

5th MEETING OF THE PZJA TORRES STRAIT FINFISH FISHERY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP

31 Oct – 1 Nov 2019 (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)

Novotel Oasis Cairns Resort, 122 Lakes St Cairns City. Ph. (07) 4080 1888.

DRAFT AGENDA

The meeting will open at 8.30am on Thursday 31 October 2019 at 8:30 am.

AGENDA ITEM 1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, welcome and apologies

The Chair will welcome FFRAG members, permanent observers, invited participants and any casual observers to the 5th Torres Strait Finfish Resource Assessment Group.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The FFRAG is invited to consider and adopt the draft agenda.

1.3 Declarations of interest

FFRAG members must declare any real or potential conflicts of interests to the group and determine whether a member may or may not be present during discussion of, or decisions made, on the matter which is the subject of the conflict.

1.4 Action items from previous meetings

The FFRAG will note the status of action items arising from previous RAG meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 2 FFRAG UPDATES

2.1 Industry and Scientific members updates

This agenda item is an opportunity for the FFRAG to develop a common understanding of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery including recent fishing, economic, biological and ecological trends. Industry and scientific members are asked to provide a brief verbal update on any recent developments relevant to the fishery.

2.2 Government updates

The FFRAG will note updates from each of the PZJA government agency members on the latest developments relevant to the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery.

2.2.1 Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

2.2.2 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

2.2.3 Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF)

2.3 Native Title

The FFRAG will note a verbal update from the Malu Lamar representative

2.4 PNG National Fisheries Authority

The FFRAG will note an update from the PNG NFA observer

AGENDA ITEM 3 HARVEST STRATEGY

3.1 Draft Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Harvest Strategy Framework

FFRAG will be provided with an overview of the outcomes from the project *Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery* led by CSIRO. FFRAG are asked to discuss and provide advice to the PZJA on the final draft product ahead of a decision by the PZJA on whether to release the framework for public comment.

Expected Outcome: The FFRAG will examine the draft framework and **provide advice** to the PZJA on whether the draft framework is to be released for public comment ahead of implementation.

3.2 Consultation and implementation of the Harvest Strategy

AFMA will outline a plan for consulting on the draft harvest strategy with a view for implementation by the 2021-22 season.

AGENDA ITEM 4 MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE

4.1 Review of Western Line Closure

The FFRAG are asked discuss and provide advice to the PZJA on the outcomes of the round of community consultation and public comment on the proposal to review the Western Line Closure which prohibits commercial fishing for reef-line finfish species (trout, trevally etc) in the Western part of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Expected Outcome: The FFRAG will **provide advice to the PZJA** on any scientific issues (e.g. habitats, species interactions) that arose during community consultation on reviewing the closure.

4.2 Australian Spanish mackerel stock assessments

FFRAG are asked to note an overview of Spanish mackerel assessments and trends in catches, catch rates from other Australian mackerel fisheries including Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

4.3 Use of Vessel Monitoring Systems to support Finfish Fishery data needs

FFRAG are asked to DISCUSS and PROVIDE ADVICE on the potential scientific benefits from using Vessel Monitoring System data to address fishery data needs such as stock assessments.

AGENDA ITEM 5 RESEARCH

5.1 Outcomes from the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) meeting

The FFRAG will note an update on the outcomes of the recent TSSAC meeting which endorsed three research projects to go to funding, commencing in this 2019/20 financial year. FFRAG are asked to note how these projects will support decision making by the PZJA.

5.2 Research updates

5.2.1 Enhancing biological data inputs to Torres Strait Spanish mackerel stock assessment

The FFRAG will note an update on the funded project including initial community visits in September and October 2019.

5.2.2 Torres Strait Spanish mackerel stock assessment with appraisal of environmental drivers.

The FFRAG will note an update on the funded project which includes two scheduled updates of the Spanish mackerel stock assessment (2019 and 2020). *Note that an updated stock assessment will not be presented to the FFRAG at this meeting and is scheduled for FFRAG 6 meeting on 27-28 November 2019.*

5.2.3 Developing an approach for measuring the non-commercial fishing in Torres Strait in order to improve fisheries management and promote sustainable livelihoods.

The FFRAG will note an update on the funded project.

5.3 Five Year Fishery Research Plan

A five-year rolling research plan is used to inform the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee's (TSSAC) annual call for research funding proposals.

Expected Outcome: The FFRAG will discuss and provide advice to the TSSAC on research priorities for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery under the Five-Year Rolling Research Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24.
--

AGENDA ITEM 6

OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Other Business

The FFRAG is invited to nominate any other business for discussion.

6.2 Date and venue for next meeting

The FFRAG will confirm arrangements for FFRAG 6, scheduled for 27-28 November 2019 on Thursday Island, Torres Strait followed by a one-day meeting of the Finfish Fishery Working Group on 29 November 2019.

CLOSE OF MEETING