

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting 46 27 August 2008
TSSAC PROCEDURES Terms of Reference	Agenda Item No. 2.2 FOR DECISION

PURPOSE

That the TSSAC **DISCUSS** and **RECOMMEND** amendments to the TSSAC Terms of Reference if required.

BACKGROUND

At TSSAC Meeting 45 the Committee reviewed the terms of reference (TOR) for the TSSAC as provided at Attachment 2.2A. The members thought that the TOR should better reflect the broader strategic role they felt the Committee should be taking including the role to make recommendations on funding sources and linkages with other research organisations.

The TSSAC agreed to review the TOR and make recommendations for amendments “that broaden its scope to include recommendations for alternative fund providers” and to recommend these amendments to the PZJA (45.1.3.2).

Dr Jones provided suggested alternatives to members via email on 24 July 08 for consideration. Her suggested amendments were:

- 4: Develop and update a strategic plan for Torres Strait Fisheries research including potential sources of research funding.
- 5: Solicit and review research proposals in line with the strategic plan and recommend proposals for implementation to AFMA or other funding organizations where appropriate.
- 9: Engage consultancies, fisheries research forums, workshops and stock assessments as appropriate to review and address research needs for Torres Strait fisheries and recommend research priorities.
- 10: Develop efficient, transparent and effective mechanisms and protocols for engaging research providers in the Torres Strait fisheries.

No other suggested amendments to the TOR were provided by members prior to developing this paper.

DISCUSSION

The TSSAC should discuss the TOR for the TSSAC with consideration of the broader strategic role the Committee believes the TSSAC should be taking.

RECOMMENDATION

To be discussed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENT 2.2A

The Terms of Reference for the Torres Strait Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee as endorsed by the PZJA (21.5.1.3).

1. Identify and document research gaps, needs and priorities for fisheries in the Torres Strait.
2. Provide a forum for expert consideration of scientific issues referred to the TSSAC by the Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TSFMAC).
3. Provide a forum for detailed consideration of scientific issues raised by Torres Strait Fishery Working Groups and relevant stakeholder representative bodies and advise Torres Strait Fishery Working Groups and relevant stakeholders on the feasibility and merits of suggested research.
4. Develop and update a strategic plan for Torres Strait Fisheries research.
5. Solicit and review research proposals in line with the strategic plan and recommend proposals for implementation to the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) and other relevant funding organisations.
6. Provide other advice to the TSFMAC on matters consistent with TSSAC functions.
7. Review research / consultancies, stock assessments, and other reports and outputs relevant to Torres Strait fisheries and advise the TSFMAC and Fishery Working Groups, on their technical merit.
8. Advise the TSFMAC and Fishery Working Groups on the management implications identified by the research projects or the TSSAC's own assessment of fisheries data.
9. Convene Fisheries Assessment workshops as appropriate to review and address assessment needs for Torres Strait fisheries and recommend research priorities for future assessments.
10. Provide advice to research providers and the TSFMAC on appropriate mechanisms and protocols for engaging research providers in the Torres Strait fisheries.
11. Provide advice on effective delivery of research results to stakeholders
12. Provide advice on a range of issues for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery, including stock assessment advice.