



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NO. 61

MINUTES

19 JUNE 2013

CHAIR: MR IAN CARTWRIGHT

Prepared by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

FINAL AGENDA

1. Meeting Administration

- 1.1. Preliminaries - Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners/Chairs Opening
Remarks/Meeting attendance/Declaration of Interests/Apologies
- 1.2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- 1.3. Correspondence
- 1.4. Ratification of TSSAC 60 Minutes
- 1.5. Action Items from TSSAC 60

2. TSSAC Procedures

- 2.1. 2012 Annual Operational Plan
- 2.2. 2013/2014 Budget
- 2.3. Call for pre-proposals for the 2014/15 financial year

3. Project update for 2012/2013

- 3.1. Empowering Torres Strait Islanders to have greater Engagement in the Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Process
- 3.2. Sustainability Assessment for trawl by-catch in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery
- 3.3. Desktop Review of Turtle and Dugong in the Torres Strait
- 3.4. Targeted Indigenous Community Consultation in the Torres Strait
- 3.5. Torres Strait Research Repository
- 3.6. Vulnerability of Torres Strait Fisheries and supporting habitats to Climate Change
- 3.7. Smart phone technology for remote data collection in the Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant finfish fisheries
- 3.8. Characterization of Traditional subsistence Fisheries in PNG Treaty Communities Project
- 3.9. Tropical Rock Lobster 2013 Surveys and Stock Assessments

4. Project update for 2013/2014

- 4.1. Smart phone technology for remote data collection in the Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant finfish fisheries
- 4.2. Characterization of Traditional subsistence Fisheries in PNG Treaty Communities Project

5. Projects to be Confirmed for 2013/2014

- 5.1. Identification Guide for Beche de Mer
- 5.2. Management Strategy Evaluation for Beche de Mer
- 5.3. Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and Stock Assessments

6. Other business

- 6.1. Turtle and Dugong Review
- 6.2. Update from PZJA Forums (verbal)
- 6.3. Confirmation of TSSAC No. 62

Individuals wishing to attend the meeting as an observer are required to contact the Chair, Mr Ian Cartwright: c/o TSSAC Executive Officer – Alicia Sabatino (Alicia.sabatino@afma.gov.au) to notify of your desire to attend.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

ATTENDANCE – TSSAC #61 (19 June 2013)

The following members and observers were in attendance at TSSAC No. 61:

Members & Representatives

Name	Role	Declaration of Interest
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson	Consultant, AFMA Commissioner
Mr Shane Fava	AFMA Representative	AFMA Fisheries Manager, Torres Strait
Ms Alicia Sabatino	Executive Officer (AFMA)	AFMA Fisheries Officer, Torres Strait
Dr Michael O'Neill	Scientist	Agri Science QLD, QDAFF
Dr Stephen Newman	Scientist	WA Fisheries Scientist
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Member	Consultant
Dr Ian Jacobsen	Fisheries Queensland Representative	Fisheries Management Officer, QDAFF
Mr Steve Hall	TSRA Fisheries Representative	Fisheries Policy Officer, TSRA
Mr Kenny Bedford	TSRA, Portfolio Representative for Fisheries	TSRA Board Member
Bert Matasik	Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC)	Traditional Inhabitant
Damien Miley	TSRA LSMU Representative	TSRA LSMU Manager
Mr Daniel Takai	Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC)	Traditional Inhabitant, Commercial Buyer/Processor
Tom Roberts	Fisheries Queensland Representative	Fisheries Management Officer, QDAFF
Jo Fisher	AFMA Representative	AFMA Fisheries Management Officer, Canberra

Apologies

Mike Passi – IFAC/Traditional Owner/Traditional Inhabitant

Roland Pitcher – CSIRO Representative

Tony Vass – Industry Representative





DECISION RECORD – TSSAC #61 (19 June 2013)

- 1.4 The Committee **AGREED** to accept the minutes of TSSAC No. 61 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 1.5 The Committee **AGREED** to sign off on the current action items with minor amendments made.
- 2.1 The Committee **AGREED** to the current changes made to the research priorities table located in the TSSAC Annual Operational Plan (AOP). The AOP will be circulated a final time before the document is finalised.
- 2.3 The Committee **AGREED** to continue the current process used when advertising the Call for pre proposals for research in the Torres Strait.
- 4.1 The Committee **AGREED** to fund an additional amount of \$6,000 to allow for variation in the Smart phone technology for remote data collection in the Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant finfish fisheries project.
- 5.1 The Committee **AGREED** that AFMA write to the CSIRO seeking resubmission of a full proposal of the 'Identification Guide for Beche de Mer' project further addressing the committees comments.
- 5.2 The Committee **AGREED** not to fund the 'Management Strategy Evaluation of Beche de Mer' project in the 2013/14 financial year.
- 5.3 The Committee **AGREED** that funding for the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) component of the CSIRO 'Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and Stock Assessments' project will not be provided, and that the CSIRO resubmit the project proposal without the MSE component.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Action Items – TSSAC #61 (19 June 2013)

No.	Action Item	Agenda No.	Champion	Due date
1	AFMA to write to David Welch and Tonya van der Velde thanking them for delivering on their projects given the short timeframe	1.3	AFMA	20/6/2013
2	Reword minutes from Meeting 60, Agenda Item 2.2.3 regarding Turtle and Dugong sustainability	1.4	AFMA	21/6/2013
3	Change table name from Mick O'Neill's table to The Research Co-Ordinates Table	1.5	AFMA	21/6/2013
4	Populate the Research Co-Ordinates Table and circulate to TSSAC members OOS	1.5	AFMA	
5	AFMA to circulate TSSAC Annual Operational Plan to members for final comment	2.1	AFMA	21/6/2013
6	AFMA to circulate updated Budget sheet	2.2	AFMA	
7	AFMA to write to Chris Calogeras asking him on the future direction of report. Does AFMA circulate report to researchers coming to the Torres Strait	3.1	AFMA	
8	AFMA to circulate Vulnerability of Torres Strait fisheries and supporting habitats to climate change final draft report to the TSSAC	3.6	AFMA	
9	AFMA to ask Sara Busilacchi to provide the TSSAC with variation justification	4.2	AFMA	
10	AFMA to speak to CSIRO regarding resubmission of the final project proposal for the BDM guide	5.1	AFMA	
11	AFMA to inform CSIRO of the outcomes of the BDM MSE project proposal	5.2	AFMA	





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

12	AFMA to write the options paper for Turtle and dugong Working group or workshops	6.1	PZJA Agencies	
----	--	-----	---------------	--

DRAFT





MINUTES

Agenda Item 1.1 Preliminaries - Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners/Chairs Opening Remarks/Meeting attendance/Declaration of Interests/Apologies

The Chair welcomed TSSAC members and acknowledged traditional owners and mentioned that the Committee are up to date with declaration of interests.

Apologies from Roland Pitcher (CSIRO Rep), Tony Vass (Industry Rep), Gavin Mosby (IFAC), and Mike Passi (IFAC) were noted.

AFMA thanked the Committee for their commitment in reviewing and providing comments out of session for project reports and proposals over the last couple of months, noting that the 2012/13 financial year saw a large number of projects and milestones within short time frames.

Agenda Item 1.2 Review and Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Committee.

Agenda Item 1.3 Correspondence

The Committee **NOTED** the following outgoing correspondence;

Reply letters to full proposal applicants recommending minor amendments to current project proposals as discussed at TSSAC #60.

AFMA advised the Committee that the Climate Change Project was on track with milestone requirements and that the Principal Investigator (PI) will be travelling to the Torres Strait shortly. The Committee noted that PI has provided a draft final report to the TSSAC.

AFMA also advised the Committee that the Torres Strait Research Repository project is going well and PI is up to date with milestones.

Stephen Newman mentioned that the TSSAC should thank these two project PIs given the short timeframes. (*Action Item 1, AFMA to write and thank PIs on projects*).

The Committee also **NOTED** the incoming correspondence;

A letter from the newly established TRLWG Chair informing the Committee of the outcomes from the first meeting.

Agenda Item 1.4 Ratification of TSSAC 60 Minutes

The Committee **AGREED** to accept the minutes of TSSAC Meeting No.60 as true and accurate record of this meeting. AFMA advised the Committee that there were minor amendments made.

Agenda Item 2.2.3 Desktop Review of Turtle and Dugong Research in the Torres Strait “*The Chair asked the TSRA Portfolio member, Mr Kenny Bedford how the TSRA felt about the level of confidence relating to turtle and dugong sustainability, Mr Bedford responded stating it was a work in progress.*”

Shane Fava advised that this statement from Mr Bedford relates to the project not the current T&D sustainability status. Sevaly noted that a rewording would clarify Mr Bedford’s statement as such.

(*Action Item 2, The Committee agreed that AFMA amend the wording and sign them off*).

Agenda Item 1.5 Action Items from TSSAC #60

The Committee **NOTED** the completion and progress of action items from TSSAC #60.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

(Action Item 3, The Committee agreed to rename the table to The Research Co-Ordinates Table).

(Action Item 4, The Committee agreed that AFMA would circulate the Research Co Ordinates table to TSSAC members to be populated).

Agenda Item 2 TSSAC Procedures

Agenda Item 2.1 2012 Annual Operational Plan

The TSSAC Annual Operational Plan (AOP) was circulated to the Committee. Mr. Shane Fava advised the Committee that there were no major changes and it was important that we finalise the TSSAC AOP before the 2014/2015 Call for pre proposal.

(Action Item 5, AFMA to distribute the TSSAC 2013 AOP for final endorsement).

The document will then be finalised and made available to researchers wishing to submit research pre-proposals for the 2013/14 financial year.

Agenda Item 2.2 2013/2014 Budget

AFMA provided an update of the 2012/2013 budget noting the under spend of \$66,000, based on a financial accrual error. A projection for the 2013/2014 budget was given based on the committed funds for current projects.

The Committee **NOTED** significant variation in funding requirement for CSIRO's proposal for the 'Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and Stock Assessments' project as a result of the incorporation of an 'MSE' component.

At this stage during the meeting the Committee acknowledged Mr. Tom Roberts from Fisheries Queensland joining the meeting. Ian Jacobsen advised the Committee that Tom will be taking over his position and Ian ensured that all relevant paper work will be completed.

(Action Item 6, AFMA to circulate an update budget spreadsheet).

Agenda Item 2.3 Call for pre-proposals for the 2014/15 financial year

There was a brief discussion regarding the call for pre proposals for the 2014/15 funding round, including options for targeted approaches to researchers. Mr. Shane Fava said it may be beneficial to look at targeted approaches again for the 2014/15 funding round, particularly if they were supported through the Torres Strait Working Group and Management Advisory Committees.

Agenda Item 3 Project update for 2012/2013

Agenda Item 3.1 Empowering Torres Strait Islanders to have greater Engagement in the Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Process (PI, Chris Calogeras)

AFMA provided an update to the Committee highlighting that the project will be finalised this financial year. A draft final report was circulated to the TSSAC for comment and these have now been collated and forwarded to the PI for consideration in the final report.

Mr. Steve Hall stated that the paper mentioned that TSRA did not complete the questionnaire, however felt that the PI never approached TSRA.

The Committee **NOTED** the project update and that final payment will occur in this financial year. Further, the Committee acknowledged that there should be a clear direction on how this final report should progress to ensure that there is some benefit from this report. The Committee noted that this could be achieved through the report being sent to researchers for reference when coming to the Torres Strait.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

(Action Item 7, AFMA to write to Chris Calogeras asking him on the future direction of report).

Agenda Item 3.2 Sustainability Assessment for trawl by-catch in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

The Committee **NOTED** the completion of the project and associated final payment. Mr. Ian Jacobsen advised the Committee that the final presentation will be undertaken at the next Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC) meeting.

Agenda Item 3.3 Desktop Review of Turtle and Dugong in the Torres Strait

The Committee **NOTED** the project update, Mr. Shane Fava stated that the draft final report attracted comments from all TSSAC members. He then went on to say that these comments have been passed onto PI to incorporate into final report and this will be provided shortly.

Mr. Shane Fava reiterated that this was the first step in moving forward towards a potentially larger scale review of turtle and dugong research in the Torres Strait. Mr. Steve Hall noted that the TSRA had some criticisms of the project as there was no acknowledgement of TSRA's contribution to research in the Torres Strait.

Agenda Item 3.4 Targeted Indigenous Community Consultation in the Torres Strait

The Committee **NOTED** the project had a number of delays throughout the consultation process. Mr. Shane Fava stated that the community consultation occurred a few weeks ago starting on Darnley Island. He went on to say that there was a very poor attendance at the Darnley meeting, however the Yorke Island meeting attracted significant numbers. A draft final report is yet to be submitted, though this is envisaged to occur prior to the end of the financial year.

The Committee **NOTED** that the project will not be completed before the end of the 2013/14 financial year, however the remaining funds will be accrued into the 2013/14 budget.

Agenda Item 3.5 Torres Strait Research Repository

The Committee **NOTED** that the project will be finished in this current financial year. Shane said that the PI has done a great job in completing this project within the four month period.

Agenda Item 3.6 Vulnerability of Torres Strait Fisheries and Supporting Habitats to Climate Change

The Committee **NOTED** the current status of the project and that the final payments have been made to the PI. The draft final report will be sent to TSSAC members for comments and the final deadline for the final report is not due until the 12 August. Before this time the PI will be undertaking community visits, after which the final report will be submitted.

The Chair stated that communication of the project will be critical as climate change is a main concern in the Torres Strait, and therefore it will be interesting to see how he'll approach this. Shane said that David has been staying in contact with all the agencies and trying to work out consultation given the limited budget.

(Action Item 8, AFMA to circulate Vulnerability of Torres Strait fisheries and supporting habitats to climate change final draft report to the TSSAC).

Agenda Item 3.7 Smart phone technology for remote data collection in the Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant finfish fisheries

The Committee **NOTED** the update of the project, acknowledging the PIs trip to Erub last month with the assistance of AFMA and TSRA. The trip provided an opportunity to undertake initial engagement with fishermen that will be trialing the application.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

As a result of the trip, the PI has foreseen a need to alter the project slightly to further meet the needs of the fishermen. The PI is due back on Erub in September to trail the final product.

The Chair highlighted that he spoke to the PI and wondered why the spatial elements of the project had been removed. AFMA thought this may be due to sensitivities around spatial elements among the fishing community. Steve felt that it was important to reassure the fishers that any data will be handled confidentially and that the spatial data scale didn't need to be specific GPS marks but could be used in the same fashion as the grid system used in TRL log books. The Committee agreed that use of the grid type system was acceptable.

Kenny noted that he will be meeting with Dan French in Adelaide and will raise these points.

Agenda Item 3.8 Characterization of the traditional subsistence fisheries in PNG Treaty Communities

The Committee **NOTED** the update of the project from the 2012/13 financial year. All milestones were met and payments made.

Agenda Item 3.9 Tropical Rock Lobster 2013 Surveys and Stock Assessments

The Committee **NOTED** the update of the project and Mr Shane Fava stated that the CSIRO were in the Torres Strait last month undertaking these surveys, however they were impacted by poor weather. A draft final report was submitted to the TSSAC for comment and prior to the final report. Final milestone payment will be paid on submission.

Agenda Item 4 Project Update for 2013/2014

Agenda Item 4.1 Smart phone technology for remote data collection in the Torres Strait Traditional Inhabitant finfish fisheries

The Committee acknowledged that the project is confirmed for the 2013/14 financial year, though after the community visit to Erub the PI determined that a slight variation in the project plan is required to better suit the fishermen needs. This involves the need for an additional \$6,000 of funding for the 2013/14 year for infrastructure and leasing.

The Committee **AGREED** to support the additional funding for the 2013/14 financial year.

Agenda Item 4.2 Characterization of the traditional subsistence fisheries in PNG Treaty Communities

The Committee **NOTED** the variation in the project proposal for the 2013/14 financial year, with an additional \$12,000 requested. The Committee felt that a breakdown of this variation was necessary prior to any further decision.

(Action Item 9, AFMA to ask Sara Busilacchi to provide the TSSAC with variation justification).

Agenda Item 5 Projects to be confirmed for 2013/2014

Agenda Item 5.1 Identification Guide for Beche de Mer

The Committee **AGREED** that the PI did not address the comments received previously in relation to changes needed for the full proposal and would like a resubmission.

(Action Item 10, AFMA to speak to CSIRO regarding resubmission of the final project proposal for the BDM guide).





Agenda Item 5.2 Management Strategy Evaluation for Beche de Mer

The Committee **NOTED** the correspondence from the PI in relation to the amendments to the full proposal, however the Committee felt that under current effort in the fishery this was not a research priority and therefore did not approve funding for the 2013/14 financial year.

(Action Item 11, AFMA to inform CSIRO of the outcomes of the BDM MSE project proposal)

Agenda Item 5.3 Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and Stock Assessments

The Committee **NOTED** the significant funding requirement for CSIRO's proposal for the 'Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and Stock Assessments and MSE' project and highlighted the inclusion of the additional 'MSE' component.

The Chair stated that stock assessments/surveys and MSE should be considered separate projects and will be addressed under the additional priorities in the Annual Operational Plan.

Shane noted that given the sensitivity surrounding the potential move to output controls in the fishery, it would be sensible to remain consistent with previous years and conduct an annual survey and stock assessment in the fishery for at least the first two years. However, once the fishery implements output controls, we can tailor and wind back the level of research in the fishery if appropriate. Therefore it would be ideal to readdress this research priority prior to the third year to assess the cost-benefit of these studies.

The Chair noted that a research tool such as an MSE may be beneficial in the future under the new management regime but at this point in time would be considered unnecessary. The Committee **AGREED** to support the original proposal from CSIRO for the Survey and Stock Assessment for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years, with scope to reassess for the 2015/16 financial year, however would not be funding the MSE component.

Agenda Item 6 Other business

Agenda Item 6.1 Turtle and Dugong Review

The Committee **NOTED** the update provided by Shane surrounding discussions from the last TSSAC meeting and through correspondence about Turtle and Dugong workshops and potentially establishing a Working Group. The Committee **AGREED** that a possible way forward would be for AFMA to write an Options Paper for the development of a Turtle and Dugong Working Group or workshop. This options paper would need to be circulated to other stakeholders for comment and be ready for the next TSSAC meeting. It was also stated that Helene Marsh and other experts will need to be invited to the next TSSAC meeting to provide input to stock assessment discussions.

(Action Item 12, AFMA to write the options paper for Turtle and Dugong Working group or workshops).

The Committee then **NOTED** an update of turtle and dugong research in the Torres Strait from the TSRA Representative Damien Miley.

Agenda Item 6.2 Update from the PZJA Forums (verbal)

The Committee **NOTED** the update from Mr Shane Fava on the recent Fisheries Stakeholder forum held on Thursday Island, attended by the Commonwealth Fisheries Minister. Noting that there has not been a PZJA meeting in several years, the Stakeholder forum was a positive step forward towards a PZJA meeting.





Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Further, Shane gave an update of the recent TRLWG meeting and highlighted that such meetings are a positive move forward for the fishery to develop and implement a management plan.

Agenda Item 6.3 Confirmation of TSSAC No. 62

The next TSSAC meeting will be held on the 15th and 16th of October 2013.

DRAFT

