



## Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Meeting #55


June 29 2011

# CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Chair: Mr Ian Cartwright

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

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The 55<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) was via teleconference on 29 June 2011.

### **Major outcomes**

The TSSAC:

- Reviewed and amended research priorities included in the 2011 Operational Plan and agreed to finalise the plan.
- Agreed on a process for calling for research pre-proposals for funding from 2012/2013.

### **Operational Plan annual review**

The Committee reviewed the 2010 Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries and in particular the research priorities in all Torres Strait fisheries. Current research underway in the Torres Strait is addressing some research priorities in the Tropical Rock Lobster, Turtle and Dugong and Torres Strait Islander Development categories. Amendments to Tropical Rock Lobster research priorities were made based on feedback from the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group.

The Committee will continue to communicate with other Torres Strait working groups and committees regarding research priorities to ensure that full use is made of industry and other input in those forums. A detailed matrix of research priorities will continue to be developed and circulated to assist this feedback process.

### **Research**

The Committee considered which tactical (immediate high importance) projects that were in the 2011 Operational Plan could be targeted for funding. Committee members will further develop project suggestions and identify possible research providers out of session.

### **Call for pre-proposals for the 2012/13 financial year**

The TSSAC agreed that the process for calling for research pre-proposals in 2010 was effective and efficient and adopted the same process for the call for pre-proposals for the 2012/2013 financial year. A call for research pre-proposals will be communicated in early August 2011 with the process to be finalised prior to end of June 2012.

### **Current project update**

#### **Tropical Rock Lobster Management Strategy Evaluation**

The Committee noted the positive progress that has been made by the researchers for the project '*An Integrated Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster*'. Researchers have presented preliminary findings to Torres Strait Islander communities and the Principal Investigator will be requested to present further findings from the research at the next face to face TSSAC meeting in Brisbane.

#### **Annual Tropical Rock Lobster Surveys and TAC setting**

The Committee noted that the annual mid-year survey for Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster has been completed. The Resource Assessment Group will be held in August 2012 where to discuss the data from the mid year survey as well as the stock assessment and setting of the nominal 2012 Total Allowable Catch for the fishery.

### Recently contracted research

The TSSAC noted the status of successful projects from the 2010/2011 research funding round: '*Characterisation of the traditional subsistence fisheries in the Treaty communities (Torres Strait and Papua New Guinea)*' and '*Empowering Torres Strait Islanders to have a greater role in the Research and Development (R&D) process*'. These two projects are currently being contracted with research scheduled to begin soon.

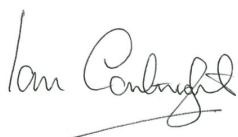
### **Other business**

#### TSSAC membership

The TSSAC noted the status of membership changes in the Committee. Recommendations for the replacement of Committee members, for the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) to become a permanent member of the TSSAC and for all Committee membership to be carried over for another three year term, have been considered by the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) Standing Committee who have recommended that the changes be adopted by the PZJA.

#### Change in Traditional Inhabitant representative

The Chair of the TSRA is yet to announce members of the new Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee (IFAC); the group that will replace the former Community Fisher Group. In the interim, a formal Traditional Inhabitant representative on the TSSAC is not yet known. The TSRA will facilitate attendance of a proxy Traditional Inhabitant representative on the TSSAC and other Torres Strait fisheries working groups and committees until the IFAC membership is finalised.



**Mr Ian Cartwright**

**TSSAC Chair**

In attendance at TSSAC 55 were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson	Consultant, AFMA Commissioner
Dr Annabel Jones	AFMA Representative	Manager, Thursday Island
Ms Rebecca Williams	Executive Officer (AFMA)	Senior Management Officer, Canberra
Dr Michael O'Neill	Scientist	Agri Science QLD, DEEDI
Dr Roland Pitcher	Scientist	CSIRO researcher

Dr Stephen Newman	Scientist	WA fisheries scientist
Ms Angelika Ziehl	TSRA representative (proxy)	Project Manager, Fisheries
Mr Tony Vass	Industry Representative	Ex Mackerel Licence Holder
Adam Leatherbarrow	Observer <sup>1</sup>	AFMA, Thursday Island

### **Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>
Mr Ludwig Kumuru	PNG Representative	PNG National Fisheries Authority
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Member	Consultant
Mr Ian Jacobsen	Fisheries Queensland Representative	Fisheries Queensland Fisheries Manager

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<sup>1</sup> From 11:15am – 12: 15 pm only