

<b>TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Meeting 55 29 June 2011</b>
<b>TSSAC PROCEDURES Annual review of the TSSAC Operational Plan</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 2.1 FOR DECISION</b>

## **PURPOSE**

That the TSSAC **AGREE** to develop a 2011 TSSAC Operational plan through reviewing the 2010 Operational Plan and amending as required.

## **BACKGROUND**

At TSSAC 48 the Committee agreed annually review the Operational Plan that accompanies the 5-year Strategic Research Plan (SRP) **(48.4.1)**. The Operational Plan includes more specific examples of research priorities, provides criteria on how research tasks are prioritised and how projects are assessed against these criteria (Attachment 2.1a).

The TSSAC has solicited feedback on research priorities on the Operational Plan from the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group and the Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group. This feedback has been drafted into the 2011 draft Operational Plan. It is now standard procedure that research priorities are considered at all Torres Strait Fisheries Committee and Working Group meetings and that these are communicated to the TSSAC on a regular basis after the groups have met.

The Annual Operational Plan provides potential research providers with specific research areas identified by the TSSAC as being of high priority to meet the current research needs of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority. The 2011 Annual Operational Plan will be provided as part of the package distributed to researchers wishing to consider applying for funding through the TSSAC in the 2012/2013 research funding round.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1.1 That the TSSAC **AGREE** to adopt the 2011 Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil