



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# **South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting 33**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 21 February 2018**

**Teleconference**

**Time: 2:00pm to ~4:00pm (AEST)**

## Attendees

Name	Membership
Chair	
Diane Tarte	Chair
Members	
George Day	AFMA member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Sandy Morison	Scientific member
Les Scott	Industry member
Anissa Lawrence	Environment conservation member
Shane Dugins	Industry member
Invited participants	
Frances Seaborn	State invited participant
Executive Officer	
Cadie Artuso	Executive Officer
Observers	
Brodie MacDonald	AFMA GHAT Manager
Daniel Corrie	AFMA Trawl Manager
Ryan Keightley	AFMA GHAT Management Officer
Apologies	
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Debbie Wisby	Industry invited participant
Sarah Jennings	Economics invited participant

### Agenda Item 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:00 pm and welcomed participants. The Chair recorded apologies from Gerry Geen, Debbie Wisby and Sarah Jennings. Members were advised the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the minutes and no objections were raised.

### Agenda Item 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with some minor changes (redfish to be discussed prior to elephant fish and school shark). The final agenda is at [Attachment A](#).

### Agenda Item 1.3 Declaration of interests

The MAC reviewed the table of members', invited participants' and observers' standing declarations as outlined in the revised *Fisheries Management Paper 1* (FMP 1). The Chair asked participants to declare any specific conflicts of interest with items on the agenda or to declare conflicts of interest that were not recorded in the provided table. Following declarations of any specific conflicts of interest, the Chair requested that each member leave the meeting while the MAC discussed whether the conflict should preclude them from participating in the agenda item. The following conflicts were declared:

- Mr Boag confirmed a conflict of interest with agenda items 2.1 and 2.2. The MAC noted that Mr Boag is a representative of the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) and the Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA) and does not have a direct financial interest in the agenda items. The MAC discussed the conflicts, recognising Mr Boag's

knowledge and valuable contribution, the MAC agreed that Mr Boag should participate in the discussion and recommendations.

- Mr Scott confirmed a conflict of interest with agenda items 2.1 and 2.2. The MAC noted that Mr Scott represents a company which holds a small amount of quota for school shark. The MAC discussed the conflict, recognising Mr Scott's knowledge and valuable contribution, the MAC agreed Mr Scott should participate in the discussion and recommendations.
- Mr Dugins confirmed a conflict of interest with agenda items 2.1 and 2.2. The MAC noted that Mr Dugins holds a large proportion of quota for redfish, elephant fish and school shark. The MAC discussed the conflict, recognising Mr Dugins knowledge and valuable contribution, the MAC agreed Mr Dugins should participate in the discussion. Mr Dugins excused himself from the recommendations for these items.

An updated table of declared conflicts of interest is at [Attachment B](#).

## **Agenda item 2.1 SESSF TAC recommendations for 2018-19**

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### ***Redfish***

The AFMA member introduced the agenda item and the following arose from the discussion:

- On 6-8 February 2018, the MAC considered SERAGs recommended RBC of 0 tonnes and consequently, AFMAs incidental TAC of 100 tonnes for redfish.
- The MAC noted that the RAG, in forming their recommendation, considered biomass projections under two recruitment scenarios; one under an average recruitment scenario (assuming 0 tonnes catch), and a low recruitment scenario with catches of 50, 100 and 150 tonnes. Prior to making an incidental TAC recommendation, the MAC requested that CSIRO provide projections under an average recruitment scenario with an annual catch of 100 tonnes to show the impact on expected building times. The outcomes were circulated to the MAC on 16 February 2018.
- The projections showed that under the 100 tonne catch and average recruitment scenario the spawning biomass is expected to pass the limit reference point by approximately 2026 compared to a 2024 estimate with 0 catch. The MAC noted this means the impact of a 100 tonne catch on rebuilding timeframes under the average recruitment scenario is low.
- The projections provided by CSIRO did not include the low recruitment scenario with 0 tonnes catch. The MAC noted that the expected rebuild timeframe would be similar to that of the other low recruitment scenarios because recruitment is the main driver of rebuilding. However, the MAC considered RAG advice that the low recruitment scenario is unlikely given recent observed recruitment into the fishery.
- The results are consistent with previous RAG advice, that the key driver of recovery is recruitment, and catches are unlikely to significantly impact the rebuilding timeframe.
- The MAC noted that redfish are often incidentally caught when operators target flathead (a key economic species in the SESSF) and lowering the TAC would likely lead to increased discards and would not result in a significant change to mortality.
- The industry member noted it's critical that the amount of discards are being monitored closely, to ensure the combination of discards and catch isn't exceeding the incidental TAC.

## The MAC endorsed:

- the AFMA recommended incidental TAC of 100 tonnes for redfish, noting the additional work done by CSIRO and the RAG advice that this amount would not restrict fishing effort, and that it would lower the risk of discarding and facilitate better data collection
- close monitoring of the amount of discards, to ensure the incidental catch (including discards) remains below the incidental TAC.

## Agenda item 2.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for 2018-19

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### *Elephant fish*

The AFMA member introduced the agenda item and the following arose from the discussion:

- In December 2017, SharkRAG considered an updated tier 4 assessment for elephant fish, using gillnet catch per unit effort (CPUE), including discards as the primary indicator of abundance.
- The RAG noted they were not confident with the model including discards and recommended the assessment be run without discards.
- The updated assessment was considered by the RAG on 12 February 2018. The assessment model, including discards, resulted in a much higher recommended biological catch (RBC) than the assessment excluding discards (469 tonnes and 293 tonnes, respectively).
- The RAG advised that neither tier 4 assessment was suitable for providing the RBC advice on the basis that:
  - a) there is a high level of uncertainty regarding recent and reference point discards
  - b) there is a reduced ability to appropriately factor discarding into the CPUE
  - c) the estimates of recreational catch are uncertain (considered to be a significant proportion of the RBCs).
- The CPUE data itself, suggests that stocks are stable or above target levels, therefore the RAG agreed they did not have concerns about the stock status.
- The industry member noted that the discarding of elephant fish is driven by market price (low value species) and difficulties in the quota management system. Given this, some industry members suggested that the stock should not be managed under a quota system.
- SEMAC in January 2017 noted that a high level of protection is applied through closures and management arrangements, and queried the application of the discount factor and whether it should be moderated in light of this. After considering this advice the RAG in making their recommendation, did not have enough information on the level of protection afforded to the stock to re-consider the application of the discount factor. Some industry members suggested the discount factor be added to the TAC, as in their view, the application of a discount factor increases the risk of discarding.
- SESSF RAG will meet in March 2018 to discuss the difficulties in accounting for discards in tier 4 assessments.
- An industry member noted that for low value species there is a broader issue in tier 4 assessments including the cost for additional research. The MAC agreed that this also

should be considered more broadly when the SESSF Harvest Strategy is reviewed following the release of the revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines.

**The MAC endorsed:**

- **maintaining the TAC for elephant fish at 114 tonnes, noting that SESSFRAG at its March 2018 meeting will provide advice on accounting for discards in Tier 4 assessments**
- **that the SESSF Harvest Strategy needs to be reviewed following the release of the revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines, to provide clear guidance on assessments for low value species**
- **the AFMA undercatch and overcatch recommendation of 10 per cent.**

**School shark**

The AFMA member introduced the agenda item and the following arose from the discussion:

- On 12 February 2018, SharkRAG considered an update on the close-kin project, to develop an alternative index of abundance for school shark. The preliminary close-kin results and mini assessment did not provide any indicators or information for the RAG to make an updated recommendation on catch levels.
- Given that no additional information on stock status is currently available, the RAG could also not recommend any changes to the current management arrangements in place to constrain school shark catches.
- The MAC noted that catches of school shark have been between 80 and 90 per cent of the previous TAC (of 215 tonnes). The AFMA recommended 2018-19 TAC for gummy shark is slightly lower and this may give rise to a slightly lower bycatch of school shark.
- The industry member noted that there are indications that some boats are targeting school shark despite the requirement for them to be released alive when possible. The AFMA member noted that information as to why this is occurring, was examined by the RAG as part of the annual review of the School Shark Rebuilding Strategy, but was not presented to the MAC.

**Action item 33.1 AFMA - AFMA to examine what information from the annual review of the School Shark Rebuilding Strategy, considered by SharkRAG, can be presented to the MAC.**

- The MAC asked AFMA to actively discourage the deliberate targeting of school shark, and to apply any catch limits across fisheries equally. However one industry member noted that the autoline sector should not be subject to a trip limit for school shark. The AFMA member noted that this condition is applicable to all scalefish hook SFRs, not just to the automatic longline permits.
- The MAC noted the revised timeframe for the results of the close-kin project, including that:
  - a) project milestones are being managed by the FRDC
  - b) close-kin results are expected to be finalised in mid-2018
  - c) an updated stock assessment including the final close-kin results is expected to be presented to the RAG by October 2018.

**The MAC endorsed:**

- **the AFMA incidental TAC recommendation of 215 tonnes**

- that AFMA should continue to enforce management arrangements appropriately and take seriously any evidence of targeting
- the rules should be consistent across sectors, where possible.

## **Agenda Item 3      Other Business**

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The next MAC meeting will be held in June 2018, and a survey to gauge availability will be circulated shortly.

With no other items of business raised, the Chair thanked all participants and closed the meeting at approximately 3:50 pm (AEST).

**Signed (Chairperson):**



**Date: 14 May 2018**

## **Attachments**

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**Attachment A:** SEMAC 33 Final agenda

**Attachment B:** SEMAC 33 Declared conflicts of interest

## Final agenda for SEMAC 33

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<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
<b>1. Preliminaries</b>		<b>30 minutes 2:00 pm – 2:30pm</b>
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	<a href="#">For Noting</a>
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	<a href="#">For Noting</a>
1.3 Declarations of interest	All	<a href="#">For Action</a>
<b>2. SESSF TAC recommendations (cont) for the 2018-19 fishing season</b>		<b>1 hour 30 minutes</b>
2.1 Redfish	Daniel Corrie	30 minutes 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm <a href="#">For Recommendation</a>
2.2 Elephant fish and school shark	Brodie Macdonald	1 hour 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm <a href="#">For Recommendation</a>
<b>3. Other business and close of meeting</b>		

## Next meeting

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Date	Time	Location
June 2018		Canberra

## Declarations of interest for SEMAC 33

Declared Interest - Last updated: 6 February 2018	
Members	
Ms Anissa Lawrence	<p>Independent consultant. Director of TierraMar Consulting.</p> <p>Conservation member on SharkRAG</p> <p>Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters.</p> <p>No pecuniary interest.</p> <p>President of the SEA LIFE Trust (ANZ).</p> <p>Director of FISHI International.</p>
Ms Diane Tarte	SEMAC Chair - No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr George Day	AFMA - Senior Manager Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Gerry Geen	<p>A partner in Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds approximately 60 per cent of the SPF Jack Mackerel SFRs, 70 per cent of the Redbait (east) SFRs, 30 per cent of Blue Mackerel (east) SFRs and significant quota holdings in the western zone.</p> <p>Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd owns a Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Trawl Boat SFR.</p>
Mr Les Scott	<p>I, Ronald Leicester Scott (Les) in my capacity as a member of the South East Advisory Committee (SEMAC) provide below a disclosure of my interests that conflict or could conflict with the proper performance of my functions as a member of the SEMAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing Director: Petuna Sealord Deepwater Fishing P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the SESSF, GHAT, East Coast Deepwater Fishery, Coral Sea and International fisheries operating a vessel under an Australian Flag;</li> <li>Consultant to: Australian Longline P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the Australian Sub-Antarctic fisheries (Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Macquarie Island Fisheries) and waters under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR; and</li> <li>Advisor to PG&amp;UM Rockliff – Petuna Fisheries who hold various fishing rights in the SESSF, GHAT, Commonwealth and State (Tasmania) Scallop Fishery, East Coast Tuna Fishery, Off Shore Fisheries and Tasmanian State Fisheries.</li> </ul> <p>My pecuniary interest is limited to the extent of: an employee of the company's and partnership disclosed.</p>
Mr Sandy Morison	<p>Director of Morison Aquatic Sciences.</p> <p>Chair of SERAG, SharkRAG, and Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group.</p> <p>Contracted by government departments, non-government agencies and companies for a range of fishery related matters including research and MSC assessments of AFMA managed and other fisheries (by SCS Global Service).</p> <p>No pecuniary or other interest.</p>
Mr Shane Dugins	Chair of the Sustainable Shark Fishery Association. Shareholder and Director of a Fishing Company that holds: Commonwealth SFRs including Shark and



	Scalefish quota SFRs, Victorian and Tasmanian licenses and Victorian Crayfish quota. Representative of the Sustainable Shark Fishing Association.
Mr Simon Boag	Non-beneficiary Director of two fishing companies in the SESSF. Industry member on SERAG. SETFIA receives funding from various bodies to complete projects. Involved in the delivery of industry training courses through East Gippsland TAFE. Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.
<b>Invited participant</b>	
Ms Debbie Wisby	CEO of a fishing company based in Tasmania. Company/Director holds Commonwealth squid jig SFRs and various Tasmanian licences. Commonwealth Fish Receiver. Member of Squid RAG, invited participant SEMAC, industry representative of Tasmanian Scallop FAC. Local Government Councillor. Consultant for private enterprises on a range of fishery related matters. Advisor to Fishwell Consulting for Squid project 2016/2017
Ms Frances Seaborn	No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise. Employed by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).
Dr Sarah Jennings	Economics member on SERAG. Economics coordinator, FRDC Social Science and Economics Research Program. Member of AFMA Economics Working Group. Independent economics consultant. No pecuniary or other interest.
<b>Executive Officer</b>	
Ms Cadie Artuso	AFMA – Fisheries Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.