

TORRES STRAIT PRAWN MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting No. 14 17-18 July 2013
REPORTS Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee	Agenda Item No. 3.5

RECOMMENDATION

3.5.1 The TSPMAC **NOTES** outcomes of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting (TSSAC) on 19 June 2013.

BACKGROUND

The TSSAC meets on a regular basis to manage the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) marine research budget, including the allocation of marine research funding for the Torres Strait Protected Zone. At TSSAC held a teleconference on 16 June 2013 to review the progress of a number of projects either submitted to or funded through the TSSAC. The TSSAC also reviewed the current Operational Plan designed to assist researchers when developing funding applications including (among other things) identifying key research priorities for each of the respective fisheries.

The TSPMAC discussed the 2012 Annual Operational Plan at its last meeting on 13 December 2012. During which the TSPMAC provided feedback to the TSSAC on research priorities currently assigned to the TSPF. The TSPMAC also recommended that: a standing agenda item be included on future TSPMAC meetings to discuss the TSPF research priorities.

DISCUSSION

TSSAC update

During the meeting, the TSSAC were provided with a brief overview of the progress made on two projects that relate to the TSPF:

1. *Environmental assessment update for habitats, assemblages and bycatch species in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (R. Pitcher);*
2. *Torres Strait prawn perceptions consultation (A. De Fries)*

Both of these projects will be presented to TSPMAC members as part of the July 17 - 18 meeting in Cairns.

Research Priorities

Feedback from the last meeting of the TSPMAC was forwarded to the TSSAC via the Chair. This feedback was subsequently noted by the TSSAC including a recommendation that:

Priority 3b “developing economic efficiency - Assess the overall economic environment of the fishery to inform marketing strategies” could be amended to include a broader efficiency aspect in an aim to allow adjacent fisheries to integrate into the TSPF more easily, through complimentary arrangements.

This recommendation was accepted by the TSSAC and will be incorporated into the review of the Annual Operational Plan. Once completed / finalised, the updated operational plan will be circulated to TSPMAC members. The TSPMAC is not required to comment on the AOP until the new version is published. This document may require comment out of session.

FINANCIAL

N/A