



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

14th Meeting of the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group

24 October 2018, Erub Island

Meeting Record

Note all meeting papers and minutes
are available on the PZJA webpage:

www.pzja.gov.au

Table of Contents

1	Preliminaries	3
1.1	Opening prayer, acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, welcome and apologies	3
1.2	Adoption of agenda	4
1.3	Declarations of interest.....	4
1.4	Action items from HCWG13 and previous meetings	5
1.5	Out of session correspondence	8
2	Working Group Updates	8
2.1	Industry update.....	8
2.2	Government updates.....	9
2.3	Native Title update	11
2.4	PNG National Fisheries Authority update	11
3	Management	11
3.1	Draft Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy	11
3.2	Catch data summary.....	15
3.3	Black Teatfish	16
3.4	Research	18
3.5	Future Management Priorities	19
3.6	2018/19 Hand Collectables Budget.....	20
4	Other business	20
5	Date & Venue for Next Meeting	20
	Attachment A – Adopted Agenda	21
	Attachment B – Harvest Strategy TAC Recommendations	24
	Attachment C – Agreed Size Limits	25
	Summary of Actions Arising.....	26
	Summary of HCWG14 Meeting Recommendations.....	26

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Opening prayer, acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, welcome and apologies

1. Rocky Stephen opened the meeting in prayer at 08:57 am.
2. The Chair welcomed attendees to the 14th meeting of the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group (HCWG 14) at Aunty Norah's Ark on Erub (Darnley) Island. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held and paid respect to Elders past, present and future. The Chair further acknowledged the value of the knowledge and experience attendees would impart at the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to attend.
3. Attendees at the Working Group are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. List of attendees at the HCWG14.

Members	
Anne Clarke	Chair
Andrew Trappett	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Member
Allison Runck	Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) Member
Tim Skewes	Scientific Member
Danielle Stewart	Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF)
Maluwap Nona	Traditional Inhabitant member for Gudumalulgal and Maluialgal
Michael Passi	Traditional Inhabitant member for Kemer Kemer Meriam
Patrick Mills	Traditional Inhabitant member for Kaiwalagal
Georgia Langdon	Executive Officer, AFMA
Observers	
Jimmy Gela	Malu Lamar representative
Jerry Stephen	TSRA Board Member for Ugar and Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Patrick Bonner	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Poruma (Coconut) Island
Simon Naawi	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Patterson Mosby	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Paul Lowatta	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Dennis Passi	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Mer (Murray) Island
Tony Salam	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Thursday Island
Kapua Gutchen	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Erub (Darnley) Island
Rocky Stephen	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Ugar (Stephen) Island
Ritia Gutchen	Traditional Inhabitant industry – Erub (Darnley) Island
Eva Plaganyi	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Nicole Murphy	CSIRO
Nick Boucher	TSRA

4. Apologies received are detailed in the Table 2 below.

Table 2. List of apologies for HCWG14.

Apologies	
Francis Pearson	Industry – Traditional Inhabitant member for Kulkalgal
Ian Liviko	PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) Invited Participant
Mark David	Invited Traditional Inhabitant fisher – lama (Yam) Island

1.2 Adoption of agenda

- The Working Group agreed that the key priority for the meeting was to progress the draft Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy. The Working Group also agreed that Agenda Item 2.3 Native Title Update be postponed until the Malu Lamar Representative was available.
- Various items from the ‘parking bay’ identified during the Harvest Strategy Workshop the day earlier were agreed to be discussed under the relevant agenda items of the day. This included black teatfish under Agenda Item 3.3, the open access policy under Agenda Item 3.5 – Future Management Priorities and a discussion on white teatfish and the use of hookah, the reporting of discards and a TIB licensing review, under Agenda Item 4 - Other Business.
- The Working Group adopted the draft agenda (Attachment A).

1.3 Declarations of interest

- As outlined in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1, all members of the Working Group must declare all real or potential conflicts of interest in Torres Strait hand collectable fisheries at the commencement of the meeting (see Table 3 below).

Table 3. Declared interests from each participant.

Name	Position	Declaration of interest
Anne Clarke	Chair	Nil.
Andrew Trappett	AFMA Member	Employed by AFMA, no pecuniary interests or otherwise
Allison Runck	TSRA Member	Employed by TSRA, no pecuniary interests or otherwise
Tim Skewes	Research Member	CSIRO/Independent Consultant. Previous principal scientist for Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) project to develop a harvest strategy for the TSBDMF. Previous CSIRO researcher for TSSAC project investigating traditional take of finfish in Torres Strait.
Maluwap Nona	Industry Member	TIB licence holder, Traditional Inhabitant Gudumalulgal and Maluialgal; Chairperson of Malu Lamar; Director of MDW Fisheries Association on Mer.

Name	Position	Declaration of interest
Michael Passi	Industry Member	TIB licence holder, Traditional Inhabitant Kemer Kemer Meriam
Patrick Mills	Industry Member	TIB licence holder; Chairperson of the Torres Strait Fisheries Association, Traditional Inhabitant Kaiwalagal
Jimmy Gela	Malu Lamar rep	Deputy Chair of Malu Lamar , Erubam Le PBC Chair
Georgia Langdon	Executive Officer, AFMA	Employed by AFMA, no pecuniary interests or otherwise
Jerry Stephen	Observer	TSRA Board Member for Ugar and Portfolio Member for Fisheries
Patrick Bonner	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Poruma (Coconut) Island
Simon Naawi	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Patterson Mosby	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Paul Lowatta	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Masig (Yorke) Island
Dennis Passi	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Mer (Murray) Island
Tony Salam	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Thursday Island
Kapua Gutchen	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Erub (Darnley) Island
Rocky Stephen	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant fisher – Ugar (Stephen) Island; Chair of Brother Bear Fisheries
Ritia Gutchen	Observer	Traditional Inhabitant industry – Erub (Darnley) Island
Eva Plaganyi	Observer	Project staff for PZJA funded research projects
Nicole Murphy	Observer	Project staff for PZJA funded research projects
Nick Boucher	Observer	Employed by TSRA, no pecuniary interests or otherwise

9. Other local observers from Erub were present during various agenda items throughout the meeting however their names were not captured for the meeting record.

1.4 Action items from HCWG13 and previous meetings

10. The Working Group acknowledged that only minor comments were received on the draft meeting record which was finalised out of session and circulated to members on 10 October 2018.

11. The Working Group noted the report provided by the Executive Officer advising of the status of actions arising from previous HCWG meetings (see Table 4 below).

Table 4. Status of action items arising from previous HCWG meetings.

#	Meeting #	Action item	Responsibility	Status
1	9 (20-21 June 2016)	AFMA to review the size limits set for the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer Fishery taking into consideration the size limits in place in Queensland and the Commonwealth Coral Sea Fishery.	AFMA	In progress To be addressed as part of the Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy Project
2	11 (27 June 2017)	Consideration on whether or not changes should be made to the current size limit for Prickly Redfish be undertaken during the Harvest Strategy Workshop noting relevant data will be presented.	AFMA	In progress Information on size limits was presented at the preceding Harvest Strategy Workshop in June 2017. The Workshop agreed that first consideration should be at first maturity and next consideration could be to better align with the size limits used for the East Coast BDM Fishery which are generally more conservative. (Source: CSIRO HSW Milestone Report 2, June 2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Torres Strait size limit: 30cm • Current East Coast size limit: 50cm. • New proposed size limit for Torres Strait: 40cm As per action item 1, size limits will be reviewed as part of the Harvest strategy project.
3	11 (27 June 2017)	Industry members and observers to submit any outstanding catch reports to AFMA as a matter of priority.	Industry	Completed AFMA received some catch records following the meeting. The voluntary docket book system has not been replaced with a Mandatory Fish receiver System (starting 1 December 2017). Industry however are still encouraged to submitted any historic docket book data they may still hold.

#	Meeting #	Action item	Responsibility	Status
1	13 (24 July 2018)	AFMA to ensure Malu Lamar is included in all aspects of consultation regarding the proposed legislative amendments to the Act and the Regulations.	AFMA	Ongoing There has been no additional consultation on the proposed legislative amendments since the last HCWG13.
2	13 (24 July 2018)	AFMA to clarify the information in paragraphs 7 and 11 of Agenda Item paper 2.3 from HCWG13	AFMA	Complete Text from this paper was sourced directly from documents produced by the Native Title Office and the TSRA regarding the Akiba Decision. See Meeting Papers 1.4c & d.
3	13 (24 July 2018)	AFMA to clarify answers and report back to industry regarding the rules about licencing and the fish receiver system.	AFMA	Complete An information sheet with answers to each of the questions raised at HCWG13 can be found at Meeting Paper 1.4e.
4	Out of Session	The TSRA to assist TIB licence holders to develop a proposal to lift the hookah ban when fishing for white teatfish, to be put up to the PZJA for consideration.	TSRA	Ongoing The TSRA are currently reviewing historic information on previous decisions and concerns regarding the use of hookah in the beche-de-mer fishery and earlier developmental permits that were granted. A discussion paper summarising this information with an action plan moving forward is to be developed and circulated to members and AFMA out of session from the HCWG for industry comment. This is intended to contribute to a full draft proposal to be presented at the next HCWG meeting in early 2019.

Action Item 1 – Malu Lamar Consultation on Legislative Amendments

12. An industry member expressed concern over the Observer status of Malu Lamar within PZJA forums and as such not being able to engage at the same level as PZJA Members. The Working Group was reminded by AFMA that the HCWG is an advisory body only, not a decision making body, however AFMA is supportive of the request for Malu Lamar to seek membership status on the PZJA and in the interim, the Working Group remains very committed to continued engagement with Malu Lamar across all PZJA forums, particularly on legislative amendments.

Action Item 4 – Hookah ban

13. Some industry members expressed frustration over the length of time taken for the TSRA to progress the hookah proposal and advocated for consideration of the draft proposal to occur out of session of the HCWG rather than waiting until the next meeting. The TSRA member advised that out of session work was not the best method for seeking advice on such an important topic as the use of hookah in the fishery. Some industry members expressed support for Malu Lamar to develop their own proposal and fast track the issue to the PZJA, separate to the work of the TSRA. These members agreed such a proposal required final advice from the Malu Lamar representative who was absent from the meeting during this discussion.

1.5 Out of session correspondence

14. The Working Group noted the correspondence circulated out of session since HCWG 13 held on 24 July 2018.

2 Working Group Updates

2.1 Industry update

15. The Working Group noted updates provided by Traditional Inhabitant members and observers regarding the recent performance of hand collectable fisheries and strategic issues, including economic trends, affecting the management and development of these fisheries.
16. Traditional Inhabitant industry members and observers raised the following strategic issues and concerns:
 - a) the status of sandfish stocks needs to be reviewed noting that industry members from Kaiwalagal and elsewhere are supportive of the sandfish TAC and reopening other closed species (including surf redfish and black teatfish) to alleviate fishing pressure on other beche-de-mer species;
 - b) industry requested more information be provided by the TSRA in regards to fisheries management issues and small business operators accessing fisheries development funding. Industry members requested that TSRA specifically visit the Kemer Kemer Meriam cluster and provide an update on what assistance is available for small business operators;
 - c) Gudumalugal nation is looking to work closely in partnership with Kemer Kemer Meriam nation with regards to fishing access in Kemer Kemer Meriam waters with the support of Malu Lamar;
 - d) Strong industry support for a standalone TAC for curryfish species given recent increases in targeting;
 - e) requests for support to attract outside professional assistance in upskilling TIB operators within the finfish fishery and to seek greater input from Traditional Inhabitants on the types of training required and that can be made available;

- f) TIB concern regarding the “property right” value of a Traditional Inhabitant Boat licence in regard to seeking financial assistance from banking institutions. This was considered a significant block to small business development in the TIB industry. Industry members were advised that the TIB licence has no legal “property right” value as the licences currently operate under an open access policy;
- g) requests from industry to review the process of verification and authorisation of Traditional Inhabitant identification forms. Some observed the process is considered too time consuming due to the requirement of having the relevant community Mayor sign, when the Mayor often does not have a good understanding on who is in the community. Suggestions were made for the PBC Chair to be a signatory instead of the Mayor; and
- h) concerns about the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) national requirement for all commercial operators to hold a Coxswain’s ticket and the understanding that industry members not being able to apply for prior learning recognition.

17. With regards to catch rates and on-water observations, industry members and observers noted the following points:

- a) fishing effort on Poruma has shifted more towards beche-de-mer since the crayfish season closed in July 2018;
- b) beche-de-mer fishing effort (mostly curryfish species) on Ugar has slowed down as there has been greater focus on finfish species with reports of 15-20 mackerel per day per fisher;
- c) prickly redfish catches around Mer are starting to decline. There are, however some reports of good recovery rates on certain reefs; while other reefs have not shown signs of recovery in over six months;
- d) no evidence of beche-de-mer stocks depleting around Masig however fishers are reported to be travelling further to deeper waters when the tides suit.

2.2 Government updates

2.2.1 AFMA update

18. The Working Group noted an updated provided by the AFMA member regarding management issues relevant to Torres Strait hand collectable fisheries including:

- a) legislative amendments to the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984* and the *Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985*;
- b) the Australian National Audit Office audit on the coordination arrangements of Australian Government agencies operating in the Torres Strait;
- c) the new Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources;
- d) the AFMA domestic compliance program;
- e) and the latest Fishery Status Reports from the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARES), most notably that:
 - i. In 2017, the status of fishing mortality and biomass for the beche-de-mer basket (18 species) changed from *not subject to overfishing*, and *not overfished* (green) to uncertain (yellow). This is largely due to the recent increase in targeting of curryfish species.
 - ii. Industry members noted that the biomass status for sandfish is still considered to be overfished (red) which was based the most recent independent survey information from 2009. Industry expressed a keen

interest in undertaking updated surveys to better understand the biomass status of sandfish in the Torres Strait.

2.2.2 TSRA Update

19. The Working Group noted an update provided by the TSRA member regarding TSRA Fisheries Program activities:

- a) The Fisheries Summit was held in August 2018 to discuss a number of priority issues for fishery development in the Torres Strait, including progressing the development of a TRL management plan. A resolution was passed in support of a 66.17 per cent catch share allocation for the TIB sector. Two community representatives and Malu Lamar were elected to the TSRA Board Fisheries Steering committee that oversees the development of an independent body responsible for holding fisheries assets currently held by the TSRA. Cluster groups also nominated new members for Traditional Inhabitant representation on all PZJA forums effective as of 1 January 2019.
- b) The current project looking at a common branding strategy for Torres Strait seafood products is due to be finalised early 2019. A key output of the project will be a handbook for fishers with advice on how to export products and access supply chains.
- c) TSRA are investing in fisheries infrastructure which includes an upgrade to the Erub Community freezer and other processing facilities in other communities to assist fishers.
- d) TSRA through the Torres Strait Maritime Pathways program are providing exclusive Coxswains training over the coming months to help support TIB fishers meet the AMSA Coxswains ticket requirement before implementation in June 2020. All training course, travel and accommodation costs will be funded by TSRA. All TIB fishers were encouraged to register for the course as places are limited.

20. Industry members and observers were advised that although the coxswains' ticket is a national requirement through AMSA, it does not preclude a Traditional Inhabitant from applying for a TIB licence.

21. Other industry members requested that under TSRA's seafood branding project and the infrastructure project, the TSRA provides training to assist fishers in processing and exporting their product. It was also noted that improved drying facilities for beche-de-mer are required to supply improved export quality product to the market as salted product prices are declining.

2.2.3 QDAF Update

22. The Working Group noted an update provided by the QDAF member, most notably that:

- a) QDAF implemented a Sustainable Fisheries Strategy in June 2017. A key action under the Strategy was to establish working groups for all harvest fisheries including sea cucumber.
- b) The Sea Cucumber Fishery Working Group's 3rd meeting is scheduled for November 2018 and a harvest strategy for the East Coast Sea Cucumber Fishery is currently being drafted and scheduled for operationalisation by 1 July 2019.
- c) All East Coast primary and tender vessels are required to carry a Vessel Monitoring System by 2020.
- d) The East Coast Sea Cucumber Fishery has a Total Allowable Catch of 361 tonnes which is almost always fully caught using hookah.

- e) The Fishery has been operating under industry proposed standard operating procedures and a rotational harvest strategy which has adequately supported their Wildlife Trade Operation Export Approvals until a formal harvest strategy is implemented.
23. In response to questions about Torres Strait/East Coast dual endorsement, industry members and observers noted that QDAF have considered this previously but it has never been fully developed.
24. An annually renewable Indigenous Fishing Permit (IFP) is available, for Indigenous fishers to access the East Coast fishery. The QDAF member agreed to provide additional information to TIB fishers out of session regarding the criteria for an IFP.

ACTION ITEM #1 – The QDAF member to provide information regarding an East Coast Indigenous Fishing Permit (IFP) to TIB fishers out of session, to be circulated by AFMA.

2.3 Native Title update

25. The Traditional Inhabitant representative for Gudumalulgal and Maluialgal, who is also the Chairperson of the Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC provided an update to the Working Group on behalf of the Malu Lamar representative.
26. The Working Group noted the following key points:
- a) Consultation is to commence shortly with Kemer Kemer Meriam nation regarding the mapping of Native Title sea country spatial boundaries.
 - b) Consultation on selecting plaintiffs for the Part B Sea Claim is ongoing, although slightly delayed.
 - c) A court hearing for the Part B sea claim is scheduled for 5 November 2018.
 - d) There is an upcoming Annual General Meeting for the Malu Lamar Corporation.

2.4 PNG National Fisheries Authority update

27. This agenda item was not discussed as the PNG NFA Invited Participant was not in attendance.

3 Management

3.1 Draft Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy

Working Group members recommended that the draft Harvest Strategy be put forward to the PZJA to seek agreement to release the Strategy for public consultation in early 2019. This was also strongly supported by industry observers.

28. CSIRO presented the draft final Harvest Strategy to the Working Group. The Working Group acknowledged that the information formulated in the Harvest Strategy had been collated from the various stakeholder workshops held over the past two years.
29. The draft Harvest Strategy provides clear and practical guidance for future sustainable fishing, including the data requirements and conditions for potential fishery expansion. The framework also includes static management controls such as size limits and spatial closures to complement fishery management measures and other traditional community management initiatives.
30. Following the fourth and final Harvest Strategy Workshop held the day earlier on Tuesday 23 October 2018, the Working Group discussed the draft Harvest Strategy

document section by section and made tracked changes to the document live during the discussion.

31. Given the extensive consultation and input provided to the Harvest Strategy Framework by stakeholders over time, changes to the draft final version in the discussion were relatively minor. A summary of the key discussion points and changes to the document include:

- a) Agreement that references in the text regarding catch per species per day should be considered as 'gutted weights' (rather than 'landed weights') to better reflect the legislation and the calculation of Total Allowable Catches.
- b) The Working Group noted that in earlier Harvest Strategy Workshops, stakeholders discussed an overarching objective to acknowledge, empower and operationalise Native Title Rights and interests including customary and traditional laws of individual nation groups, which also includes acknowledging and incorporating local knowledge and the ability to locally manage resources.
- c) Working Group members and observers also noted that native title rights are recognised and regulated under the *Native Title Act 1993* and not the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*. To ensure clarity to stakeholders on the scope and objectives of the Harvest Strategy, the Working Group agreed to include the following statement:

The HS has been designed to have regard to traditional knowledge and the ability for communities to manage fishery resources locally (e.g. voluntary spatial closures), through acknowledging and incorporating customary and traditional laws. It is recognised that there are differing cultural laws for individual nation groups which may be applied by communities to supplement fishery management measures. These include and are not limited to Malo ra GELAR (Malo's Law) of Kemer Kemer Meriam Nation, Saabi law of Maluilgal Nation, Saabi law of Gudumalulgal Nation, Kulkalgal Nation and Saabi law of Kaurareg Nation.

- d) Further acknowledgement that Papua New Guinean Traditional Inhabitants are included in the scope and objectives of the Harvest Strategy by way of reference to the definition of Traditional Inhabitant under the *Torres Strait Treaty*.

**** two Traditional Inhabitant members left the discussion ****

- e) Agreement to change references of 'voluntary management' (e.g. spatial closures) to 'community management' in acknowledgement that community management of fishery resources will be need to be enforced through traditional protocols specific to each community (e.g. community by-laws) but will not be specified directly within the Harvest Strategy. It was also noted that penalties for any breaches of cultural protocol must be considered.
- f) The Working Group recommended that community management measures such as spatial or temporal closures (e.g. during spawning periods) will require increased communication and awareness among communities and that details of this information be provided in an attachment to the Harvest Strategy.
- g) Industry members and observers advocated that the support of Island Councils, Prescribed Body Corporate Chairs and Traditional Owners is important to implement any community management measures.
- h) The Working Group noted that if agreed to, some community management measures may be formally integrated in to the Harvest Strategy framework in time.

- i) Agreement that under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to amend the Harvest Strategy. If the Harvest Strategy framework is required to be changed or reviewed, any changes will be consulted on through the Hand Collectables Working Group.
32. The Working Group noted the benefits of how a scientifically robust Harvest Strategy accompanied by good data collection can be used as a demonstrable tool in showcasing the sustainability of the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer fishery on a national and international scale. As the Harvest Strategy provides a clear and transparent pathway for future sustainable fishing, agreed on by stakeholders, changes to fisheries management can be undertaken more efficiently. It can also be used to support funding applications for research projects.

Total Allowable Catch

33. The Harvest Strategy recognises that the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer fishery is a multispecies fishery comprising species with different life histories, economic value, distributions and fishing pressures. As such, all species are now categorised into one of five different categories with revised recommended TACs for individual species and combined species baskets with respective trigger limits.
34. Proposed TACs and trigger limits were formulated using historic survey estimates of biomass, with conservative estimates of sustainable catch, or where available, historic catch data and industry stakeholder information. The Working Group noted that trigger limits are simply a reference point, used to initiate a closer examination of the species and trends in available catch data.
35. Based on the new categorisation of species, the Working Group discussed and agreed to the following changes to Total Allowable Catches under the Harvest Strategy:
- a) That surf redfish and sandfish remain closed, with a TAC of 0 tonnes;
 - b) That black teatfish remains closed acknowledging that the Harvest Strategy outlines a pathway for a trial opening and a recommended TAC of 15 tonnes;
 - c) That white teatfish remains the same (15 tonnes);
 - d) That prickly redfish remains at 15 tonnes, noting that this was reduced down from 20 tonnes in early 2017;
 - e) That hairy blackfish, now considered a highly targeted species, and removed from the 80 tonne basket limit, now has a standalone starting value TAC of 5 tonnes;
 - f) That curryfish species (*Stichopus herrmanni*, *Stichopus vastus* and *Stichopus ocelatus*) be removed from the 80 tonne basket limit, and now have a standalone TAC of 60 tonnes. The Working Group also agreed that *S. vastus* should have a trigger limit of 15 tonnes within the 60 tonne TAC;
 - g) That deepwater redfish be removed from the original 80 tonne basket limit and assigned a standalone TAC of 5 tonnes. A low TAC was agreed to in recognition that deepwater redfish is an important species but that data on the species is currently very poor;
 - h) That greenfish, also now considered a highly targeted species, be removed from the 80 tonne basket limit, have a standalone TAC of 40 tonnes;
 - i) That all other species (burrowing blackfish, elephant trunkfish, lollyfish, deepwater blackfish, golden sandfish, brown sandfish, leopardfish and stonefish) remain as a combined basket with a new TAC limit of 50 tonnes and individual species trigger limits (See **Attachment B** for species specific TACs and triggers).

36. The Working Group noted that should a species within the 50 tonne basket limit become of greater commercial interest and warrant its own standalone TAC, the remaining basket limit would be adjusted accordingly.
37. AFMA acknowledged that the TDB02 Catch Disposal Record books currently do not include specific codes for each species however, AFMA is looking to update this list. In the interim, industry is strongly encouraged to report all catches to species level. The Working Group supported the need to continue to separate the identification of blackfish species (Burrowing, Deepwater and Hairy) and Curryfish species in particular, where possible.

Reference Points

38. The Working Group noted that reference points are an important component of any Harvest Strategy, however the application of reference points in the Torres Strait Beche-de-mer fishery is difficult due to its current data poor nature. In order to demonstrate that the Harvest Strategy is consistent with the principles of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines, the Harvest Strategy uses proxies for reference points where possible.
39. The Working Group noted that the Harvest Strategy uses a more conservative value (0.4*K) for the limit biomass level due to the biology and density dependent recruitment of sea cucumbers, in acknowledgement of an increased risk to overfishing sea cucumber stocks if the density of reproducing animals becomes too low.
40. For some species, biomass estimates using available historic survey data can be used to understand where a population biomass is relative to where it used to be, in consideration of a target biomass estimate. It is acknowledged that as more data become available it may become easier to derive sensible reference points over time.

Decision Rules

41. The Working Group noted that a range of decision rules within the Harvest Strategy tiered framework have been developed for the following scenarios:
 - a) monitoring and adjusting catches annually, with agreement that a fishery will be closed if no data are provided;
 - b) managing mixed species/basket catches;
 - c) re-opening a fishery that has been closed, or overfished;
 - d) how to increase Total Allowable Catches if good quality fishery data are available, and;
 - e) how to further increase Total Allowable Catches if high quality survey data are available.
42. It was acknowledged that iterative changes to the decision rules have been made throughout the Harvest Strategy workshops. The Working Group did not make any substantial changes to the decision rules during this discussion.

Size Limits & Conversion Ratios

43. The Working Group noted that the Harvest Strategy incorporates static management controls such as minimum size limits that may be implemented to complement and strengthen other management measures.
44. Minimum size limits are set to protect at least the first age-at-maturity, by allowing for sea cucumbers to spawn before being fished.
45. CSIRO presented a summary of current versus proposed size limits under the Harvest Strategy and sought feedback from the Working Group on the recommended changes.

46. The Working Group discussed and recommended the following changes to the proposed minimum size limits in the beche-de-mer fishery:
- a) that curryfish vastus be increased from 15cm to 20cm to be slightly more precautionary and consistent with the size limits from the Queensland East Coast sea cucumber fishery, noting that further information on size at maturity is required.
 - b) That due to the contracting nature of Hairy blackfish during handling, a more appropriate minimum size limit of 15cm be applied which ensures that the animals can still reach size-at-maturity (12cm) and have time to breed. This recommendation was strongly supported by observers to the HCWG14 who are actively fishing these two species.
47. To assist fishers with voluntarily complying with minimum size limits under the Harvest Strategy, CSIRO is aiming to provide fishers with support tools (e.g. length stickers).
48. The Working Group also discussed the difficulty in identifying male versus female animals unless they are gutted and suggested that where possible, this information should also be recorded during processing.
49. A complete summary of the agreed size limits is tabled in **Attachment C**.
50. The Working Group also noted a brief presentation on beche-de-mer conversion ratios from CSIRO. Conversion ratios are used to calculate original sea cucumber weights from different processing stages (e.g. salted, dried). They are important for management as they are used to track total catches against total allowable catches. The more accurate the conversion ratio is, the less likely catches are over or underestimated.
51. Significant work has been undertaken on understanding conversion ratios for some species however some information gaps remain, particularly for new processing methods (boiled and salted) for newly targeted species such as curryfish.
52. To support the collection of data to better understand gaps in size limits and conversion ratios, CSIRO presented interested fishers with morphometric sampling kits that can be used to measure and record the lengths and weights of individual animals from the point of capture through each stage of processing. Fishers are encouraged to tag, measure and weight 3-5 animals per batch and record this information on the data sheets provided. In the margins of the meeting, fishers from Erub, Poruma, Murray, Masig and Ugar were each provided with sampling kits and trained on how to use them correctly.

3.2 Catch data summary

53. An overview of catch data reported in the beche-de-mer fishery under the Fish Receiver System was presented by AFMA out of session (Tuesday 23 October 2018), during the Harvest Strategy Workshop.
54. The Working Group noted the following key points:
- a) A total of 34.3 tonnes has been reported in the beche-de-mer fishery this season (as of 26 September 2018).
 - b) The highest reported catch is 24.1 tonnes of curryfish species, followed by 8.2 tonnes of prickly redfish.
 - c) Approximately 80% of all Catch Disposal Records (CDRs) returned to AFMA contained voluntary information on the Area Fished. These reported areas were Warraber (Area 12), Darnley (Area 16), Cumberland (Area 17) and Don Cay (Area 19).
 - d) Of the total reported catch, almost half (45%) was reportedly taken from within Area 16, 6% from Area 17, and 2% reported from Areas 12 and 19.

- e) Curryfish is the only species reported consistently each month this season, with peak catches reported in January, February and April.
 - f) In total, 25 of 126 TIB licence holders have reportedly landed catches of beche-de-mer to 9 different fish receivers.
 - g) Since the introduction of the mandatory Fish Receiver System on 1 December 2017 overall levels of catch reporting have improved. A total of 144 CDRs were received this season.
 - h) Only 49% of CDRs completed and returned to AFMA were received within 24 days. 24 days accounts for the maximum 3 day limit to send the white copy CDR to AFMA after the product is weighed, plus a conservative estimate of time (21 days) needed for CDRs to reach AFMA in the post.
55. Industry participants were asked to review the available data and catch trends and provide advice on its likely accuracy in reflecting true catch and effort in the fishery.
56. Industry members reported that fishers on Mer had been consistently catching Prickly redfish throughout the season and suggested that some catch data may still need to be submitted.
57. Industry participants were encouraged to continue to submit catch records in a timely manner and to provide voluntary information on fishing effort and area on the CDRs. A suggestion was made to allow for the electronic submission of data using tablets or smartphones. AFMA advised that this may be possible in the future but the priority is ensuring at least the paper catch records can be filled in accurately first.
58. Industry members and observers advocated strongly for AFMA to conduct another round of education and awareness programs for the fish receiver system to help fishers and receivers improve their catch records. AFMA acknowledged that there is budget available to support this in the 2018/19 financial year.

3.3 Black Teatfish

Industry members and observers agreed to the following performance targets to demonstrate improved catch reporting to the PZJA;

- a) 75 per cent of CDRs being submitted on time, by April 2019 (HCWG15); and**
- b) 100 per cent of CDRs being submitted on time by July 2019**

59. AFMA provided a brief summary of the current situation on black teatfish, noting that the PZJA has previously agreed that fishing for black teatfish will remain closed until the risk of exceeding the TAC is substantially reduced. At the July 2018 meeting, HCWG13 acknowledged that another black teatfish opening is largely contingent on demonstrated improved catch reporting by industry under the fish receiver system.
60. As a suggested way forward, AFMA proposed that the working group agree to some performance targets for improved catch reporting (on other species) for industry to meet in order to demonstrate a commitment to the PZJA of providing timely and accurate data.
61. Noting that currently only 49 per cent of CDRs are received by AFMA on time, industry observers agreed to aim for 75 per cent of CDRs being submitted on time, by April 2019 (HCWG15) and a 100 per cent of CDRs being submitted on time by July 2019. This indicative timeline allows for an out of session decision by the PZJA, Native Title Notifications and adequate industry notification prior to any opening, previously suggested to be December 2019.

62. The Working Group was asked to discuss and advise on preferred management arrangements that would support a successful re-opening.
63. An industry observer suggested that the TAC (of 15 tonnes) be divided up across each quarter in a season. This would mean every three months, industry would have access to 3.5 tonnes of black teatfish. If the 3.5 tonnes was over caught in any one quarter that extra catch would be deducted from the next quarter's allocation. This would require AFMA notifying industry with catch watch alerts to advise of catches against the TAC. This proposal was supported by both industry members and observers. The Working Group acknowledged that the proposed 15 tonne TAC would apply to the whole of the Torres Strait.
64. Other industry participants suggested that a 10 or 12 tonne trigger limit be applied (if fishing opens over one month) so that fishing effort can be slowed or paused while total catches are tallied. The Working Group was reminded that the previous TAC of 15 tonnes was already considered a conservative level, with up to 25 tonnes recommended as a sustainable take. AFMA also noted that monitoring catches against triggers still remains an issue if there is a lag in catch reporting.
65. Improved reporting needs to be supported by another round of community visits of education and awareness, for licenced fish receivers in particular and authorised agents, on the fish receiver system early in 2019.
66. An industry observer from Erub suggested that all fish receivers have the ability to submit data from Catch Disposal Records via text or phone call to AFMA daily. Industry members and observers were supportive of this suggestion, noting that while feasible, the conditions of a fish receiver licence maintains the requirement to submit the original white copy CDR will still apply. The Working Group also requested that daily texts be sent out from AFMA advising of overall catches against the TAC, as well as ensuring the public licence register is kept up to date.
67. To help address the issue of reporting time lags, the QDAF member suggested that AFMA implement a temporary trial of daily catch reporting via electronic means (texting, email or fax) for other beche-de-mer species for one month, with the requirement to still submit original paper copy CDRs. This would provide industry the opportunity to confidently demonstrate to the PZJA that timely and accurate catch reporting can be achieved under a black teatfish opening as well. The Working Group noted that suggestion.
68. Industry members and observers advocated for the development of an industry Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines what standards of data need to be provided over the coming months, as well as the details of the quarterly management arrangements as previously suggested, and a daily reporting trial to then be considered by the PZJA after consultation with AFMA.
69. The Working Group was supportive of Malu Lamar, AFMA and TSRA meeting to develop a combined strategy/MOU of education and awareness to improve catch reporting across the beche-de-mer fishing industry in support of a black teatfish opening.

ACTION ITEM #2 – Malu Lamar, AFMA and TSRA to meet and discuss a way forward in terms of an MOU/combined strategy to assist in improved data collection and proposed management arrangements in support of a black teatfish opening.

3.4 Research

3.4.1 Research update

70. Due to time constraints, there was no research updated provided by the Scientific member.

3.4.2 Five Year Fishery Research Plan

The HCWG recommended that the key research priority for Torres Strait hand collectable fisheries was to undertake an experimental fishing survey to understand the stock status of sandfish on Warrior Reef.

71. AFMA provided a brief overview of the newly developed rolling five-year research plan that is designed to align with the new Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) Strategic Research Plan and inform the TSSAC's annual call for research funding priorities.

72. To date, the key focus of research investment and management resources has been to develop a harvest strategy for the beche-de-mer fishery and improve catch and effort data. Whilst the beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy is likely to inform much of the future research needs in the BDM Fishery, the Working Group was asked to provide advice on the key research priorities identified for hand collectables fisheries to be considered by the TSSAC in 2018/19.

73. The scientific member summarised a suite of current and potential research priorities that have been previously identified for the beche-de-mer fishery as outlined below:

- a) Harvest Strategy Development
- b) Stock assessments
 - i. Surveys
 - ii. Analysis of fishery data (all fishery species)
- c) Conversion ratios
 - i. Curryfish boiled and salted to gutted weight
- d) Biology and ecology
 - i. Habitat, reproduction, growth, recruitment to inform size limits; spatial and temporal management
 - ii. Taxonomy
 - iii. Ecological Risk Assessments
- e) Value adding
 - i. Product handling, processing with training and reference material
 - ii. Alternative products (konowata and marine adhesives)
- f) Climate change impacts/opportunities
- g) Enhancement/reseeding depleted populations
- h) CITES (non-detriment findings), Marine Stewardship Council Certification
- i) Economic analysis, marketing, value chain analysis, fishery capitalisation

74. The Traditional Inhabitant industry member for Gudumalulgal and Maluialgal expressed a keen interest in obtaining a developmental permit to use a larger vessel with hookah to collect data and fish the 15 tonne TAC of white teatfish. While some industry members and observers were supportive, others questioned the research objective of this proposal. The Scientific Member noted that the data collected could be used to

demonstrate that the use of hookah was not going to result in overfishing the TAC; a previous concern of the PZJA. The Scientific Member added, the data collected is unlikely to be useful in understanding stock status of white teatfish without detailed scientific advice and support to ensure the right methodology was used.

75. The Working Group noted that without a clearly defined research question, the proposal was unlikely to be supported by the TSSAC in a bid for research funding; reminding the group that previous scientific advice indicated that
- a) there are no concerns with the biomass of white teatfish; and
 - b) earlier experimental fishing trials from 2011 clearly demonstrated that deeper caught species can be taken using hookah apparatus.
76. Some HCWG members and observers acknowledged that the investigation of the use of hookah in the beche-de-mer fishery is an important issue in terms of fishery access but that the use of hookah may qualify more as a management priority rather than research priority requiring funding.
77. Noting that sandfish is currently a closed species and the last research survey on sandfish stocks was undertaken in 2010, with an experimental survey conducted in 2012, the Working Group was very supportive of undertaking an experimental survey to understand the biomass of sandfish stocks on Warrior Reef and recommended this as a key research priority for the TSSAC's consideration.
78. The Working Group also acknowledged that some work is currently underway with industry members from Ugar, working closely with CSIRO to investigate the feasibility of a small scale sea cucumber re-seeding program. Members and observers to the meeting expressed unanimous support for this work and requested that a letter be drafted from the HCWG to support any funding applications for the re-seeding research.

ACTION ITEM #3 – AFMA to draft a letter on behalf of the HCWG expressing the support the re-seeding research being pursued by industry members in Ugar.

3.5 Future Management Priorities

The Working Group proposed that the TSRA, working closely with AFMA continue to develop a proposal to lift the hookah ban as a key management priority for the beche-de-mer fishery.

79. As agreed by some Working Group members, and observers, the issue of using hookah to fish for white teatfish was identified as a very important management priority for the beche-de-mer fishery. The Working Group also acknowledged that as an action item from HCWG13, the TSRA is currently developing a proposal to address the issue of lifting the current hookah ban. The following key points regarding this proposal were discussed:
- a) There are current difficulties in accessing white teatfish by freediving as they occupy deeper habitats;
 - b) There are long standing concerns of the HCWG and PZJA that the use of hookah while fishing for white teatfish poses too great a risk to other beche-de-mer species under the current fishery management arrangements;
 - c) The above concerns need to be adequately addressed and the risk demonstrably reduced to provide confidence to the PZJA that fishing with hookah can be done sustainably;

80. Some industry members and observers reassured the Working Group that the use of hookah would be only to access white teatfish and no other species. Other industry observers, however, expressed strong concerns around how the taking of one species while hookah was being used would be monitored and enforced, to ensure that species other than white teatfish were not being collected using hookah.
81. The Working Group noted that the East Coast sea cucumber fishery, while allowing all catch on hookah, has very stringent rules and management arrangements in place to monitor the fishery including VMS on all vessels, mandatory daily logbook reporting and a requirement to report where, when and how much product is to be unloaded. The QDAF member stated that Queensland Fisheries and Boating Patrol was unlikely to permit the use of hookah for only one species due to the difficulties of monitoring and enforcement.
82. CSIRO suggested that as a management issue, a small trial could be undertaken to test the catch monitoring system using a different fishing method (hookah) with increased data collection (i.e. high resolution spatial data), strong scientific oversight over the types of data being collected and stringent management controls in place. If successful, a trial could serve as a demonstrated case study to support a longer term policy change to allow the use of hookah.
83. To strengthen the trial, the QDAF member proposed closing all other fishery species while the use of hookah was permitted to fish for white teatfish. This would help monitoring and enforcement of the trial management arrangements.
84. AFMA also noted that for hookah to be allowed, the TAC and access to the species would be restricted to a small section of the beche-de-mer industry as not all fishers have access to hookah apparatus.
85. Noting the suggestions of management arrangements and monitoring options put to the meeting, the Working Group proposed that the TSRA, working closely with AFMA, continue to develop a proposal to lift the hookah ban as a key management priority for the beche-de-mer fishery. This was not a formal Working Group recommendation due to meeting quorum requirements, as no HCWG Traditional Inhabitant members were present when this course of action was proposed.

3.6 2018/19 Hand Collectables Budget

86. Due to time restrictions, the agenda paper on the 2018/19 Hand Collectables Budget was taken as read, and not explicitly discussed.

4 Other business

87. Due to time restrictions, the issue of reporting discards and the TIB licence review was deferred to the next meeting.

5 Date & Venue for Next Meeting

88. The Working Group agreed that the next meeting of the HCWG be tentatively scheduled for April 2019.
89. The Chair thanked everyone for their commitment and contributions throughout the meeting which was closed in prayer at 6:30pm by Mr Simon Naawi.

Attachment A – Adopted Agenda

14th MEETING OF THE TORRES STRAIT HAND COLLECTABLES WORKING GROUP

Wednesday 24 October 2018 (8:30 am – 5:00 pm)

Venue: Norah's Ark

Erub (Darnley) Island

ADOPTED AGENDA

The meeting will open at 8.30am on Wednesday 24 October 2018

AGENDA ITEM 1 PRELIMINARIES

1.1 **Opening Prayer, acknowledgement of Traditional Owners, welcome and apologies**

The Chair will welcome HCWG members, permanent observers, invited participants and observers to the 14th Torres Strait Hand Collectables Working Group.

1.2 **Adoption of agenda**

The working group is invited to adopt the draft agenda.

1.3 **Declarations of interest**

Working group members are invited to 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 working group is invited to note and discuss the status of action items arising from previous HCWG meetings.

1.5 **Out of session correspondence**

The working group will note any out of session correspondence on HCWG matters since the previous meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

2.1 **Industry**

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

2.2 Government

2.2.1 Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)

2.2.2 Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA)

2.2.3 Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF)

The working group will note updates from each of the government agencies.

2.3 Native Title

The working group will note a verbal update from the Malu Lamar representative.

2.4 PNG National Fisheries Authority

The working group will note an update from the PNG NFA member, if present.

AGENDA ITEM 3 MANAGEMENT

3.1 Draft Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy

CSIRO will present the draft Beche-de-mer Harvest Strategy. The Working Group is invited to provide advice on the final draft in consideration of putting the final document to the PZJA.

3.2 Catch Reporting & Fish Receiver System Update

The working group will note an update on the mandatory fish receiver system and a summary of catch reporting in the Torres Strait beche-de-mer fishery. The working group is also invited to discuss and provide advice on the likely accuracy of data in reflecting true catch and effort data for the BDM fishery.

3.3 Black Teatfish

The working group will consider and recommend catch reporting targets/benchmarks, management arrangements and monitoring mechanisms required to support a black teatfish opening in 2019, to be put forward for PZJA consideration.

3.4 Research

3.4.1 Research Update

The working group will note a verbal update from the HCWG Scientific member.

3.4.2 Five Year Fishery Research Plan

The working group will also discuss and provide advice on research priorities for the beche-de-mer, trochus and pearl shell fisheries under the Torres Strait for the Five-Year Rolling Research Plan 2019/20 – 2022/23.

3.5 Future Management Priorities

3.6 Budget update

AGENDA ITEM 4 OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 5 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

CLOSE OF MEETING

Attachment B – Harvest Strategy TAC Recommendations

Common name	Scientific name	Commercial value	TAC (t)	Proposed changes/ TAC (t)	Trigger basket TACs	Note re trigger	Max increase (indicators) before needing survey	Max recorded historical catch and year
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	High	Closed	Closed			5	200t (1994)
Surf redfish	<i>Actintopyga mauritiana</i>	Medium	Closed	Closed			5	60.2t (1998)*
Black teatfish	<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>	High	Closed	Trial 15t			25	52.7t (1996)
White teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	High	15	15			20	16.3t (2014)
Prickly redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	High	15 (reduced from 20)	15			20	28.1t (2015)
Deepwater redfish	<i>Actintopyga echinites</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	5 [#]			40t based on surveys	5.5t (2015)*
Hairy blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	5			10 (lower CI survey as uncertain)	28.5t (2001)
Greenfish	<i>Stichopus chloronotus</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	40t			40	1.2t (2002)
Curryfish common	<i>Stichopus herrmanni</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	60t curryfish			60 (herrmanni)	6.1t (2015); 15t (mid-2018)
Curryfish vastus	<i>Stichopus vastus</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	60t curryfish	15	new curryfish trigger	20 (vastus)	see curryfish
Elephant trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>	Low	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	15	existing value	15	0.4t (2004)
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	Low	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	40	half existing	80	0?
Burrowing blackfish	<i>Actinopyga spinea</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	5	trial new species	10 (survey eg high around Warrior)	0
Deepwater blackfish	<i>Actinopyga palauensis</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	0.5	previous catch	10	0.5t (2001)*
Golden sandfish	<i>Holothuria lessoni</i>	High	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	0.5	previous catch	5	0.35t (2014)
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia vitiensis</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	3	previous catch	5	3.4t (2002)
Leopardfish	<i>Bohadschia argus</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	40	existing value	40	9.6t (2003)
Stonefish	<i>Actinopyga lecanora</i>	Medium	Part of 80t limit	Part of 50t limit	5	existing value	5	0.5t (2010)
TOTAL			110t	205t [§]				

[§]including trail opening for black teatfish

catches over 2013-15 approx 5.5t/yr; * possible misidentification

Attachment C – Agreed Size Limits

Common name	Species	Maximum length cm (guide)	Size at maturity cm 2	Size limit TS	Proposed size limit TS*	Size limit EC 1	Age at maturity TS yrs (size, cm) (model) 3	TAC TS t
Sandfish	<i>Holothuria scabra</i>	32	20 (13-25)	18	20 ^{1,2}	20	2 (16.5)	No take
Surf Redfish	<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>	38	22-23	22	Leave	25	3 (13.8)	Part of 80t limit
Black Teatfish	<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>	30	22-26	25	Leave	30	4 (24)	No take
White Teatfish	<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>	55	32	32	Leave	40	4 (30.4)	15
Prickly Redfish	<i>Thelenota ananas</i>	70	30-35	30	35 ²	50	4 (30.4)	20
Hairy Blackfish	<i>Actinopyga miliaris</i>	35	12	22	15	20	3 (19.2)	Part of 80t limit
Curryfish (common)	<i>Stichopus herrmanni</i>	55	27-31	27	31 ²	35	-	Part of 80t limit
Elephants Trunkfish	<i>Holothuria fuscopunctata</i>	66	35	24	35 ²	40	-	Part of 80t limit
Lollyfish	<i>Holothuria atra</i>	65	12-19	15	20 ¹	20	-	Part of 80t limit
Deepwater Redfish	<i>Actinopyga echinites</i>	35	9-12	12	20 ¹³	20	3 (19.5)	Part of 80t limit
Curryfish (vastus)	<i>Stichopus vastus</i>	35	-	nil	20	15	-	Part of 80t limit
Burrowing blackfish	<i>Actinopyga spinea</i>	40	-	22	Leave	20	-	Part of 80t limit
Deepwater blackfish	<i>Actinopyga palauensis</i>	35	-	22	Leave	20	-	Part of 80t limit
Golden sandfish	<i>Holothuria lessoni</i>	46	22	18	22 ²	15	-	Part of 80t limit
Brown sandfish	<i>Bohadschia vitiensis</i>	40	15-26	nil	25 ¹²	25	-	Part of 80t limit
Leopardfish	<i>Bohadschia argus</i>	60	30	nil	30 ²	35	3	Part of 80t limit
Greenfish	<i>Stichopus chloronatus</i>	38	14	nil	20 ¹	20	-	Part of 80t limit
Stonefish	<i>Actinopyga lecanora</i>	24	-	nil	15 ¹	15	-	Part of 80t limit

Summary of Actions Arising

#	Meeting #	Action item	Responsibility
1	14 (24 October 2018)	The QDAF member to provide information regarding an East Coast Indigenous Fishing Permit (FIP) to TIB fishers out of session, to be circulated by AFMA.	QDAF AFMA
2	14 (24 October 2018)	Malu Lamar, AFMA and TSRA to meet and discuss a way forward in terms of an MOU/combined strategy to assist in improved data collection and proposed management arrangements in support of a black teatfish opening.	AFMA TSRA Malu Lamar
3	14 (24 October 2018)	AFMA to draft a letter on behalf of the HCWG expressing the support the re-seeding research being pursued by industry members in Ugar.	AFMA

Summary of HCWG14 Meeting Recommendations

#	Recommendation
1	Working Group members recommended that the draft Harvest Strategy be put forward to the PZJA to seek agreement to release the Strategy for public consultation in early 2019. This was also strongly supported by industry observers.
2	The HCWG recommended that the key research priority for Torres Strait hand collectable fisheries was to undertake an experimental fishing survey to understand the stock status of sandfish on Warrior Reef.
3	The Working Group proposed that the TSRA, working closely with AFMA, continue to develop a proposal to lift the hookah ban as a key management priority for the beche-de-mer fishery.