



Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Meeting #51

April 12 2010

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Chair: Mr Ian Cartwright

Prepared by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority

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The 51st meeting of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) was held via teleconference on the 12 April 2010.

Major outcomes

The TSSAC:

- Reviewed one research proposal and recommended the research to AFMA for funding, subject to a revised proposal being submitted which addresses a number of points raised by the TSSAC.
- Considered draft cultural protocols and requested that the author more clearly identify operational aspects of researcher activities that will allow for researchers to meet the protocols set out in the report.

CSIRO full proposal for Lobster Management Strategy Evaluation

The Committee considered a research proposal '*An Integrated Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Torres Strait tropical rock lobster population*'. The Committee was made aware that funding for the non-fishery component of the proposal had been sought from FRDC and that this application had been unsuccessful.

The Committee noted the importance of a fully integrated MSE and development of a MSE for the rock lobster fishery has been listed as a priority research area in the 2009 Annual Operation Plan.

The Committee recommended AFMA fund the full research proposal (including both the fishery and socio-economic components). It was requested that the Principle Investigator submit a revised proposal addressing certain specified issues identified by the Committee.

Cultural Protocols for Researchers Working in the Torres Strait

The TSSAC discussed the draft report '*Development of Cultural protocols for researchers working in Torres Strait*'. The committee commented that the document needs greater operational detail that sets out clearly to researchers the practical steps to undertake ethical research in the Torres Strait. Further discussion regarding the recommendations in the document and other points were carried over to TSSAC 52 due to time constraints.

Summary of research progress in the Torres Strait for 2009/2010

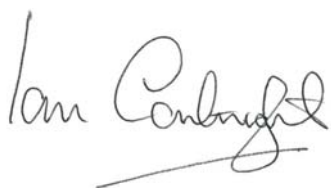
The Committee noted five research projects in progress, contracted or outstanding in the current (2009/2010) financial year. These include:

1. '*Sustainable harvest strategies for the Torres Strait Hand Collectables Fisheries*' (PI: Mr Tim Skewes, CSIRO) is outstanding with a draft final report pending.
2. '*Development of Cultural protocols for researchers working in Torres Strait*' (PI: Prof. Martin Nakata) is in progress with a draft being considered by the TSSAC.
3. '*Refined stock assessment and TAC estimation for the Torres Strait rock lobster (TRL) fishery*' (PI: Dr Eva Plaganyi-Lloyd, CSIRO) has been contracted for the next three years.

4. 'Recovery of the *Holothuria scabra* (sandfish) population on Warrior Reef, Torres Strait' (PI: Mr Tim Skewes, CSIRO) is in progress with a final report due June 2010.
5. 'Population structure and genetic composition of green turtles sold in the Daru Market' (PI: Dr Mark Hamman). Current status is uncertain and awaiting action from the principal investigator.

International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum update

In principle support for an International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum has been given by TSRA, PNG NFA and Fisheries Queensland. Approval is currently being sought from AFMA for seed funding enabling an organising company to be hired to seek further sponsorship and to facilitate the forum. Letters of support from the PZJA agencies (as tabled in correspondence at this meeting) will help give weight to further funding requests.



Mr Ian Cartwright

TSSAC Chair

In attendance at TSSAC 51 were:

Name	Role	Declaration of Interest
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson	Consultant
Dr Annabel Jones	AFMA Representative	Manager, Thursday Island
Ms Rebecca Williams	Executive Officer (AFMA)	Assistant Management Officer, Thursday Island
Dr Michael O'Neill	Scientist	Fisheries Queensland
Dr Roland Pitcher	Scientist	CSIRO
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Member	Consultant
Dr Stephen Newman	Scientist	WA Fisheries
Dr Ian Jacobsen	QDPI&F Representative	Fisheries Queensland Fisheries Manager
Mr Steve Hall	TSRA representative	Fisheries Policy Officer
Mr Augustine Mohiba	PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) representative	PNG NFA
Apologies		
Mr Tony Vass	Industry representative	
Mr Charles David	Community Fisher Representative	