

**Protected Zone Joint Authority
Finfish Resource Assessment Group (FRAG)
Meeting No. 4**

DATE: Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March 2019
VENUE: Rydges Plaza Hotel, Cairns, Cnr. Grafton St & Spence St.
MEETING TIME: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Wednesday 13th March 2019
8:30 am – 5:00 pm Thursday 14th March 2019

DRAFT AGENDA v2

1. Preliminaries

- 1.1 Opening Prayer / Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners / Welcome / Apologies*
- 1.2 Adoption of draft agenda*
- 1.3 Declarations of interests*
- 1.4 Actions arising from FRAG 3 meeting 19-20 November 2018.*

2. Resource Assessment Group Updates

2.1 Industry member updates

Industry members and invited participants are invited to provide a brief verbal update on activities and strategic issues for the fishery.

2.2 Management updates

PZJA agencies are asked to provide a short update to the RAG on relevant changes to management arrangements and strategic issues.

2.2.1 Australian Fisheries Management Authority

2.2.2 Torres Strait Regional Authority

2.2.3 Queensland Department of Agriculture and Forestry

2.3 PNG National Fisheries Authority

2.4 Native title

The RAG is to note any relevant updates on native title matters relevant to the fishery.

3. Stock assessments for Coral trout and Spanish mackerel

3.1 Coral trout assessment and Recommended Biological Catch advice for the 2019-20 season

The RAG is to note and discuss a presentation by Dr George Leigh (QDAF)/ Dr Matt Holden (UQ) on producing a preliminary assessment of Coral Trout as part of the AFMA funded, CSIRO led project "Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery" AFMA project no. 2016/0824.

The RAG are asked to discuss the outcomes of the preliminary assessment for coral trout. In light of this new information the RAG are asked to provide advice to the PZJA on an appropriate recommended biological catch for coral trout the 2019-20 season.

3.2 Spanish mackerel assessment and Recommended Biological Catch for the 2019-20 season

The RAG is to note and discuss a presentation by Dr Michael O'Neill (QDAF) on the Spanish mackerel assessment as part of the AFMA funded, CSIRO led project "Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery" AFMA project no. 2016/0824.

The RAG are asked to discuss the outcomes of the updated stock assessment for Spanish mackerel. In light of this information the RAG are asked to provide advice to the PZJA on an appropriate recommended biological catch for the 2019-20 season.

4. Brief Summary of Harvest Strategy project progress

Trevor Hutton (CSIRO) to provide a brief summary of current interim draft harvest strategies for Spanish mackerel and coral trout.

5. Fishery data needs

The RAG is invited to review the existing table of identified data needs from FRAG 2 & FRAG 3. The RAG is to discuss and provide advice on actions to address each identified issue.

The RAG is asked to provide advice on reviewing and prioritising investigation on a number of areas of scientific uncertainty for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery.

The RAG is asked to provide advice on an ideal data cycle for each fishing season; mapping out when data are to be finalised, analysed, presented to the PZJA advisory groups and used for total allowable catch setting purposes.

6. TSSAC research pre-proposals received; biological data collection and mackerel assessment

The RAG are asked to note the pre-proposals received for mackerel monitoring and performing a stock assessment for mackerel which were considered at the 26 February 2019 meeting of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Group meeting. Noting likely funding constraints and in light of critical research needs for the fishery, RAG are asked to provide further advice on the proposals.

7. Western line closure

The RAG is asked to provide advice to the PZJA to support consideration of removing this closure.

8. Other business

RAG members are to address any other items of business raised during or ahead of the meeting.

9. Next meeting and meeting close

The next meeting (FRAG 5) is scheduled for 28-29 August 2019. Key agenda items for this meeting are reviewing 2018-19 season catch and effort data, preliminary updated stock assessments and advice on research priorities for 2020-21.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Individuals seeking to attend the meeting as an observer must contact the Executive Officer Andrew Trappett (andrew.trappett@afma.gov.au) (07) 4069 1990