

## Fisheries Consultative Meetings & Key Dates 2020

Date	Group	Venue	Key Business
1 January 2020	Hand Collectable Fishery season opens: Beche-de-mer, Trochus, Pearl Shell		
Week of 20 January 2020 (TBC)	Protected Zone Joint Authority	TBC	Final tropical rock lobster (TRL) total allowable catch (TAC) and other matters to be advised.
29-30 January 2020	Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee	Cairns	Bycatch reduction device (BRD) trials, harvest strategy review, stock assessment outcomes and setting of total allowable effort (TAE) limit for 2021
1 February 2020	Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery opens to hookah fishing, subject to moon-tide hookah closures.*		
1 February 2020	Torres Strait Prawn Fishery season opens (BRD trial to occur on 1 boat in first few months of season).		
6 February 2020	Hand collectables Working Group	Thursday Island	Advice to support Black Teatfish opening and review preliminary Eastern Torres Strait Beche-de-mer (BDM) stock survey results.
March 2020 (TBC)	Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee	Thursday Island	Discuss pre-proposals, consultation plans and other TSSAC business, including ethics regarding research
9-13 March 2020 (TBC by DFAT)	Aust-PNG Treaty Bilateral meeting	Port Moresby	PNG and Australia to discuss commercial catch sharing arrangements under the Torres Strait Treaty.
Week of 24 March 2020 (TBC)	TRL Resource Assessment Group	Thursday Island	Review final results of stock assessment and other matters to be advised
Week of 24 March 2020 (TBC)	TRL Data Sub-Group	Thursday Island	Review of data needs. Improvements to TRL data collection and analysis
May 2020 (TBC)	Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee	Teleconference	Teleconference (or possible face to face) to discuss TSSAC full research proposals
1 July 2020	Torres Strait Finfish Fishery 2020-21 season opens		
Week of 3 August 2020 (TBC)	Hand Collectables Working Group	Thursday Island	Outcomes of BDM stock survey results and Black Teatfish opening (TBC) Catch and effort summary from 2019 season
Week of 5 Oct 2020	Hand Collectables Working Group	Thursday Island	Advice on BDM total allowable catch (TAC) limits for 2021 season. Other matters to be confirmed
2-3 September 2020	Finfish Resource Assessment Group	Cairns	Review 2019-20 season catch data
30 September 2020	Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery 2019-20 fishing season closes.		
Mid October 2020 (TBC)	Finfish Resource Assessment Group	Thursday Island	Advice on sustainable catch limits for 2021-22 season
November 2020	Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee	Teleconference	Annual research statement and discussion of research priorities for 2021-22
Mid November 2020	CSIRO led underwater survey of tropical rock lobster abundance.		
25-26 November 2020	Finfish Working Group	Thursday Island	Advice on Total Allowable Catches for 2021-22 season
1 December 2020	Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery opens for freediving and lamp fishing only (no hookah gear).		
7-8 December 2020	Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group	Thursday Island	Review results of pre-season survey, catch-per-unit-effort analyses and empirical harvest control rule, recommended biological catch (RBC) for 2020-21 fishing season
9 December 2020	Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group	Thursday Island	Resource Assessment Group meeting outcomes, final TAC, management priorities

Notice issued **3 December 2019** – Dates of meetings may be subject to change.

To confirm dates and for more information please call the AFMA Torres Strait Office on (07) 4069 1990.

\*Contact AFMA for a TRL Fishery Moon-Tide Hookah Closures calendar for the 2019-20 fishing season.