



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting 44**

### **Meeting minutes**

**27 October 2021**

**Microsoft Teams Online Meeting**

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## Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

### 1.1 Welcome and apologies

1. Mr David McGlennon, the Chair, opened the meeting at 10 am:

- welcomed participants to the meeting
- made an Acknowledgement of Country recognising the traditional owners of the many lands in which we met, paying our respects to elders past, present and emerging;
- informed participants that the meeting was being recorded; and
- commenced proceedings

2. Participants and apologies:

#### SEMAC Members

David McGlennon	Chair
Simon Boag	Industry member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
John Harrison	Recreational member
Fiona Hill	Australian Fishing Management Authority (AFMA) member
Sarah Jennings	Economic member
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Paul McShane	Scientific member
Will Mure	Industry member
Cate Coddington	A/g Executive Officer

#### Invited Participants

Heath Folpp	NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries – state invited participant (joined during Agenda Item 5 at 1300)
Bruce Wallner	SquidRAG Chair
Debbie Wisby	Industry participant

#### AFMA Staff

Lara Ainley	Presenter
John Cooper	Observer
Dan Corrie	Presenter
Sally Weekes	Presenter

#### Apologies

Max Bayly	Executive Officer
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## 1.2 Adoption of agenda

- SEMAC members adopted the agenda at **Attachment A** as final.

## 1.3 Declarations of interest

- SEMAC participants discussed potential conflicts of interest and participation under specific agenda items, noting that participants:
  - had provided declarations of conflicts of interest, as prescribed in *Fisheries Administration Paper 12*, prior to the commencement of the meeting; and
  - reviewed and updated the Declarations of Interest (**Attachment B**) and the outcomes of the deliberations for specific agenda items was that these participants with a conflict of interest could be present for the discussions but not the recommendations:
    - Agenda Item 3** *Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) 2022 fishing season total allowable effort* – Debbie Wisby
    - Agenda Item 4** *SSJF Harvest Strategy (HS) update* – Debbie Wisby
    - Agenda Item 5** *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) HS Update* – Simon Boag and Will Mure.

## 1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

- SEMAC members noted the final minutes of the SEMAC 42 meeting of 2-4 February 2021 are available on the AFMA website: [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/committees/south-east-management-advisory-committee-semac/south-east-mac-past-meetings](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/committees/south-east-management-advisory-committee-semac/south-east-mac-past-meetings).

## 1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

- A consolidated list of outstanding action items from previous SEMAC meetings was circulated to SEMAC members prior to this meeting at **Attachment C**. Participants noted the progress of action items from previous meetings and the update provided by Fiona Hill and agreed to remove the following actions from the action items list:
  - SEMAC 40 (Jul 2020)
    - 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, and*
    - 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 harvest strategy.*
      - A review of the SSJF Harvest Strategy is not planned for the near future, AFMA will consider extending an invite to Dr Mike Steer and Dr Beth Fulton once such a review commences.
      - Outcomes from Dr Beth Fulton's ecosystem modelling research, in particular the climate change adaptation handbook, is currently being considered through the resource assessment groups.

- SEMAC 38 (Jul 2020)

*Action item 38.8: AFMA to investigate the introduction of a shark 'trigger' for all Scalefish Hook Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs), similar to that applicable to auto longline permits.*

- The investigation of a shark 'trigger' will be considered as part of the gillnet hook and trap sector (GHAT) Simplification Implementation Plan and can be removed from the action item list.

## Agenda item 2 – Updates

### 2.1 Managers Update

7. SEMAC noted the update provide by the AFMA member, Ms Fiona Hill, on key management issues arising since the meeting on 20-21 July 2021, and discussed:

#### *King George whiting*

- Following increased catches by Commonwealth boats in 2021 to about 7 tonnes, the Victorian Fisheries Agency (VFA) and Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRF) publicly requested the Commonwealth introduce a zero trip limit. AFMA has committed to continue to monitor catches of King George whiting and to support future Victorian assessments and science, but is not proposing to introduce a trip limit.
- Typically, the average annual catch in the Commonwealth trawl sector is than 1 tonne, about 0.05 per cent of the combined Victorian commercial and recreational catch. The increases is consistent with the cyclical nature of King George whiting catches and anecdotal reports that catch rates have increased across Victoria. Additionally, the Ecological Risk Assessment for Danish seine and otter board trawl assesses King George whiting as low risk and the Victorian stock of King George Whiting is assessed as sustainable in the 2021 Status of Australian Fish Stocks Report.
- Simon Boag expressed appreciation for AFMA not acquiescing to the zero trip-limit request, as it is not due to sustainability concerns but likely a political issue. Mr Boag suggested the increased catches are likely due to increased rain, fish movement further out to sea, and the closure of much of Victoria's finfish fishery resulting in a smaller commercial catch.

#### *Multi-species Harvest Strategy Update*

- The multi-species harvest strategy project has been delayed as the workshop has not been able to be held due to COVID-19. The intended completion date is now December 2022.
- Two general approaches to a multi-species harvest strategy in the SESSF have been developed and will be tested in June 2022, these are:
  - Pretty-good multi-species yield (PGMSY) which targets Key Commercial and byproduct species using current management and assessment approach. The key focus of PGMSY is technical interactions in catches among quota species.
  - Indicator species approach selects representative species from a range of categories. The key focus of the indicator approach is the wide number and diversity of species considered in the fishery, beyond those managed by quotas.
- Other innovative approaches are also being considered.

#### *Small Pelagic Fishery Scientific Permit*

- AFMA granted a scientific permit that authorises the trial a forward barrier net during mid-water trawl operations to prevent the entry of larger Threatened, Endangered and Protected

species (TEPs) while allowing targeted fish to pass through in areas of water closed under the [Small Pelagic Fishery Emergency Closure Direction](#). This trial is yet to commence.

- The MAC noted the following update from Simon Boag:
  - the trial is funded by industry and is building on work undertaken by Dr John Wakeford, which had the barrier net further aft;
  - Dr Tim Ward is the primary investigator; and
  - underwater cameras will be used to record dolphin behaviour around the barrier net; a paired trial will not be conducted.
- Gerry Geen offered to assist with providing information about dolphin mitigation research that has previously been conducted in the fishery. Mr Boag confirmed that Tim Ward had previously spoken to Gerry Geen about this project.

**Action 44.1:** AFMA to provide the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) Underwater video project report to SEMAC after research findings have been discussed by SPFRAG at its December 2021 meeting.

## 2.2 Industry Update

8. SEMAC noted updates provided by the following industry members:

- Will Mure:
  - Pink ling catch rates in the east are good, but less so in the west.
  - Reducing the blue-eye trevalla TAC in response to lower catch rates was appropriate. Catch rates are variable in the southern part of the fishery, but generally seem to be improving across the fishery. Orca depredation remains an issue.
- Debbie Wisby:
  - Squid price was good last year, hoping it can continue to be as good next year.
  - Catch is over 20 per cent better (as indicated by the increase in the quality of the bait supplied).
  - Demand is exceeding supply for both human consumption and bait. Their business can only fill five per cent of the bait market, their priority is to supply bait for commercial fishing.
  - Anticipates additional operators will consider fishing for squid due to the positive conditions.
- Simon Boag (Southern Shark Industry Association (SSIA), Small Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SPFIA) and South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA)):

### *Gillnet sector*

- Catch rates are the best they have been.
- The sale price for dressed shark is high; sales on the wharf are attaining \$16 / kg.

### *Small Pelagic Fishery*

- The fishery was effectively shut due to the main fishing grounds (consisting of three significant grids) being closed to fishing. Simon Boag stated that the fishery held to a different standard to all other fisheries with respect to TEPs.

### *Trawl fishery*

- While the prices in August were bad, in September and October prices have increased to be the best ever.
- Fuel price has increased about 40 per cent and is starting to impact businesses.
- Operators are reporting poor catch rates for flathead in Bass Strait. The list of declining stocks on the east coast is significant. While catch per unit effort (CPUE) rates are decreasing with long-term negative trends, CPUE as an index of abundance is no longer reliable for many species. SETFIA are starting to consider options and implications for industry.
- Following SETFIA's presentation to the [senate inquiry on the fisheries quota system](#), SETFIA analysed its member demographics:
  1. There are 30 members.
  2. There is no foreign ownership in ninety per cent of member SET fishing businesses.
  3. The vast majority of members catch fish. Fifty one per cent of members are owner operators.
  4. Only one member has a solely a quota-holding business.
- Gerry Geen – nothing to report since the last meeting.
- John Harrison (recreational member) stated that he not been contacted by any recreational fishing bodies regarding Commonwealth catches of King George whiting in Victoria. Agenda Item 3 - SSJF 2022 fishing season total allowable effort (TAE)

### **Agenda Item 3 - SSJF 2022 fishing season total allowable effort**

9. SEMAC noted the update provided by Lara Ainley about the 2022 SSJF fishing season TAE, in particular:
  - catch and effort in the SSJF and SESSF during the 2021 SSJF fishing year are well below the triggers outlined in the current SSJF Harvest Strategy;
  - there are no sustainability issues for the fishery with the latest Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) report assessing the fishery as not overfished nor subject to overfishing;
  - no bycatch has been recorded by operators in 2021; and
  - while there is some capacity for expansion in the fishery, the SSJF Resource Assessment Group (SquidRAG) recommended that the 2022 TAE be maintained at 550 standard squid jig machines.
10. Debbie Wisby left the meeting while SEMAC considered the recommendation.
11. **SEMAC recommended maintaining the SSJF TAE at 550 standard squid jig machines for the 2022 fishing year, commencing on 1 January 2022.**

### **Agenda Item 4 – SSJF Harvest Strategy update**

12. SEMAC noted the update provided by Lara Ainley about the updated SSJF Harvest Strategy:
  - AFMA has developed an updated SSJF Harvest Strategy that includes a proposed new “lower catch and effort trigger”, which is the only substantive change from the *SSJF Harvest Strategy 2007* (the current Harvest Strategy). The new trigger was requested by the AFMA Commission in 2020 and better reflects current catch and effort conditions within the fishery. All other triggers and associated management arrangements included in the current harvest strategy,

were carried over and remain unchanged. Noting there has been substantial editorial and formatting changes in the updated Harvest Strategy, these do not change the intent of the document; and

- SquidRAG did not reach consensus on the draft Harvest Strategy at its 27<sup>th</sup> meeting on 8 October 2021 and did not recommend proceeding with the update and the inclusion of the additional “lower catch and effort” trigger.
- SquidRAG noted objection to the inclusion of the new trigger with concerns that there is no need for it and that it may increase management costs.

13. SEMAC discussed the introduction of the proposed new “lower catch and effort” trigger in the harvest strategy:

- While there was no scientific basis for the objection to the new trigger by SquidRAG (given that it is a soft trigger and formalises the current process undertaken by SquidRAG) without the scientific advice of SquidRAG, SEMAC would not be comfortable providing a recommendation.
- Debbie Wisby, SSJF industry representative, anticipates that industry would support the new trigger. However, there had not been enough direct consultation with industry.

14. SEMAC discussed the updated Harvest Strategy:

- Fiona Hill explained that the current Harvest Strategy is difficult to read and does not reflect current practices. Further, the inclusion of a low catch and effort trigger aligns with the request by the Commission to have a trigger more relevant to current catch, and make it more contemporary and easier to read. Currently there is insufficient data available to inform a full review of the strategy and existing triggers. As such, the existing triggers were carried over without changes. The data strategy for the fishery is also being updated to enable such data to be collected.
- Since SquidRAG, AFMA has undertaken additional consultation with Debbie Wisby. Editorial feedback was incorporated into the draft Harvest Strategy following these discussions, which were marked with track changes.
- Debbie Wisby acknowledged that the updated Harvest Strategy is easier to read than the current harvest strategy, but has concerns about sections of text, on the existing triggers relating to cohorts and research, that were left unchanged.

15. SEMAC discussed the consultation undertaken with industry on the updated Harvest Strategy and proposed new trigger:

- Debbie Wisby outlined that the creation of a new trigger is not minor, and that there had been inadequate consultation. As a result, felt that industry would not support the updated Harvest Strategy.
- While the updates to the Harvest Strategy are not overly controversial the invited participant expressed significant concerns and SEMAC acknowledged the importance of fuller consultation.
- Bruce Wallner, Chair of SquidRAG, outlined that SquidRAG did not reach consensus on whether the current Harvest Strategy needed updating. In addition, SquidRAG felt that updating with the inclusion of the additional trigger could potentially create barriers for expanding the fishery. Despite this, he thought that the update was relatively minor and was surprised by the push back from industry.
- AFMA could undertake further consultation with industry, SquidRAG and SEMAC noting that there will be extra cost for the fishery.



16. Debbie Wisby left the meeting while SEMAC considered the recommendation.

**17. SEMAC recommended further consultation on the updated Harvest Strategy be undertaken with Industry. Following this, SquidRAG to provide comment out-of-session, before further consideration by SEMAC out-of-session in early 2022.**

**Action 44.2:** AFMA to seek feedback from SquidRAG and the SSJF industry on the draft SSJF Harvest Strategy. The Strategy is then to be provided to SEMAC out-of-session for consideration.

## **Agenda Item 5 – SESSF HS Updates**

18. SEMAC noted the update provided by Dan Corrie on the draft revised SESSF Harvest Strategy (the Harvest Strategy), which will guide the TAC setting process for the 2022-23 SESSF fishing season if adopted by the Commission:

- SESSFRAG recommended the revised Strategy be adopted at their August 2021 Data meeting, with the proposed amendments that:
  - address technical and editorial errors throughout the document;
  - enable multispecies considerations in setting TACs;
  - include considerations about what to do when a species falls outside the MYTAC period without an updated stock assessment.
  - enable application of discount factors for lower tier assessments be the default process, and that exceptions are only made where the relevant resource assessment group is satisfied there are alternative equivalent precautionary measures in place;
  - include the use of the FishPath tool to determine ‘preferred’ Tier 5 methods; and
  - include how RBCs are calculated at each assessment Tier level using harvest control rules (HCRs).
- A broader review of the Harvest Strategy is underway. This is unlikely to be finalised until the end of 2022 – the implementation of a new harvest strategy will follow, and will be a significant undertaking. In the meantime, the current Harvest Strategy is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose.

19. SEMAC discussed the revised Harvest Strategy:

- At its March 2022 Chairs meeting, SESSFRAG will consider time-related buffer discounts for when species assessment are not updated, and species extend beyond the agreed multi-year TAC period.
- Simon Boag stated that discounting TACs is unlikely to impact total fishing mortality for some species which are incidentally caught.
- Companion species analyses can provide insight to unavoidable catch levels and inform appropriate TACs for non-targeted species. Additionally, discount factors may create an incentive to collect additional data and improve uncertainty in assessments.

20. Simon Boag and Will Mure left the meeting while SEMAC considered the recommendation.

**21. SEMAC recommended the Commission adopt the revised Harvest Strategy, with an edit regarding the application of discount factors (on page 24<sup>1</sup>).**

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<sup>1</sup> The edit has been incorporated into the revised Harvest Strategy at **Attachment D**

## Agenda Item 6 – TEP Species Updates and Management Arrangements

22. SEMAC noted the summaries provided by AFMA fishery managers regarding management of TEP species, including reported interactions by Commonwealth fishing boats<sup>2</sup>. Participants discussed:

### *Dolphin mitigation strategies*

- Reviews of the gillnet and small pelagic fishery dolphin mitigation strategies will commence in December 2021.
- While not likely to be complete in time for the current review, a formal analysis of factors that might contribute to dolphin interactions (for example, gear configuration) and/or minimising interactions will be undertaken to assist AFMA and industry in minimising interactions.
- Recently completed work by the CSIRO into bycatch rates has suggested there is a relationship between ‘successful fishers’ and lower bycatch rates, i.e. fishers who have high catch rates of commercial species appear to have lower bycatch rates. This analysis is being updated with more recent logbook information that has been collected since electronic monitoring was introduced and is expected to become available in 2022.

### *Dolphins – gillnet*

- Of the number of gillnet concessions in the fishery, about half actively fish and of those, all have some level of dolphin interaction at some time. The majority of dolphin interactions result in mortalities.
- AFMA is aware of at least two operators who have left the fishery because they cannot viably operate under the management rules for minimising dolphin interactions.
- Interactions appear to slightly increase in winter but it is not a clear trend.
- The strategy is designed with scaleable management responses that penalise operators who repeatedly exceed the ‘acceptable’ rates and numbers over time. While a number of operators have exceeded at least one rule at some point, the rule that excludes an operator from the fishery has only been triggered once. In addition, the rule that results in an operator being excluded from the South Australian Dolphin Zone for six months for exceeding the interaction rate after only one six month period, was triggered resulting in the operator being excluded from that area until 31 October 2021. The operator is still able to fish elsewhere in the fishery during that time. This spatial rule applies only off SA as it is a marine mammal hotspot with an increased risk of dolphin interactions.

### *Dolphins – SPF*

- The trigger rate was not exceeded during either period but the fishery had two zones (from which almost all catch is taken) closed to limit interactions. Eight dolphin interactions occurred while the boat was operating under a scientific permit during the most recent review period.
- Further information about SPF interim dolphin measures is contained in **Agenda Item 7**.

### *Seabirds – Gillnet*

- There was a mass seabird interaction in the gillnet sector in 2020. While the operator reported approximately 150 birds, electronic monitoring (EM) footage showed that there were 248 shearwaters. A more comprehensive EM review was undertaken, which suggested that this type of event is likely to be an isolated incident and no other instances of mis-reporting were

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<sup>2</sup> Summarised in quarterly TEP reports available on the AFMA website: [protected species interaction reports page](#)

identified. AFMA's review of the circumstances suggested the main contributor to the event was that the operator was fishing in shallow water during the day near a seabird colony in summer (potentially nesting season).

#### *Seabirds – Hook*

- Seabird interactions are managed in the hook sector of the SESSF under the *Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations*. There have only been low levels of interactions for the last few periods and the interactions rates have not been exceeded.
- The autolongline industry member noted the positive result with the triggers not having been exceeded, however flagged that their boat was not doing anything differently compared to times when they have had a high level of interactions, highlighting the sometimes unpredictable nature of seabird interactions.

#### *Seabirds – Commonwealth Trawl Sector*

- Between 1 November 2019 to 1 July 2020, additional management arrangements were phased in to ensure zero discharge of biological material (offal), south of 38°South, during daylight hours, to minimise the risk of seabirds interacting with warp wires. Some boats have been provided exemptions to the offal retention rules, in accordance with the AFMA Offal Retention Guidelines, where they have demonstrated mitigation approaches that sufficiently reduce the risk to seabirds interacting with warp wires.
- While the number of reported interactions has significantly decreased since 2019, compliance with the offal retention rules and interaction reporting remains uncertain. The introduction of EM is expected help to verify compliance and interaction reporting.

#### *Australian Sea Lions*

- Gillnet fishing has reduced by 85 per cent since the sealion strategy was implemented for South Australian waters around ten years ago and interactions are low with only one recorded in Zone G during the 2020-21 fishing season. In addition, despite the significant impact on gillnet operators, the catch of sharks, now primarily taken by hooks, has increased back to the level of pre-sealion strategy catches which is a positive sign for the industry.

23. Simon Boag outlined views from industry regarding the management of TEP species by AFMA:

- They are not in line with the objectives of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (FMA) – which includes full utilisation whilst having regards for non-target species and precaution – and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) – which includes reducing interactions where reasonably possible. Nor are they in line with the five bycatch principles developed by AFMA – including individual accountability, consideration of conservation status and consistent application across fisheries.
- The conservation status of the various TEP species is not taken into account. Some species are more at risk than others are. For example, seabirds (which are in the threatened or endangered species category) should require more careful management than dolphins (which are protected, but not threatened or endangered).
- Triggers are not applied evenly across all of AFMA's fisheries. There are fisheries with far higher interactions with TEPs of more serious conservation concerns that are not subject to the same management controls.
- While the use of triggers is in line with individual accountability, they work only in certain circumstances where there are known mitigation options:
  - In the GHAT they have not reduced the dolphin interaction rate.

- In the SPF, while the implementation has incidentally reduced dolphin interactions through a reduction of effort, it has also reduced effort and is not in line with the objective of full utilisation under the FMA, and therefore is not a balanced response.
- In the CTS, noting seabird interactions are somewhat cryptic, offal retention has worked to reduce seabird interactions.
- Industry is suffering severe mental health issues due to impacts on their businesses resulting from triggers. In addition, the use of vernacular such as “offender” for operators who are legally interacting with TEPs is causing offence to industry.
- There should be considerations of social licence; it is important to build mitigation and gather evidence, and then implement triggers.

24. In response AFMA outlined the following:

- It acknowledged that zero TEP interactions is not achievable, and the objective is to minimise interactions:
- where it can, it tries to assist fishers avoid interactions;
- applies mitigation requirements where there are known options available. In instances where verified mitigation options are not, triggers (outputs) are one option that is used.
- uses triggers as a management response, which:
  - puts the onus on the fishing industry to find solutions, rather than on AFMA who does not necessarily have the relevant expertise;
  - are applied at the level of the operator, not the fishery, which encourages individual accountability and prevents the whole fishery being penalised in instances where some fishers may be having a high level of interactions; and
  - are a transparent process aimed at creating more certainty in the operating environment for the fishing industry.
  - can be effectively monitored via EM. This in turn is driving more accurate logbook reporting which means we now have a high degree of confidence in the number of interactions occurring.
- will be undertaking a review process for both the Gillnet and SPF dolphin strategies soon and industry will be consulted during that process.

## **Agenda Item 7 – SPF Interim Dolphin Measures**

25. SEMAC noted the update provided by Lara Ainley about interim management arrangements to strengthen the SPF Dolphin Strategy. The need for these arrangements arose following the enactment of an emergency closure of three SPF spatial management grids to midwater trawl fishing methods due to an unusually high level of dolphin interactions in July 2021.

- AFMA consulted with the Small Pelagic Fishery Industry Association (SPFIA) and the SPF mid-water trawl concession holder during the development of the amended SPF concession conditions. Support was provided for the interim arrangements, noting the complexity of operationally managing multiple management measures in the SPF.
- The updated SPF concession conditions will come into effect from 01 November 2021. These will complement the existing Strategy, which remains in force.
- A complete review of the Strategy will commence in December 2021.

- SPFIA and the concession holder have raised concerns regarding the operational challenges of the interaction rate (one dolphin per 50 shots) that exists within the current Strategy. AFMA will undertake a review of the rate in light of the interim arrangements.

## **Other Business**

26. No additional items of business were raised.

## **Review of Action Items**

27. Action items arising from this meeting are outlined at **Attachment C**.

## **Next Meeting**

28. SEMAC noted that:

- the next meeting is proposed to be held during the week of 31 January 2022, preferably face-to-face as it will be a three-day meeting to consider quota for the SESSF.
- Meeting Close

29. The Chair thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 1415 on 27 October 2021.

## **Attachments**

- A. Final Agenda
- B. SEMAC 44 Declared conflicts of Interest
- C. Consolidated list of SEMAC action Items
- D. SESSF Harvest Strategy

## Attachment A- Final Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker	SEMAC Action
<b>1. Preliminaries</b>		
1.1 Welcome and apologies		
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	Advice
1.3 Declarations of interest		
1.4 Adoption of meeting minutes		
1.5 Action items	Fiona Hill	Noting/questions
<b>2. Updates</b>		
2.1 Manager update	Fiona Hill	Noting/questions
2.2 Industry updates	All	Noting/questions
<b>Business Items</b>		
3. SSJF 2022 fishing season total allowable effort	Lara Ainley	Advice
4. SSJF Harvest Strategy update	Lara Ainley	Advice
5. SESSF HS update	Daniel Corrie	Advice
<b>Information Items</b>		
6. TEP Species updates and management arrangements	AFMA Managers	For information
7. SPF Interim dolphin measures	Fiona Hill	For information
<b>Other business</b>	Chair	Noting/Questions
<b>Review of action items</b>	EO	Advice
<b>Next Meeting/Meeting Close</b>	Chair	Noting

## Attachment B- Declared Conflicts

Declared Interest - Last updated: October 2021	
<b>Members</b>	
Dr David McGlennon	SEMAC Chair - No interest pecuniary or otherwise
Mr Simon Boag	Industry member on SERAG. Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA SETFIA receives funding from various bodies to complete projects. Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.
Mr Gerry Geen	A partner in Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds a SESSF Trawl Boat SFR
Mr John Harrison	FutureFocused Consulting and Executive Chair for FRDC's Seafood Industry Safety Initiative. Member, NW Marine Park Advisory Committee.
Ms Fiona Hill	AFMA Demersal and Midwater Senior Manager – AFMA SEMAC member – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Dr Sarah Jennings	Economics member on SERAG and SESSFRAG. Economics coordinator, FRDC Human Dimensions Sub-Program. Member of AFMA Economics Working Group. Independent economics consultant. No pecuniary or other interest.
Ms Anissa Lawrence	No pecuniary interest Director of TierraMar Ltd Independent consultant Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters Conservation member on GABMAC, SPFRAG, SEMAC and the South Australian Rock Lobster MAC
Dr Paul McShane	Chair of SERAG and a member of SEMAC and SESSFRAG. No pecuniary interest in the SESSF. Principal of Global Marine Resource Management Pty Ltd. Adjunct Professor (Fisheries and Aquaculture) College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University.
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)
<b>Invited participants</b>	
Mr Heath Folpp	NSW DPI (Fisheries)– no interest pecuniary or otherwise
Bruce Wallner	Chair – SquidRAG – no interest pecuniary or otherwise
Debbie Wisby	Manager - Fishing Company in Tasmania (owned by husband). Husband owns Commonwealth and Tasmanian Squid Entitlements. Tasmanian Scallops Fishery Advisory Committee industry member, member SquidRAG, member Scallop MAC.
<b>A/g Executive Officer</b>	
Ms Cate Coddington	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.

AFMA	
Dr Lara Ainley (presenter)	AFMA Small Pelagic Fishery Manager – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Dan Corrie (presenter)	AFMA Commonwealth Trawl and Great Australia Bight Trawl Manager – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Sally Weekes (presenter)	AFMA Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery Manager – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr John Cooper (observer)	AFMA (no conflicts provided).



## Attachment C – Consolidated List of Action Items

Complete/Redundant	Underway	Yet to start	SEMAC advice required / for noting
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Table 1. Progress of action items

### SEMAC 44 (27 October 2021): [this meeting](#)

Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
2.1 Managers Update	44.1	AFMA to provide the Small Pelagic Fishery Under-Water video project report to SEMAC after research findings have been discussed by SPFRAG at their December 2021 meeting.	Lara Ainley	Early 2022	N/A
4. SSJF Harvest Strategy update	44.2	AFMA to seek feedback from SquidRAG and the SSJF industry on the draft SSJF Harvest Strategy. The Strategy to be provided to SEMAC out-of-session for consideration.	Lara Ainley	Early 2022	N/A

### SEMAC Out of Session Meeting (24 March 2021)

Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
3. Rebuilding Strategies – Orange Roughy and Blue Warehou	OOS1	AFMA to request SERAG reconcile any spatial or temporal differences in juvenile and adult components of the blue warehou stocks	Dan Corrie	Next SERAG	Dan Corrie wrote to CSIRO seeking advice.

## SEMAC 42 (2-4 February 2021)

	Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3. SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season	42.1	AFMA to request that the SESSFrag (August 2021) review the current SESSF data plan to ensure suitable data is being collected with a particular focus on discard estimates across sectors and species, and then provide SEMAC an overview of observer coverage in the trawl sector (included days planned vs achieved) in June 2021.	Daniel Corrie	SEMAC 43	Complete – SESSF Data plan has been completed and can be found on the <a href="#">AFMA website</a>
	3. SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season	42.2	SEMAC recommends South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) invite a shark biologist to participate in the SERAG 2021 Tier 5 assessment of deepwater sharks, to inform the assessment.	Daniel Corrie	SERAG 2021	Complete – Dr Colin Simpfendorfer participated in the tier 5 assessment working group for deepwater shark and was an invited participant at SERAG 2.
	3. SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season	42.3	SEMAC recommends SERAG consider the potential impact on future catch per unit effort (CPUE) if discards were to increase when providing recommended biological catch (RBC) advice for John Dory for the 2022-23 fishing year.	Daniel Corrie	2021	Complete – SERAG considered a Tier 4 Assessment for John Dory at their October 2021 meeting. Final TAC advice to be considered by SERAG meeting in November/December 2021. To include consideration of discards and CPUE.
	3. SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season	42.4	AFMA to include revised estimates of biomass from the most recent stock assessments in the 'stock status against reference' tables in the SESSF species summary for future SESSF TAC Recommendations.	Daniel Corrie	22/23 TAC	This is yet to be actioned; it will be included in the SESSF TAC paper.

Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
4. SPF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season	42.5	AFMA to confirm whether an additional row can be included on recreational fishery catches for SPF fishery species summary to be consistent with SESSF species summary	Lara Ainley	22/23 TAC	State catches presented in species summary do not include recreational catch data.  SARDI will request recreational data from States for the 22/23 Species Summary document.
5. Revised Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy	42.6	AFMA to respond to GABIA with outcomes of the public consultation and send the package of documents for the revised Upper Slope Dogfish Strategy to the GABMAC for information prior to finalisation	Sally Weekes	Feb 2021	Complete – the package of documents was provided to GABMAC for information at its meeting on 25 March 2021.

#### SEMAC 41 (10-11 November 2020)

Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
3.8 Update on protected species management.	41.8	Mr Simon Boag to examine the spatial overlap of auto-longline effort with the known distribution of squalidae species to assist in the development of an industry proposal to allow the retention of non-conservation dependent squalidae species.	SETFIA (Simon)	SEMAC 44	Underway – an update to be provided next SEMAC. SETFIA has agreed to a project scope and fee consultant Ross Daley. A sail date is yet to be confirmed.

**SEMAC 40 (1-2 July 2020)**

	Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3.1 SSJF Harvest Strategy	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.	Lara Ainley	November 2020	Redundant – AFMA will consider extending an invite to Dr Steer once the review of the harvest strategy commences.
	3.3 Research priorities for 2020-21	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 harvest strategy.	Lara Ainley	November 2020	Redundant – AFMA will consider extending an invite to Dr Fulton once the review of the harvest strategy commences.

**SEMAC 39 (4-6 February 2020)**

	Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3.2 (Orange roughy (Cascade))	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.	Daniel Corrie	2021	This will be considered by SERAG at its 2021 meetings.

**SEMAC 38 (6-7 November 2019)**

	Agenda item	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	4.3 (Review of EM requirements)	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.	AFMA	SEMAC 43	Complete – this was discussed at SEMAC 43. SEMAC agreed that 10 per cent monitoring be implemented on all manual hook boats with AFMA to provide flexibility on how this coverage should be achieved.
	4.4 (GHAT simplification project)	38.8	AFMA to investigate the introduction of a shark 'trigger' for all Scalefish Hook SFRs, similar to that applicable to Auto longline permits.	AFMA	2021	Redundant – this will be considered as part of the GHAT Simplification Implementation Plan that has since been delayed due to insufficient resourcing.

## Attachment D – Revised SESSF Harvest Strategy

<https://afmagovau.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DMW-PROD/EVSuh5WNpFtCioN52AQaK88Blal1-yQFkn3Q6JR6YaFlcw?e=Su7Hog>