

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting 57 7 - 8 March 2012
TSSAC PROCESSES Strategic Research Plan mid-term review	Agenda Item No. 4.3 FOR DISCUSSION

PURPOSE

That the TSSAC **REVIEW** the Strategic Research Plan for Torres Strait fisheries.

BACKGROUND

The Strategic Research Plan (SRP) was developed by the TSSAC in 2009 to describe how the TSSAC will use research opportunities to improve the PZJA's management of the fisheries resources of the Torres Strait. The SRP consists of the following parts:

- Part 1 identifies the principles, administration and funding aspects of the Torres Strait fisheries research programme.
- Part 2 identifies the key factors influencing Torres Strait research needs.
- Part 3 identifies key policy and research issues in the 11 fisheries managed by the PZJA.
- Part 4 identifies the six research themes that will guide Torres Strait fisheries research during the life of this Plan.

The SRP is used in conjunction with the Annual Operational Plan, a short guide detailing specific research objectives for each of the Torres Strait fisheries.

The SRP states that:

'The TSSAC's intent is that this Plan and the Operational Plan be living documents, capable of responding to the changing nature of the Torres Strait fisheries and institutional environments. In line with this intent, TSSAC will undertake annual reviews of the Operational Plan, a mid-term review of this Plan after 2-3 years, and a full review of this Plan in 2014.'

DISCUSSION

The SRP is at Attachment 4.3.A. At TSSAC 56, the Committee discussed how to undertake a mid-term review of the SRP. It was agreed that the TSSAC Executive Officer would make preliminary revisions to the document and will send the track changes to TSSAC members out-of-session for finalisation at TSSAC 57.

The SRP has been revised by the Executive Officer out-of-session and is presented to the Committee with track changes clearly marked. The Committee is asked to review the changes and discuss any further edits so that the document can be finalised.

RECOMMENDATION

4.3.1 That the TSSAC **REVIEW** the Strategic Research Plan for Torres Strait fisheries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil