



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Tropical Tuna and Billfish Fisheries
Management Advisory Committee
TTMAC 20**

Meeting Minutes

8 April 2019

Qantas Meeting Rooms Sydney Airport

Contents

1. Preliminaries.....	4
1.1. Welcome and Apologies.....	4
1.2. Adoption of agenda	4
1.3. Declarations of interest.....	4
1.4. Adoption of minutes from TTMAC 19	8
1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings	8
1.6. Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 19 and TTMAC 20.....	15
2. Background and discussion items	15
2.1. AFMA management report on the ETBF and WTBF	15
2.2. AFMA Management update on upcoming SBT longline season	17
2.3. Fishery Catch Data – 2017/18 season to date.....	19
2.4. International meetings update	19
2.5. Forum Fisheries Agency Meeting Update	20
2.6. Tuna Australia Update	20
2.7. General update from members, invited participants and observers	21
3. Consideration / Decision items.....	22
3.1 2018 CRIS and 2019/20 budget.....	22
3.2 ETBF Harvest Strategy	23
3.3 ETBF Fishery Management Strategy (FMS)	25
3.4 Research update	25
3.5 Other outcomes from TTRAG22	26
3.6 Longtail Tuna Update	27
94 Other Information/Discussion Items	27
5 Date and venue for next meeting	29
ATTACHMENT 1: FINAL AGENDA	30
Attachment 2: List of actions from TTMAC 20	31

Table 1 Members, invited participants and invited observed in attendance at TTMAC 20 4

Table 2 Declared interests of members, invited participants and invited observers at TTMAC 20 5

Table 3 Status of actions arising from previous MAC meetings 9

Table 4 Correspondence circulated out-of-session since TTMAC 17 15

1. Preliminaries

1.1. Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair, Ms Catherine Sayer, opened the meeting at 8:50am and welcomed members, invited participants and observers to the 20th meeting of the Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC 20).
2. The following participants were in attendance at the meeting:

Table 1 Members, invited participants and observers in attendance at TTMAC 20

Members	
Ms Catherine Sayer	Chair
Mr Trent Timmiss	AFMA Member
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Industry Member
Mr Pavo Walker	Industry Member
Mr Grahame A Williams OAM	Recreational/Charter Fishing Member
Ms Alice McDonald	Environment Member
Dr Robert Campbell	Research Member
Invited Participants	
Mr Gary Heilmann	Industry representative
Mr Ian Bladin	Recreational/Charter Fishing
Mr David Ellis	Tuna Australia
Mr Brian Jeffriess AM	Australian SBT Industry Association
Mr Paul Williams	Industry representative
Observers	
Mr Mat Kertesz	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
Dr Don Bromhead	AFMA
Executive Officer	
Ms Sara Murphy	AFMA

3. Apologies were received from Mr Rowan Lamason, Mr Paul Lavelle and Mr Phil Bolton.

1.2. Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda (Attachment 1) was adopted by TTMAC with amendment as follows:
 - i. Agenda item 4.1 should refer to WTBF not ETBF.

1.3. Declarations of interest

5. The Chair stated that as outlined in the Fisheries Administration Act 1991 and Fisheries Management Paper 1, all members and invited participants of TTMAC must declare any interests in tropical tuna fisheries as they relate to specific agenda items at the

commencement of the meeting (Table 1). TTMAC noted that if a member or invited participant discloses an interest in an agenda item, the person must absent themselves from the meeting while TTMAC makes a decision as to whether they can participate in the discussion and in the making of recommendations, or remain absent from the meeting for the agenda item. The attendees declared their conflict of interests as follows:

Table 2 Declared interests of members, invited participants and invited observers at TTMAC 20

Name	Declared Interests	Agenda Items Relevant to Declared Interests
Members		
Ms Catherine Sayer	Chair TTMAC, CEO of Food South Australia. No pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries. Aquaculture Tenure Allocation Board member, Glenelg Football Club Board member.	Nil
Mr Trent Timmiss	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) boat statutory fishing rights (SFRs), minor line SFRs, ETBF longline SFRs, Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) boat SFRs, WTBF longline SFRs, Coral Sea Trawl permit, Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery (WSTF) purse seine permit, Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) purse seine, mid-water trawl SFRs, and SPF quota SFRs. Shareholder of a company that owns shares in a proposal to fish with foreign longliners in the WTBF. Industry member on Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) MAC and industry representative at the Commission for the Conservation of SBT (CCSBT). Invited participant for squidRAG and squid concession holder. Alternate on the Board of Tuna Australia. Member of the Southern and Western Marine Park Advisory Committee.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6
Mr Paul Lavalle	Director of a company that owns ETBF boat SFRs, minor line SFRs and ETBF quota SFRs for all five species. Director and member of fish receiving co-operative. Board member of Tuna Australia.	Apology
Mr Pavo Walker	Owner of several ETBF boat SFRs, and ETBF quota SFRs for all five species. Holds a Coral Sea permit and minor line permit.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3.
Dr Robert Campbell	Employee of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), no pecuniary interests in Australian tropical tuna fisheries. Actively engaged in research on the ETBF and WTBF. Principal investigator for the	Nil

Name	Declared Interests	Agenda Items Relevant to Declared Interests
	research project: <i>Data management, provision of fishery indicators and implementation of the harvest strategies for Australia's tropical tuna fisheries.</i>	
Mr Grahame A Williams OAM	Past President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, Treasurer and Records Officer of the NSW Game Fishing Association and Game Fishing Association Australia Executive Officer. No pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries. Member of the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust.	3.6
Alice McDonald	No pecuniary interests but currently consulting with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).	Nil
Executive Officer		
Ms Sara Murphy	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Invited Participants		
Mr David Ellis	CEO of Tuna Australia (industry association), previously involved in the SA tuna fishery, Managing Director of consultancy company (David Ellis and Associates).	3.1, 3.2, 3.3.
Mr Paul Williams	Director of a company that holds ETBF boat SFR and ETBF longline SFRs, minor line SFRs and a Commonwealth fish receiver permit. Member of TTRAG. Board member of Tuna Australia.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3.
Mr Gary Heilmann	Director of companies that hold a fish receiver permit and a Coral Sea permit. Member of TTRAG.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3.
Mr Brian Jeffriess AM	CEO of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association.	2.7 Industry update (the update is provided for information only)
Mr Ian Bladin	Game Fishing Association of Australia executive, Queensland Game Fishing Association and charter boat owner, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	3.6
Observers		
Mr Mat Kertesz	Employee of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil

Name	Declared Interests	Agenda Items Relevant to Declared Interests
Dr Don Bromhead	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil

6. The following invited participant declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 2.7 – General Updates: Mr Brian Jeffriess AM.
7. The following members and invited participants declared interests under Agenda Item 3: Mr Terry Romaro OAM, Mr Pavo Walker, Mr David Ellis, Mr Paul Williams and Mr Paul Lavalle.
8. As per requirements, each of the above MAC members sequentially, and separately, left the room, and in each case, remaining members of TTMAC agreed that the member should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Items 2 and 3.
9. The following members and invited participants declared interests under Agenda Items 2 and 3:
 - i. Mr Brian Jeffriess AM – as per requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Jeffriess left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Jeffriess should be allowed to return for all discussions under Agenda Item 2.
 - ii. Mr Terry Romaro OAM – as per requirements as a MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.
 - iii. Mr Pavo Walker – as per requirements as a MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Walker left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Walker should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.
 - iv. Mr David Ellis – as per requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Ellis left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Ellis should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.
 - v. Mr Paul Williams – as per requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.
 - vi. Mr Gary Heilmann – as per requirements as a MAC invited observer who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Heilmann left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.
 - vii. Mr Grahame Williams – as per requirements as a MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of

TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.

- viii. Mr Ian Bladin – as per requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Bladin left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Bladin should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.

1.4. Adoption of minutes from TTMAC 19

10. The draft minutes from TTMAC 19 were circulated for comment on 20 October 2018.
11. Comments were received from Dr Rob Campbell, Mr David Ellis, Mr Brian Jeffriess AM and Ms Catherine Sayer.
12. The minutes were amended on 19 March by AFMA staff to remove a duplicated action item, which was a clerical error.
13. All comments have been incorporated and the minutes finalised for adoption.
14. The MAC endorsed the final draft of the minutes with no further amendment.

1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings

15. The MAC discussed the action items arising from previous meetings and commented on the progress of items (Table 3). A list of actions made at TTMAC 20 is provided in Attachment 2 and the end of this document.

Table 3 Status of actions arising from previous MAC meetings

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
1	TTMAC 14 – action arising 3	WTBF shark trip limits	A change to the WTBF shark trip limits from per trip to per day to be investigated and discussed with the Western Australian Government.	AFMA	Ongoing AFMA has contacted WA Fisheries, who have sought additional information. Landings of shark in WTBF are currently very low so this action has been a low priority for AFMA. Issue discussed at TTMAC 17 – AFMA member and TA invited participant agreed to try to progress issue out of session, with engagement with WA fisheries ongoing. No further progress since TTMAC 18.	<p>An industry member commented that Industry believe this situation is not fair to boats doing longer trips and that the limits should apply per day not per trip.</p> <p>The AFMA member noted that shark trip limits are set under the OCS arrangements so AFMA must work through this issue with the States and that OCS arrangements are complicated, time-consuming and therefore expensive to change. AFMA has previously contacted WA but there has been no further follow-up.</p> <p>AFMA will assess if the cost benefit is there – shark management in WA is a high profile and political issue.</p> <p>ACTION – AFMA to consult with relevant operator (Ray Davies) to establish if there is a need to follow up on WTBF shark limits.</p>

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
2	TTMAC 17 – action arising 2	Follow up on work undertaken by AFMA’s economic working group (arose out of discussion during 3.5 Research Update)	AFMA to follow up on the work being undertaken by AFMA’s economic working group for outcomes of relevance to the ETBF	AFMA	Ongoing. This action is ongoing to provide the MAC with information on the work being done by the economic working group. An update will be provided as part of the AFMA Management Report at Agenda Item 2.1	Noted
3	TTMAC 17 – action arising 3	TTRAG has discussed how to best utilise the economic data that is currently available for the ETBF and whether there are economic indicators that can be provided	The MAC recommended the TTRAG Economic Working Group comprised of Tuna Australia, AFMA, ABARES and the RAG economic member further explore the need and options for collecting economic information	TTRAG Subcommittee	Complete: The AFMA member will provide a verbal update under 2.1. The TTRAG economics sub-group met and held a workshop at AFMA in February 2019, with some members of the AFMA economic working group present to discuss economic data collection relevant to the ETBF.	Noted

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
		alongside the RBCC advice that is given to the MAC and Commission				
4	TTMAC 18 – action arising 1	FMS Chapters	David Ellis and Don Bromhead to work out of session on FMS chapters still requiring development.	David Ellis and Don Bromhead	Complete: AFMA and Tuna Australia have discussed the draft FMS both out of session and in TTRAG. The final draft for TTMAC comment and endorsement will be discussed under Agenda Item 3.4.	Noted
5	TTMAC 18 – action arising 2	Bycatch Handling Workshops during 2018	TTMAC EO to keep MAC informed of details of Bycatch Handling Workshops.	TTMAC EO	Complete: Bycatch Handling Workshops were conducted in Ulladulla (May) and Mooloolaba (July). AFMA is looking for further workshops over next 12 months. The workshops aim to provide advice on, and allow feedback and discussion with industry with particular regards to turtle and seabird interactions.	The AFMA observer discussed the possibility of the Tuna Team conducting further Bycatch Handling Workshops during 2019 depending on several factors including staffing resources.
6	TTMAC 18 – action arising 4	Turtle interactions	AFMA to work with CSIRO (Need local content satellite tagging data) to investigate data	AFMA	Ongoing: AFMA is consolidating relevant information regarding marine turtle species occurring in the ETBF such as breeding seasons and grounds and is looking at ways to identify marine areas likely to have turtle interactions, in conjunction with ABARES. Initial	TTMAC noted this work is ongoing.

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
			content required and the possibility of developing a model to indicate most likely turtle interaction hot spots.		analysis was presented to the TTRAG in March and an update provided under Agenda Item 4.6.	
7	TTMAC 19	TCC Summary	AFMA to provide an update summary from the WCPFC Technical Compliance Committee meeting and send to TTMAC out of session	AFMA	Completed: A link to the summary report (https://www.wcpfc.int/node/32613) was circulated by email with the TTMAC20 meeting papers. DAWR will be requested to provide a “summary of the summary” in future.	Link was sent out with meeting notes. Department of Agriculture and Water Resources agreed to circulate summaries of future meetings to TTMAC.
8	TTMAC 19	Recreational fishing tournaments	The recreational member will also follow up with NSW Primary Industry on recreational tournament dates and provide to AFMA.	NSW Recreational Member	Completed: This was provided by the recreational member and circulated to industry members by AFMA in December 2019.	Noted

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
9	TTMAC 19	Longtail tuna catch limit proposal	Tuna Australia, WAFIC, WTBF industry and RecFishWest engage in discussion to develop a mutually agreeable cost effective proposal.	Tuna Australia, WAFIC, WTBF industry and RecFishWest	Ongoing: This item will be further discussed under agenda item 3.6.	The item was discussed under agenda item 3.6 and was considered complete
10	TTMAC 19	EM Review Paper	AFMA will circulate a draft of the EM review paper to the TTMAC	AFMA	Ongoing: This item will be further discussed under agenda item 4.5.	This paper was sent with meeting notes. This action is now complete
11	TTMAC 19	TEP Species reports	AFMA to provide TTMAC with updated WTBF protected species reports out of session.	AFMA	Completed: The updated WTBF protected species reports (all of 2018) have been provided as part of Agenda Item 4.6 Environment Update.	Noted
12	TTMAC 19	Environment / Climate Change policy	AFMA to include updates on climate change research and policy issues in future environment	AFMA	Complete: AFMA environment team has provided information on climate change research in the Standing Agenda Item: Environment Update provided to the TTMAC and will continue to do so in future.	Included with agenda item 4.6

Item	Meeting raised	Issues	Action	Responsibility	Status (reported prior to the meeting)	Discussion at TTMAC 20
			updates to TTMAC.			
13	TTMAC 19	FMS	AFMA to circulate a revised draft of the FMS out of session for TTMAC comment	AFMA	Complete: A revised draft has been provided for TTMAC discussion under agenda item 3.3.	Noted
14	TTMAC 19	Coral Sea Zone (CSZ) 500 hook limit	AFMA to amend conditions for operations in the Coral Sea Zone (CSZ) so that vessels fishing in and out of the CSZ would be able to carry more than 500 hooks	AFMA	Complete: This has been amended in the 2019 permit conditions and will be further discussed under agenda item 2.1.	An Industry member asked how AFMA would know how many hooks are deployed and the AFMA member explained this is now possible through the use of VMS and EM. The regulation now allows for how many are set not how many are carried.

1.6. Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 19 and TTMAC 20

16. TTMAC noted the correspondence circulated out-of-session since TTMAC 19 held on 4 October 2018 (Table 4).

Table 4 Correspondence circulated out-of-session since TTMAC 19

Date	Item
22 October 2018	Draft TTMAC 19 minutes circulated for comment.
15 October 2018	Email from AFMA Tuna and International Fisheries Section requesting any outstanding claims for TTMAC 19.
26 October 2019	Email notification to MAC of the release of revised Fisheries Management Paper 1 and Fisheries Administration Paper 12 and new Fisheries Administration Paper 16 for information.
1 February 2019	Email from the AFMA Tuna Section, seeking individual TTMAC member comments on the AFMA Fisheries Operations Branch 2019-21 national compliance risk assessment by Friday 8 February 2019.
12 February 2019	Email from the AFMA Tuna Section, seeking individual TTMAC member comments AFMA Fisheries Operations Branch 2019-21 National Compliance Risk Assessment by Thursday 14 March 2019.
5 March 2019	TTMAC EO circulated draft TTMAC 20 agenda for comment.
14 March 2019	Email from the AFMA Tuna Section, seeking individual TTMAC member comments on the draft 2019/20 budget by Thursday 21 March 2019.

2. Background and discussion items

2.1. AFMA management report on the ETBF and WTBF

17. TTMAC noted the report provided by the AFMA Member and AFMA Observer regarding developments and issues relevant to the management of the ETBF and WTBF. It was explained that a number of management issues would be discussed under later agenda items however the MAC noted in particular that:

- AFMA has undergone a number of changes in the last few months including a changes to executive staff (Dr James Findlay to Parks Australia and Dr Nick Rayns, retired).
- The Tuna and International Fisheries Section is now also entering a very busy time of the year with international meetings.
- The AFMA Office has moved to Canberra Airport Precinct. The new address is Level 3, 15 Lancaster Place, MAJURA PARK ACT 2609 however the PO Box has remained the same.
- Mr Wez Norris commenced as CEO on 8 April 2019. Ms Anna Willock is currently acting Executive Manager Fisheries.

- An announcement of new AFMA Commissioners who will start 1 July 2019 is imminent. The next Commission meeting is in May in Hobart and is the last with the current members.
 - The November 2018 Commission meeting confirmed TACs recommended by TTMAC at the October 2019 meeting.
 - At the March 2019 meeting the AFMA Commission reviewed the ETBF FMS – the review was generally very positive.
18. The AFMA observer provided an update on the AFMA Economic Working Group scheduled to be held on 15 April 2019
- A sub-group meeting of the Economic Working Group will be held on the 15 April 2019 to focus on the Northern Prawn Fishery Autonomous Adjustment proposal. The full EWG will be held the next day (16 April 2019). Items on the full EWG meeting agenda include:
 - AFMA is undertaking an audit of the economic information collected on each fishery to identify gaps and needs.
 - Economic performance and setting TACs to maximise net economic returns in the Bass Strait Scallop Fishery. AFMA is asking advice from the EWG about what economic information and methods can be used to help set the BSCF TACs to maximise the net economic returns.
 - Quota price filtering/cleaning. AFMA is asking advice from the EWG about techniques to filter quota prices to identify anomalous price values.
 - Potential for using economic information and CPUE to help understand economic factors that may be driving targeting behaviours of fishers. AFMA is asking for advice from the EWG about proposed indicators will help inform AFMA about factors driving targeting behaviour which may be impacting on CPUE.
19. The AFMA observer provided an update on the TTRAG Data Needs and Economic Workshops, which was held on 21 February 2019. The workshop reviewed aspects of economic data and indicators, and logbook and electronic monitoring based data collection. The outcome of these reviews were intended to inform the development of the ETBF Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS) and in particular the Data Sub-Strategy.
20. He noted the following key outcomes in relation to economic data and indicators:
- **Maximum economic yield (MEY) in the ETBF** - Workshop participants agreed that pursuing fishery wide MEY in the ETBF is highly constrained and that using a full bio-economic approach to setting MEY based target reference points may not be realistic in this fishery. The current proxy based approach may be the only option.
 - **ABARES economic indicators reports** – participants discussed ways to improve some of the inputs and indicators in those reports (e.g. bait price sourcing) and noted that the lag in data in those reports highlights the potential need for in-season economic indicators to provide information on how is the fishery doing now relative to the past.
 - **In season economic indicators** – Participants discussed the benefits of developing in season indicators, including firstly, providing the AFMA Commission with an understanding of recent/current economic conditions in a fishery to assist it when making TACC decisions (e.g. timeframes for TACC changes). Secondly, to enhance AFMA and advisory committee understanding of

factors driving fishing targeting and method switches that drive changes in CPUEs, which in turn are inputs to harvest strategies and assessments. Species-specific economic conditions indicators (i.e. that indicate whether economic conditions are relatively good or bad for targeting a given species) could assist with this understanding.

21. He noted that the workshop recommended that AFMA and ABARES should further examine what data is required to develop economic in-season indicators, including the methods and feasibility of data collection. Industry expressed a willingness to assist with data provision where possible. TTRAG subsequently refined this action to be the development of a scoping paper to TTRAG on data options, costs and feasibility.
22. In relation to the workshop's review of logbook and electronic monitoring data, the AFMA observer noted the following recommendations:
 - There is a need to get better information on bait and target fish depredation over time and impacts on CPUE
 - There is a need to better understand the relationships between gear/vessel info and depth of setting. This could be explored via temperature-depth recorder based research. Assumptions around traditional proxies such as HPB may no longer hold up.
23. The workshop also heard updates on the ETBF e-log deck tablets project of Tuna Australia and AFMA's e-fish project which intends to integrate and connect at the fishing operation level, many of the existing data collection systems including EM, e-logs and e-CDRs. The system may allow industry operators to access their own data in future. The workshop also discussed a number of EM data issues that need to be resolved including species codes consistency, camera angles and cleaning/maintenance and the identification of species cut off in the water.
24. Following the summary of workshop outcomes to TTMAC, an industry member noted recent discussions by the AFMA Commission considering the social equity component of ESD and how that may be connected to economic data collection. They are seeking clarification from the AFMA Commission about whether its consideration of social equity going forward signals a policy change and the subsequent implications for industry investment, quota trading and aggregation.
25. The AFMA member responded that the discussion about and desire to record better economic information is because this type of data better informs AFMA of how Commonwealth fisheries are actually tracking and to his knowledge is unrelated to an attempt to further define aspects of ESD.
26. The TTMAC Chair suggested there is a need to seek clarification from the AFMA Commission regarding this discussion in relation to social equity.

Action Item 1 - TTMAC is seeking clarification from the AFMA Commission about what is driving the current discussions to define the 'social equity' part of ESD. Has there been any change in AFMA Policy regarding the definition of social equity or attitude to quota trading.

2.2. AFMA Management update on upcoming SBT longline season

27. The MAC noted the latest information on the upcoming SBT longline session.
28. It is expected that southern bluefin tuna will again be an important component of the targeted catch in the ETBF this season. The AFMA Commission has set the TAC in the SBTF at 6,165 tonnes for the 2018/19 season. When undercatch is included the effective catch limit is 6,283 tonnes. This includes the amount of 250 tonnes voluntarily set aside

through an initiative of ASBTIA to begin to account for Recreational catch for the 2019 fishing season.

29. As in recent seasons AFMA will implement a single SBT Zone. In order to access the zone the following requirements must be met:

- Have a fully operational e-monitoring system installed on the boat
- On first entry (which includes being present or fishing in) to the SBT zone, hold 1 uncaught Southern Bluefin Tuna Statutory Fishing Right nominated to the boat
- On every subsequent entry to the zone, continue to hold at least 1 uncaught Southern Bluefin Tuna Statutory Fishing Right nominated to the boat;
- When in the zone. operators must carry 50 Catch Documentation Scheme tags on-board the vessel
- Carry an AFMA observer when notified by AFMA

Retention and Discarding of SBT

30. The retained catch of SBT has increased significantly in the ETBF over recent years. In 2013 the catch was 341 tonnes compared to 1 035 tonnes in 2018. As the retained catch has increased so has the level of discarding. Current SFR Conditions require that:

- All dead SBT must be landed (retained) except those that are damaged by sharks to the point that they are not fit for human consumption.
- Discarded shark damaged SBT will not be deducted from the concession holder's quota. All shark damaged SBT that are discarded must be discarded in full view of the EM camera, with the damaged portion facing the cameras.
- Live SBT can be landed (retained) or released (providing they are in a live and vigorous state).
- All SBT retained or discarded must be reported on the logbook.

31. At the conclusion of the 2018 season AFMA contacted a number operators about the discarding of dead non-shark damaged SBT. A number of caution letters have been written to operators in response to this issue.

32. Operators are reminded that SBT that are undamaged and discarded dead, or live fish that are gaffed and released, may be deducted from the concession holder's quota. The amount of quota decremented will be determined by the average weight SBT retained for that trip.

33. As in recent years an information pack will be sent to operators in mid-May outlining the operational requirements of fishing in the SBT zone.

34. The zone is currently located at: latitude 37°30'S, longitude 150°23.50'E and extends due east from the NSW/VIC border. It will be reviewed weekly from mid-May and updated as required.

Length Measurements of SBT

35. TTMAC was informed all SBT need to be weighed and measured and the appropriate paperwork completed before the fish can be sold. The length and weight measurements across SBT fisheries globally are used for a number of purposes including as data inputs in the stock assessment.
36. Scientists working on data obtained from Australia's longline sector have noticed that a proportion of length measurements seem to be corresponding to 5 cm increments i.e. the fish are measuring 130cm or 135cm rather than 131cm, 132cm, 133cm etc.
37. It is important to have accurate data inputs for stock assessment purposes and operators are requested to report lengths to the nearest centimetre not round them up or down.
38. The ASBTIA invited participant added that there is not much SBT quota available as about 650t is already leased to east coast longline operators.
39. In relation to a question by the Conservation member about the robustness of estimates of recreational catch of SBT the AMFA member said that Government is currently trying to do it and he was expecting an estimate in mid-2020.

2.3. Fishery Catch Data – 2017/18 season to date

40. The MAC noted the latest information on the ETBF and WTBF fishery catches and effort and also a supplementary paper provided on quota species and Marlin catch and effort and CDR data for the ETBF and WTBF.
41. The AFMA observer explained trends from 2018 and noted that CDR reported catches of Bigeye Tuna, Swordfish and Striped Marlin were the lowest calendar year catches on record since 2006. He noted the change of season dates might impact on early 2019 catch trends and the slow start to 2019 will be monitored against CPUE calculations that will be done for July 2019 TTRAG.

2.4. International meetings update

42. The AFMA Member provided TTMAC with an update on key outcomes and observations from the Technical Committee on Allocation meeting of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) held in Victoria, Seychelles, 11-14 March 2019 and noted that the next meeting is in Hyderabad, India in June 2019.
43. TTMAC discussed the 2018 submission of an Australian EM report to IOTC, with industry members querying the purpose of publishing such comparisons and noting that from a practical perspective, the implementation of EM will have led to an increase in "released alive" statistics rather than discards.
44. The AFMA Observer provided TTMAC with an update on the Pre-WCPFC FFA meeting and the 15th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) held in Honolulu, Hawaii, from 3 – 7 and 9 -14 December 2018 Key outcomes from the WCPFC Commission meeting included:
 - a. **South Pacific Albacore Target Reference Point (TRP)** - This is a key element in implementation of the WCPFC South Pacific Albacore harvest strategy. After significant negotiations between key distant water fishing nations and the FFA, a target reference point was adopted of 56% of the spawning biomass that would occur in the absence of fishing. This was a compromise between the FFA starting

position and distant water fishing nation positions. To achieve this biomass level will require reductions in overall regional catches. Chinese Taipei also stated that in the future all members would need to share in the reduction.

- b. **Tropical Tuna Measure** - The strength of the measure was largely maintained with most key provisions rolled over and a minor change made to the FAD definition on a one-year trial basis. The revised measure has not resulted in changes to the management of the ETBF.
 - c. **Seabirds Measure** – the WCPFC Seabirds CMM was revised to include an additional optional mitigation method for seabirds (hook pods) and to extend the latitudinal range that the measure covers to 25 degrees South. These changes do not impact the ETBF.
 - d. **Turtles Measure** – The WCPFC CMM for the conservation of turtles was revised, to remove the reference to Swordfish sets. The longline conditions now refer to a requirement to use large circle hooks on all shallow sets. AFMA (with assistance from ABARES) is continuing to investigate and monitor turtle interactions in the ETBF and explore mechanisms/processes by which the fishery might further reduce interactions in future.
 - e. Adoption of a nonbinding resolution on Labour Standards for fishing crews, a one year Compliance Management Scheme (CMS), the report of the Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting Working group, updated WCPFC harvest strategy workplan.
 - f. Australia also signalled its intent to seek stronger management of South Pacific swordfish.
45. The meeting noted that some Chinese fleets are seeking MSC certification. It was noted that state subsidies are finishing, their legislation is being amended to prohibit discarding of SBT and they are taking a harder line position on Compliance. It was also noted that EM was gaining support as a data verification tool and there are currently 3 serious providers at present.
46. TTMAC noted that there were upcoming Fisheries Forum Committee meetings to be held in Pohnpei meeting in May.

2.5. Forum Fisheries Agency Meeting Update

47. The AFMA observer provided a summary of upcoming FFA and WCPFC meetings noting that 2019 would be very busy due to the Australian intention to explore options for the strengthening of management of South Pacific Swordfish and to develop a proposal in consultation with FFA members, and then other WCPFC CCMs, to submit to the Commission (including for Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee review).
48. The AFMA member noted higher-level international ministerial processes that are highlighting the importance of the role of FFA in the region.

2.6. Tuna Australia Update

49. The Tuna Australia invited participant outlined key issues for the industry association at the moment are:

- TA has advice that they have received funding through the Marine Parks Process – this will be used to look at how longlines behave in the water column and collect additional environmental data to better target fishing operations and seek organic certifications such as the ‘Australian Certified Organic’ label and other environmental certifications.
- TA is continuing to work with Deckhand to get a deck-based reporting tool which will include a click button to record when hooks come up clean,
- The feedback from operators is that the Pacific Labour Scheme seems to be working really well – TA has entered into a partnership with Tuvalu and is sponsoring a couple of scholarships there,
- A Tuna Australia Code of Conduct is being drafted and includes guidance on how the Commercial Fishing Industry will interact with recreational fishers,
- TA involvement in the Marine Parks processes and recent emphasis on considering the impacts on individual operators
- industry wants to move to multiyear TACCs on an ongoing basis to provide greater stability
- The Swordfish TACC has been of concern to industry who have highlighted that they believe that key factors are not being accounted for in the CPUE standardisation.

2.7. General update from members, invited participants and observers

50. The Recreational Fishing member referred to the paper and statistics he provided to the MAC (attachment to agenda item 2.7).
51. He reported that weather caused a complete wipe-out at the NSW inter-club tournament scheduled for February in Port Stephens for the first time ever. In NSW they have started a Swordfish tagging program where the tags are funded by the NSW Salt Water Fishing Licence Trust and are being deployed by two boats from members of the NSWGFA, one boat from ANSA and one additional boat.
52. The AFMA observer recommended a recent paper by researcher Michael Domeier regarding an archival tagging study off California about shedding of conventional tags by Striped Marlin.
53. In relation to a question about participation the Recreational member noted that last year was a great year for recreational fishers and the participation rate is up roughly 10 percent.
54. He further noted that yellowfin have only just turned up off the NSW coast where until recently the current has been running very fast and was not conducive to recreational catches.
55. The Recreational invited participant recapped the recently concluded heavy tackle season and a good season finish to the tournament season off Queensland. He also reported on a recent review of Fisheries Act in QLD by MRAG which focused on 2 aspects for recreational fishers – EM for Charter fleet and why is there no Recreational licence?
56. An industry member indicated that industry has had two years of poor fishing and short seasons particularly for the tunas and the strong US dollar was the only ameliorating factor

during these years. He said that there had not been much fish off the coast of Mooloolaba last season, meaning that after Easter they had needed to head north and rely on some luck to find Swordfish. There has been increased effort on SBT the last few years, which has taken the pressure off tropical tunas. He stated that catches this year are looking better than the previous couple of years.

57. Another operator agreed with this assessment, hoping for a better year this year than 17/18, and several operators noted better Yellowfin numbers so far this year as a hopeful indication.
58. An industry member spoke about the success of a Tuvalu crew recently recruited to his boat under a labour agreement and thought it was going to work out well.
59. TTMAC's scientific member informed the meeting about a recent pre-assessment meeting in Noumea –which focused on mainly (spatially disaggregated) Striped Marlin assessment as the last was conducted in 2012, and also on an oceanic white tip assessment. The upcoming Scientific Meeting will be held in Micronesia.
60. He also noted that the Julian Pepperrell's Recreational Fishing Project report is likely to be 12 months delayed due some more analysis to be conducted.
61. The Recreational Member noted an error in catch totals listed on page 10 of the Fishery Catch Data which needed correction.

Action 2 – AFMA to correct an error in the additions column on page 10 of the Fishery Catch Data Report provided to the MAC.

3. Consideration / Decision items

3.1 2018 CRIS and 2019/20 budget

62. TTMAC noted the AFMA 2018/19 CRIS (Attachment 3.1a) which provides for AFMA's cost recovery and noted the draft budget (Attachment 3.1b) which was circulated to TTMAC members for comment on 14 March 2019. The AFMA member explained to the MAC that industry comments on the draft budget were due back to AFMA on 21 March 2019 because of the truncated Federal budget process this year (due to caretaker period caused by Federal Election call). Hence the budget is now finalised and was provided to members for information.
63. The MAC noted the major changes in the draft 2018/19 budget compared to the final 2017/18 budgets for each of the fisheries outlined below:
 - for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) the levy budget (Attachment 3.1c) has increased by \$189,744 (13.5%)
 - for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) the levy budget (Attachment 3.1d) has reduced by \$6,706 (2.4%)
 - for the Skipjack Tuna Fishery the levy budget (Attachment 3.1e) has reduced by \$6,790 (9.8%).

64. The AFMA member drew the MAC's attention to the overview of budget at attachment 3.1b table. He noted that the higher costs in the ETBF budget are mainly attributable to increases in legal costs in remaking of fishery management regulations because of the way they are attributed more directly to fisheries in this year's budget. In previous years they were shared 50:50 between government and industry but this attribution was reviewed internally and now they are attributed differently with industry paying 95% of costs.
65. Industry requested further clarification of who was responsible for the change in attribution of legal costs in the ETBF budget noting that this change had occurred without consultation. Industry further noted that the budget process had been compressed due to the change in Federal budget timings but this did not absolve AFMA from justifying a change in attributions.
66. The AFMA member noted that costs are still relatively low compared to other major fisheries, with Licencing costs down and Research costs up although this is dependant in part on when milestone payments are due.

Action 3 – Letter from the MAC to the AFMA Commission requesting that the AFMA Section responsible for legal cost attributions to explain to MAC justifications for the change.

67. Tuna Australia asked if the process of getting EM systems type approved and used as VMS could be further investigated.

Action 4 – AFMA to investigate the possibility of EM systems gaining approval to be used for the purposes of a VMS unit.

3.2 ETBF Harvest Strategy

68. TTMAC noted a PowerPoint presentation by Dr Rob Campbell summarising TTRAG23 recommendations relating to the development of operating models and candidate harvest strategies for Striped Marlin and Swordfish. TTMAC was asked to consider the TTRAG recommendations and provide any further advice.

Background

69. In 2019-20, the CSIRO have been funded by the AFMA Research Fund to undertake, in consultation with TTRAG and TTMAC, the redevelopment of the ETBF Harvest Strategy for Striped Marlin and Broadbill Swordfish. This followed an AFMA Commission decision in 2018, based on advice from TTRAG and TTMAC, to cease the use of the former ETBF Harvest Strategy, which Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) testing had demonstrated (particularly for Swordfish) not being able to meet the objectives of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy.
70. TTRAG23 considered two CSIRO papers relevant to the progression of the harvest strategy redevelopment project, being:
- Dr Rob Campbell – *Fishing practices in the ETBF in recent years*
 - Dr Rich Hillary – *Issues and plan for the billfish harvest strategy revision project*

(Please note that AFMA is still drafting minutes from the TTRAG23 meeting so the following should be considered a draft preliminary summary (albeit checked with CSIRO scientists attending)).

71. Dr Campbell's paper looked at temporal trends in gear and fishing practices in the ETBF, with the main discussion focussed on the analyses of individual vessels fishing practices for vessels that have historically targeted swordfish. These analyses were prompted by previous TTRAG discussions that raised uncertainties around whether the standardised CPUE analyses were fully capturing changes in fishing practices that industry have indicated have occurred in the traditional "Swordfish sector" over the last 10 years or so. There is a belief among some industry members that declines in CPUE are not reflective of trends in abundance.
72. Dr Campbell also provided an overview of the TTRAG discussion of the redevelopment of the ETBF harvest strategy, including the key recommendations about the various harvest strategy options that CSIRO will be tasked with exploring.
73. Dr Campbell noted:
- Operating Models (OMs) are mathematical models that represent 'the fishery', and which incorporate uncertainties in our knowledge about the fishery, and are used to develop and test harvest control rules and strategies.
 - The OM for swordfish will include two spatial regions – one within the south-west Pacific (including the ETBF) and an adjacent region within the central-south Pacific.
 - The OMs for both swordfish and striped marlin will incorporate a number of uncertainties related to their life history, including migratory behaviour.
 - There will be a delay in Karen Evans' genetic project analyses of swordfish samples – until first quarter next year.
 - Due to the small number of age-classes caught in the ETBF, the OM for striped marlin will use only a single (all ages) CPUE index instead of the three age-based CPUE indices used previously.
 - This work will continue for the next 18 months, providing the MAC with further opportunities to review and comment.
74. The environment member noted that there are a range of Harvest Control Rules that could be explored, for example rules that have more stepwise changes in RBCCs. TTMAC discussed the options put forward by TTRAG and noted that these were fairly broad but also noted that this was not the last opportunity to put forward options on HS and MSE parameters for exploration. TTMAC felt the current set of options recommended by TTRAG (outlined in the TTMAC paper) are appropriate for now and would help with starting the process and that additional options could be explored down the track if needed. TTMAC also discussed that there is a range of potential HS performance indicators that can be assessed including stock condition, average catches and catch variability. It was noted that the project PI is likely to apply these amongst a broader range of performance indicators.
75. The MAC provided advice that they are comfortable with the range of harvest strategy parameter options as recommended by TTRAG and to be progressed by CSIRO in the next 18 months.

3.3 ETBF Fishery Management Strategy (FMS)

76. TTMAC was requested to review and provide final comment on the draft ETBF Fisheries Management Strategy (FMS) (Attachment 4.1a), including in particular any new or revised sections of that document developed since the last TTMAC (October 2018) and TTRAG review (September 2018 and more recently March 2019).
77. The AFMA observer noted that TTMAC has previously reviewed most of this document and that any new sections were marked by comment boxes however, he welcomed comments on any part of the document at this final review. He briefed the MAC on generally positive comments from the AFMA Commission on the form and content of the FMS adding that the Commission would also like to see a short (3 page) summary, still to be developed, for the AFMA website. The MAC heard that the FMS will be a living document that can be updated at any time through use of the metadata table at the front. The thoroughness of the document generally was commended.
78. TTMAC members provided a range of feedback and editorial suggestions on the FMS Key points included:
- The Executive Summary should be explicit in referring to TTMAC and TTRAG and should include a statement about resource sharing. References to WCPFC limits/allocations should be expanded to “relevant international agreements” throughout the FMS.
 - In the main chapters, the text should be consistent in how it describes MEY requirements in the ETBF, including constraints around the pursuit of MEY. The key actions lists should include actions to further explore the use of economic indicators, and ERA triggers (in between ERA assessments).
 - TTMAC noted that some of the performance criteria tables need further development before inclusion in the FMS and those tables (e.g. optimal utilisation, cost effectiveness) will be removed from the draft and included as actions in the FMS for development within 12 months.
79. TTMAC endorsed the ETBF FMS for final submission to the AFMA Commission (pending amendments discussed above).

Action 5 – TTMAC endorsed the ETBF FMS for final submission to the AFMA Commission once edits and changes suggested by the MAC are implemented.

3.4 Research update

80. TTMAC noted the update from the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) meeting held 13 February 2019, at which the following tropical tuna projects were recommended for new or continued funding in 2019/20:
- ETBF/WTBF Size Monitoring Program - 2015-19
 - Data Management, Assessment & implementation of HS for Australia’s Tropical Tuna Fisheries 2017/18 to 2020/21
 - ETBF Broadbill Swordfish & Striped Marlin Harvest Strategy Revision
 - Developing Economic Indicators to track economic performance of AFMA’s fisheries

- Integration of additional ERA/ERM methods found to be appropriate in the international context into AFMA's ERA/ERM process
81. TTMAC also noted the recent March 2019 COMRAC meeting at which a number of EOIs of potential relevance to tropical tuna fisheries (directly or indirectly) were partially or fully supported. These included:
- Common harvest strategies and catch sharing: developing a national framework using case studies and experience,
 - Revisiting biological parameters and information used in the assessment of Commonwealth fisheries: a reality check and work plan for future proofing,
 - Low-cost monitoring of data-poor species off south-eastern Australia; Using DNA-metabarcoding to harvest multi-species data from routine broad-scale egg and larval surveys,
 - Implementation of dynamic reference points and harvest strategies to account for environmentally-driven changes in productivity in Australian fisheries
 - Developing capacity and capability within the recreational and Indigenous fishing sectors.

3.5 Other outcomes from TTRAG22

82. TTMAC noted that TTRAG 23 was held on 26-27 March 2019 in Hobart. A number of the key items were discussed separately on the TTMAC agenda including:
- Review of recent catches in the fishery (see TTMAC20 Item 2.3)
 - ETBF harvest strategy re-development (see TTMAC20 Item 3.2),
 - Review of the draft Fisheries Management Strategy (see TTMAC20 Item 3.3).
 - Updates from international meetings and AFMA Commission meetings (see TTMAC20 Items 2.1 and 2.4)
 - Update on ABARES analyses of turtle interactions in the ETBF (see TTMAC20 Item 4.6)
 - Update on research processes and deadlines (see TTMAC20 Item 3.4)
83. TTMAC noted the TTRAG also discussed several other items which are presented below.
84. TTMAC noted an update from CSIRO on the *ETBF Stock Structure (Genetics) project* included with the TTMAC papers.
85. TTMAC was also updated on the project on the *NSW Recreational Fishing Trust funded project examining factors impacting yellowfin and striped marlin catches in the Recreational game fishery off NSW* Dr Julian Pepperell and Dr Rob Campbell which was provided with the TTMAC papers.

86. TTMAC noted that the Steering Committee meeting for the *ETBF Oceanography Project* was held following the conclusion of TTRAG on Wednesday 27 March 2019 during which Dr Jason Hartog (CSIRO) gave a summary on the status of this project.
87. AFMA will circulate minutes from the Steering Committee meeting to TTMAC once these are drafted and provided by CSIRO.

3.6 Longtail Tuna Update

- 88 The AFMA member noted that in March 2018, AFMA received a letter from the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council requesting a reconsideration of the current 35 tonne fishery limit on longtail tuna in the WTBF.
- 89 He reminded TTMAC that AFMA's position in relation to the request is that it does not intend to reconsider the current 35t fishery limit on Longtail tuna in the WTBF until there is agreement between the key Western Australian recreational and commercial industry sectors, and any conditions to this agreement are acceptable to the WTBF fishing industry and Tuna Australia. He noted that at this stage there is no such agreement. He invited a verbal update from relevant TTMAC members and invited participants regarding discussions (including those detailed in Attachment 3.6a) and progress in relation to this issue.
- 90 A TTMAC recreational fishery member described the consultation process that has occurred within GFWA and between the state organisation and GFAA, noting that RecFishWest wanted GFWA and GFAA involved due to the potential 'precedent' implications associated with this issue for other resource sharing issues in future.
- 91 The Tuna Australia invited participant indicated that TA were not interested in putting 'fences' around certain zones as conditions to any agreement as had been suggested by the recreational fishing sector.
- 92 The meeting discussed the definition of "recreational only" species and the possibility of setting any precedent for other recreational species, e.g. blue marlin, but it was noted that black and blue marlin resource sharing is enshrined in legislation and represents a different situation. The meeting heard that any discussion to change the limits for commercial take of Longtail tuna had now ceased.
- 93 There is no further action required on this issue.

4 Other Information/Discussion Items

4.1. ETBF Ecological Risk Assessment

94. Members noted that this Agenda Item was intended to relate to the WTBF not ETBF. This short update was to remind the MAC that in order to have WTO reassessment this fishery will need a new ERA.
95. AFMA is working with CSIRO to fit WTBF into the schedule of fisheries for reassessment.

4.2. WTBF Indicators

96. In response to a query by the AFMA Commission as to why WTBF does not have a Harvest Strategy AFMA management explained that it is not practical given the limited number of boats currently fishing. The AFMA Commission then directed AFMA to develop indicators instead. AFMA indicated to TTMAC that it will use the ETBF indicators table as a template for the development of indicators for WTBF and that this will be reviewed by TTRAG, TTMAC and the AFMA Commission later in the year.

4.3 WTO – update on process/timing

97. TTMAC noted that the ETBF and WTBF are due for WTO re-accreditation in August and November 2019 respectively, although the required documentation is due to the Department of the Environment and Energy 4 months earlier in each case and AFMA is currently working to meet this timeline. AFMA will seek 10 year accreditation for both fisheries although there is no guarantee that this will be accepted.

4.4 Size monitoring program for ETBF and WTBF

98. The AFMA observer presented the background on the size monitoring program and noted that Kevin Williams who has been running the program for nearly 20 years has indicated he will retire. TTMAC noted the importance of this size data to the past and future harvest strategies. The AFMA observer outlined two options to collect the data going forward.

- **Option 1:** AFMA would take advantage of the existing expertise in fishery logbook and data practices and existing relationships and understanding of processors in the AFMA Data Entry and Collection Section to take on manual or automated data collection.
- **Option 2:** AFMA, with Tuna Australia, is looking at the possibility of entering into a co-management arrangement, as part of which Tuna Australia would collect size monitoring data in conjunction with other identified co-management tasks.

99. The AFMA observer noted that AFMA would continue assess the two options and make a decision on this project in the next month or so.

Action 6 - AFMA to update MAC on Size Monitoring Program at next MAC meeting.

4.5 EM update

100. TTMAC noted AFMA's advice on the proposed extension of the contract for electronic monitoring services. In relation to EM services, the Tuna Australia participant noted that they have not seen any summary reports from AAP recently.

Action 7 – AFMA will arrange for an AFMA and industry (including David Ellis and potentially Simon Boag) meeting regarding EM program status and processes, for the next quarter.

101. TTMAC was also asked to review and provide comments on preliminary concepts for the development of draft 'vessel report cards' and accompanying 'incentives scheme designed to

lead to improvements in vessel level performance pertaining to logbook reporting accuracy, reducing protected species interactions, and improving EM coverage rates.

102. An Industry member suggested that rather than the 'vessel' report cards AFMA could consider 'skipper' report cards noting skippers can shift between vessels. The AFMA observer queried how common that was and it was also noted by TTMAC that the skipper cannot physically notice everything that this going on in a vessel and that crew involvement also needs to be considered.
103. Industry members and participants were generally supportive of further exploration of the cards/incentives approach but asked that AFMA draft up a simple report card, undertake a cost benefit analysis and review where the fishery sits now relative to the required performance bench marks across each category being proposed. This may mean presenting summaries across all vessels (e.g. bar charts) with indicators of minimum required levels.

Action 8 – AFMA draft up a simple report card, undertake a cost benefit analysis and review where the fishery sits now relative to the required performance bench marks across each category being proposed.

4.6 Environment update

104. The AFMA observer presented the environment update. He noted that AFMA's Climate Change: adaptation project is progressing with the first workshop held last November.
105. During discussion of the reported protected species interaction numbers the environment member requested to see annual interaction rates rather than just actual numbers and AFMA agreed to present this in future reports.

Action 9 – AFMA to include EPBC listed species interaction rates (particularly for seabirds and turtles) in future environment updates.

106. Members also queried the 'unknown' status of Silky and Mako sharks in the interaction reports and the AFMA member explained that operators are required to use a code denoting discarded alive status but often do not (given that they are not required to complete individual forms for these species). AFMA will be looking to remind operators on their reporting requirements for these species.

4.7 Other business

107. No other business.

5 Date and venue for next meeting

108. The TTMAC decided to set a date for the second meeting of 2019. The MAC tentatively agreed a date on 12 November 2019 again held in Sydney.
109. The Chair thanked participants and members for the contributions and closed the meeting at 3:40pm.

Tropical Tuna Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC) 20

Monday 8 April 2019

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sydney: Sydney airport Qantas Meeting Rooms

DRAFT AGENDA

1. **Preliminaries/Matters Arising**
 - 1.1. Welcome and apologies
 - 1.2. Adoption of agenda
 - 1.3. Declarations of interests
 - 1.4. Adoption of Minutes from TTMAC 19
 - 1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings
 - 1.6. Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 19 and TTMAC 20
2. **Background Information/Discussion Items**
 - 2.1. AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF
 - 2.2. AFMA Management update on upcoming SBT longline session
 - 2.3. Fishery Catch Data – 2018 and 2019 season to date
 - 2.4. International meetings update
 - 2.5. FFA meeting update
 - 2.6. Tuna Australia / Industry update
 - 2.7. General update from members, invited participants and observers
3. **Consideration/Decision Items**
 - 3.1. 2018 CRIS and 2019/20 budget
 - 3.2. ETBF Harvest Strategy
 - 3.3. ETBF Fishery Management Strategy
 - 3.4. Research update
 - 3.5. Other outcomes from TTRAG 23
 - 3.6. Longtail Tuna - Update from Grahame Williams/David Ellis
4. **Other Information/Discussion Items**
 - 4.1. ETBF Ecological Risk Assessment
 - 4.2. WTBF Indicators
 - 4.3. WTO – update on process/timing
 - 4.4. Size Monitoring Program update
 - 4.5. Electronic Monitoring update
 - 4.6. Environment update
5. **Date and venue for next meeting**

Attachment 2: List of actions from TTMAC 20

Action item	Agenda item	Action	Person/organisation responsible
1	2.1	TTMAC to seek clarification from the AFMA Commission about what is driving the current discussions to define the 'social equity' part of ESD. AFMA to inform the MAC whether there been a change in AFMA Policy regarding the definition of social equity or attitude to quota trading.	AFMA
2	2.7	AFMA to correct an error in the additions column on page 10 of the Fishery Catch Data Report provided to the MAC.	AFMA
3	3.1	Letter from MAC to AFMA Commission requesting that the AFMA Section responsible for legal cost attributions to explain to MAC justifications for the change.	AFMA
4	3.1	AFMA to investigate the possibility of EM systems gaining approval to be used for the purposes of a VMS unit.	AFMA
5	3.3	TTMAC endorsed the ETBF FMS for final submission to the AFMA Commission once edits and changes suggested by the MAC are implemented.	AFMA
6	4.4	AFMA to update MAC on Size Monitoring Program at next MAC meeting.	AFMA
7	4.5	AFMA will arrange for an AFMA and industry (including David Ellis and potentially Simon Boag) meeting regarding EM program status and processes, for the next quarter.	AFMA
8	4.5	AFMA draft up a simple report card, undertake a cost benefit analysis and review where the fishery sits now relative to the required performance bench marks across each category being proposed.	AFMA
9	4.6	AFMA to include EPBC listed species interaction rates (particularly for seabirds and turtles) in future environment updates.	AFMA