



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

# **South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting No 40**

**Meeting minutes**

**Date: 1-2 July 2020**

**Venue: Videoconference**

## Attendees

Name	Member type
David McGlennon	Chair
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Michael Steer	Scientific member
Fiona Hill	AFMA member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Sarah Jennings	Economics member
Will Mure	Industry member
Shane Dugins	Industry member
John Harrison	Recreational sector member
Debbie Wisby	Industry invited participant
Toni Clarke	Industry invited participant
Veronica Silberschneider	State invited Participant
Daniel Corrie	AFMA presenter
Natalie Couchman	AFMA presenter
Sally Weekes	AFMA presenter
Kehani Manson	AFMA presenter
Heather Johnston	AFMA observer
Max Bayly	AFMA observer
David Smith	AFMA Commissioner
Latif Siddique	Executive officer

# Meeting Minutes

## 1 Preliminaries

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### 1.1 Introduction and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00 am and welcomed participants. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners past and present on whose land the meeting was taking place. Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the minutes, with audio/video to be deleted after the minutes are finalised. No objections were raised. No apologies were received from members, except, Ms Debbie Wisby who was an apology on day two of the meeting.

### 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The MAC adopted the agenda (**Attachment A**) without any change to the draft circulated to the members.

### 1.3 Declaration of interests

The MAC reviewed the table of standing declarations by members, invited participants and observers. Prior to the meeting, in addition to the table of declarations circulated via email, the Chair asked participants to declare any specific conflicts of interest with the agenda items 3.1 (SSJF Harvest Strategy review), 3.2 (Electronic monitoring piece counts) and 3.3 (Research priorities for 2021-22) and any that were not previously declared, in order to streamline discussions during the videoconference meeting.

An updated table of declared conflicts of interest is provided at **Attachment B**.

**Process for managing declared conflicts:** Members and invited participants who declared conflicts of interest with agenda items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 joined the meeting 15 minutes after commencement, to allow remaining members to discuss how the declared conflicts should be treated. The MAC discussed the declared conflicts of interest and resolved the following:

**3.1 SSJF Harvest Strategy review:** Invited industry participant, Ms Debbie Wisby, declared a conflict of interest with agenda item 3.1. The MAC agreed that as the agenda was only seeking initial advice, Ms Wisby should participate in both the discussion and recommendations.

**3.2 Electronic monitoring piece counts - rationale, costs and options:** Invited industry participant, Ms Toni Clarke, and industry members Mr Shane Dugins and Mr Simon Boag, declared conflicts of interest with agenda item 3.2. The MAC agreed that as that agenda was only seeking initial advice, Ms Clarke, Mr Dugins and Mr Boag should participate in both the discussion and recommendations.

**3.3 Research priorities for 2021-22:** Invited industry participants, Ms Clarke and Ms Wisby, industry members Mr Dugins, Mr Gerry Geen, Mr Will Mure and Mr Boag and the scientific member Dr Mike Steer declared conflicts of interest with agenda item 3.3. The MAC agreed that as that agenda was seeking final advice, Ms Clarke, Ms Debbie, Mr Dugins, Mr Geen, Mr Mure, Mr Boag and Dr Steer should participate in discussion but will abstain from contributing to recommendations.

## 1.4 Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The SEMAC Executive Officer, Latif Siddique, introduced the item with an update on outstanding action items from previous meetings. A consolidated list of action items (**Attachment C**) was circulated to the MAC prior to the meeting. The MAC discussed the action items and noted updates against the following action items from previous meetings:

**39.2:** *AFMA to advise the MAC about the different roles of AFMA's Commonwealth Marine Mammal Working Group and FRDC's newly established marine mammal group and advise on areas for potential alignment of roles to improve efficiency.*

The MAC noted that the Commonwealth Fisheries Marine Mammal Working Group (MMWG) meets on an as needs basis and has not met in 18 months. Industry members noted that there continue to be interactions with marine mammals, in particular dolphins. The AFMA member advised that reviews of dolphin mitigation strategies for the Gillnet, Hook and Trap (GHAT) sector and Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) will commence in 2020, which will include consultation with the MMWG.

**39.5:** *Recognising uncertainty in the Tier 4 blue-eye stock assessment and industry concerns around low catch rates up to January 2020, SEMAC recommended SESSFRAG (August 2020) consider fishery indicator data and:*

- *consider an alternative approach to assessing the slope stock in 2021 and applying a precautionary reduction to the TAC for the 2021-22 SESSF season; or*
- *bring the assessment forward to 2020, if the Tier 4 assessment is to be applied again, SERAG should consider application of the 15 per cent discount factor.*

At its August 2020 data meeting, SESSFRAG will be asked to consider catch per unit of effort (CPUE) information across the gear types and the regions, and provide advice to the South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) regarding the two options suggested by SEMAC above. The MAC noted that AFMA would invite Mr Mure to the SESSFRAG data meeting to provide input on the review of blue-eye trevalla data in preparation for the next assessment.

**39.9:** *AFMA to discuss eastern school whiting classification with ABARES with respect to the ABARES Status Report.*

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) will provide an independent assessment of the school whiting stock status as part of the 2020 Fishery Status Reports. AFMA will be engaged in the process and will provide ABARES with the latest MAC advice, AFMA Commission decision and NSW Total Allowable Fishing (TAF) decision to support their review.

**39.10:** *AFMA to encourage collaboration between CSIRO and NSW on the silver trevally Tier 4 assessment, with a particular focus on the inconsistencies in CPUE between the two jurisdictions.*

CSIRO have been asked to engage with the relevant NSW stock assessor when undertaking the silver trevally assessment this year, and NSW will be invited to attend the SERAG meeting. It is unlikely that any NSW data will be available for the assessment, however, the RAG will be asked to consider the conflict in the CPUE series.

**39.11:** *AFMA to liaise with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the conservation dependant status of orange roughy, with a particular focus on delisting the eastern stock and implications for other stocks if this were to occur.*

AFMA has had initial discussion regarding the process to consider delisting of the orange roughy eastern stock with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). The DAWE advised that issue will be included on the agenda at the September 2020 meeting of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC), pending provision of the MSC certification and documentation. The MAC noted that there have been no conservation listed species delisted before, so it would be a new process for them.

**The MAC agreed that no further action was required for action items 29.10, 31.4 and 36.2 and these would be removed from the action item list.**

**Action item 40.1:** AFMA to clarify the intent of action item 38.7 (from SEMAC 38), and if found to specifically relate to the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait, to redraft this action item to specify that link.

## 2. Updates

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### 2.1 Managers Update

The AFMA member, Ms Fiona Hill, introduced the paper on the key management issues arising since the last MAC meeting on 4-6 February 2020, and asked the MAC to consider it as read.

The MAC discussed the following key issues:

#### **Freezer vessels deemed as Australian boats in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF):**

The MAC noted that as of 19 June 2020, three New Zealand flagged freezer vessels had been deemed as Australian boats and were currently fishing in the SESSF for blue grenadier and orange roughy. A fourth boat had received provisional approval, subject to legal importation of the boat to Australia.

AFMA consider specific guidelines when assessing applications to deem foreign fishing vessels to operate in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ), namely the *Guidelines for applications for the use of foreign fishing vessels in the Australian Fishing Zone* and *Declaring a foreign boat to be an Australian boat*. The MAC noted that AFMA give consideration to proposed fishing plans, available quota and benefits to the Australian community.

The MAC noted that the TACs for both blue grenadier and orange roughy had been undercaught in recent years, and there wasn't capacity or capability in the domestic fleet to catch these fish.

Some members raised concerns regarding the realised benefits to Australia and competition with local product and subsequent price impacts from the fish caught on these boats moving into the domestic market. Mr Mure noted that this would likely be the first year his shop will be able to sell Australian caught and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified blue grenadier from his business in Tasmania. The MAC were all interested in receiving further information on the operations of these boats, noting AFMA's Information Disclosure Policy would be applied.

The MAC also noted that AFMA and the Department (DAWE) are currently reviewing the relevant policy documents and SEMAC would be able to contribute during public consultation periods.

**Action item 40.2:** AFMA to report back to SEMAC on annual catches of blue grenadier and orange roughy in 2020.

**Action item 40.3:** AFMA to provide an update to SEMAC 41 on the review of the foreign fishing policy being done the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

**Action item 40.4:** AFMA to provide a high-level written summary to SEMAC members regarding the process for considering deeming of foreign vessels as 'Australian boats', with a particular focus on benefits to Australian community.

#### **Update on FRDC hook trial in the Bass Strait:**

The AFMA member provided an update regarding the first phase of FRDC project 2019-129, *Potential transition of shark gillnet boats to longline fishing in Bass Strait - ecological, cross-sectoral, and economic implications*. The update was based on an initial analysis of observer data by the principal investigator:

- The trial focused on four main areas, Lakes Entrance to Wilsons Promontory, North of Flinders Island, Southwest of Flinders Island and East of King Island.
- The research team completed two trips of 15 sea days with the dedicated shark longline vessel, FV *Candice K*, setting approximately 79,000 hooks with two observers on board.
- The observers recorded catch composition, retained and discarded gummy sharks, sex specific length-frequency data, product quality, life status and TEP interactions.

The MAC noted the following points:

- The project is FRDC funded, and while AMFA issued the scientific permit to allow fishing, the project was not funded through the AFMA research cycle.
- That many fishers, both in the GHAT sector and CTS, have concerns regarding the long term use of hooks in the Bass Strait to target shark.
- That AFMA would continue to provide updates to the MAC on the progress of the trial as they became available.

An industry MAC member raised concerns regarding the survey design, with only two trips occurring in winter and two in spring, and no fishing east of Lakes Entrance. Noting the potential lack of spatial and temporal data may impact the ability to make informed decisions following the trial; and providing the following example: flathead are more likely to be caught east of Lakes Entrance and the mutton birds (short-tailed shearwater) had already migrated before that trial started.

The Environment member requested further information regarding bycatch and interactions with endemic shark and ray species listed under either the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) or the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) during the trial.

## **2.2 Industry update**

The Chair asked industry members to provide an update on any items arising since the last SEMAC meeting on 4-6 February 2020.

The MAC noted updates from the following industry/representatives:

#### **Shane Dugins - Sustainable Shark Fishing Association (SSFA)**

- Shark gillnet boats had to leave commercial fishing grounds due to a significant drop in catch rates, likely due to seismic testing. Operators moved to the King Island area and caught as many school shark in just one trip as they caught for the whole season in 2019.

#### **Will Mure – Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA)**

- Things had not been changed much since reported in the last meeting, except they were catching more Gemfish, which industry considered a good sign.

### **Simon Boag - Small Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SPFIA)**

- Fishing effort is currently low in the SPF.
- The majority of the fishing was occurring off the South coast of NSW between Ulladulla and Eden.
- There are more jack mackerel and redbait that time of the year (Winter 2020) and most of those catches are going to the fishmeal factory.
- Good catch rates of sardines have been experienced off Iluka (NSW).

### **Simon Boag - South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA)**

- CGG seismic surveys: Industry have been experiencing reduced catch rates since January 2020. According to the Fisherman's Cooperative in Lakes Entrance, the catch in May was less than half of the typical average, which has resulted in vessels tying up. This is attributed to the current seismic surveys being undertaken by CGG in approximately 16,000 km<sup>2</sup> of waters within the area of the SESSF.
- Conservation member on the Seine and Trawl Advisory Group (STAG): The MAC noted AFMA's advice that the core membership of the STAG consists of industry and an AFMA representative. Other participants, including research providers, MAC or RAG members and representatives from overlapping fisheries, the recreational sector or conservation groups may attend STAG meetings, as needed. Final minutes from the inaugural STAG meeting are now available.
- Industry have reported good catches of eastern gemfish, especially this year. This is a good sign and should be considered when reviewing the performance of the rebuilding strategy.

### **Toni Clarke – SESSF Concession Holder (Petuna Sealord Deepwater Fishing)**

- Industry are dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **3.1 SSJF Harvest Strategy review**

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Ms Kehani Manson introduced the item and asked SEMAC to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) Harvest Strategy, specifically the items outlined in the paper 'SSJF Harvest Strategy Review Discussion Paper 2020':

- According to the revised (November 2018) *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP) and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (the Guidelines)*, all Commonwealth fishery harvest strategies need to be reviewed within four years to ensure they meet the objectives and intent of the revised HSP.
- There has been no formal review of the current Harvest Strategy since it was implemented in 2007.
- The Southern Squid Jig Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SquidRAG) noted in 2014 that the triggers were precautionary and remained appropriate given the state of the fishery at the time, however a formal review would likely be required to ensure the Harvest Strategy continues to meet the policy requirements once the revised HSP was released.
- To assist with the review of the current Harvest Strategy, AFMA released a Discussion Paper outlining options for updating some of the components of the current Harvest Strategy.
- The intent of review is not to change the form and function of the current Harvest Strategy, rather, simplify and update the triggers and management responses to ensure they reflect the current state of the fishery and meet the requirements of the HSP.

The MAC noted the following advice from SquidRAG at their 23 June 2020 meeting:

- The revised harvest strategy should include explicit objectives and associated strategies to ensure consistency with the HSP, and should be measurable with appropriate reference points and performance measures.
- Triggers and decision rules should be reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate for the current state of the fishery and meet the objectives of the HSP and the Guidelines.
- Introducing lower level catch triggers, with decision rules to monitor/analyse in season trends (i.e. CPUE) would allow fishing impacts to be assessed without prompting costly management strategies (e.g. depletion analysis) before they are necessary.
- Any change in the current triggers levels should be justified and use catch and effort data and any other information required to support such an analysis.
- A crew collected data program (similar to that operating in the GABT) would be a cost effective approach for collecting length data for inclusion in future depletion analyses.
- AFMA would be contacting relevant scientists and agencies to determine methods for setting revised trigger levels and determining whether CPUE is an appropriate performance measure against which triggers can be set.
- AFMA would be exploring alternative method of testing the revised HS to demonstrate that they are highly likely to meet the objective of the HSP.

SEMAC made the following key points:

- Standardised CPUE might not be a suitable index of abundance for this fishery because of the number of boats and dynamics of the squid stock. Operators spend a lot of time 'searching' which may influence or bias the catch and effort data.
- As the species are so short lived (11 months), triggers should be annual and within a season to monitor short-term impacts on the stock.
- Squid growth is highly plastic and driven by environmental factors, and SquidRAG should reconsider the value of collecting length information to inform stock assessments.
- Further thought should be given to developing clear and measurable objectives.

**SEMAC agreed with the SquidRAG advice and supported AFMA further developing the revised Harvest Strategy with relevant experts and SquidRAG.**

**Action item 40.5:** AFMA to invite Dr Mike Steer to the next SquidRAG meeting as an invited participant (subject to his availability) to provide advice on aspects of the squid harvest strategy review and act as a conduit between SquidRAG and SEMAC on this issue.

## **3.2. Electronic monitoring piece counts - rationale, costs and options**

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Ms Natalie Couchman introduced the item seeking advice from SEMAC on the continued collection of piece counts using electronic monitoring (EM) and the proposed review of data collected in the GHAT sector. The MAC noted that at SEMAC 38, industry members expressed an interest in reviewing the utility of piece count data (pieces of catch items retained and discarded) collected through daily fishing logbooks and EM. It was agreed at this meeting for AFMA and industry to report back to the MAC on the history, rationale and cost of obtaining piece counts using EM in the GHAT sector.



The MAC further noted:

- EM was implemented on gillnet boats in the GHAT sector in 2010 to support implementation of the Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy. The program was subsequently extended to all boats in the GHAT sector (for boats that do not meet exemptions) on 1 July 2015, replacing on-board observers.
- EM piece counts data is currently used to:
  - o verify the accuracy of logbook reporting, and encourage improved reporting through a feedback reporting process;
  - o monitor compliance with fisheries and non-fisheries regulations;
  - o inform stock assessments for quota species in the GHAT. The catch and effort data collected through logbooks (and verified using piece count data) is used as a direct input to stock assessments for species targeted in the GHAT sector. Work has been undertaken into these use of piece counts themselves to formulate discard weight estimates for stock assessments and TAC calculations for species targeted in the GHAT sector. This work is ongoing;
  - o the review cost for the collection of piece counts (catch review) was \$126,000 in the 2018/19 financial year.
- AFMA is undertaking an internal review of the EM program. The MAC will receive ongoing updates on this work as it progresses, including a presentation at SEMAC 41.
  - o Consideration is also being given to the use of EM systems as an alternative to the current Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), given recent fees announced by the VMS unit providers.

Industry members expressed concerns about the significant fixed costs charged by the service provider Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP). Ms Couchman advised the contract for EM services goes out to open tender and value for money is a key consideration in selecting a provider. Industry members expressed an interest in better understanding the costs of the EM program, including what other providers there are in the market.

Ms Couchman advised the MAC, that given EM piece count data is currently used as the basis of many critical management decisions, AFMA does not recommend any changes to current EM data collection protocols. AFMA sees value in undertaking further work concerning data collection in the GHAT sector more broadly.

The MAC supported a review of data collection in the GHAT sector to identify current data needs, how these needs are currently being met and gaps, the data collection tools currently available, and those to be used in the future. Methods for collection should be practical and cost-effective and this work should be progressed through SharkRAG and SEMAC.

**The MAC recommended that EM data collection protocols remain unchanged and for AFMA to commence the review of data collection in the GHAT sector, with a data plan to be developed in conjunction with SharkRAG. Industry MAC members are to be consulted in its development.**

**Action item 40.6:** AFMA to invite Ms Claire Van Der Geest, Senior Manager, Fisheries Services, to provide an update on AFMA's internal review of Electronic Monitoring (EM).

### **3.3. Research priorities for 2021-22 (SESSF, SSJF and SPF)**

In considering this item, members and invited participants who declared conflicts of interest (refer to Agenda Item 1.3) participated in discussion but were not present when recommendations were made.

AFMA introduced the item seeking SEMAC advice on research priorities for funding in 2021-22 for the SESSF, SSJF and SPF and to approve the research statements and associated priorities to be submitted to the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) in August 2020.

SEMAC noted the revised annual research process which will see the ARC consider priorities for funding in August 2020, with a call for research expected in September 2020. The relevant RAG and MAC comments will be sought on project proposals prior to final ARC consideration in December 2020.

SEMAC noted the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on research funding is unclear. The ARC will consider priorities for AFMA-funded research and AFMA will provide input to the FRDC process.

**SESSF research priorities:** SEMAC supported all of the research priorities provided in the draft SESSF Annual Research Statement 2021-22, noting the following:

Research Priority: Non-Extractive Methodology for establishing eastern gemfish index of abundance.

- The MAC supported the research priority, pending the outcomes of the current ComRAC proposal to investigate application of the close-kin mark-recapture (CKMR) approach for SESSF rebuilding species.
- The MAC questioned whether the CKMR and non-extractive survey approaches could both be employed. AFMA noted there would be funding implications and the preferred approach is to wait for the outcomes of the CKMR research proposal.
- At its October 2020 meeting, SERAG will consider the outcomes of recent genetic work which shows the effective spawning population size for eastern gemfish is small, relative to the size of the stock; this may influence future research.
- Industry are reporting increases in catches of eastern gemfish while targeting blue-eye trevalla.
- Ms Silberschnider noted that NSW fishers are also catching gemfish as a by-product while targeting blue-eye trevalla, which provides an opportunity to collect additional samples.

**The MAC recommended that it would be worthwhile to review historical trends in eastern gemfish catch in the hook sector when targeting blue eye trevalla as part of the rebuilding strategy review this year.**

**Action item 40.7:** AFMA to distribute the copy of the journal article, '*A perfect storm of genetic drift and divergence may prevent the rebuilding of the gemfish (*Rexea solandri*) stock on the east Australian coast*' to SEMAC. AFMA to also provide an update at SEMAC 41, pending a presentation on this item at the 2020 SERAG meeting by Andy Moore.

Research Priority: GHAT CPUE calculation methodology.

- The MAC noted that the draft project report (Improved gillnet CPUE standardisations in Australia's GHAT sector of the SESSF) had been received and the outcomes would be considered at the next SharkRAG meeting in August/September.

Research Priority: Examination of data acquired through electronic monitoring, logbooks and industry

- The MAC noted that this research priority will be discussed at the next SharkRAG meeting in August/September. This project is dependent on having sufficient historical overlap between EM and observer coverage in order to do a comparative study, which is uncertain.

Research Priority: Further investigation of factors (length/depth relationship) that influence length frequencies for all species and ISMP port sampling.

- Initial work has been completed by CSIRO looking at where there is a strong length/depth relationship for SESSF species. This project builds on that work by examining what other factors influence length (e.g. time of year, location, gear etc). This will inform future data collection programs.

- While there is value in the proposed work, and noting it will build on existing knowledge, Dr Smith suggested the project also explore the feasibility of collecting length frequency and associated data through port sampling, and whether there could be issues with the representativeness of samples if a port sampling program is shown to be feasible (by comparing historical port sampling and ISMP data).
- AFMA confirmed that collection of length frequency and associated data through port sampling will be considered once the results of the project identify which species the associated data is needed.

Research Priority: Research to support the Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy

- The MAC noted industry's concern about the high cost for this project.
- The sampling design was considered the most cost-effective option identified by CSIRO through series of workshops with stakeholders including industry representatives.
- The research proposal has been submitted to ComRAC for funding by FRDC. If supported, the project will take one to two years, and would be undertaken periodically every five to ten years after that.
- Importantly, as a requirement of the conservation dependent status listing, failure to implement long-term monitoring could result in a higher listing category for the relevant species.

The MAC noted that the ARC research priorities would be included in a call for research in September 2020 after consideration by the ARC in August 2020. SEMAC and the relevant RAGs will have a further opportunity to review research proposals received.

**SSJF research priorities:** The MAC supported the following research priorities identified by SquidRAG in the SSJF Research Statement 2021-22, noting a document is yet to be drafted:

- A depletion analysis to inform a review of the triggers in the Squid Harvest Strategy. This was considered to be a low cost, highly feasible, and high priority project for the SSJF. The MAC noted that depletion analyses for squid are complicated by the high variability of the species from year to year. The MAC suggested SquidRAG consider Beth Fulton's ecosystem models as an additional information source to inform the direction of this project.
- A cost-effective alternative to Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for testing the Squid Harvest Strategy. The details for this project are yet to be established, however including this as a priority in the plan allows the ARC to consider it as a priority when the time comes.

**Action item 40.8:** AFMA to invite Dr Beth Fulton (CSIRO) to the next SquidRAG meeting to provide a brief presentation regarding her ecosystem modelling research and how this might be considered in the review of the triggers in the Squid Harvest Strategy.

**SPF research priorities:** SEMAC noted the following with regards to the SPF research priorities:

- SPFRAG provided advice regarding research priorities in December 2019.
- Regarding the blue mackerel west Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) – this stock is the next priority on the basis that the last survey was done in 2005 and all the eastern zone DEPM surveys and remaining western zone DEPMs have recently been updated or are in the process of being updated. This stock is currently in Tier 3 (at the lowest catch level) with a TAC of 3000 tonnes and there is currently no fishing in this part of the fishery. The current 'priority' ranking for this piece of research is 'subject to a significant increase in fishing effort in this part of the fishery'.
- A blue mackerel DEPM would increase the tier and consequently TAC, something that would be viewed as beneficial for fishers, particularly as it provides greater insurance if they face exclusion from the eastern zone due to dolphin interactions. However, the current TAC level is still at a level that would support some fishing effort for part of the year.

The MAC supported the SPF Annual Research Plan with no changes.

### 3.4 Update on TAP coverage in the GHAT

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Ms Couchman introduced the paper and informed the MAC that this item was for noting.

The MAC noted that at SEMAC 39 there was discussion concerning how to best meet seabird threat abatement plan (TAP) requirements in the GHAT sector. The MAC noted the following update:

- For the 2019-Winter and 2019-Summer TAP seasons, both the automatic longline and manual longline sectors of the SESSF achieved the bycatch rates of below 0.01 birds per 1000 hooks.
- Following advice from SEMAC (meetings 38 and 39), AFMA had increased review rates where needed to meet TAP review targets and is progressing amendments to the EM direction to capture boats using any combination of fishing methods under the number of days qualifier.
- For the automatic and manual longline sectors of the SESSF, AFMA met the 10% review target in the 2019-Summer TAP season for the automatic longline sector and are working to meet the same target in the manual longline sector.

AFMA advised it would also progress discussions concerning the representativeness of current EM coverage in the GHAT sector at the next meeting of SESSFRAG.

### 3.5. Trawl ERA: Discards and bycatch management

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Mr Corrie introduced the paper seeking SEMAC comments or feedback on progress against the action items in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector (CTS) Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2018-19 (the current workplan), and any issues to be considered when drafting the 2020-22 Workplan.

The MAC noted the following:

- Bycatch and discarding workplans are in place for each sector of the SESSF and focus on mitigating the risks to species identified as potentially high risk through the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) process, and impacts of fishing on the broader ecosystem.
- The current Workplan includes nine action items; one was complete, one is ongoing, two were partially completed and five had not commenced. However, of the five that had not commenced, other management arrangements had been implemented to address some of the associated risks.
- The current Workplan was implemented based on the results of the 2012 ERA. The ERA for otter board trawl and Danish seine in the CTS was updated in 2019 and will form the basis of a revised workplan in 2020.

There was some concern that conservation dependent species were not explicitly accounted for in the current Workplan unless they were assessed as high risk under the ERA. The MAC agreed it would be important to include a summary of management arrangements currently in place for conservation dependent species in the revised workplan.

**Action item 40.9:** AFMA to summarise management arrangements for conservation dependent species or species subject to rebuilding in the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan, noting its focus is on high risk ERA species.

**Action item 40.10:** AFMA to include a footnote on the Gould squid risk rating under the ERA PSA methodology in the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan to note there is a targeted fishery for this species with triggers that consider trawl catch.

### **Progress and proposed resolutions against action items in 2018-19 Workplan**

The MAC noted the following with regards to each action item

#### **Action 1:** Continue the online learning modules for bycatch issues in the SESSF

- This project was successfully implemented in collaboration with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA).
- This online course contributed towards a nationally accredited Certificate III in Fishing Operations.
- The program was well received by industry members and a total of 100 operators and crew have completed the course.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal to develop a new program, either as an online course or via interactive teleconference, to further educate skippers and crew on the current risks in the fishery.

#### **Action 2:** Revise observer protocols to monitor seabird interactions

- This action item was developed to address concerns that the level of observer coverage was insufficient (spatially and temporally) to provide reliable estimates of seabird interactions.
  - o The level of observer coverage would need to significantly increase, including changes to monitoring protocols, in order to provide reliable estimates of seabird interactions on otter trawl boats.
- Given the difficulty of estimating interaction rates, AFMA's preference was to implement input controls, such as effective offal management, to mitigate the risk to seabirds in the trawl sector.
  - o AFMA introduced management arrangements in 2019 that require zero discharge of biological material for otter board trawl vessels when fishing gear is in the water while fishing in high risk areas.
  - o Industry have developed innovative approaches to mitigate the risk to seabirds, such as pulling the warp wires underwater, and discard chutes which allow biological material to be discharged below the water surface.

SEMAC supported AFMA's proposal to remove Action Item 2, and to focus on further investigation of mitigation options under the revised workplan.

#### **Action 3:** Further develop the SESSF Trawl Discard Strategy

- No such strategy had been developed in the trawl fishery, however, AFMA have progressed a number of related matters to improve discard reporting in the trawl sector.
  - o AFMA introduced bycatch species groups for reporting purposes in logbook in April 2016 – trawl operators are now only required to report discards of bycatch species into eleven groups based largely on morphology. ISMP data will then be used to determine catch composition.
- Vessel-specific discard reports for quota species were distributed every six months from January 2015 to December 2017 to provide an overview of how individual boats were reporting discards. AFMA will consider providing similar feedback to operators in the future if deemed necessary.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal to remove action item 3 and focus on improved reporting of discards in the trawl sector, rather than developing a trawl-specific discard strategy.

**Action 4:** Investigate work on seal mitigation in trawl fisheries

- This action item is high level, noting the focus at the time of drafting was the effectiveness of using Seal Excluder Device (SED).
  - o The use of SEDs was not pursued in the trawl sector because of safety concerns and reduced catch rates. Most SEDs require more deck space than the majority of 'wet' boats have available, and the grids tend to get blocked by large animals such as rays, which compromises the catch of target species.
- Industry are trialling another mitigation device under 'Project Python' that closes the trawl net, and stops access for seals during the haul.
  - o Early results of flume-tank trials for this device are positive and the next step will be at-sea trials, though the timing has been impacted due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal to include an ongoing action item for seal mitigation in the revised plan, with a focus on 'Project Python'.

**Action 5:** Assess trends in catch of high-risk bycatch species

- This action is difficult to progress due to the lack of species-level reporting – there is insufficient observer coverage to quantify interactions with rare species, and trawl operators are only required to report discards of non-target species into groups based on morphology;

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal to not to carry this action item over to the revised workplan, with the preferred focus to better understand and mitigate impacts on high risk species.

**Action 6:** Trial the Gulper Shark Exclusion Device (GED)

- A GED is similar to a SED, but aimed at reducing bycatch of upper slope dogfish in royal red prawn grounds.
- Proof of concept trials went well, however this was not progressed due to a lack of industry support when process for royal red prawns decreased.
- Operators in the Great Australian Bight Trawl (GABT) sector have expressed interest in developing a similar device, and this has been identified as a priority in the GABT 2021/22 research plan.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal not to carry this action item over to the revised workplan.

**Action 7:** High risk species I.D guide distributed to operators

- ID guides exist for a number of the species identified as potentially high risk under the 2012 and 2019 ERAs.
- There is limited value in developing additional ID guides because operators are only required to report bycatch species into groups, and many of the Cephalopod species identified as potentially high risk in the 2019 ERA are very difficult to identify, even with a guide.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal not to include this action in the revised workplan, and instead focus on improving logbook reporting and improved species identification by AFMA observers.

**Action 8:** Implement a chondrichthyan (Sharks and rays) I. D guide and catch composition project in the CTS

- AFMA have a developed series of deepwater shark ID guides and most of the chondrichthyan species assessed as potentially high risk are included in those guides.
- The catch composition component of this action was not progressed due to resourcing issues, noting that AFMA observers provide an ongoing source of species identification.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal not to include this action in the revised plan, instead, focusing on improving logbook reporting and improved species identification by AFMA observers.

**Action 9:** Investigate hinged Seal Excluder Devices for otter board trawl vessels

- As noted under action item four, the use of SEDs was not pursued for the trawl sector.

The MAC supported AFMA's proposal not to include this action in the revised plan, instead, focusing on 'Project Python' and to include a high level action on mitigation options for seals.

In summary, the MAC noted the following:

- Some of the species identified as potentially high risk under the 2019 ERA require further investigation to better understand the risk before mitigation options are considered.
  - o Further investigation into the application of 'enhanced SAFE' (e-SAFE) may be a first step.
- A focus of the revised workplan should be improved logbook reporting and better resolution on species-level data from the ISMP.
- When considering action items for the revised workplan, AFMA need to be more realistic about what can be achieved, considering the available resources and timeframe of the workplan.
  - o There should also be a focus on developing action items that have the potential to actually reduce the impact of trawling on the ecosystem.
- A draft revised workplan will presented to SEMAC for consideration before finalising.

**Action item 40.11:** AFMA to consider application of 'enhanced SAFE' (e-SAFE) methodology under the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan to better understand the risk to some species assessed as potentially high risk in the 2019 CTS ERA.

**Action item 40.12:** AFMA to table the revised draft CTS bycatch and discarding workplan at either SEMAC 41 (November 2020) or SEMAC 42 (February 2021).

## 3.6. Update on protected species management

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The AFMA member introduced the item providing an update on performance against triggers in the dolphin mitigation strategies for the GHAT and the SPF. Ms Couchman and Ms Weekes provided updates on the GHAT and SPF respectively.

Ms Couchman provided a verbal update on dolphin and Australian sea lion (ASL) interactions in the GHAT sector, a summary of which is provided below:

### Dolphin interactions

- In the first six month review period of the 2019-20 season, there were 24 dolphin interactions (21 dead and three alive). In the second six month review period of the 2019-20 season, there were 19 interactions (16 dead and three alive).
  - o No boats exceeded the maximum interaction rate, though a number triggered the three dolphin trigger within a review period.
- AFMA is examining the interaction data more closely to understand the factors contributing to interactions.

- A review of the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy will commence in the coming months, which will include examination of interaction data since the last review.

### **ASL interactions**

- Under the ASL Management Strategy, there are seasonal triggers across seven ASL management zones.
- In the 2019-20 season, there was one interaction in zone F and one interaction in zone G. Neither of these interactions triggered a closure.

### **Shearwater interactions in gillnet sector**

- There was a mass interaction event with shearwater birds in the gillnet sector in the first quarter of 2020. AFMA has taken steps to rigorously investigate the matter including the determination of the interaction factors around that event. AFMA will provide a further update on this item at SEMAC 41.

### **Seismic surveys in the Bass Strait**

- An industry member advised that he had received reports of fishing boats experiencing a number of dolphin interactions which coincided with seismic testing in the Bass Strait. The member recommended the issue be examined further. AFMA noted that this could be considered as part of AFMA's review of the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy.

### **Dolphin interactions in the SPF – Ms Weekes provided the following update:**

- For the last three fishing years, the number of interactions per year since 2017 was seven, one and 19.
- In 2019 when the interactions increased to 19, 14 of these occurred during one six month review period. The operator was not excluded from the fishery at that time because it was the first review period they had exceeded the trigger for which the exclusion rule applies.
  - o To trigger the exclusion rule, interactions in the previous two review periods are taken into account. The MAC noted that while the interaction number was high in that particular review period, the operator was not excluded from the fishery considering the lower number of interactions in the previous two review periods.
- In the current season (2020), four interactions have occurred to date.
- The MAC noted that AFMA has been working closely with the vessel operators to reduce dolphin interactions and also funded an under-water camera project to explore how dolphins interact with trawl nets and refine mitigation to reduce the risk of further interactions. The project has been delayed due to COVID-19 but is expected to be completed by April 2021.

### **Necropsies for dolphins caught in fishing gear**

The MAC noted a request from an industry member to undertake necropsies on dolphins caught in fishing gear in order to examine whether infectious agents were a contributing factor to interactions. The industry member noted their belief that dolphins infected with some viruses may have a greater likelihood of interaction, due to the effects of those viruses (e.g. brain impairment), despite all the measures fishers have taken to minimise interactions.



### 3.7. School shark close-kin assessment and School Shark Rebuilding Strategy reviews

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Ms Couchman provided an update on the progress of a review of the *School Shark (Galeorhinus galeus) Stock Rebuilding Strategy* (the Strategy). The MAC noted:

- school shark is subject to a rebuilding strategy with the initial objective to rebuild the stock to above 20% of unfished biomass levels within three generation times (66 years). The Strategy is required to be reviewed once the results of the close kin mark recapture (CKMR) project are available and in any case after five years. The Strategy was last reviewed in 2015. In line with these requirements, AFMA has commenced a review of the Strategy.
- SharkRAG will be asked to give particular consideration to a number of policy and technical developments since 2015:
  - o the revised Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines which were implemented in November 2018;
  - o changes to the assessment approach for school shark and the implications of this change in assessing the status of the stock against the objectives of the Strategy; and
  - o the results of the CKMR assessment, including outcomes of subsequent peer review processes, some of which are still in progress.
- a sub-group of SEMAC has been established to evaluate the performance of current management arrangements for school shark.
  - o the work of this sub-group will occur in parallel with SharkRAG's policy and technical review;
  - o recommendations from the sub-group will be provided to SharkRAG, SESSFRAG and SEMAC (as appropriate) for further consideration.

**Action item 40.13:** AFMA to provide an update to SEMAC on the outcomes of the school shark sub-group meetings.

## 4. Any other business

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No other business was raised by members.

## 1. Review of action items

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The MAC decided that the review of action items would be done out of session as soon as practical.

**Action item 40.14:** AFMA to circulate a draft action items for SEMAC 40 by 10 July 2020.

## 2. Meeting Close

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The Chair thanked all for participating and engaging in fruitful discussions and declared the meeting close at 1.10pm.

## Next meeting TBC

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Date 10-11 November  
2020

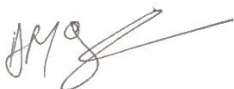
Time 10am-2.00pm

Location Microsoft TEAMS

## Attachments

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- A. MAC adopted agenda;
- B. Updated table of declared conflicts of interest and
- C. Consolidated list of action items from previous SEMAC meetings.



**Signed (Chairperson)**

**Date 19 August 2020**

## South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) 40 – Agenda

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<b>Meeting</b>	1-2 July 2020
<b>Time</b>	Day one: 10:00am – 1.00pm (AEST) Day two: 10:00am – 1.00pm (AEST)
<b>Location</b>	Teleconference
<b>Chair</b>	David McGlennon

**Attendees**

<b>Members</b>	Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
	Fiona Hill	AFMA member
	Gerry Geen	Industry member
	Michael Steer	Scientific member
	Shane Dugins	Industry member
	Simon Boag	Industry member
	Will Mure	Industry member
	John Harrison	Recreational Member
	Sarah Jennings	Economics member
<b>Invited Participants</b>	Debbie Wisby	Industry invited participant
	Veronica Silberschneider	NSW State invited participant
	Toni Clark	Industry invited participant
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Latif Siddique	AFMA
<b>Presenters</b>	Natalie Couchman	AFMA
	Daniel Corrie	AFMA
	Sally Weekes	AFMA
<b>Observers</b>		
	David Smith	AFMA – Commissioner
	Heather Johnston	AFMA – Senior Management Officer
	Kehani Manson	AFMA – Senior Fisheries Management Officer

**Apologies:** Ms Debbie Wisby (Day two)

## Day one

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
<b>1. Preliminaries</b>		<b>60 minutes</b> 10:00am -11:00pm
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	For noting
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	For action
1.3 Declarations of interest	Chair	For action
1.4 Action items	Executive officer	For noting and questions
<b>2. Updates</b>		
2.1 Managers update (OCS and catch sharing, COVID 19, Dogfish Review update, SPF WTO amendment)	Fiona Hill	<b>15 minutes</b> 11:00pm-11:15pm For noting and questions
2.2 Industry update (STAG update and COVID 19)	All industry members	<b>30 minutes</b> 11:15pm -11.45pm For noting and questions
<b>3. Business</b>		
3.1 SSJF Harvest Strategy review	Kehani Manson	<b>45 minutes</b> 11:45pm- 12:30pm For advice
3.2 Electronic monitoring piece counts – rationale, costs and options	Simon Boag and Natalie Couchman	<b>45 minutes</b> 12.30pm – 1.15pm For advice
<b>Day two</b>		
3.3 Research priorities for 2021-22 (SESSF, SSJF and SPF)	Daniel Corrie	<b>40 minutes</b> 10.00am – 10.40am For advice
3.4 Update on TAP coverage in the GHAT	Natalie Couchman	<b>10 minutes</b> 10.40am – 10.50am For noting
3.5 Trawl ERA: Discards and bycatch management	Daniel Corrie	<b>30 minutes</b> 10.50am – 11.20am For noting
3.6 Update on protected species management	Fiona Hill (Verbal)	<b>20 minutes</b> 11.20am – 11.40am For noting

3.7 Update on reviews of the school shark close-kin assessment and School Shark Rebuilding Strategy	Natalie Couchman	<b>20 minutes</b> 11.40am – 12.00pm <a href="#">For noting</a>
4 Any other business	All	<b>5 minutes</b> 12.00pm – 12:05pm
5 Review of action items	Latif Siddique	<b>10 minutes</b> 12:05pm - 12:10pm
6 Meeting Close	Chair- David McGlennon	<b>12:10pm</b>

**Table 1 Declarations of interest:** This Table forms the basis of SEMAC's Register of Member's interests. Members, invited participants and observers are asked to review the information and provide any corrections or additions to the register.

<b>Declared Interest - Last updated: July 2020</b>	
<b>Members</b>	
Ms Anissa Lawrence	Independent consultant. Director of TierraMar Consulting. Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation Non-Government Organisations, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters. No pecuniary interest. President of the SEA LIFE Trust (ANZ). Director of FISHI International.
Dr David McGlennon	SEMAC Chair - No interest pecuniary or otherwise
Mr Gerry Geen	A partner in Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds approximately 60 per cent of the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) Jack Mackerel Statutory Fishing Rights (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. Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd owns a Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Trawl Boat SFR. Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.3 (SEMAC 40)
Mr Will Mure	Sole Director of Mures Fishing P/L Commonwealth fish receiver permit Tasmania Fish Processing licence Scalefish hook boat SFR SEQ Quota Holding Permits Auto longline Fishing Permit High Seas permit Blue eye trevalla SFRs Ling SFRs Ribaldo ITP Mixed species Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and SFRs Member of various fishing related associations including Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA), Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.3 (SEMAC 40).
Dr Michael Steer	Acting Research Director at South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences Chair of South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) Member of Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark RAG (SESSRAG) Member of Commercial Marine Scalefish Reform Advisory Committee (SA) Member of Marine Scalefish fishery Management Advisory Group Member of Charter Boat Management Plan Advisory Group (SA) No pecuniary interest in the SESSF. Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.3 (SEMAC 40).
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.
John Harrison	FutureFocused Consulting Northern Territory Coastal Line Fishery MAC representative and Executive Chair for FRDC's Seafood Industry Safety Initiative.
Simon Boag	Non-beneficiary Director of two fishing companies in the SESSF. Industry member on SERAG. Executive Officers to SETFIA and SPFIA. 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. Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.2 and 3.3 (SEMAC 40).
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 SFRs, leases quota, Victorian and Tasmanian licences and Victorian Crayfish quota. Representative of the Sustainable Shark Fishing Association. Consultation services provided to AFMA for specialist fishery knowledge Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.2 and 3.3 (SEMAC 40).
Ms Fiona Hill	AFMA Demersal and Midwater Senior Manager – AFMA SEMAC member – no interest pecuniary or otherwise
<b>Invited participant</b>	
Ms Toni Clark	Employed by Petuna Sealord Deepwater fishing P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the SESSF, GHAT, Commonwealth and state (Tasmania) Scallop fishery, East Coast Tuna Fishery, Offshore Fisheries and Tasmania State Fisheries. My pecuniary interest is limited to the extent of an employee of the company. Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.2 and 3.3 (SEMAC 40).
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. Conflict of interest with the agenda item 3.1 (SEMAC 40).
Dr Veronica Silberschneider	Acting Senior Fisheries Manager, NSW Department Primary Industry Cross jurisdictional management and research interests for NSW DPI, no pecuniary interest.
<b>Executive Officer</b>	
Latif Siddique	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Observers</b>	
Dr David Smith	AFMA – Commissioner Consultant (Non-Govt)- Fisheries and marine resources research and assessment.

	<p>No activities directly related to AFMA (except where national project, see below or funded by AFMA)</p> <p>Independent Chair, National Research Providers Network (Govt) where AFMA is a member.</p> <p>Member, National Marine Science Committee (Govt)-Member as RPN Chair where AFMA also member.</p> <p>Member, Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee (Govt)- Provides advice on projects of direct relevance to AFMA.</p> <p>Adjunct Professor, Centre for Marine Socio-ecology, IMAS, UTAS (Non-Govt)- IMAS, CMS undertakes projects of relevance to AFMA.</p> <p>Member, steering committee, FRDC project (Govt)- SESSF Multi-species Harvest Strategy Project (unpaid). AFMA manages SESSF.</p> <p>Member, SA Snapper Management Advisory Committee (Govt)- AFMA manages SESSF.</p> <p>Honorary Fellow (unpaid, not a staff member), CSIRO (Govt)- CSIRO is one of the main research providers to AFMA</p> <p>No interest pecuniary or otherwise.</p>
Mr Dan Corrie	AFMA Trawl, Squid and Scallop Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Sally Weekes	AFMA Small Pelagic Fishery Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Natalie Couchman	AFMA Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Kehani Manson	AFMA – Senior Management Support Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Heather Johnston	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.



## Action items arising from previous SEMAC meetings

### SEMAC 39

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
39.1	Circulate the table of declared conflicts of interest to all MAC members for updating.	Executive Officer	1.4	Complete.
39.2	Follow up the previous action item 34.6 – <i>'AFMA to advise the MAC about the different roles of AFMA's Commonwealth Marine Mammal Working Group and FRDC's newly established marine mammal group and advise on areas for potential alignment of roles to improve efficiency.'</i>	Ryan Murphy	1.4	Complete. The FRDC Marine Mammal group is high level group tasked with identifying research priorities and opportunities for funding marine mammal research and to ensure consistency across various jurisdictions. The AFMA Commonwealth Fisheries Marine Mammal Working Group (MMWG) is a more operational level committee tasked with providing advice and input on the development of options to minimise and avoid marine mammal interactions.
39.3	AFMA to finalise an agreement with the Southern Shark Industry Alliance to voluntarily limit catches of blue-eye trevalla on the seamount stock for the 2020-21 SESSF season.	Brodie Macdonald / Natalie Couchman	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	Complete. Agreement entered into for the SSIA to manage the take of blue-eye trevalla from the seamounts (Zone 70) of the SESSF. Management of this take will be within maximum catch commitment limits of 108 tonnes over a three season period with no more than 54 tonnes to be caught in a single fishing season.

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
39.4	AFMA to include details of any species-specific research projects underway in future SEMAC TAC recommendations paper.	AFMA	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	SEMAC TAC meeting 2021
39.5	Recognising uncertainty in the Tier 4 blue-eye stock assessment and industry concerns around low catch rates up to January 2020, SEMAC recommended SESSFRAG (August 2020) consider fishery indicator data and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider an alternative approach to assessing the slope stock in 2021 and applying a precautionary reduction to the TAC for the 2021-22 SESSF season; or</li> <li>bring the assessment forward to 2020, if the Tier 4 assessment is to be applied again, SERAG should consider application of the 15 per cent discount factor.</li> </ul>	SESSFRAG	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	Ongoing. Advice regarding the scheduling of this assessment and approach to be taken is to be provided at the August 2020 SESSFRAG Data meeting.
39.6	AFMA to more clearly specify how the TAC is calculated – e.g. why no discards are included in the assessment or deducted from the RBC when calculating the TAC.	AFMA	3.2 (Blue Warehou)	SEMAC TAC meeting 2021
39.7	AFMA to seek advice from SERAG regarding application of a 100 per cent undercatch provision for orange roughy cascade, as is done for eastern orange roughy.	Dan Corrie	3.2 (Orange roughy (Cascade))	SERAG1 2020
39.8	The SEMAC Chair to write to the AFMA Commission supporting and emphasising the importance of progressing catch sharing arrangements with NSW.	SEMAC Chair	3.2 (School whiting)	Complete. Letter distributed to members following SEMAC 39 ( <b>Attachment A</b> ). Further update provided under the Managers Update at Agenda Item 2.1.

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
39.9	AFMA to discuss eastern school whiting classification with ABARES with respect to the ABARES Status Report.	Fiona Hill	3.2 (School whiting)	Ongoing. Report back at SEMAC 40.
39.10	AFMA to encourage collaboration between CSIRO and NSW on the silver trevally Tier 4 assessment, with a particular focus on the inconsistencies in CPUE between the two jurisdictions.	Dan Corrie	3.2 (Silver trevally)	Ongoing. Report back at SEMAC 40.
39.11	AFMA to liaise with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the conservation dependant status of orange roughy, with a particular focus on delisting the eastern stock and implications for other stocks if this were to occur.	AFMA	5.9 (Orange roughy rebuilding)	Ongoing. To be addressed as part of orange roughy rebuilding strategy review. Report back at SEMAC 40.

## SEMAC 38

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
38.4	SEMAC request that SharkRAG consider the 20 per cent school shark retention rule and other additional management options as part of the annual review of the rebuilding strategy and to provide formal advice to SEMAC on the management of school shark.	Brodie Macdonald	2.11	Ongoing. To be discussed at SEMAC 40 under Agenda Item 3.7.
38.6	AFMA to consider cost effective approaches to determine whether current EM coverage is representative of overall hook fishing effort in the GHAT for the purpose of reporting requirements under the seabird Threat Abatement Plan.	Brodie Macdonald	4.3	Ongoing. Considered at SEMAC 39, update to be provided in SEMAC 40 at Agenda Item 3.4.
38.7	AFMA to notify SharkRAG of the potential for changing gear types as part of the 12 month trial and its possible implications for stocks assessments.	Brodie Macdonald	4.4	Ongoing. To be discussed at the August 2020 SESSFRAG Data

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
				meeting when discussing inputs to the scheduled gummy shark assessment.
38.8	AFMA to investigate the introduction of a shark 'trigger' for all Scalefish Hook SFRs, similar to that applicable to Auto longline permits.	Brodie Macdonald	4.4	Ongoing. To be included in the GHAT Simplification Implementation Plan.
38.13	AFMA and Industry member Mr Boag to report back at SEMAC 39 on the history, rationale and cost of obtaining piece counts using EM in the GHAT Fishery.	Mr Boag and Brodie Macdonald	4.8	Ongoing. Provided for advice in SEMAC 40 at Agenda Item 3.2.

### SEMAC 37

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
37.5	AFMA to request advice form SharkRAG on an appropriate figure for school shark survivability to inform the TAC setting advice for 2020-21 season.	AFMA/Brodie Macdonald	3.2	Ongoing. A project scope (School shark and gummy shark post release survival) was supported by the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) and provided to Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee (COMRAC) for consideration at its early April 2020 meeting. COVID-19 however resulted in FRDC putting this meeting on hold. It is not possible to report on whether these were supported by COMRAC until FRDC provides confirmation at its next meeting. AFMA has not been advised as to when that will take place.
37.6	AFMA and SharkRAG to confirm the work required to determine and recommend a figure/ percentage for	AFMA/ SharkRAG	3.2	Ongoing. A project scope (School shark and gummy shark post release

Action Item	Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
school shark post release survivability to all due consideration by the MAC and Commission time for the 2022-23 season.			survival) was supported by the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) and provided to Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee (COMRAC) for consideration at its early April 2020 meeting. COVID-19 however resulted in FRDC putting this meeting on hold. It is not possible to report on whether these were supported by COMRAC until FRDC provides confirmation at its next meeting. AFMA has not been advised as to when that will take place.

### SEMAC 36

Action Item	Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
36.2 AFMA to raise the issue of the effectiveness of the redacted copy of cost benefit analysis issue with the economic working group at their next meeting.	Fiona Hill	1.4	<b>Complete.</b> This item relates to a cost-benefit analysis of individual accountability for quota species discards, part of which includes the cost of using EM to verify discards. This was discussed at the April 2019 EWG meeting. Archipelago costs were excluded from the final report because of commercial-in-confidence issues, however they were included in the

Action Item	Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
			analysis and so the findings remain valid.

### SEMAC 35

All actions items complete

### SEMAC 34

All actions items complete

### SEMAC 31

Action Item	Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Status
31.4 AFMA and SETFIA to consider a formal consultation process with eNGO's to engage in the TAG process.	AFMA and SETFIA	Agenda item 2.1 (Managers update)	<b>Complete.</b> Core membership of the STAG consists of industry and an AFMA representative. Other participants, including research provider, MAC or RAG members and representatives from overlapping fisheries, the recreational sector or conservations groups may attend STAG meetings, as needed. Formal consultation on environmental issue will remain a function of the MAC.

### SEMAC 30

All actions items from SEMAC 30 have been completed. This was noted and endorsed at SEMAC 31.

## SEMAC 29

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Status
29.10	AFMA to consider the options to improve incentives for operators to correctly report dolphin interactions. For example, allowing an operator to reduce the review rate if they have a proven record of correctly reporting interactions. The MAC noted that this would require a change to the EM monitoring costs within the levy base.	AFMA	Agenda item 3.3	<p><b>Ongoing.</b></p> <p>AFMA does not currently have a mechanism to charge operators directly for the costs of catch review, however, this is being considered as part of long-term discussions around direct billing.</p>