

Dear researcher,

Thank you for your interest in Torres Strait fisheries related research. Please find attached the new Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee research application, and the "*procedural framework for researchers in the Torres Strait*". This framework should be used in conjunction with the Torres Strait research application, and other relevant Torres Strait research documents such as the annual research statement and strategic research plan. It outlines the consultation that should occur with Torres Strait communities for different kinds of Torres Strait research and how to go about this.

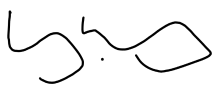
Please note that changes have been made to our research application process for 2022-23. Pre-proposals no longer exist, and only a full proposal is required. Following consideration (and conditional approval) of full proposals by the TSSAC, researchers may be required to undertake a consultation and engagement process with key Torres Strait community stakeholders, to seek further engagement about the proposed research. Assistance will be provided by the TSSAC secretariat. Following completion of the engagement and communication strategy, the TSSAC will assess the outcomes of this engagement and if required request any relevant changes to be made to the proposal, before funding is approved.

As you may understand, research in the Torres Strait comes with a unique set of challenges. Research needs to pay special attention to the social and economic contexts which are unique to the region, including the potential impacts that research may have on Torres Strait communities. Consideration is also required around data confidentiality. Confidentiality requirements should be considered for all research projects that may generate intellectual property related to traditional knowledge, or contain data, such as fishing grounds or catch data, of individual communities or fisheries. Any non-commercial data should be treated in the same way as commercial in confidence commercial fishing data. More information relating to data confidentiality can be found within the Strategic Research Plan and should be considered in the research application.

In line with these special considerations for Torres Strait research, the procedural framework for researchers in the Torres Strait was developed. We hope the updated research application and procedural framework assists researchers in engaging Torres Strait communities, in turn improving research outcomes and continuing to build positive relationships between researchers and communities.

If you have any questions regarding these documents or the application process, please contact me at (02) 6225 5451 or email lisa.cocking@afma.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely



Lisa Cocking

TSSAC Executive Officer