



PZJA Advisory Committee Traditional Inhabitant Members 2025–2028 nomination information pack

Introduction

The PZJA is responsible for managing fisheries in the Torres Strait Protect Zone and may be advised by the committees on fisheries issues. The PZJA advisory committees generally consist of an independent Chair and representatives from the government (State, Commonwealth and PNG), scientific experts, Traditional Inhabitant members and, where applicable, non-Traditional Inhabitant members from the fishing industry.

The [Protected Zone Joint Authority \(PZJA\) Fisheries Management Paper No. 1](#) sets out the PZJA's policy for the operation and administration of Management Advisory Committees (MACs), Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs), Working Groups (WGs) and Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs).

Selection process

There are 5 vacant Traditional Inhabitant member positions on each of the advisory committees.

- Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group
- Finfish Working Group
- Hand Collectables Working Group
- Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group
- Finfish Resource Assessment Group
- Hand Collectables Resource Assessment Group
- Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee
- Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Members are sought based on their experience, expertise, participation and engagement in the Torres Strait fishing industry, and from across each cluster nation (*Gudumalulgal*, *Kaiwalagal*, *Kulkalgal*, *Kemer Kemer Meriam* and *Malu algal*).

The role of Traditional Inhabitant members is to:

- contribute their knowledge and experience of fisheries and communities to the PZJA advisory committees
- contribute their fisheries expertise to achieve the best management and in the best interests of the fishery
- regularly report to and liaise with other Traditional Inhabitants in the community on PZJA consultative forum activities, including the issues being dealt with and the possible solutions being considered
- seek the views of community members through local associations and meetings, as necessary.



The responsibilities of Traditional Inhabitant members are to:

- put views clearly and concisely and be prepared to negotiate to achieve acceptable outcomes and compromises where necessary
- act in the best interests of the fisheries as a whole, rather than as an advocate for any particular organisation, interest group or regional concern
- be prepared to observe confidentiality and exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive issues
- contribute to discussion in an objective and impartial manner and avoid pursuing personal agendas or self-interest
- be prepared to make the necessary commitment of time to ensure they are fully across matters which are the subject of consideration by the committee
- have the community's confidence and authority to undertake their functions as a member.

Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group

The Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group (TSTRLWG) is the principal forum where issues relating to the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery are discussed. The group assists with the preparation of management arrangements and reports to the PZJA on scientific, economic and other information on the status of fish stocks, sub-stocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing in the TRL fishery on the marine environment. At these meetings, any problems are identified, and possible solutions are developed. The working group also provides an avenue for consultation between industry, managers, researchers and Traditional Inhabitants.

Finfish Working Group

The Torres Strait Finfish Working Group (TSFFWG) is the principal forum where issues relating to the Spanish Mackerel and Reef Line Fisheries are discussed. The group assists with the preparation of management arrangements and reports to the PZJA on scientific, economic and other information on the status of fish stocks, sub-stocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing on the marine environment. At these meetings, any problems are identified, and possible solutions are developed. The working group also provides an avenue for consultation between industry, managers, researchers and Traditional Inhabitants.



Hand Collectables Working Group

The Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group (TSHCWG) is the principal forum where issues relating to the Hand Collectable fisheries (trochus, Bêche-de-mer, crab and pearl shell fisheries), are discussed. The group assists with the preparation of management arrangements and reports to the PZJA on scientific, economic, and other information on the status of fish stocks, sub-stocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing on the marine environment. At these meetings, any problems are identified, and possible solutions are developed. The working group also provides an avenue for consultation between industry, managers, researchers and Traditional Inhabitants.

Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee

The Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC) is the principal forum where issues relating to the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF) are discussed. The group assists with the preparation of management arrangements and reports to the PZJA on scientific, economic and other information on the status of fish stocks, sub-stocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing in the TSPF on the marine environment. At these meetings, any problems are identified, and workable solutions are developed. The TSPMAC also provides an avenue for consultation between industry, managers, researchers and Traditional Inhabitants.

Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

The Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee's (TSSAC) key role is to advise the PZJA on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for research relevant to meeting information needs and objectives of the PZJA and its relevant consultative bodies.

Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group

The Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group is the research and scientific committee for management of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery. The group provides advice to the PZJA and the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group on the status of target stocks (including the type of information and research needed to support the stock assessments) and on fishing impacts upon byproduct, bycatch and the marine environment. The group also evaluates alternative harvest options like the impact over time of different harvest strategies, effort levels, confidence levels for fishery assessments and risks to the success of fishery objectives. Economic factors affecting the fishery are a key consideration for the assessments.



Finfish Resource Assessment Group

The Torres Strait Finfish Resource Assessment Group is the research and scientific committee for management of the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery. The group provides advice to the PZJA and the Torres Strait Finfish Working Group on the status of target stocks (including the type of information and research needed to support the stock assessments) and on fishing impacts upon byproduct, bycatch and the marine environment. The group also evaluates alternative harvest options like the impact over time of different harvest strategies, effort levels, confidence levels for fishery assessments and risks to the success of fishery objectives. Economic factors affecting the fishery are a key consideration for the assessments.

Hand Collectables Resource Assessment Group

The Torres Strait Hand Collectables Resource Assessment Group is the research and scientific committee for management of the Hand Collectables fishery in the Torres Strait (Bêche-de-mer, Crab, Trochus and Pearl). The group provides advice to the PZJA and the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group on the status of target stocks (including the type of information and research needed to support the stock assessments) and on fishing impacts upon byproduct, bycatch and the marine environment. The group also evaluates alternative harvest options like the impact over time of different harvest strategies, effort levels, confidence levels for fishery assessments and risks to the success of fishery objectives. Economic factors affecting the fishery are a key consideration for the assessments.