



Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Meeting No. 46

27 August 2008

MINUTES

CHAIR: Mr Ian Cartwright

These minutes were ratified on 26 November 2008 at TSSAC No. 47.

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



Queensland
Government



TORRES STRAIT
PZJA
PROTECTED ZONE
JOINT AUTHORITY

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING No. 46
27 August, 2008: Commencing at 8.30am
Venue: QDPI&F Building, Main Conference Room, Level 2
Address: 80 Ann Street, Brisbane.

Preliminaries – Chairs opening remarks/Apologies/Adoption of Agenda/Disclosure of Interests

DRAFT AGENDA

1 Meeting Administration

- 1.1 Chairs Opening Remarks
- 1.2 Review and Adoption of the Agenda
- 1.3 Meeting attendance, apologies and observers
- 1.4 Declaration of Interests
- 1.5 Minutes from the TSSAC Meeting No. 45 on 17-18 June 2008
- 1.6 Action Items from TSSAC Meeting No. 45
- 1.7 Correspondence and Membership

2 TSSAC Procedures

- 2.1 Format of TSSAC minutes
- 2.2 Amendments to the Terms of Reference
- 2.3 Conflict of Interest Protocols

3 Research proposals for 2008/2009 financial year

- 3.1 Call for pre-proposals for 2008/2009

4 TSSAC Research Plan 2005-2010

- 4.1 Progress on development of TSSAC Research Plan

5 Other business

- 5.1 Participation of Traditional Inhabitants in Research.
- 5.2 Protocols for researchers working in Torres Strait
- 5.3 Aquaculture and the TSSAC
- 5.4 Confirmation of TSSAC No. 47

DECISION RECORD – TSSAC 46 (27 AUGUST 2008)

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1.5.1 The Committee AGREED to accept the Minutes of TSSAC 45 as an accurate record of the meeting subject to revision of Agenda Item 6 on Page 14 to include the research project that received in-principle support for funding by the TSSAC.

1.5.2 The TSSAC AGREED to circulate the amended research proposal from the CSIRO project given in-principle support for funding at TSSAC 45 for clearance prior to submission to AFMA to ensure the amendments suggested by the Committee had been incorporated by the Principal Investigator.

1.7.2 The TSSAC AGREED that a selection panel comprising the TSSAC Chair, AFMA Torres Strait Senior Manager, Mr Malcolm Southwell and Dr Gavin Begg, be established and that the newly formed selection panel recommend a nominee for the vacant Research Member position on the TSSAC based on the selection report of the previous membership selection panel.

TSSAC PROCEDURES

2.1.1 The Committee AGREED that the format for TSSAC meeting records meets the minimum requirements as set out in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 and that the level of detail included in the previous minutes was adequate for the Committee.

2.2.1 The Committee AGREED to consider amendments to the Terms of Reference (TOR) prior to its next meeting.

2.2.2 The TSSAC AGREED to form a sub-committee and prepare a paper out-of-session on methods for better integrating the Committee with other funding bodies for consideration at the next meeting of the TSSAC.

2.2.3 The TSSAC AGREED to confirm with AFMA's research section what areas of research ComFRAB are prepared to fund and provide this information to the TSSAC at its next meeting.

2.2.4 The TSSAC AGREED to include a regular reporting item on PNG Research as part of the agenda at future TSSAC meetings

2.2.5 The TSSAC AGREED that the TSSAC Chair write to the TSPMAC providing a copy of the revised TOR and outlining the TSSAC role and advise the TSPMAC that the TSSAC does not have the resources or mandate to provide stock assessment advice for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery.

2.3.1 The TSSAC AGREED to develop a Conflict of Interest Policy incorporating the key elements included in the agenda paper and suggested amendments and additions.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR 2008/2009 FY

3.1.1 The TSSAC AGREED to call for research pre-proposals by advertising in 'Torres News' and appropriate natural resource management websites and target relevant research providers, University faculties and individual researchers.

3.1.2 The TSSAC AGREED to use the FRDC proposal as the basis for the TSSACs pre-proposal with amendments to include additional information on Indigenous

engagement protocols and socio-economic indicators to ensure the benefits to Torres Strait Islanders can be assessed.

3.1.3 The TSSAC AGREED on the need for Traditional Inhabitant research needs to be incorporated in the TSSAC Research Plan.

3.1.4 The TSSAC AGREED would commission short term projects against this financial year's budget based on research needs identified by PZJA working groups or the TSSAC.

3.1.5 The TSSAC AGREED:

(1) to call for expressions of interest for:

- *full proposals* for possible *short term projects* that would need to be paid for and delivered by the end of the 2008/09 financial year related to identified research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and high priorities identified by the Working Groups; and
- *pre-proposals* for possible longer term research projects for funding in the 2009/10 financial year based on high priority research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and the above Working Group identified priorities (ACTION ITEM 13);

(2) that full proposals and pre-proposals would need to be submitted by mid-October 2008 to allow sufficient time for the TSSAC to consider proposals.

3.1.6 The TSSAC AGREED that the Chair write to ComFRAB to provide 'in principle support' for Craig Mundy's research project relating to testing of the GPS track system to collate fine scale effort data from the community and non-community sectors of the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery (ACTION ITEM 13).

OTHER BUSINESS

5.1.1 The TSSAC AGREED that it would commission the development of a single source web-based document that would provide guiding protocols for adoption by researchers when working in the Torres Strait which could be printed and bound when required.

5.1.2 The TSSAC AGREED that the preamble in the call for pre-proposals (3.1.5) include a requirement for researchers to outline in their pre-proposal the ethical protocols and the culturally appropriate and effective methods of engagement, consultation and communication they would adopt in their proposed research.

5.1.3 The TSSAC AGREED to convene a workshop to facilitate active engagement and employment of Torres Strait Islanders in all aspects of research undertaken in the Torres Strait. The workshop will be aimed at identifying operational requirements of various research agencies and discuss strategies for overcoming the difficulties in meeting those requirements. The workshop will bring together OH&S and Human Resource personnel, researchers, Torres Strait Islanders (eg turtle and dugong project officers) and TSRA.

5.3.2 The TSSAC AGREED that QDPI&F provide a regular report at TSSAC meeting on aquaculture research and/or development projects.

5.3.3 The TSSAC AGREED that it would advise the PZJA on what it considered to be the TSSACs role in recommending funding of future aquaculture research and development projects and seek the PZJA's endorsement of this role.

5.4.1 The Committee AGREED to meet for TSSAC 47 on 18-19 November 2008 (in Cairns, Northern Fisheries Office QDPI&F (venue to be confirmed)).

Post meeting note: TSSAC 47 meeting now to take place on 26-27 November 2008.

TSSAC 46 - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PZJA

- 1 The PZJA **NOTE** that Mr Augustine Mobiha is the nominated PNG Representative on the TSSAC.
- 2 The PZJA **NOTE** that Annabel Jones will replace Dr David Wilson as the AFMA Member on the TSSAC

The following members and observers were in attendance at TSSAC No. 46

Name	Role
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson
Ms Yvonne Zunic	Executive Officer (AFMA)
Dr Roland Pitcher	Research Member (CSIRO)
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Research Member
Dr Annabel Jones	AFMA Member
Mr Shane Fava	QDPI&F Member
Mr Augustine Mobiha	PNG National Fisheries Authority
Mr Tony Vass	Independent Industry Member

Observers

Name	Role
Mr Toshi Nakata	TSRA
Mr Neil Bensley	BRS
Mr Malawup Nona	Badu Traditional owner

Apologies

Dr Yimin Ye

Dr Stephen Newman, Research Member (WA Fisheries)

Mr Charles David, Traditional Inhabitant Representative Member

Declaration of Interest

Name	Interests
Mr Ian Cartwright	Consultant
Dr Annabel Jones	Thursday Island Fisheries Manager
Dr Roland Pitcher	CSIRO researcher
Ms Sevaly Sen	Consultant
Mr Shane Fava	QDPI&F Senior Fisheries Manager
Mr Tony Vass	Ex Mackerel License Holder

Action Items

No.	Action	Agenda	Responsibility	Status
1.	The Executive Officer to: 1) revise the outcome of Agenda Item 6 of the TSSAC 45 Minutes by outlining which project had received the SAC's in principle support; and 2) check the required protocol with AFMA's research section on reporting research outcomes in the Minutes.	1.5	Executive Officer	
2.	The Executive Officer to circulate the amended research proposal which the TSSAC had supported at TSSAC 45 to members for clearance prior to submission to AFMA.	1.5	Executive Officer	
3.	The Executive Officer to establish a selection Panel comprising the TSSAC Chair, Mr Ian Cartwright, Malcolm Southwell and Gavin Begg and that the newly formed selection panel recommend a nominee for the vacant Research Member position on the TSSAC based on the selection report of the previous membership selection process.	1.7	Executive Officer	
4.	The Committee consider amendments to the TOR prior to its next meeting	2.2	Members	
5.	The revised draft Terms of Reference to be circulated to TSSAC members for comment prior to TSSAC 47.	2.2	Executive Officer	
6.	A sub-committee be formed to prepare a paper out-of-session on methods for better integrating the Committee with other funding bodies for consideration at the next meeting of the TSSAC	2.2	Executive Officer	
7.	The TSSAC confirm with AFMA's research section what areas of research ComFRAB are prepared to fund and provide this information to the TSSAC at its next meeting	2.2	Secretariat	
8.	Include a regular reporting item on PNG Research as part of the agenda at future TSSAC meetings	2.2	EO	
9.	TSSAC Chair write to the TSPMAC providing a copy of the revised Terms of Reference and outlining the TSSAC role and advise the TSPMAC that the TSSAC does not have the resources or mandate	2.2	Chair	

	to provide stock assessment advice for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery			
10.	Develop a Conflict of Interest Policy incorporating the key elements included in the agenda paper and suggested amendments and additions	2.3	EO	
11.	Develop the TSSAC's Research Pre-Proposal based on the FRDC proposal format with the inclusion of additional information in relation to Indigenous engagement protocols and socio-economic indicators to allow the benefits to Torres Strait Islanders to be assessed.	3.1	EO	
12.	Contact Mr Tony Kingston, author of the Strategic Research Plan being developed for the TSSAC, and request he include Traditional Inhabitant research needs in drafting the Plan	3.1	Dr Annabel Jones	Completed
13.	To call for expressions of interest for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>full proposals</i> for possible <i>short term projects</i> that would need to be paid for and delivered by the end of the 2008/09 financial year related to identified research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and high priorities identified by the Working Groups; and - <i>pre-proposals</i> for possible longer term research projects for funding in the 2009/10 financial year based on high priority research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and the above Working Group identified priorities; 	3.1	EO	
14.	Brief the TSSAC on turtle and dugong research needs following Torres Strait MTSRF Steering Committee meetings which includes AFMA membership.	3.1	Dr Annabel Jones	
15.	Contact Prof. Nakata to gauge his availability to develop a document on guiding protocols for researchers working in the Torres Strait and a complimentary document for Torres Strait Islanders based on appropriate terms of reference developed by AFMA.	5.1	Dr Annabel Jones	
16.	Include in the preamble in the call for research proposals a requirement for researchers to incorporate the cultural processes and procedures they would adopt in their proposals research.	5.1	EO	

17.	To include a short term project of a workshop to identify operational requirements of various research agencies and discuss strategies for overcoming the difficulties in meeting these requirements in the call for full proposals discussed in 3.1.5 for completion in this financial year.	5.1	EO	
18.	Include a regular reporting item on TSSAC agenda on aquaculture research and development projects.	5.3	EO	
19	The TSSAC to advise the PZJA on what it considered to be the TSSACs role in recommending funding of future aquaculture research and development projects and seek the PZJA's endorsement of this role	5.3	Secretariat	

Agenda Item 1.1: Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and observers in attendance, in particular Mr Augustine Mobiha from the PNG National Fisheries Authority and Mr Malawup Nona, a CFG observer.

Agenda Item 1.2: Review and Adoption of Agenda

The Committee added the following additional item to the agenda:

1.7 Correspondence and Membership.

Agenda Item 1.5: Minutes from the TSSAC Meeting No. 45

1.5.1 The Committee **AGREED** to accept the Minutes of TSSAC 45 as an accurate record of the meeting subject to revision of Agenda Item 6 on Page 14 to include the research project that received in-principle support for funding by the TSSAC.

ACTION ITEM 1: The Executive Officer to:

- 1) revise the outcome of Agenda Item 6 of the TSSAC 45 Minutes by outlining which project had received the SAC's in principle support; and
- 2) check the required protocol with AFMA's research section on reporting research outcomes in the Minutes.

1.5.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** to circulate the amended research proposal from theCSIRO project given in-principle support for funding at TSSAC 45 for clearance prior to submission to AFMA to ensure the amendments suggested by the Committee had been incorporated by the Principal Investigator.

ACTION ITEM 2: The Executive Officer to circulate the amended research proposal to members for clearance prior to submission to AFMA.

Agenda Item 1.6: Action Items

1.6.1 The Committee **NOTED** that the majority of action items from TSSAC 45 had been completed and would be considered at this meeting with items 3 and 7 outstanding.

Agenda Item 1.7: Correspondence and Membership

1.7.1 The Committee **NOTED** the following correspondence tabled at the meeting:

1. the TSSAC Chair's letter dated 20 June 2008 to Ms Anna Prichard, University of Queensland, and Tim Skewes, CSIRO, notifying them of the outcome of the TSSAC's consideration of their applications for research funding at TSSAC 45;
2. the TSSAC Chair's reply of 10 July 2008 to Anna Prichard's letter of 12 June 2008; and
3. Yimin Ye's formal resignation from the TSSAC which took effect from 21 August 2008.

The Committee discussed the membership of the TSSAC, including the vacancy resulting from Dr Ye's resignation and the membership position for a PNG representative.

1.7.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** that a selection panel comprising the TSSAC Chair, AFMA Torres Strait Senior Manager, Mr Malcolm Southwell and Dr Gavin Begg, be established and that the newly formed selection panel recommend a nominee for the vacant Research Member position on the TSSAC, based on the selection report of the previous membership selection panel (ACTION ITEM 3).

1.7.3 The TSSAC **RECOMMEND** that the PZJA **NOTES** Mr Augustine Mobiha is appointed as the PNG Representative on the TSSAC.

1.7.4 The TSSAC **RECOMMEND** the PZJA **NOTES** that Annabel Jones will replace Dr David Wilson as the AFMA Member on the TSSAC.

Agenda Item 2.1: Format of TSSAC Minutes

2.1.1 The Committee **AGREED** that the format for TSSAC meeting records met the minimum requirements as set out in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 and that the level of detail included in the previous minutes was adequate for the Committee.

Agenda Item 2.2: Amendments to the Terms of Reference

The TSSAC **DISCUSSED** suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference (TOR) to broaden the Committee's scope to better reflect a broader strategic role for the Committee, including a role in making recommendations on funding sources and linkages with other research organisations.

The TSSAC discussed several amendments to the current TOR of the TSSAC and developed the following revised TOR:

1. Identify and document research gaps, needs and priorities for fisheries in the Torres Strait with an emphasis on PZJA fisheries but recognizing the shared nature with PNG of the resources.
2. Provide a forum for expert consideration of scientific issues referred to the TSSAC by the Torres Strait fisheries Management Advisory Committees or other relevant bodies and other advice to the TS MACs on matters consistent with TSSAC functions.
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, monitor and update on an annual basis 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 organizations.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Convene fisheries Assessment Workshops as appropriate to review and address assessment needs for Torres Strait fisheries and recommend research priorities.
9. In line with the Torres Strait Research Plan advise the research community on research priorities for Torres Strait fisheries and provide advice on procedures for the engagement of research in the Torres Strait.
10. Provide advice to research providers on effective delivery and extension of results to relevant stakeholders and the submission of relevant data and reports in a suitable format for inclusion in a suitable repository.

2.2.1 The Committee **AGREED** to consider amendments to the TOR prior to its next meeting (ACTION ITEM 4). The revised draft TOR to be circulated to TSSAC members for comment prior to TSSAC 47 (ACTION ITEM 5).

Members noted that the PZJA had agreed to PNG membership on the SAC to ensure consideration of the benefits of research for both Australia and PNG. The TSSAC

considered that the TOR would need to reflect these research inter-relationships and resource sharing.

2.2.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** to form a sub-committee and prepare a paper out-of-session on methods for better integrating the Committee with other funding bodies for consideration at the next meeting of the TSSAC (ACTION ITEM 6).

2.2.3 The TSSAC **AGREED** to confirm with AFMA's research section what areas of research ComFRAB are prepared to fund and provide this information to the TSSAC at its next meeting (ACTION ITEM 7).

2.2.4 The TSSAC **AGREED** to include a regular reporting item on PNG Research as part of the agenda at future TSSAC meetings (ACTION ITEM 8).

The Committee also discussed its role as a resource assessment group for the Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee. The SAC felt that it did not have the resources to adequately provide stock assessment advice to management advisory committees and that the TOR should be amended to support this. Individual fisheries should engage a suitably skilled resource assessment group (such as the Tropical Rock Lobster RAG) to facilitate evaluation of a stock assessments.

2.2.5 The TSSAC **AGREED** that the TSSAC Chair write to the TSPMAC providing a copy of the revised Terms of Reference and outlining the TSSAC role and advise the TSPMAC that the TSSAC does not have the resources or mandate to provide stock assessment advice for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (ACTION ITEM 9).

Agenda Item 2.3: Conflict of Interest Protocols

The TSSAC agreed that the greatest potential for the detrimental effects of conflict of interest (COI) to manifest is in the evaluation of research proposals submitted to the Committee and the identification of suitable research providers for identified research projects.

The Committee discussed and agreed on a two phase approach to mitigating the potential risk of COI. Phase one included clear definitions of how, who, why and where conflict of interest could occur in the context of the TSSAC Phase two provided actions to be undertaken by TSSAC meetings when/if COI are identified.

2.3.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** to develop a COI Policy incorporating the key elements included in the agenda paper and suggested amendments and additions (ACTION ITEM 10).

Agenda Item 3.1: Research Proposals for 2008/2009 FY

In discussing the process for calling for submission of Torres Strait fisheries research pre-proposals for 2008/09 the TSSAC reviewed the following steps:

1. determine if there are any high priority research areas that need to be addressed in this financial year and to include this information in the call for pre-proposals if that is the case;
2. consider appropriate ways to call for research pre-proposals, eg broad advertising (identifying appropriate places to advertise) or contacting targeted providers;

3. agree on an acceptable format for pre-proposals;
4. determine appropriate timelines for submissions; and
5. agree on appropriate protocols for processing the pre-proposals prior to the next meeting of the TSSAC.

The Committee will defer step 1, relating to determining the high priority research areas, until they have worked through the remaining steps. The Committee recognised that delay with completion of the newly developed Strategic Research Plan would mean that identified research priorities would be based on the research areas outlined in the current Research Plan. For the purposes of the call for pre-proposals in this financial year, the Committee will refer to identified research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan 2005-2010 and high priorities identified by the Working Groups including:

- An expanded pre-season survey to better estimate the age 2+ population of tropical rock lobster for the purpose of improving the accuracy of each year's TAC.
- Looking into testing the GPS tracking system in both TIB and TVH sectors to get better data on effort. ComFRAB may already have approved funding of this project.
- Determining a method of estimating traditional take and fishing practices to explore ways to protect and improve traditional fishing under a Management Plan.
- Research in the bifurcation point of post-settlement lobsters between the east coast and Torres Strait. The TSSAC requested rewording of the project to ensure clarity in what the project would deliver.

Ecologically Sustainable Fisheries:

- A live Coral Trout business study.
- Areas of scientific endeavour and data collection that could be shared between Australia and PNG to build a better, more integrated assessment for rock lobster.
- Review areas where opportunities exist for possible collaborative research between PNG and Australia for lobster, turtle and dugong, including traditional fisheries management.
- Biosecurity and the transfer of pests into the Torres Strait.

Theme 3 Needs and Aspirations of Torres Strait Peoples:

- Identification of parallels with other fisheries internationally with respect to leasing of fisheries resources in Torres Strait and learning opportunities for Torres Strait Peoples.
- Contracting an external consultant to lead a workshop in the second half of the year with a small but well-informed group and international experts on the transfer of ownership to the TIB sector.

Theme 4 Collaboration with PNG:

- Access and ownership by PNG Nationals in Torres Strait.
- Turtle and Dugong research

3.1.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** to call for research pre-proposals, members by advertising in 'Torres News' and appropriate natural resource management websites and target relevant research providers, University faculties and individual researchers.

In considering step 3 on a suitable format for the pre-proposal, the TSSAC discussed the various elements of the current FRDC proposal and whether this format could be reworked.

3.1.2 The TSSAC discussed the proposed format of a research pre-proposal and **AGREED** to use the FRDC proposal as the basis for the TSSACs pre-proposal with amendments to include additional information on Indigenous engagement protocols and socio-economic indicators to ensure the benefits to Torres Strait Islanders can be assessed.

ACTION ITEM 11: The Executive Officer to develop the TSSAC's Research Pre-Proposal based on the FRDC proposal format with the inclusion of additional information in relation to Indigenous engagement protocols and socio-economic indicators to allow the benefits to Torres Strait Islanders to be assessed.

3.1.3 The TSSAC **AGREED** on the need for Traditional Inhabitant research needs to be incorporated in the TSSAC's Research Plan.

ACTION ITEM 12: Secretariat to contact Mr Tony Kingston, author of the Strategic Research Plan being developed for the TSSAC, to request he include Traditional Inhabitant research needs in drafting the Plan.

Members discussed the remaining Torres Strait available research funding for this financial year. The Committee recognized that it might not be feasible to effectively utilise this financial year's entire research budget through calling for and reviewing pre-proposals and then full proposals, as per the preferred approach for competitive research proposals.

3.1.4 With a view to best utilising this year's remaining funds, members **AGREED** that the best approach would be to commission short term projects against this financial year's budget based on research needs identified by PZJA working groups or the TSSAC

3.1.5 The TSSAC **AGREED:**

(2) to call for expressions of interest for:

- *full proposals* for possible *short term projects* that would need to be paid for and delivered by the end of the 2008/09 financial year related to identified research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and high priorities identified by the Working Groups; and
- *pre-proposals* for possible longer term research projects for funding in the 2009/10 financial year based on high priority research areas outlined in the current Strategic Research Plan and the above Working Group identified priorities (ACTION ITEM 13);

(2) that full proposals and pre-proposals would need to be submitted by mid-October 2008 to allow sufficient time for the TSSAC to consider proposals.

The TSSAC will consider full proposals for short term commissioned research for 2008/09 and pre-proposals for research undertaken in the 2009/10 financial year at TSSAC 47 in Cairns on 18-19 November 2008.

Post meeting note: TSSAC 47 meeting now to take place on 26-27 November 2008.

ACTION ITEM 14: Dr Annabel Jones to brief the TSSAC on turtle and dugong research needs following Torres Strait MTSRF Steering Committee meetings which includes AFMA membership.

3.1.6 The TSSAC **AGREED** that the Chair write to ComFRAB to provide 'in principle support' for Craig Mundy's research project relating to testing of the GPS track system to collate fine scale effort data from the community and non-community sectors of the Tropical Rock Lobster fishery (ACTION ITEM 13).

Agenda Item 4.1: Progress on development of the TSSAC Research Plan

4.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** that a draft Strategic Research Plan would be available by end October 2008 for consideration at the TSSAC 47.

Agenda item 5.1 & 5.2: Involving Torres Strait Islanders in Research and Protocols for Researchers

Given the close nature of agenda items 5.1 and 5.2, members agreed to roll discussion into the one item.

The Committee re-confirmed the need to encourage the involvement of Torres Strait Islanders in all aspects of the research process and the need for the development of guiding protocols for adoption by researchers when working in the Torres Strait. Members agreed that preparation of a protocols document would best be undertaken by a Torres Strait Islander.

5.1.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** that it would commission the development of a single source web-based document that would provide guiding protocols for adoption by researchers when working in the Torres Strait which could be printed and bound when required. Mr Prof. Nakata was suggested as the preferred person to develop a guiding protocols document for researchers based on key elements from existing published protocols and a complimentary document for Torres Strait Islanders.

ACTION ITEM 15: The TSSAC contact Prof. Nakata to gauge his availability to develop a document on guiding protocols for researchers working in the Torres Strait and a complimentary document for Torres Strait Islanders based on appropriate terms of reference developed by AFMA.

5.1.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** that the preamble in the call for pre-proposals (3.1.5) include a requirement for researchers to outline in their pre-proposal the ethical

protocols and the culturally appropriate and effective methods of engagement, consultation and communication they would adopt in their proposed research.

ACTION ITEM 16: Include in the preamble in the call for research proposals a requirement for researchers to incorporate the cultural processes and procedures they would adopt in their proposed research.

Members discussed the operational aspects of engaging Torres Strait Islanders in all aspects of research and discussed appropriate ways to facilitate and encourage their involvement. The TSSAC reconfirmed its support for meaningful engagement of Torres Strait Islanders in all aspects of research undertaken in the Torres Strait.

5.1.3 The TSSAC **AGREED** to convene a workshop to facilitate active engagement and employment of Torres Strait Islanders in all aspects of research undertaken in the Torres Strait. The workshop will be aimed at identify operational requirements of various research agencies and discuss strategies for overcoming the difficulties in meeting these requirements. The workshop will bring together OH&S and Human Resource personnel, researchers, Torres Strait Islanders (eg turtle and dugong project officers) and TSRA.

ACTION ITEM 17: To include a short term project of a workshop to identify operational requirements of various research agencies and discuss strategies for overcoming the difficulties in meeting these requirements in the call for full proposals discussed in 3.1.5 for completion in this financial year.

Agenda Item 5.3: Aquaculture and the TSSAC

5.3.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** that QDPI&F have responsibility for all aspects of aquaculture and are investigating the possibilities for future aquaculture development within the Torres Strait Protected Zone and will continue to offer strategic advice for future development, administrative and operational functions which include licensing and extension to facilitate the development of aquaculture within the region.

5.3.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** that QDPI&F provide a regular report at TSSAC meetings on aquaculture research and/or development projects.

ACTION ITEM 18: The Executive Officer to include a regular reporting item on TSSAC agenda on aquaculture research and development projects.

5.3.3 The TSSAC **AGREED** that it would advise the PZJA on what it considered to be the TSSACs role in recommending funding of future aquaculture research and development projects and seek the PZJA's endorsement of this role (ACTION ITEM 19).

Agenda Item 5.4: Confirmation of TSSAC 47 meeting dates

5.4.1 The Committee **AGREED** to meet for TSSAC 47 on August 18-19 November 2008 in Cairns, Northern Fisheries Office QDPI&F (venue to be confirmed).

Post meeting note: TSSAC 47 meeting now to take place on 26-27 November 2008.