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Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC)

MINUTES

TSPMAC TELECONFERENCE

29 APRIL 2013

TELECONFERENCE

CHAIR: Mr. Stuart Richey



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**TORRES STRAIT PRAWN
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Out Of Session meeting – 29 April 2013
Teleconference**

AGENDA

- 1 Preliminaries**
 - 1.1 Conflicts of interest
- 2 Finances**
 - 2.1 Draft AFMA budget for the TSPF (AFMA)

Individuals wishing to attend the meeting as an observer are required to contact the Chair (Mr. Stuart Richey: care of Lisa Cocking, TSPMAC Executive Officer; lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au) notifying him of your desire to attend.

Attendance

The following members and observers were in attendance at the TSPMAC OOS teleconference held on 29 April 2013.

Members	Apologies
Mr Stuart Richey – Chair	Mr Nick Shultz - Industry
Ian Jacobsen - Queensland DAFF	Mr Jim Newman - Industry
Ms Fiona Hill - AFMA	Mr Ron Earle - Industry
Ms Lisa Cocking – AFMA	Mr John Adams – TSRA
Mr Ed Morrison - Industry	Mr Clive Turnbull – scientific member
Mr Marshall Betzel - Industry	

Given there are 15 members on the TSPMAC and only 6 members attended the meeting, a quorum was not achieved (10 members or two thirds of the committee). It should be noted that the TSPMAC budget is not relevant to the Torres Strait Regional Authority and Indigenous Fisheries Advisory Committee members, which make up three positions on the Committee. Further, two TSMAC industry members and the TSRA member provided comments out of session on the budget paper.

Decision Record

1.1 The TSPMAC members present NOTED the conflicts of interest of members relating to the agenda.

2.1 That the TSPMAC members present NOTED AFMA's 2013/14 preliminary draft budget ([Attachment A](#)) for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (TSPF) which is based on AFMA's 2004 Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS 2004)).

Actions arising from TSPMAC OOS 29 April 2013

Action reference number	Action	Responsibility
TSPMAC OOS 290413	<p>TSPMAC Executive Officer to draft the TSPMAC budget response letter on behalf of the chair including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A request for AFMA to review the amortisation of e-log loader and determine if the useful life could be extended, reducing costs each year.- Acknowledgement for the ongoing work AFMA is doing to reduce the budget costs.	Executive Officer

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Conflicts of Interest

The TSPMAC Chair asked each member if they have any interests that may conflict with the budget paper discussion. The only potential conflict related to the TSPMAC Industry members, who are directly affected by the budget through the levy collection. The TSPMAC members agreed the industry members should still be a part of the meeting discussion as their advice was an important part of the budget consultation process.

TSPMAC industry members Mr Nick Shultz and Mr Jim Newman provided comments on the budget paper out of session and noted that their only conflict of interest was the one above.

Mr John Adams from TSRA also provided comments out of session and noted no conflicts of interest.

2 Finances

2.1 2013/14 draft AFMA budget

Ms Lisa Cocking from AFMA presented the details of the draft budget paper. She explained that the budget has increased by \$33,447 overall. This increase was mainly a result of increased observer, data management and logbook costs.

The observer costs were associated with increased observer days to ensure we are meeting the 2.6% coverage of actual fishery effort. The TSPMAC members present acknowledged that this seemed reasonable and noted that if effort does not track to the predicted amount during the season, we can reduce the observer days target mid-season, which will reduce costs during the acquittal process.

Ms Cocking explained that the data management budget is acquitted based on actual use of the data management team's time. Each year the budget is calculated based on an average of the previous three years usage. The increase in 2013/14 was due to increased data requests associated with the sustainability assessment undertaken by CSIRO in 2012. As this was a one off project, data management costs are likely to reduce in next year's budget and that actual costs would be acquitted at the end of the Financial Year, which may result in money being credited to the following financial year. The TSPMAC acknowledged that this was a reasonable cost and they look forward to the data management costs reducing in future.

The TSPMAC discussed the amortisation costs associated with the e-log loader. Ms Fiona Hill from AFMA explained that all fisheries that have the ability to use e-logs are now responsible for paying a portion of the costs associated with developing the system. Mr Betzel questioned whether we can spread the costs of the amortisation over a longer period, reducing the annual costs. Ms Hill agreed that she would discuss with AFMA Finance whether the effective life of the program could be extended to spread the amortisation costs over a longer period.

The TSPMAC acknowledged the ongoing work AFMA is doing to keep the overall budget down, noting that the \$33,447 increase was still difficult given the current financial constraints on the fishery.

The meeting closed at 10:40am.