ron B Day	Mer	Retired Fisher
Maluwap Nona	Mer	HCWG PZJA Traditional Inhabitant member for Gudamalulgal Malu Lamar Chairperson
Aven Noah	Mer	Councillor
Michael Passi	Mer	Fisher
Dennis Passi	Mer	Elder and Fisher
John Tabo	Mer	Fisher
John Tabo (Sn)	Mer	Fisher
Harry Ghee	Erub	Fisher
Amina Ghee	Erub	Erub Fisheries Management Association
Samuel Mye	Erub	Fisher
Daniel Stephen	Ugar	Fisher
Samuel Blanco	Mer	Fisher
Gawomi Passi	Mer	Fisher
Tagai Tapau-Bon	Mer	Fisher
Andrew Passi	Mer	
Leslie Barsa	Mer	
James Epseg	Mer	
Issac Ghee	Erub	Erub Fisheries Management Association (President)
Rocky Stephen	Ugar	Kos and Abob Fisheries
Tom Stephen	Ugar	Kos and Abob Fisheries
Wrench Larry	Poruma	Fisher
Kabay Tamu	Warraber	Warraberalgal PBC Chair



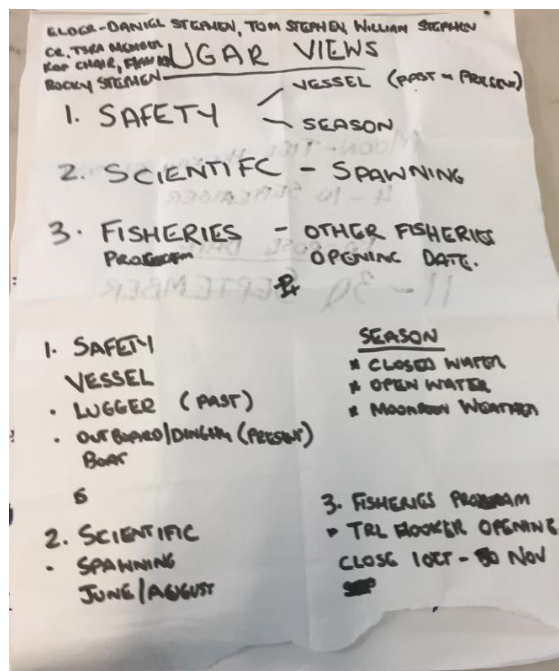
Name	Community	Organisation
Nicholas Pearson	Poruma	HCWG PZJA Traditional Inhabitant member for Kulkaigal
Jimmy Gela	Erub	Erubam Le PBC Chair
William Stephen	Ugar	Fisher
Alice Passi		Fish Receiver Agent
Arthur Naawi	Erub	Fisher
Charles David	Iama	Fisher, GBK representative
James Zaro	Mer	
Wabay Marou	Mer	
Jerrfery Roy Ses	Mer	
Darlington Rice	Mer	
Lyle Kelly	Mer	

## Attachment 2 – Group discussion outcomes

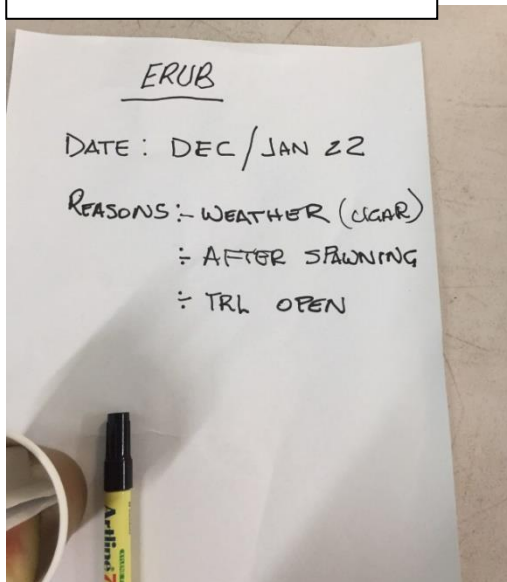
### Mer discussion points



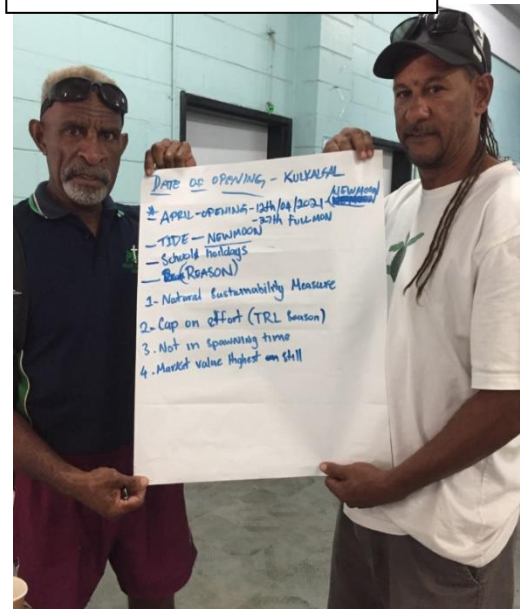
### Ugar discussion points

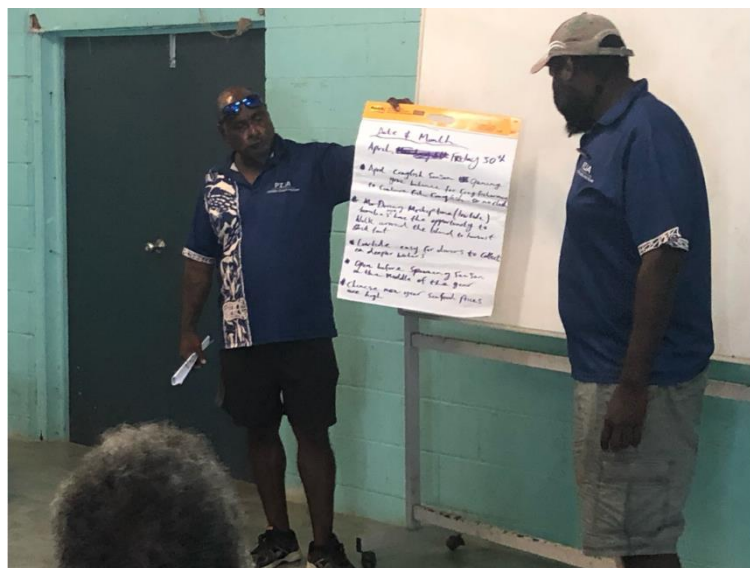
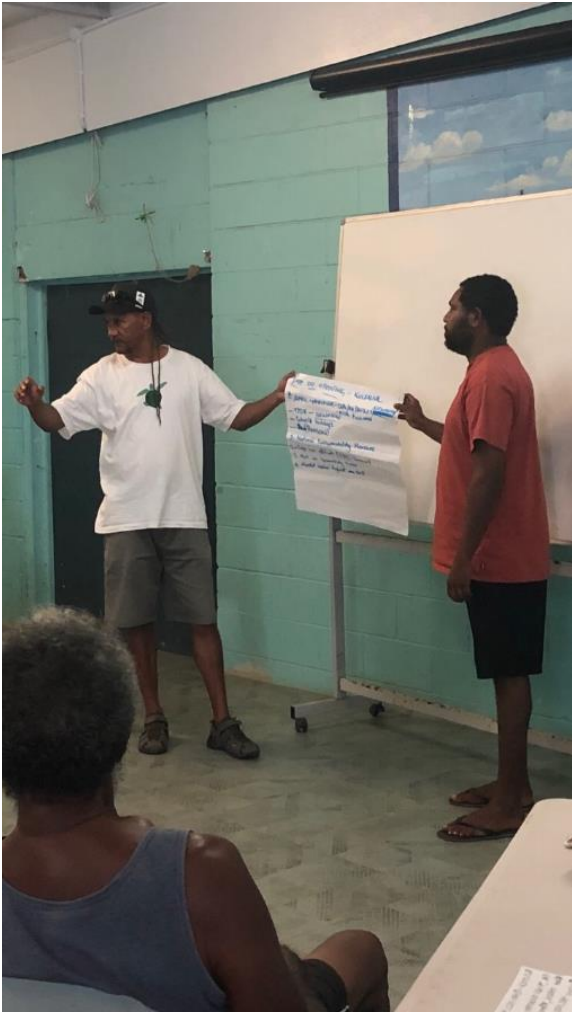


### Erub discussion points



### Kulkalgai discussion points





## Attachment 3 – workshop Agenda

### **Black teatfish Workshop, Mer, 8-10 February 2021**

#### **Draft Agenda**

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**Date:** 8-10 February 2021  
**Venue:** Mer Community Hall  
**Place:** Mer, Torres Strait

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Workshop Chair & Facilitator: Mr Michael Passi, Mr Maluwap Nona, Mr Rocky Stephen and AFMA

#### **Day 1: Monday 8 February 2021 – Mer Community Hall (TBC)**

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5:30pm Industry barbeque dinner at Mer Community Hall

#### **Day 2: Tuesday 9 February 2021 - Mer Community Hall**

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08:30 am – 08:45am Welcome address Mer PBC Chair Welcome by Mr Doug Passi (TBC) and/or Councillor Aven Noah

Opening Prayer (TBA)

09:00 am – 09:30 am Introduction to the workshop by Mr Michael Passi  
PZJA HCWG TI Member – Kemer Kemer Meriam

Address by Malu Lamar Chairperson, Mr Maluwap Nona

09:30 am – 10:30 am **PART 1: How did we get here?**

- Overview of the BDM Fishery
- Development and implementation of the new BDM Harvest Strategy
- Implementation of the Fish Receiver System and progress to date

10:30 am – 10:45 am *Morning Tea*

10:45 am – 11:45 am	Outcome of the scientific survey 2019/2020 Mr Tim Skewes, CSIRO
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Industry feedback received to date on timing of the reopening – PZJA HCWG TI Members and AFMA  Update on new management arrangements in the fishery CITES listing, licence conditions - AFMA
12:00 am – 1:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
	<b>Part 2: Timing of black teatfish reopening</b>
1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Break-out group session: Industry discussion on the timing of the reopening
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Break-out group session: Industry discussion on protocols
4:30 pm – 4:50 pm	recap and close – Malu Lamar, PBC Chair, PZJA Members, AFMA
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	Close in Prayer (TBA)

### **Day 3: Wednesday 10 February 2021**

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08:30 am – 08:45am	Welcome back to day 2 by Michael Passi  Opening Prayer (TBA).
09:00 am – 09:30 am	Recap from Day 2 group sessions by participants
09:30 am - 10:30 am	Industry feedback from day 1
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<i>Morning Tea</i>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	Next steps and questions (AFMA)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<i>Close in Prayer (TBA) - Lunch</i>

Attachment 4 – AFMA presentation (provided separately)  
Attachment 5 – Scientific survey presentation (Timothy Skewes) (provided separately)



## Attachment 6 – Sea ranching project information sheet (Rocky Stephen)



### A PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE THE BÊCHE-DE-MER FISHERIES IN UGAR ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT

In Torres Strait (TS) the bêche-de-mer (BDM) fishery brings important socio-economic benefits, contributing to regional economic development, and improving quality of life and autonomy of TS Islanders. The relative high value of BDM, scattered landing places and wide reach of buyers, combined with its easiness to harvest make the fishery difficult to manage and maintain sustainable yields.

The community of Ugar has a long tradition in the BDM fisheries. Between the 1980s and 2016 the stocks were heavily fished as jobs were very limited and the fishery provided people with significant income opportunities. The industry is very important for people living in Ugar to connect and use resources from around the home reef, with the potential to create further business opportunities, local jobs and income. The community also recognises that healthy and well managed stocks are needed to support a strong industry and livelihoods for future generations.

Improving BDM fisheries can involve management and release of individuals produced in hatcheries in the wild.

Management initiatives include minimum sizes, spatial and temporal closures, and artificial aggregation of adults to increase chances of reproduction. Aquaculture techniques such as induced spawning and rearing have become relatively straightforward and may also be employed to help bring back depleted populations (restocking), or to increase the natural supply of juveniles to stabilise production (stock enhancement). However, costs, market access, species choice, capacity and planning, monitoring and effective stakeholder engagement, communication and consultation processes must be considered as these are the main barriers to success of restocking and stock enhancement initiatives.

During the Torres Strait Science Workshop held in Ugar on the 22nd of October 2018 three key community elder fishermen identified that the stocks of BDM in Ugar have been reduced on the surrounding home reef and highly recommended the need to restock BDM populations back in their home reef. The community fully supported the elders' recommendation and endorsed the project for a Community Representative to approach CSIRO to investigate alternative options to improve BDM stocks in Ugar. As a result, CSIRO will be working closely with Community Representative Rocky Stephen to explore two options in Ugar: (a) artificial aggregation and protection of adults, and (b) release of hatchery-produced larvae and juveniles in the home reef. The project will involve key stakeholders to ensure effective engagement, communication and consultation protocols are developed in a culturally-sensitive manner. There is strong potential to trial these options in TS for the first time using state of the art aquaculture and monitoring techniques to improve the BDM fisheries in Ugar as it has been trialled in Asia and the Pacific regions with some successful outcomes. If the project is successful in Ugar it will generate the knowledge base to improve BDM stocks in the surrounding reefs of TS.

This proposal also had full support from the members of the Hand Collectables Working Group during a meeting held in Erub Island on the 24th of October 2018.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
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