



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**



**TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING NO. 53**

## **MINUTES**

**CAIRNS**  
**28 OCTOBER 2010**

**CHAIR: MR IAN CARTWRIGHT**

These minutes were ratified at TSSAC 54 on the 17 February 2011.

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

## Final Agenda

### 1. Meeting Administration

- 1.1. Preliminaries - Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners/Chairs Opening  
Remarks/Meeting attendance/Declaration of Interests/Apologies
- 1.2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- 1.3. Correspondence
- 1.4. Ratification of TSSAC 52 Minutes
- 1.5. Action Items from TSSAC 52

### 2. TSSAC procedures

- 2.1. Comments on 2010 Operational Plan from PZJA Consultative Committees (AFMA)

### 3. Research proposals

- 3.1. Assessment of Pre-proposals (AFMA)
- 3.2. 2011/2012 proposed Budget (AFMA)
- 3.3. 2010/2011 Budget (AFMA)
- 3.4. co-ordination of research priorities

### 4. TSSAC Current Project Update

- 4.1. International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum (AFMA)
- 4.2. Warrior reef Bêche de mer surveys (PI Skewes)
- 4.3. An Integrated Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Torres Strait tropical rock lobster population (PI Plaganyi-Lloyd)
- 4.4. Cultural protocols for researchers working in Torres Strait (AFMA)

### 5. Update from Torres Strait Working Groups and Committees

- 5.1. Hand Collectables Working Group (AFMA)
- 5.2. Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (AFMA)
- 5.3. Torres Strait Fisheries Prawn MAC (AFMA)
- 5.4. Fisheries Bi-laterals (AFMA/NFA)

### 6. Other business

- 6.1. PNG Hand Collectable (NFA)
- 6.2. Climate change
- 6.3. TSSAC membership
- 6.4. Annual research delivery day
- 6.5. Confirmation of TSSAC No. 54



## ATTENDANCE

The following members and observers were in attendance at TSSAC No. 53:

### Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson	Consultant
Dr Annabel Jones	AFMA Representative	Manager, Thursday Island
Ms Rebecca Williams	Executive Officer (AFMA)	A/g Senior management Officer, Torres Strait Fisheries
Dr Michael O'Neill	Scientist	Agri Science QLD, DEEDI
Dr Roland Pitcher	Scientist	CSIRO researcher
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Member	Consultant
Dr Stephen Newman	Scientist	WA fisheries scientist
Mr Ian Jacobsen	Fisheries Queensland Representative	Fisheries Manager
Mr Steve Hall	TSRA representative	Fisheries Policy Officer
Mr Tony Vass	Industry Representative	Ex Mackerel Licence Holder
Mr Gavin Mosby	Proxy Islander representative	TIB Fisher (Masig) and Traditional Owner

### Observers

Mr Vic McGrath	TSRA (Land and Sea Management Unit)	
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### Apologies

Lester Baule	PNG Representative	PNG National Fisheries Authority
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## ACTION ITEMS

#	Action Item	Item No.	Due Date	Champion
1	AFMA will provide the outstanding outcomes of the research ' <i>Sustainable Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Hand Collectable Fisheries</i> ', being the decision support tool and access to metadata, to the TSSAC when made available by the PI	53.1.3		AFMA
2	The TSSAC will write back to the TRLRAG thanking them for their explanation of why a different method for estimating an indicative TAC is now being used.	53.1.3	30 Dec 2010	AFMA
3	Request Professor Nakata to be present at a TSSAC meeting to discuss comments on the Cultural protocols document (ongoing pending feedback from stakeholders).	51.1.5		AFMA
4	AFMA will discuss potential educational activities on the lobster and other fisheries, for high school students with Andrew Denzen at Tagai College.	53.1.5	15 Feb 2011	AFMA
5	Stephen Newman will send AFMA information and a presentation on a rock lobster education package Out of Session.	53.1.5	30 Dec 2010	S. Newman
6	CSIRO to provide the TSSAC with data and a report using fine scale modelling to detect possible changes to water temperature and salinity levels in response to climate change to discuss at future meetings (ongoing pending release of final report).	Amended from 51.1.5		CSIRO
7	The TSRA will provide a progress update on development of a central web-based repository of Torres Strait research at the next TSSAC meeting.	53.1.5	TSSAC No.54	AFMA
8	AFMA will overhaul its research section on the PZJA website and include a link to the CSIRO repository and a previous research DVD collating CSIRO/AFMA research as and providing a link to the TSRA page. Current and new research reports will be uploaded onto this webpage when available	53.1.5	30 Dec 2010	AFMA
9	The TSSAC will recommend to AFMA that research agreements include: 1) a requirement (milestone) for researchers to approach formal (written) support from communities (through the TSRA) prior to research field work commencing; 2) researchers to provide details of where data is stored and the level of accessibility in the final report; and 3) researchers will be required to provide the final report, metadata and data to AFMA.			AFMA



10	The TSSAC to request PNG NFA to provide information on any research of sandfish at Warrior Reef either Out of Session or at the next meeting.	53.1.5	15 Feb 2011	AFMA
11	AFMA will investigate the feasibility of a research project on investigating potential impacts of short and long term climatic change on Torres Strait marine resources.	53.1.5	15 Feb 2010	AFMA
12	The TSRA to provide the TSSAC with information on benthic seagrass monitoring.	53.1.5	15 Feb 2011	TSRA
13	The TSSAC will request PZJA consultative committees to suggest research priorities relating to their respective fishery to encourage engagement prior to the TSSAC reviewing the Annual Operational Plan.	53.2.1	30 March 2011	AFMA
14	The TSSAC will incorporate the TRLRAG suggested research priorities into the draft 2011 Operational Plan.	53.2.1	30 March 2011	AFMA
15	The TSSAC will write to the Chair of the TRLRAG, acknowledging the comments and ensuring that communication between the two committees continues.	53.2.1	30 Dec 2010	AFMA
16	The proposal ' <i>Development of an efficient management procedure for Torres Strait Spanish mackerel</i> ' will be re-assessed at TSSAC 54.	53.3.1	24 Feb 2011	AFMA
17	The Committee will communicate specific comments made on the proposals to the relevant Principal Investigators to address in developing their applications further.	53.3.1	19 Nov 2010	AFMA
18	The Committee will consider undertaking a second call for pre-proposals targeting key priorities for funding in the 2011/2012 financial year.	53.3.1	15 Jan 2011	AFMA
19	Priorities to be revised in the Annual Operational Plan and those of most urgent need highlighted more clearly.	53.3.1		AFMA
20	The TSSAC will consider supporting a co-funded research proposal to FRDC out of session.	53.3.1	30 Dec 2010	AFMA
21	Agenda item 3.4 ' <i>Co-ordination of research priorities</i> ' will be carried over to TSSAC No.54.	53.3.4	24 Feb 2011	AFMA
22	The Forum Steering Committee will draft a letter to be sent out to potential sponsors of the International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum.	53.4	30 Dec 2010	Forum Steering Committee



23	The TSRA will provide information to TSSAC members Out of Session on other meetings or conferences being held in Cairns in November 2011 to allow for coordination with the forum.	53.4	7 Feb 2010	TSRA
24	The TSSAC will request the Principal Investigators of significant projects to provide six monthly updates, one page only, to be submitted before future TSSAC meetings, and include this as a requirement in the research contract.	53.4		AFMA
25	The TSRA will be requested to send out the Cultural Protocols documents to communities for comment and returned by a certain date, after which time the documents will be considered finalised	53.4	30 Nov 2010	AFMA
26	The TSSAC will advise the TSHCWG that some form of quota allocation will have less impact than implementing an Olympic (competitive) quota if the Total Allowable Catch for Black Teatfish is to be revised as recommended by CSIRO	53.5.1	By next HCWG meeting	AFMA
27	Request PNG to provide a report on Hand Collectables either Out of Session or at the next TSSAC meeting.	53.6.1	30 Dec 2010	AFMA
28	AFMA to provide more information regarding the feasibility of an annual research delivery day to TSSAC members.	53.6.4	24 Feb 2011	AFMA



## **DECISION RECORD – TSSAC No.53 (28 October 2010)**

- 1.4.1** The TSSAC **AGREED** to accept the minutes of TSSAC No. 52 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.1.1** The TSSAC **AGREED** to incorporate the TRLRAG suggested research priorities into the draft 2011 Operational Plan
- 3.1.1** The committee **AGREED** to invite the Principle Investigators of the following research proposals to submit full research proposals for consideration by the TSSAC:
1. *Assessing stock recovery using experimental fishing for sandfish on Warrior Reef, Torres Strait* (PI Murphy and Skewes, CSIRO)
  2. *Assess benefits and develop protocols for “reef gardens” in Torres Strait – community based management in action* (PI Murphy and Skewes, CSIRO)
  3. *Understanding the costs, benefits and risks associated with current and potential Torres Strait fishery resource utilisation* (PI Vieira, ABARE/BRS)
  4. *Empowering Torres Strait Islanders to Have A Greater Role In The Research and Development (R&D) Process* (PI Calogeras, Fishwell Consulting)
- 3.1.2** The Committee **AGREED** to invite the Principle Investigators of the following research proposals to submit amended pre-proposals for consideration by the TSSAC:
1. *Preliminary investigation of potential cross-jurisdictional co-management of traditional fisheries between PNG and Australia* (PI Busilacchi, JCU/CSIRO)
  2. *To fish or not to fish: motivations of finfish and lobster fishers in the Torres Strait* (PI Carr, ABARE/BRS)
- 6.3.1** The Committee **AGREED** to recommend to the PZJA that the TSRA be endorsed as a full member on the TSSAC.



## MINUTES

### Agenda Item 1.3 Correspondence

The Committee noted a letter sent to Tim Skewes, Principal Investigator of the project '*Sustainable Harvest Strategies for the Torres Strait Hand Collectable Fisheries*'. AFMA will provide the outstanding outcomes of the research project, being the decision support tool and access to metadata, to the TSSAC when made available by the PI (**Action Item 1**).

The Committee noted a letter from the Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (TRLRAG). The TSSAC will write back to the TRLRAG thanking them for their explanation of why a different method for estimating an indicative TAC is now being used (**Action Item 2**).

A letter submitted in conjunction with a pre-proposal was considered at Agenda item 3.1.

### Agenda Item 1.4 Ratification of TSSAC 52 Minutes

**1.4.1** The TSSAC **AGREED** to accept the minutes of TSSAC No. 52 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### Agenda Item 1.5 Action Items from Previous Meeting TSSAC 51

The TSSAC noted progress on action items from TSSAC 52. Action items were complete with the following exceptions:

*Action item 1* to request Professor Nakata to a TSSAC meeting to discuss comments on the Cultural protocols document is ongoing pending feedback from stakeholders (**Action Item 3**). A full update on cultural protocols was discussed at Agenda item 4.4.

*Action Item 3* to investigate the feasibility of developing an education program for Torres Strait Islander students is ongoing. The TSSAC could assist schools with developing proposals for education programs but the schools and/or other relevant champions must lead the projects as this is not the role of the TSSAC. AFMA will discuss potential educational activities on the lobster and other fisheries, for high school students with Andrew Denzen at Tagai College (**Action item 4**). Stephen Newman will send AFMA information and a presentation on a rock lobster education package Out of Session (**Action item 5**).

*Action item 5* for CSIRO to provide the TSSAC with a report on modelling to detect changes in water temperature and salinity will remain ongoing until the report is released. The second component of the action item will be deleted as investigating climate change in Torres Strait fisheries would require a full scale research application and funded project (now **Action item 6**).

*Action Item 9* for the TSRA to provide information regarding a central repository for Torres Strait research projects has been extended. The TSRA have rebuilt their website and have a section which provides information and background on current research projects as well as links to other organisations undertaking research such as CSIRO and JCU. The system is more of an index than a repository as full reports are not stored here. Creating a true repository is a much larger task and the TSRA are recruiting more communications officers to assist with the development of a metadata database.

To begin creating a repository, all final reports, metadata and data funded by AFMA could be given to a secure agency (such as AFMA) to house in a secure place. Researchers could be required to produce a final report with metadata which can be made publically available. It would be ideal if the final repository was all encompassing, and included all research projects in the Torres Strait, not just those funded by AFMA.





The TSSAC felt that the TSRA was the more appropriate organisation to host such a repository for all Torres Strait Research and will support the TSRA in these endeavours. The TSRA will provide a progress update on development of a central web-based repository of Torres Strait research (**Action Item 7**).

In the interim, AFMA will overhaul its research section on the PZJA website and include a link to the CSIRO repository and a previous research DVD collating CSIRO/AFMA research and providing a link to the TSRA page. Current and new research reports will be uploaded onto this webpage when available (**Action Item 8**).

*Action item 13* will be amended to include 3) *researchers will be required to provide the final report, metadata and data to AFMA* (now **Action Item 9**).

*Action item 16* for PNG NFA to provide information on any research of sandfish at Warrior Reef is outstanding. NFA will be requested to provide this information to TSSAC members either Out of Session or at the next meeting (**Action item 10**).

*Action item 17* the TSRA distributed the JCU report on coral bleaching to TSSAC members. The TSRA emphasised that this report is only a draft so there are no final recommendations. More information on coral bleaching needs to be collected from other islands in the Torres Strait.

*Action item 18*. A short report on the potential impacts of short and long term climatic change on Torres Strait marine resources would be useful to inform better decision making. This will help distinguish between natural variability in stock with climate variability and change. AFMA will investigate the feasibility of a research project on investigation potential impacts of short and long term climatic change on Torres Strait marine resources. (**Action item 11**).

*Action item 19*, for the TSRA to provide the TSSAC with information on benthic seagrass monitoring, is ongoing (now **Action item 12**).

## **Agenda Item 2      TSSAC Procedures**

### **Agenda Item 2.1      Comments on 2010 Operational Plan from PZJA Consultative Committees**

After the annual review of the Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries (the Plan) at TSSAC no. 52, the Committee sought input and feedback from other PZJA consultative committees. In the future, other PZJA consultative committees will be specifically requested to suggest research priorities relating to their respective fishery to encourage engagement prior to the TSSAC reviewing the Annual Operational Plan (**Action Item 13**).

The Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group (TRLRAG) considered research on the influence of spawning biomass off the east coast of Queensland on Torres Strait fish stocks but suggested that a cost-benefit analysis be undertaken prior to funding such research to ensure it represents value for money.

The TRLRAG recommended the following research priority areas:

1. Collection of relevant baseline environmental information necessary to assess the impact of environmental change (including climate change) on lobster populations.
2. Determination of the level of discarding in the lobster fishery as the fishery moves to a quota management system.
3. Animal husbandry and rearing research allowing discarding to be minimised and efficiency maximised. This research could also encompass grow-out mariculture.



4. Efficient use and collection of fishery independent data for use in stock assessments and the other fishery monitoring.

The TSSAC agreed that the issues of discarding and higher grading are priorities for the lobster fishery in the immediate term. The TSSAC also supported research into efficient practices for holding and growing out of lobsters to maximise profits whilst also decreasing potential for discard mortality.

**2.1.1** The TSSAC **AGREED** to incorporate the TRLRAG suggested research priorities into the draft 2011 Operational Plan (**Action Item 14**).

The TSSAC will write to the Chair of the TRLRAG, acknowledging the comments and ensuring that communication between the two committees continues (**Action Item 15**).

The Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee (TSPMAC) had insufficient time to discuss the research priorities but will do so when time permits. However, the TSPMAC indicated that possible research projects may include investigations of efficacy or alternatives for prawn Harvest Strategies and trigger points, potential removal of the 20m boat rule and external leasing agreements.

The Hand Collectable Working Group (HCWG) had no additional research priorities to provide to the TSSAC for consideration, noting that key areas of research were covered by the priorities already listed in the Plan.

### **Agenda Item 3      Research proposals**

#### **Agenda Item 3.1      Assessment of Pre-proposals**

The Committee assessed twelve submitted pre-proposals for funding starting in the 2011/2012 financial year or earlier:

The TSSAC assessed four pre-proposals as warranting consideration in more detail.

**3.1.1** The committee **AGREED** to invite the Principle Investigators of the following research proposals to submit full research proposals for consideration by the TSSAC:

1. *Assessing stock recovery using experimental fishing for sandfish on Warrior Reef, Torres Strait.* (PI Murphy and Skewes, CSIRO)
2. *Assess benefits and develop protocols for “reef gardens” in Torres Strait – community based management in action.* (PI Murphy and Skewes, CSIRO)
3. *Understanding the costs, benefits and risks associated with current and potential Torres Strait fishery resource utilisation* (PI Vieira, ABARE/BRS)
4. *Empowering Torres Strait Islanders to Have A Greater Role In The Research and Development (R&D) Process* (PI Calogeras, Fishwell Consulting)

A further two proposals were considered to be of interest to the PZJA but required significant amendments to the current proposals to warrant further consideration.

**3.1.2** The Committee **AGREED** to invite the Principle Investigators of the following research proposals to submit amended pre-proposals for consideration by the TSSAC:

1. *Preliminary investigation of potential cross-jurisdictional co-management of traditional fisheries between PNG and Australia* (PI Busilacchi, JCU/CSIRO)
2. *To fish or not to fish: motivations of finfish and lobster fishers in the Torres Strait* (PI Carr, ABARE/BRS)



The proposal '*Development of an efficient management procedure for Torres Strait Spanish mackerel*' will be re-assessed at TSSAC 54 (**Action Item 16**)

In assessing all of the proposals, the TSSAC noted the need to be mindful of the potential for Torres Strait Islander engagement to increase research costs and that this should be monitored to ensure that these costs do not prevent quality research from being undertaken.

The Committee will communicate specific comments made on the proposals to the relevant Principal Investigators to address in developing their applications further (**Action Item 17**).

The Committee will consider undertaking a second call for pre-proposals targeting key priorities for funding in the 2011/2012 financial year (**Action Item 18**). A teleconference will be held by the TSSAC in November/early December to further discuss research and commission proposals which address priority research needs for 2011/2012. Priorities will also be revised in the Annual Operational Plan and those of most urgent need highlighted more clearly (**Action Item 19**).

A request for support from the TSSAC for a co-funded research proposal to FRDC was not considered in depth due to time constraints, but will be considered by the TSSAC out of session (**Action Item 20**).

### **Agenda Item 3.2 and 3.3 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Proposed Budget**

The Committee noted the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 AFMA research budget and that funding beyond 2010/2011 has not been finalised at this time.

### **Agenda Item 3.4 Coordination of research priorities**

This agenda item will be carried over to TSSAC No.54 as there was insufficient time to discuss at the meeting (**Action Item 21**).

### **Agenda Item 4 TSSAC Current Project Update**

#### **International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum (AFMA)**

AFMA provided a progress update on organising the International Indigenous Commercial Fisheries Forum. A contract is being drafted with a company to facilitate organisation of the Forum. The organising company, with the Steering Committee, will seek financial sponsorship from political groups, mining groups, large fishing companies, state and federal governments. A set of proceedings from the forum will be produced to maximise benefits for all involved. The forum will include a workshop focussed specifically on planning for increased ownership of Torres Strait fisheries resources by Torres Strait Islanders. AFMA will continue to work with the TSSAC as this forum progresses. It was agreed that the forum would be best held in November 2011 in Cairns.

The forum Steering Committee will draft a letter to be sent out to potential sponsors of the forum (**Action Item 22**).

The TSRA will provide information to TSSAC members Out of Session on other meetings or conferences being held in Cairns in November 2011 to allow for coordination with the forum (**Action Item 23**).



### **Warrior Reef Bêche de mer surveys (PI Skewes)**

The Principal Investigator of the research '*Sustainable Harvest Strategies for Torres Strait Hand Collectable fisheries*' presented interim results at the recent HCWG meeting in July 2010. No final report has yet been released.

### **An Integrated management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Torres Strait tropical rock lobster population (PI Plaganyi-lloyd)**

Work has begun on '*An Integrated Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for the Torres Strait tropical rock lobster population*' and a Steering Committee has been formed. Researchers visited Badu, Maubiag, Yam and Thursday Island in August 2010 for introductory meetings with communities. Further meetings and consultation with Torres Strait Island communities are scheduled for November 2010 and February 2011. Preliminary studies on the possible impacts of climate change on lobster stocks are initially showing little impact on the Coral Sea gyre which influences recruitment of lobsters to the Torres Strait.

Sevaly Sen and other TSSAC members are on the Steering Committee of this project and will be able to provide updates on progress at TSSAC meetings. The introduction of milestone reports for projects would be beneficial to distribute to TSSAC members before these meetings. The TSSAC will request the Principal Investigators of significant projects to provide six monthly updates, one page only, to be submitted before future TSSAC meetings, and include this as a requirement in the research contract (**Action item 24**).

### **Cultural Protocols for researchers working in the Torres Strait (AFMA)**

The '*Cultural Protocols for researchers working in the Torres Strait*' document was amended Out of Session as per discussions at TSSAC No.52 and now consists of a short operational guide for researchers as well as the full report. Both documents are awaiting distribution by the TSRA to communities for comment.

The Committee agreed that there is a need to get both documents finalised as soon as possible. The Committee will write to the TSRA, requesting that the Cultural Protocols documents be sent out to communities for comment and returned by a certain date, after which time the documents will be considered finalised (**Action Item 25**). The documents were considered by the TSSAC to be working documents and to be reviewed regularly, so that any comments received after the cut-off period could be incorporated in later versions.

## **Agenda Item 5 Update from Torres Strait Working Groups and Committees**

### **Agenda item 5.1 Hand Collectables Working Group**

The TSSAC noted the outcomes of the HCWG meeting No. 3, as outlined in the agenda papers. The TSSAC noted suggestions that opening periods of the Bêche de mer fishery should be synchronised with closures in the lobster fishery and the recommendation from the HCWG of a dedicated survey of *Trochus* in eastern Torres Strait. The Committee discussed the CSIRO recommendation of a 25t Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Black teatfish to be incorporated into community base harvest strategies (CBHS). In the context of the pending development of CBHS, the Committee felt that some way of sharing the catch in advance would avoid a rush to catch, encourage distribution of effort and reduce the risk of exceeding the TAC.

The TSSAC will advise the TSHCWG that some form of quota allocation will have less impact than implementing an Olympic (competitive) quota if the Total Allowable Catch for Black Teatfish is to be revised as recommended by CSIRO (**Action Item 26**).



## **Agenda item 5.2 Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group**

The TSSAC noted the outcomes of the TRLRAG meeting No. 9, as outlined in the agenda papers.

## **Agenda item 5.3 Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee**

The TSSAC noted the outcomes of the TSPMAC meeting No. 9. Performance in the fishery was similar to that in 2009. Effort levels are about one third of the Australian effort and 25% of total effort with consistent catch rates. Discussions at the TSPMAC revolved around management arrangements, levies and ways to increase effort in the fishery.

## **Agenda item 5.4 Fisheries Bi-laterals**

The TSSAC noted the main outcomes from the 2010 Fisheries Bi-lateral meeting between Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Australia including general agreement regarding catch sharing arrangements with PNG. PNG indicated they would only take up their share of the TRL fishery in 2011 and not in other fisheries. Current allocation for TRL for PNG in 2011 is 968 dory days.

## **Agenda Item 6 Other Business**

### **Agenda Item 6.1 PNG Hand Collectables**

As the PNG representative was not present at the meeting, no update was given. PNG will be asked to provide a report on Hand Collectables either Out of Session or at the next TSSAC meeting (**Action item 27**).

### **Agenda Item 6.2 Climate Change**

Further to the discussion on climate change at agenda item 1.5, the Committee discussed the type of research needed on climate change in the Torres Strait which would align with the role of the TSSAC. Consideration should be given to research that is relevant to management decisions such as lobster recruitment and seagrass grow back. The committee felt that a short report on the potential impacts of short and long term climatic change on Torres Strait marine resources would be useful to inform better decision making. This will help distinguish between natural variability in stock with climate variability and change.

### **Agenda Item 6.3 TSSAC Membership**

The TSSAC considered a request from the TSRA to become a formal member of the TSSAC. The TSRA is a member of the PZJA and have attended the TSSAC since 2007 as a permanent observer. The TSRA is taking a greater role in research and development and there is a need to better coordinate communications between PZJA agencies. In addition, FMP no.1<sup>1</sup> indicates that permanent observer status should be considered as transitory and that the preferred approach is to appointing permanent observers as full members when appropriate.

**6.3.1** The Committee **AGREED** to recommend to the PZJA that the TSRA be endorsed as a full member on the TSSAC.

### **Agenda Item 6.4 Annual research delivery day**

The Committee discussed holding an annual research delivery day on Thursday Island, modelled on an event held by the Western Australian marine science institute. The day would

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<sup>1</sup> Described in Fisheries Management Paper No. 1 section 12.1. See [www.pzja.gov.au](http://www.pzja.gov.au)



provide local communities with an opportunity to hear directly from researchers about projects in their region and researchers would promote project methods, results, and any implications for fisheries management. Other participants could include representatives from research groups and TSSAC members. The Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) and the TSRA have a similar day planned on Thursday Island in November where research is presented to and discussed with the TSRA Board.

The TSSAC agreed that an annual research delivery day would be beneficial, subject to funding. AFMA will provide more information regarding its feasibility to TSSAC members (**Action Item 28**).

**Agenda Item 6.5 Confirmation of TSSAC no. 54**

TSSAC No.54 to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Brisbane. Venue TBC.

