

SIXTH MEETING OF THE PROTECTED ZONE JOINT AUTHORITY TORRES STRAIT FINFISH FISHERY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP

27 - 28 November 2019 (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)

TSRA Boardroom, Thursday Island, Torres Strait

DRAFT AGENDA

The meeting will open at 8.30am on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 8:30 am.

AGENDA ITEM 1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, welcome and apologies

The Chair will welcome FFRAG members, permanent observers, invited participants and any casual observers to the sixth Torres Strait Finfish Resource Assessment Group meeting.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The FFRAG is invited to consider and adopt the draft agenda.

1.3 Declarations of interest

FFRAG members must declare any real or potential conflicts of interests to the group and determine whether a member may or may not be present during discussion of, or decisions made, on the matter which is the subject of the conflict.

1.4 Action items from previous meetings

The FFRAG will note the status of action items arising from previous RAG meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 2 STOCK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Updated Spanish mackerel stock assessment, Recommended Biological Catch for 2020-21 season and estimates of catch taken outside the Fishery.

Expected outcome: FFRAG are to discuss and provide advice to the Finfish Working Group and PZJA on the updated stock assessment for Spanish mackerel delivered by Dr. O'Neill and Dr Buckworth. Having consider the stock assessment outcomes and latest catch data, FFRAG are to discuss and provide advice on a Spanish mackerel **Recommended Biological Catch for the 2020-21 season** and best estimates of catches taken outside the fishery to the Finfish Working Group and PZJA.

2.2. Coral trout Recommended Biological Catch for 2020-21 season and estimates of catch taken outside the Fishery.

Expected outcome: FFRAG are to discuss and provide advice on a Coral trout **Recommended Biological Catch for the 2020-21 season** to the Finfish Working Group and PZJA on the basis of the last stock assessment (March 2019) and any additional 2018-19 season information provided by AFMA.

AGENDA ITEM 3 HARVEST STRATEGY

3.1 Draft Torres Strait Finfish Fishery Harvest Strategy Framework

FFRAG will continue work from FFRAG 5 in reviewing the outcomes from the project *Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery* led by CSIRO.

Expected Outcome: The FFRAG will examine the draft harvest strategy components and provide advice on any outstanding matters.

AGENDA ITEM 4 MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE

4.1 Review of Western Line Closure

The FFRAG are asked discuss and provide advice to the PZJA on the outcomes of the round of community consultation and public comment on the proposal to review the Western Line Closure which prohibits commercial fishing for reef-line finfish species (trout, trevally etc) in the Western part of the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Expected Outcome: The FFRAG will discuss and provide advice to the Finfish Working Group and PZJA on any scientific issues (e.g. habitats, species interactions) that arose during community consultation on reviewing the closure.

4.2 Use of Vessel Monitoring Systems to support Finfish Fishery data needs

FFRAG are asked to discuss and provide advice on the potential scientific benefits from using Vessel Monitoring System data to address fishery data needs such as stock assessments.

AGENDA ITEM 5 UPDATES

5.1 FFRAG Member Updates

FFRAG are asked to note any updates from industry, government agencies, science members, PNG NFA or Malu Lamar RNTBC (invited participants) in addition to those tabled at the FFRAG 5 meeting on 31 Oct to 1 Nov 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 6 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Other Business

The FFRAG is invited to nominate any other business for discussion.

6.2 Date and venue for next meeting

The FFRAG will confirm arrangements for FFRAG 7, tentatively scheduled for 2-3 September 2020 in Cairns with key business being reviewing 2019-20 season catch data and any preliminary advice from the Spanish mackerel stock assessment team on the updated assessment. FFRAG will consider the full Spanish mackerel stock assessment which is scheduled to be presented at FFRAG 8 (tentatively scheduled for 14-15 October 2020) to support FFRAG RBC advice for 2021-22 season).

CLOSE OF MEETING