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| TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE | Meeting 55 29 June 2011 |
| RESEARCH Funding round for the 2012/2013 financial year | Agenda Item No. 3.2 FOR DECISION |

PURPOSE

That the TSSAC **AGREE** on a process for calling for research pre-proposals for the 2012/2013 funding round.

BACKGROUND

At TSSAC 52, the Committee agreed that the process used in 2009 to elicit research proposals was sufficient and appropriate and the same process would be adopted for the next funding cycle in 2010 **(52.6.1.1)**.

The 2010 process was:

1. The call for research pre-proposals was advertised in 'Torres News' and natural resource management websites and distributed to target relevant research providers, university faculties and individual researchers.
2. Researchers were required to complete a pre-proposal application within four weeks.
3. Research pre-proposals were evaluated by the TSSAC.
4. Principal Investigators were invited to submit full proposals by Feb 2011.
5. Full proposals evaluated at TSSAC 54.

The following time lines were followed by the Committee in 2010:

| Action | Date |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Draft 'Call for proposal' information provided to TSSAC (Attachment 3.2A and 1.5Ci) | 10 July 2010 |
| 2. Comments from TSSAC members to secretariat | 17 July 2010 |
| 3. Calls for proposals released in public, PZJA website, Torres News, NRM Jobs | 31 July 2010 |
| 4. Pre-proposals due date | 30 Aug 2010 |
| 5. Pre-proposals considered at TSSAC 53 | 5 Oct 2010 |
| 6. Results of TSSAC evaluation provided to PI | October 2010 |
| 7. Full proposals due to TSSAC secretariat | February 2011 |
| 8. Full-proposals considered at TSSAC 54 | February 2011 |

DISCUSSION

The TSSAC should discuss:

1. if the process in 2010 was suitable and sufficient;
2. the timing for receiving pre-proposals, evaluation of pre-proposals and submission of full proposals in 2011/2012;
3. any other/new requirements for the upcoming funding cycle.

RECOMMENDATION

That the TSSAC **AGREE** on a process for calling for submission of Torres Strait fisheries research pre- proposals for funding starting in 2012/13 financial year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minor expenses may be incurred by calling for proposals, depending on the process agreed upon.

Funding for Torres Strait research by AFMA for 2012/2013 and beyond is yet to be determined.

ATTACHMENT 3.2A

Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

CALLS FOR PRE-PROPOSALS FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH IN TORRES STRAIT.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority provides funding for strategic research projects in Torres Strait Fisheries guided by advice from the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC).

The TSSAC is currently seeking research proposals (up to three years) for recommendation to AFMA and other funding bodies for funding starting in 2012/2013.

Proposals are encouraged in (but not limited to) priority research areas identified in the 2011 Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries.

To apply for funding, applicants should prepare a pre-proposal using the accepted template and submit to TSSAC c/o Annabel Jones, by 30 August 2011. The pre-proposal template, Annual Operational Plan and other information can be found on the PZJA website or by contacting Annabel Jones (Annabel.jones@afma.gov.au).

The TSSAC will evaluate pre-proposals based on criteria of attractiveness and feasibility. The specific evaluation criteria used by the TSSAC are detailed in the 2011 Operational Plan. A strong emphasis on assessing proposals will be placed on the ability of research proposals and principal investigators to engage Torres Strait Islanders in the research process in meaningful and culturally appropriate ways including employment.

Researchers will be notified of the TSSAC's evaluation of proposals in October 2011. Individual applicants may be invited to prepare a full proposal in early 2012 based on evaluation of the pre-proposals.

Further information about Torres Strait fisheries and the TSSAC can be found at <http://www.pzja.gov.au>