

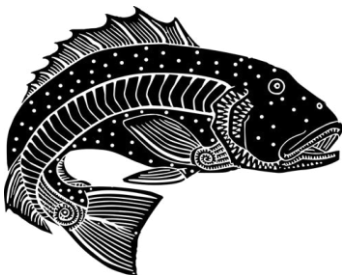
OFFICIAL

**Protected Zone Joint Authority**

# **Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (TRLRAG) 41**

## **Final Meeting Record**

**9-10 December 2025, Thursday Island**



TORRES STRAIT  
**PZJA**  
PROTECTED ZONE  
JOINT AUTHORITY

OFFICIAL

## Contents

<i>Meeting participants</i> .....	3
1 <i>Preliminaries</i> .....	5
<i>Welcome and apologies</i> .....	5
<i>Adoption of agenda</i> .....	5
<i>Declarations of interest</i> .....	6
<i>Action items</i> .....	6
2 <i>Updates from members</i> .....	6
3 <i>Climate adaptation</i> .....	7
4 <i>Catch and effort analyses 2024-25</i> .....	8
5 <i>Results of the 2025 pre-season survey</i> .....	8
6 <i>Recommended Biological Catch 2025-26</i> .....	9
7 <i>Research Priorities</i> .....	10
8 <i>Other business</i> .....	11
9 <i>Date and venue for next meeting</i> .....	12
Attachment A – Adopted agenda.....	13
Attachment B – Declarations of interest.....	15

## Meeting participants

Name	Position	Declaration of interest
<b>Members</b>		
Dr Tim Ward	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associate Professor in Fisheries Science , Institute Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania</li> <li>• Chair, Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group</li> <li>• Scientific member, AFMA Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group</li> <li>• Scientific member, AFMA Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group</li> <li>• Scientific member, Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery Working Group</li> <li>• Independent Conservation Member, GAB Trawl Fishery Management Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Principal Investigator, AFMA Research Projects (Blue Mackerel DEPM, Scallop Harvest Strategy)</li> <li>• Scientific Advisor, Principal Investigator, Department of Natural Environment and Resources Tasmania (Sardine Fishery)</li> <li>• Independent Conservation Scientist, South Australian Marine Scalefish Management Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Principal Investigator, FRDC Research Projects (various)</li> </ul>
Dr Simon Delestang	Scientific Member	Provides research advice on numerous spiny lobster fisheries, both in Australian waters and overseas. No financial interests in any fishing operation or related industry.
Dr Laura Blamey (online)	Scientific Member	<p>Contributes to other Torres Strait research projects that CSIRO receives research funding for, including Torres Strait climate change and fisheries project. No other interests in the fishery.</p> <p>Scientific member of TRL Working Group.</p>
Mr Isaac Ghee	Traditional Inhabitant Member – Kemer Kemer Meriam	TIB licence holder.
Mr David Baragud	Traditional Inhabitant Member - Kulkalgal	TIB licence holder

Name	Position	Declaration of interest
Mr Patrick Mooka	Traditional Inhabitant Member – Guda maluylgal	Traditional Inhabitant Member, Guda maluylgal. Zenadth Kes Fisheries member.
Mr Thomas Holland	Traditional Inhabitant Member - Maluylgal	Apology
Mr Graham Hirakawa	Traditional Inhabitant Member - Kaiwalalgal	TIB licence holder and employed by Torres Strait Seafoods as a TRL fish receiver/processor.
Mr Brett Arlidge	Industry Member	Director and CEO of MG Kailis Pty Ltd. MG Kailis Pty Ltd is a holder of 5 TVH licences. Seafood buyer from Torres Strait, QLD and PNG TRL fisheries.
Mr Trent Butcher	Industry Member	Apology - TRL TVH licence holder and TVH boat operator.
Mr Keith Brightman	TSRA Member	TSRA Fisheries Project Manager, TSRA holds multiple TVH TRL fishing license on behalf of Torres Strait Communities but does not benefit from them. No personal pecuniary interest.
Ms Jenny Keys	QDAF Member	Not in attendance.
Mr Ryan Murphy	AFMA Member	Employed by AFMA. Senior Manager for Torres Strait Fisheries. Nil interests.
Ms Georgia Bourke	Executive Officer	Employed by AFMA. Senior Management Officer for Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery. Nil interests.
<b>Observers</b>		
Mr Joseph Posu	PNG National Fisheries Authority	Works in the Fisheries Management Unit responsible for managing the prawn and lobster fisheries in the Western Province. No personal pecuniary interest in the fishery.
Mr Quinten Hirakawa	TSRA	TSRA employee, TIB license holder with a TRL endorsement.
Mr Daniel Corrie	AFMA	Employed by AFMA. Leads the AFMA Climate Adaptation Program. Nil interests.
Dr Steph Brodie	CSIRO	Contributes to other Torres Strait research projects that CSIRO receives research funding for, including Torres Strait climate and ecosystem status report cards. No other interests in the fishery.

Name	Position	Declaration of interest
Ms Brooke D’Alberto	Australian Bureau of Agricultural Resource Economics and Sciences	Nil interests.
Dr Ian Knuckey	Fishwell Pty Ltd	See <b>Attachment B</b>
Dr Jonathan Smart	Smarter Fisheries Consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent fisheries scientist operating as Smarter Fisheries Scientific Consulting</li> <li>Affiliate Associate Professor – Flinders University</li> <li>Adjunct Senior Research Fellow – James Cook University</li> <li>Scientific member PZJA HCRAG</li> <li>Researcher involved with stock assessment research, often in collaboration with State and Territory Governments</li> <li>Independent scientific advisor to Western Australian Pilbara Demersal Scalefish Resource (PDSR) Stakeholders</li> <li>No pecuniary interest in the TSTRL Fishery</li> </ul>
Dr Marjoleine Roos	Independent scientist	Supporting Fishwell Pty Ltd with the pre-season survey data analysis. No other interests.
Mr Matt Koopman	Fishwell Pty Ltd	Part of the dive team on the 2025 pre-season survey. No other interests.

## 1 Preliminaries

### Welcome and apologies

- The 41st meeting of the Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (TRLRAG 41) was opened at 9:03am on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, at the TSRA Board room, Thursday Island. The Chair welcomed members and observers and provided an acknowledgement of Country. Apologies are recorded in the table above. Meeting participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of assisting the preparation of meeting minutes. It was also noted that the minutes from the previous meeting can be found on the [Protected Zone Joint Authority \(PZJA\) website](#).

### Adoption of agenda

- The RAG adopted the agenda (**Attachment A**). It was agreed that the issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing would be discussed under Other Business.

## Declarations of interest

3. The Chair advised members and observers, that as provided in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 (FMP1), all members must declare all real and potential conflicts of interest at the commencement of the meeting. Declared conflicts of interest are detailed in the meeting participant's table.

## Action items

4. The RAG noted the status of actions arising from previous meetings. The RAG agreed to remove action items 1 and 2 as they are considered redundant, however action item number 3 was requested to remain on the list. The recent level of IUU in the Torres Strait, and Warrior Reef in particular, is significant. Members felt it important to understand the quantum of IUU fishing and its impact on the sustainability of the stock.
5. Members also noted the latest updates to the timeline of key events in the TRL fishery and suggested additional inclusions:
  - a. When *Panulirus ornatus* was listed as a protected species by China – July 2023
  - b. The TAC for each season and how it was calculated (i.e. stock assessment, eHCR, ad-hoc adjustment).
  - c. That the eHCR was revised in 2025.

## 2 Updates from members

6. The RAG noted verbal updates provided by traditional inhabitant and industry members and observers regarding the performance of the TRL fishery for the start of the 2025-26 fishing season, in particular that:
  - a. IUU is a recurring, significant issue with fishers observing broken crayfish antennae on the fishing grounds on the first day of the season.
  - b. some form of survey to quantify lobster stocks be conducted on Warrior Reef from the impacts of IUU Fishing that has been occurring. The traditional inhabitant member for Kulkalgal said that his Nation was concerned about the localised depletion from IUU Fishing.
  - c. Kaiwalalgal fishers are happy with their catches so far from night spearing and free diving.
  - d. There were reports of fishers in the Eastern islands fishing before the season commenced.
  - e. The start of the 2025-26 season was difficult to gauge before the first neap tide, though there seemed to be half of the abundance compared to last year.
  - f. The Queensland east coast fishery had an excellent 2025 season, catching 155.5 tonnes of the 195 tonne TAC. A lack of fishing effort across the fishery remained a challenge, but CPUE was very high, similar to Torres Strait.
  - g. Beach prices for Western and Southern rock lobsters have remained strong.
7. The RAG noted from scientific members that:
  - a. The [National Climate Risk Assessment](#) was released in September 2025 and the next national marine climate briefing run by the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO occurs every few months with the next briefing scheduled for Friday 12 December 2025.
  - b. Dr Eva Plaganyi has led a research paper on the revision of the empirical harvest control rule which is still in review, with a series of other tropical rock lobster related papers in preparation at various stages.
  - c. Beach prices for Western and Southern rock lobsters into China have remained strong.

- d. Some deep-sea crabs have recently tested high for cadmium upon import into China.
- 8. No updates were provided by TSRA or QDPI. AFMA updates were as provided in the agenda paper.
- 9. The RAG noted the following updates from PNG NFA:
  - a. The TRL fishery commenced its annual hookah ban on 1 December through till 31 May 2026;
  - b. The fishery last season is about 60% caught;
  - c. PNG fishers are still interested in cross-endorsement next season and are working towards meeting the various requirements under the cross-endorsement guidelines. The requirement to have all dories and dinghies installed with VMS is a new requirement under the revised [PNG TRL Management Plan](#), as well as prioritisation of traditional inhabitants for new licences.
- 10. No updates were provided on native title matters as there was no native title representative present.

### 3 Climate adaptation

- 11. Steph Brodie (CSIRO) introduced the 2025 Climate and Ecosystem Status Report for the TRL Fishery (Agenda paper 3a) and members contributed the following observations and anecdotes:
  - a. The observed warmer 'winter' months correlates with the experiences in the Fishery. Typically, temperatures drop in May, the lobsters moult less frequently as their growth slows, there is more oxygen in the water and the lobsters are in better condition. However, in 2025, the water temperatures were not as cool and moulting continued throughout the winter months, resulting in a greater proportion of 'rejected' lobsters that were tailed.
  - b. There has been an increase in "blue/green" algae, or filamentous algae growing on seagrass.
- 12. The RAG queried whether there was any correlation between the severe coral bleaching events of 2015/2016 and the poor lobster recruitment in 2017/2018, and whether a similar connection between the 2023/24 increased sea surface temperatures and the 2025 poor recruitment. The RAG noted that 2015/16 was an El Nino year, while 2024/25 was La Nina and that ENSO can impact TRL recruitment.
- 13. Daniel Corrie (AFMA) then introduced [AFMA's Climate Adaptation Program](#) and Climate Risk Framework. The RAG noted that the TRL Fishery is being considered under a trial application of the framework with the aim of integrating climate impacts into decision-making processes across fisheries. The framework is a risk assessment process, designed to integrate with existing management frameworks in response to climate impacts and be broadly applicable to any jurisdiction.
- 14. The AFMA climate adaptation team plans to engage with PJJA agencies in early 2026 to further discuss application of the climate risk framework to Torres Strait Fisheries management processes.
- 15. Scientific member, Dr Laura Blamey (CSIRO) and Principal investigator of the Torres Strait Fisheries Climate Change project gave an overview and update on the project. The RAG noted that the aims of the project are to:
  - a. Use the latest models to provide scientific information to fisheries and managers about current and future risks to key fisheries in Torres Strait.
  - b. Investigate how different climate change scenarios will impact species in the short, medium and long term.
  - c. Present scientific results from models to stakeholders and co-develop adaptation strategies.
- 16. Further details on the project are available from the [CSIRO website](#).

## 4 Catch and effort analyses 2024-25

17. An overview of catch, effort and catch per unit effort (CPUE) data for the Australian and PNG TRL fisheries for 2024-25 detailed in agenda papers 4a, 4b and 4c and presented Dr Jonathan Smart on behalf of Fishwell Pty Ltd was noted by the RAG.
18. Total catch in 2025 was below the long-term average, although the highest since 2020. Fishing effort (tender-shot days) was the second lowest on record for the TVH sector over a 12-year declining trend.
19. Nominal and standardised CPUE for both TIB and TVH sectors were the highest on record which follows a large 1+ lobster abundance estimate from the 2024 pre-season survey. The TVH CPUE index was 88% above the long-term average, and TIB was 49% above average.
20. 'Season' had the greatest influence in the model for the TVH standardisation accounting for more than half of the explained deviance. 'Vessel' was the second most influential variable (26%) followed by 'area' (~13%).
21. For the TIB sector, the nominal and standardised CPUE were similar with 'seller' being the most influential effect on the model, accounting for more than half of the explained variance. 'Season' was the second most influential variable (15%), followed by 'Area' (9%). There has been a notable decline in the numbers of 'sellers' over time (54 in 2025 compared to more than 200 in earlier years).
22. The RAG discussed the impact of 'area fished' in the standardisation process and acknowledged that for the TIB sector, the provision of information on area fished is voluntary and therefore inconsistent. RAG members emphasised the need to improve this information because the level of IUU fishing impacts some areas of the fishery more than others. The RAG noted the potential in reinvigorating the RAG data sub-group to address these data shortfalls. This issue was further discussed under Agenda Item 7, Research Priorities.

## 5 Results of the 2025 pre-season survey

23. The RAG considered a presentation by Dr Ian Knuckey and Dr Marjoleine Roos (Fishwell Pty Ltd) summarising the methodology and results of the 2025 pre-season survey (as detailed in agenda paper 5a).
24. 2025 marked the first year in which the survey was delivered under a new scientific service provider, transitioning from CSIRO to Fishwell Pty Ltd. The survey was conducted between 20-31 October 2025 aboard the vessel *Cossack Pearl*.
25. A total of 77 sites were surveyed with counts of 0+ and 1+ lobsters recorded together with accompanying information on substrate and biota. 23 of 77 sites (~30%) were recorded with 90% or more sandy substrate, with recent sand incursions evident in at least 5 sites. By contrast, several sites with structures generally expected to support lobsters were empty.
26. In 2025, the age 0+ survey index was slightly lower than the 2024 estimate (36%) and was the lowest recorded since 2005. The 2025-point estimate was also below the long-term (2005-2024) pre-season survey average. The highest 0+ stratum density was observed across 'Mabuiag', while no 0+ lobsters were observed in Buru (north-west), TI Bridge (South-west), South-East and Kircaldie Rubble (south-east). Historically, 0+ lobsters have been recorded in Mabuiag during every pre-season survey. Overall, the 0+ lobster survey results indicate substantial spatial and temporal variability in 0+ settlement.
27. The 2025 1+ lobster index was very low compared to 2024, indicating a poor season ahead in 2026. The 2025 point estimate was only marginally higher than the lowest value in the time series which occurred in 2017. Spatial distribution was broadly similar to that observed in 2023 and 2024 even though overall counts were markedly lower than 2024. The low 1+ index in 2025 is not unexpected following very low 0+ index in 2024. 1+ lobsters are usually most common in the eastern part of the region, however in 2025



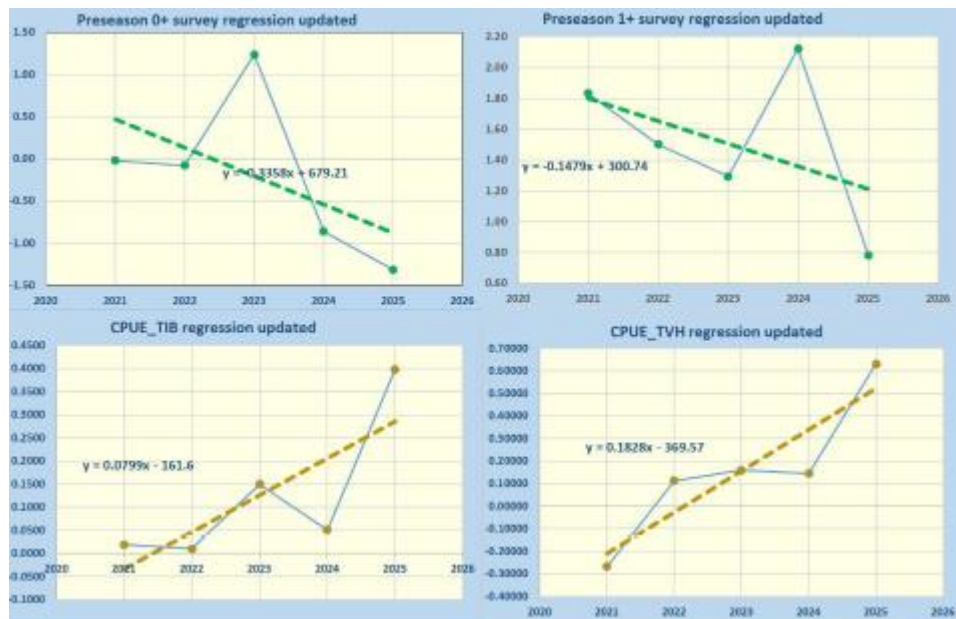
they were more evenly distributed across the area. Lower counts in the central-east are thought to be linked to the sand incursions observed during the 2025 survey, but also could be due to low abundance of 0+ lobsters recorded the year before (2024).

28. **In accordance with the Decision Rules (section 2.10) of the Harvest Strategy, the RAG noted that the pre-season 1+ lobster index (2.19) was not below the harvest strategy trigger of 1.25 and therefore did not trigger the need for a stock assessment.**
29. The RAG noted that habitat and biota data had not yet been fully analysed as the priority ahead of the RAG was to undertake the survey result analysis. Fishwell Pty Ltd gave a brief overview of the artificial intelligence technology, Reef Cloud, being used to help analyse the habitat and biota data collected using GoPro cameras during the survey.
30. RAG members acknowledged the significant amount of work undertaken by the Fishwell Pty Ltd to carry out the survey after having taken over the scientific service provider role only months prior. They further acknowledged the spatial and temporal variability in recruitment in the fishery and noted that the low 2025 1+ abundance is not unexpected following a low 2024 0+ index.
31. The TSRA thanked Fishwell Pty Ltd for conducting the survey in a culturally sensitive manner.

## 6 Recommended Biological Catch 2025-26

32. Having regard to the discussions and analyses from agenda items 3, 4 and 5, the RAG considered the inputs to the 'Osprey' empirical harvest control rule (eHCR) and detailed in agenda paper 6a:
  - a. TIB standardised CPUE index (10% weighting) using 'seller' model
  - b. TVH standardised CPUE index (10% weighting) using 'Int-1' model
  - c. 0+ lobster survey index (10% weighting) using 'Ref2024'
  - d. 1+ lobster survey index (70% weighting) using 'Ref2024'
  - e. The trend (slope) of the last five years (including most recent years) of the above four indices is input into the eHCR along with an Osprey tuning multiplier of 619 and a coefficient variation of the 1+ index to account for survey precision.

Component	Value
2025 Survey 0+ index	0.27
2025 Survey 1+ index	2.19
2025 Fishery Standardised TIB CPUE	1.49
2025 Fishery Standardised TVH CPUE	1.88
Osprey tuning multiplier	619
Pre-season SSC term	0.724
1+ index / reference median	0.45
1+ CV	0.18



33. Although the TIB and TVH 2025 CPUE indices were high (reflecting the high 2024 1+ index), the preseason survey indices were low. Given the Osprey eHCR responds primarily to the most recent survey indices (combined weight of 80% in the eHCR) and has a dampened effect by applying a five-year average of all inputs, as well as accounting for precision in the most recent survey, the eHCR conservatively brought the recommended biological catch down. **The eHCR provided a recommended biological catch of 398.3 tonnes.**

## 7 Research Priorities

34. The RAG noted an introduction of how research in Torres Strait Fisheries is identified, funded and approved. In reviewing the current 5-year TRL strategic research plan/priorities the RAG made the following observations and comments:
- Traditional inhabitant members asked if there were opportunities for any reef restoration work. Dr Delestang noted that any potential work would need to differentiate from climate impacts. AFMA highlighted that there is work currently underway in a range of jurisdiction's and that ACIAR may be a suitable organisation to approach regarding any potential work. Dr Blamey also highlighted that there is restoration work currently underway in the GBR and offered to provide a brief summary of that work back to the group out of session.

**Action Item:** Mr Murphy to discuss potential coral restoration project with ACIAR out of session and report back to the RAG.

**Action Item:** Dr Blamey to provide a brief summary of GBR restoration work to the RAG.

- a research priority to **quantify illegal take of TRL in Torres Strait** should be added.
- Impacts of climate change on Torres Strait Fisheries** is still a high priority and covered by CSIRO/TSRA project.
- Fishery surveys, stock assessment Harvest Control Rules and recommended biological catch (RBC)** is still the highest priority and is currently funded but remains in the list for visibility.
- Understanding connectivity, environmental drivers and adaptation strategies and Improvement of Data collection.**
  - It was recommended that these two priorities be merged into one. It was also noted that progressing these priorities was reliant on the Data Subgroup being formed and

discussing/agreeing on how to improve fishery dependent data from all sectors of the fishery. It was also noted that there has been progress in phone-based application/reporting platforms, GPS receivers and methods that would make this work cost effective and achievable. Dr Knuckey advised that he would provide the RAG with a summary of relevant work / applications already in place in the Pacific Ocean that could be drawn upon to progress this work.

**Action Item:** Dr Knuckey to provide summary of traditional fishing data apps to the RAG out of session.

**Action Item:** Formation of TRL Data Subcommittee (or even a Sub committee for all TI Fisheries) be explored with a view to meeting (Subject to funding and resources) in July 2026 to discuss fishing dependent data needs for the fishery.

- f. **Understanding fisher behaviour and Understanding changes to fishing power through time.**
  - i) It was noted that this CPUE comparison work would continue to be progressed through the current independent survey work and that this priority could be removed from the list of priorities.
- g. It was agreed to delete the repeated Understanding fisher behaviour and Understanding changes to fishing power through time from research priorities table.
- h. **Understanding changes to fishing connectivity, environmental drivers and adaptation strategies.**
  - i) It was noted that the CSIRO Climate change project outcomes will have an impact on this work and that this priority should be put on hold until after that work has been further progressed.
- i. **Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA).** Considered a high priority if can be achieved in a cost-effective manner.
- j. It was agreed that the following priorities be removed from the priorities list:
  - Science peer review (No longer required) and
  - Mid-year survey (is driven by HCR so not needed as a research priority).

## 8 Other business

### *IUU incursions*

35. TIB members raised concerns about the continued prevalence and frequency of Illegal fishing coming into Torres Strait, particular in the North. They highlighted evidence of incursions as recently as two days ago and TRL feelers being discarded on the fishing grounds. These members emphasised the need for a response to this situation.
36. The AFMA Member highlighted that this issue was a whole of government issue and the options and approaches to address it are considered as part of whole of government response to IUU fishing. The group was requested to continue to advise and report of any illegal fishing activity.
37. The RAG discussed what role it could play in terms of response or understanding the issue and noted that a project to quantify the potential amount of illegal take of TRL may be useful in informing stock status and impacts. It was recommended that a research priority to better understand illegal catch of TRL be added to the research priority list.
38. Dr Delestang noted that he is currently working with Australian Border Force to quantify illegal catch in Western Australia and that he would provide a summary of the work to the RAG out of session.

<b>Action Item:</b> Dr Delestang to provide summary of WA IUU research work to the RAG.
---

39. Concerns at the use of stun guns by illegal fishers and potential broader impact on the reefs was also raised. It was noted that PNG has banned the use of stun guns and that their use is reducing as the quality of the TRL caught with this method is poor.

### ***TVH Industry Proposal***

40. The TVH member introduced a detailed industry proposal to the RAG that highlights opportunities to improve the efficiencies and productivity of the industry as a whole. It was noted that this item would be discussed in detail at TRLWG 19.

## **9 Date and venue for next meeting**

41. The RAG noted that there may be opportunities for a shorter meeting to be held in the future, requesting that opportunities to reduce the meeting time from 2 days to 1 be investigated. TSRA requested that their pre-meeting TIB member consultative obligations be taken into account when planning meeting dates. The RAG supported the proposed content and an indicative date of the next meeting of 8-9 December 2026.
42. The meeting was closed at 10:45am on Wednesday 10 December 2025.

## Attachment A – Adopted agenda

**TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP 41 (TRLRAG 41)****Tuesday 9 December 2025 | 9am – 5pm****Wednesday 10 December 2025 | 9am – 5pm****TSRA Board Room | Thursday Island****ADOPTED AGENDA****DAY 1 – Tuesday 9 December 2025**

Agenda item	Action required	Presenter	Time allocated
<b>1 Preliminaries</b>			
<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	<b>Noting</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>9am</b> 45 minutes
The Chair will welcome members and observers to the 41 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the TRL RAG.			
<b>Adoption of agenda</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Chair</b>	
The RAG will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.			
<b>Declaration of interests</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Chair</b>	
Members and observers will be invited to declare any real or potential conflicts of interest and determine whether a member may or may not be present during discussion of or advice made on the matter which is the subject of the conflict.			
<b>Action items from previous meetings</b>	<b>Noting</b>	<b>AFMA</b>	
The RAG will be invited to note the status of action items arising from previous meetings.			
<b>2 Updates from members and observers</b>	<b>Noting</b>	<b>All members</b>	<b>945am</b> 45 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional inhabitant and industry members</li> <li>Scientific and economic members</li> <li>Government agencies</li> <li>Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority</li> <li>Native title</li> </ul>			
TRL RAG members and observers are invited to provide updates on matters relevant to the Torres Strait TRL fishery, including recent fishing conditions, research, management, compliance and native title matters, including updates on fishing patterns, behaviours, prices, and market trends for the 2024-25 season and the start of the 2025-26 season.			
<b>Morning Tea (10:30am – 11am)</b>			
Agenda item	Action required	Presenter	Time allocated

<b>3 CLIMATE ADAPTATION</b>	<b>Noting and Discussion</b>	<b>CSIRO/ AFMA</b>	<b>11am</b> 1 hour
-----------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

The RAG is invited to note:

- the 2025 Climate and Ecosystem Status report for the TRL Fishery presented by CSIRO;
- an update on the project “Modelling climate change impacts on key fisheries in the Torres Strait to co-develop adaptation and mitigation strategies” by CSIRO; and
- an update on AFMA’s Climate Risk Framework (CRF) and its potential application in Torres Strait fisheries.

#### Lunch (12:00pm – 12:30pm)

<b>4 CATCH AND EFFORT ANALYSES FOR THE 2024-25 FISHING SEASON</b>	<b>Noting and Discussion</b>	<b>Fishwell Pty Ltd</b>	<b>1230pm</b> 1 hour
---	------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

The RAG will be invited to discuss TRL fishery catch and effort data for the 2024-25 fishing season, including catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) analyses to be presented by Fishwell Pty Ltd.

<b>5 RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2025 PRE-SEASON SURVEY</b>	<b>Noting and Discussion</b>	<b>Fishwell Pty Ltd</b>	<b>130pm</b> 2 hours
---	------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

The RAG is invited to discuss the results of the November 2025 pre-season survey to be presented by Fishwell Pty Ltd.

#### Afternoon Tea (3:30pm – 4pm)

<b>6 RECOMMENDED BIOLOGICAL CATCH 2025-26</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>AFMA</b>	<b>4pm</b> 30 minutes
---	-----------------------	-------------	--------------------------

Having regard to the information and results from agenda items 3, 4 and 5, the RAG will be invited to consider the outputs of the agreed eHCR and provide advice on a recommended biological catch (RBC) for the TRL Fishery for the 2025-26 fishing season.

#### DAY 2 – 10 December 2025

Agenda item	Action required	Presenter	Time allocated
-------------	-----------------	-----------	----------------

<b>7 Research priorities</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>AFMA</b>	<b>9am</b> 1 hour
------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------	----------------------

The RAG will be invited to discuss and provide advice on research priorities for the TRL Fishery for the 2026/27 – 2031/32 five-year period.

<b>8 Other business</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>All members</b>	<b>10am</b> 30 minutes
-------------------------	-------------------	--------------------	---------------------------

The RAG will be invited to raise any other matters for consideration. There is no agenda paper for this item.

<b>9 Date and venue for next meeting</b>	<b>Noting</b>	<b>Chair/ AFMA</b>	<b>1030am</b> 15 minutes
--	---------------	--------------------	-----------------------------

The RAG will be invited to discuss suitable dates for the next RAG meetings.

## Attachment B – Declarations of interest

### Declaration of interests Dr Ian Knuckey – August 2024

#### Ian Knuckey positions:

Director –	Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd
Director –	Olrac Australia (Electronic logbooks)
Chair –	Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group
Chair –	Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group
Chair –	Victorian Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Assessment Group
Chair –	Victorian Central Zone Abalone Fisheries Resource Advisory Group
Chair –	Gulf of St Vincent's Prawn Fishery MAC Research Scientific Committee
Scientific Member –	Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee
Scientific Member –	Gulf of St Vincent's Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee
Scientific Member –	Tropical Tuna Resource Assessment Group
Scientific Member –	SESSF Resource Assessment Group
Member –	The Geelong Agri Collective

#### Fishwell current projects:

AFMA 2022-	Annual monitoring, reporting and assessment of SPF marine mammal interactions, including effectiveness of mitigation measures
AFMA 2020-0807	Bass Strait Scallop Fishery Survey – 2024/ 25
FRDC 2019-027 GABTS	Improving and promoting fish-trawl selectivity in the SESSF and
FRDC 2018-021 strategies	Development and evaluation of SESSF multi-species harvest
Traffic Project	Shark Product Traceability
Sea Cucumber Ass.	Design and implementation of various sea cucumber dive surveys.
Australia Bay	Queensland Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Fin Fish Trawl Fishery