



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group/(SPFRAG) Meeting 05

Meeting minutes

15 December 2022

Microsoft Teams

Approximate time	Item	Purpose	Lead presenter
09:30 (30 min)	Agenda item 1. Preliminaries		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	For action	Chair
	1.2 Declaration of interests	For action	Chair
	1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	Chair
	1.4 Minutes from previous meeting	For noting	Chair
	1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings	For noting	AFMA
10:00 (30 min)	Agenda item 2. Review of fisheries performance: Update on bycatch and protected species interactions	For noting	AFMA
10:30 (45 min)	Agenda item 3. Annual Fishery Assessment	For discussion	Tim Ward
Morning Tea Break (15 mins)			
11:30 (60 min)	Agenda item 4. Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) advice for all SPF quota species for the 2023-24 fishing season	For	AFMA
12:30 (30 mins)	Agenda item 5. SPF Harvest Strategy Update Development of Harvest Control Rule	For advice	AFMA
Lunch Break (30 mins)			

Day 01			
15 December 2022			
Approximate time	Item	Purpose	Lead Presenter
13:00 (40 mins)	Agenda item 6. Blue mackerel: Developing a sampling method(s) and identifying sampling locations	For noting	Tim Ward
13.40 (20 mins)	Agenda item 7. DEPM for Small Pelagic Fisheries	Presentation	Tim Ward
14:00 (30 mins)	Agenda item 8. SPF Bycatch and Discard Workplan	Update	AFMA
14:30 (30 mins)	Agenda item 9. SPF Dolphin Strategy Review	Update	AFMA
Afternoon Tea Break (15 mins)			
15.15 (45 mins)	Agenda item 10. SPF Annual Research Priorities 2024-25	Steve Hall	AFMA
16:00 (15 min)	Agenda item 11. Climate Change Adaptation and ecosystem update	Alice McDonald	AFMA
16:15	Agenda item 12. Other Business	For Noting	
16:30	Close		

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30am AEDT.

Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and apologise

1. The Chair welcomed members and observers and opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.
2. Membership

<i>SPF RAG Members</i>	
Mr Max Kitchell	Chair

A/Prof Tim Ward	Scientific member
Mr Andrew Penney	Scientific member
Mr Simon Boag	Industry member
Mr Gerry Geen	Industry member
Ms Anissa Lawrence	Conservation member
Mr Steve Hall	AFMA member
Ms Yvette Lamont	Executive officer
Invited Participants	
Prof Caleb Gardner	Invited Participant (previous Economic Member)
Observers	
Dr John Stewart	State Observer (NSW)
Ms Frances Seaborn	State Observer (Tas)
Ms Rocio Noriega	ABARES Observer
Mr Kurt Davis	ABARES Observer
Mr Daniel Corrie	AFMA Observer

1.2 Declarations of interest

3. RAG members followed the conflict of interest declarations as outlined for [Resource Assessment Groups - Fisheries Administration Paper 12](#). Members and participants reviewed and updated the Declarations of Interest included at **Attachment A**.
4. Regarding potential conflicts with agenda items, the following interests were declared:
 - Mr Simon Boag declared an interest in Agenda items 3 (Fishery assessment) and 4 (RBC advice)
 - A/Prof Tim Ward declared an interest in Agenda item 10 (SPF Annual Research).
 - Ms Anissa Lawrence –advised of a new position as conservation member for the Spencer Gulf Prawn Trawl Fishery RSC to be included on the declaration of interest.
5. The RAG agreed that Mr Boag should participate in the discussion for agenda items 3 and 4, however should not take part in the formation of any recommendations for agenda item 4.
6. The RAG agreed that Associate Professor Tim Ward should participate in the discussion for agenda item 10, however should not take part in the formation of any recommendations.
7. The RAG agreed that there was no conflict with Anissa Lawrence’s declared interest and that she could participate in all aspects of the meeting.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

8. The RAG agreed to adopt the agenda.

1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

9. The RAG noted the final minutes of the SPFRAG meeting are available on the [AFMA website \(Fisheries Management / Committees / Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group\)](#).

1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

10. The RAG noted the action items from previous meetings and the updates provided by the Executive Officer.

11. Actions arising from this meeting (SPFRAG 05) can be found at **Attachment B**.

Agenda item 2 – Review of fishery performance

12. AFMA introduced the agenda item providing an update on bycatch and protected species interactions.

13. Key points from the discussion included:

- Some members expressed an interest in AFMA producing a more detailed report of TEP species interactions to assist in understanding the extent and nature of interactions to inform mitigation strategies including numbers of individuals, interaction rates, life status and mitigation used. Industry noted that sufficient information is already reported to AFMA and reported publicly quarterly.
- The RAG noted Fishwell Consulting is undertaking a project examining historical data on marine mammal interactions with the objective to provide an improved framework for reporting and understanding of marine mammal interactions, and to recommend options for mitigation.
- Members expressed concern over Manta rays being reported as bycatch and not as TEPs and sought clarification as to why this may have occurred. The RAG noted that the vessel operators might not understand that Manta rays are TEPs and if this is the case, they should be made aware of their obligations regarding this species.
- Members noted the delay in the Fishwell Consulting project due to issues around the provision of data by AFMA.

ACTION: AFMA to liaise with industry to ensure that protected species such as Manta Rays are reported accordingly in logbooks (i.e. recorded as TEP interactions not bycatch).

ACTION: SPFRAG to formally raise the ongoing lag in AFMA data requests by writing to the AFMA Commission, seeking a more efficient process and resolution to the identified data issues.

Agenda item 3 – Annual fishery assessment

14. Assoc. Prof. Tim Ward presented the Annual Fishery Assessment including catch and effort data for blue mackerel, jack mackerel, redbait and sardines in the relevant areas, since 2002 to 2022. Data from the NSW purse seine fleet was also included given significant catches of sardines and blue mackerel.

15. Members noted/discussed the following:

- Data for the fishery is spread across a number of institutions including AFMA, SARDI, UTAS and developing a consolidated database that holds all of the relevant data is something that warrants consideration.
- There is potential evidence of seasonal fluctuations in CPUE but members agreed there was no evidence of localised depletion for any stock.

- Members discussed the issue of sampling and the need to ensure that data is representative of the commercial fishery in space and time. Members agreed that presenting this information to the RAG would provide more clarity for members as to whether the sampling regime was representative.
- The sample collection is currently undertaken by industry and where targets were not being met, the RAG recommended AFMA work with industry to ensure adequate sample collection.
- Members noted that AFMA monitored the regional catch limits and if triggered, acts accordingly.

Agenda item 4 – Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) advice for all SPF quota species

16. The Chair introduced the agenda item seeking RBC advice for all SPF quota species.

17. Mr Boag, Industry Member, left the room for the formulation of the RBC advice.

18. The Chair asked the RAG to consider the recommended RBCs for SPF quota species outlined in Table 1.

19. The RAG noted the following:

- The Annual Fishery Assessment confirms that there is remarkable consistency over the last years in terms of the age-length frequency distribution and patterns in the CPUE, with practically no fishing in the Western area and no new Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) surveys between now and last time the RAG met in December 2021;
- There was no new information that would justify a change to the previously agreed spawning biomass for any of the seven stocks; and
- Six of the seven stock remain at the same tier of the SPF Harvest Strategy however jack mackerel west will drop from Tier 1 to Tier 2 due to the ageing biomass estimate.

Table 1. RBC recommendations for each of the seven stocks:

Species	Spawning Biomass (tonnes)	Exploitation rate (%)	RBC (tonnes)
Australian sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	42,724	20%	8,554
Blue mackerel East (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	80,000	15%	12,000
Blue mackerel West (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	86,500	3.75%	3,244
Jack mackerel East (<i>Trachurus declivis</i> , <i>T. murphyi</i>)	6,292	12%	18,755
Jack mackerel West (<i>Trachurus declivis</i> , <i>T. murphyi</i>)	34,978	6%	2,099
Redbait East (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	54,000	10%	5,400
Redbait West (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	66,787	10%	6,678

20. The Industry Member returned to the room.

RECOMMENDATION: The SPFRAG recommended maximum RBCs for SPF quota species as outlined in table 1 for the 2023-24 fishing season.

Agenda item 5 – Harvest strategy update – Development of harvest control rules

21. AFMA sought advice from SPFRAG on the scope of a research priority to develop harvest control rules (HCRs) to support a review of the SPF Harvest Strategy (the Harvest Strategy).
22. The RAG noted that:
 - under the current Harvest Strategy, at Tier 1, there are no explicit harvest control rules to reduce exploitation rates if the point of recruitment impairment (the limit reference point), is approached. This was an issue raised by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) during the certification process for the fishery. While not of immediate concern, the issue has been discussed at SPFRAG meetings in December 2020 and 2021. SPFRAG noted that as the fishery develops, options to address this issue could be explored, such as those used in the South Australian Sardine Fishery Harvest Strategy.
 - While initially AFMA considered including a statement in the SPF Harvest Strategy to be explicit that a HCR would be developed as the fishery develops, the approach has since changed to undertake a research project to develop HCRs to address this issue; and
 - RAG advice would be sought under Agenda Item 10 for the research project to be supported as a high priority and proposed for consideration as part of AFMA’s 2023 call for research.
23. The RAG suggested that advice be sought from the MSC on the research proposal to ensure it would satisfy requirements regarding timeframes for MSC conditions.

ACTION: AFMA to seek advice around timeframes for implementing recommendations from HCR project and meeting MSC requirements.

Agenda item 6 – Blue mackerel: Developing a sampling method and identifying sampling locations

24. Associate Professor Tim Ward provided an update on the project Estimating the spawning fraction of Blue Mackerel off eastern Australia – Stage 1: Developing a sampling method and identifying sampling locations.
25. Members noted the context to the project including:
 - That the spawning fraction of blue mackerel east is unknown due to the difficulty in sampling spawning fish;
 - The specific objectives are to:
 - establish a reliable method of sampling large adult blue mackerel
 - Identify sampling locations
 - Develop preliminary estimates of the spawning fraction;
 - Progress to date has included the use of larger lures and baits on a rod to catch samples off Coffs Harbour and Port Stephens and samples from purse seining collected from Sydney Fish Markets; Ovaries were removed and fixed for processing at a later date;
 - Recent anecdotal evidence from industry is that fish caught in December were actively spawning in southern NSW which is contradictory to previous knowledge. This has major implications for the DEPM studies; and

- That the project is now complete in the northern part of the fishery and the next priority is to identify vessels, operators and locations where further samples can be collected in the south.

26. Associate Professor Tim Ward then gave a brief overview of the proposed Stage 2 of the project, the objectives being to:

- Apply the methods developed in Stage 1 at Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens, Ulladulla and Eden;
- Investigate the hypothesis that spawning season varies with latitude off eastern Australia (i.e. is there a separate southern spawning stocking?); and
- Estimate the spawning fraction for Blue Mackerel and assess the need for sampling of adults during the DEPM survey.

27. The RAG noted that advice would be sought under Agenda Item 10 for the Stage 2 research proposal to be supported as a high priority and proposed for consideration as part of AFMA's 2023 call for research.

Agenda item 7 – DEPM surveys for small pelagic fisheries

28. Associate Professor Ward presented 'Insights from Down Under; DEPMs on four species over 25 years and 350,000km²', a presentation he recently gave at the *International symposium on small pelagic fish; New frontiers science for sustainable management* held in Lisbon, Portugal.

Agenda item 8 – SPF Bycatch and discard workplan

29. The AFMA member provided an update on progress of the SPF Bycatch and Discard Workplan 2022-2025 (the Workplan).

30. The SPFRAG noted current progress against the action items in the Workplan, noting the SPFRAG will formally review the Workplan out of session in early 2023.

31. Members noted that the annual report of bycatch, discards and protected species interactions from logbooks and catch disposal records for the SPF would be part of a package of information sent out to concession holders at the start of the new fishing season.

32. The NSW state observer noted the relatively large increase in catch of yellowtail scad and queried whether the increased catch indicated that this species is being targeted (rather than bycatch). SPFRAG noted that there is not currently a concern that yellowtail scad are being targeted. AFMA will continue to provide bycatch data to the SPFRAG as part of the existing annual review. Identification of any substantial increases in catch of byproduct species, such as yellowtail scad, would prompt further review by the SPFRAG to deem if determining a quota for the species is necessary.

Agenda item 9 – SPF Dolphin strategy review

33. The AFMA member provided an update on the review of the SPF Dolphin Mitigation Strategy (the Strategy).

34. Members noted that:

- the review of the Strategy is still underway and the interim management arrangements (IMA) remain in place;
- at its previous meeting (December 2021), the SPFRAG recommended that the dolphin interaction rate be used as a performance indicator, rather than triggering a response while the IMA are in place, and these recommendations were implemented under the IMA for the start of the 2022-23 fishing season;
- AFMA has removed concession conditions relating to interaction rates and associated management responses prescribed under the Strategy. Under the IMA, the existing

management arrangements associated with the number of dolphin interactions remain in place;

- a discussion paper has been developed for the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy, which will be presented to Gillnet industry representatives and SEMAC in early 2013. Following this, AFMA intends to consult more broadly the outcomes of the discussion papers for both the (SPF) Strategy and the Gillnet Dolphin Mitigation Strategy.

35. Members discussed the need for consistency across fisheries nationally in relation to conservation status of protected species and the need for a nationally agreed approach in managing Commonwealth and state fisheries.

36. The Conservation Member and Industry Member suggested that a joint letter between researchers, Industry and NGOs to Minister could be effective in promoting the need for a Dolphin Strategy at the national level.

ACTION: RAG members requested a copy of the current IMAs which are in place as part of the dolphin strategy review.

Agenda item 10 – SPF Annual research priorities 2024-25

37. AFMA introduced the agenda item, seeking advice from the RAG to provide on the contents of the draft 2024-25 Annual Research Statement, including providing feedback on;

- research proposals received for consideration by the ARC for funding in 2023-24;
- research project priorities for 2024-25; and
- a proposal for research to underpin the development of a Tasmanian Sardine Fishery.

38. The SPFRAG noted:

- the new research proposals to be included in the draft 2024-25 Annual Research Statement, including:
 - Research proposals received for consideration by the ARC for funding in 2023-24, specifically:
 - a) Estimating spawning fraction of Blue Mackerel off eastern Australia: Stage 2. Spatio-temporal variability in spawning patterns and implications for future DEPM surveys.
 - b) Spawning biomass of Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*) in the East sub-area of the Small Pelagic Fishery; and
 - Newly identified research priorities for 2024-25, including:
 - a) DEPM Surveys (Blue mackerel/Australian Sardine east);
 - b) Development of harvest control rules for incorporation into the revised SPF Harvest Strategy.

39. The Chair discussed potential conflicts of interest for Prof Gardner and Assoc. Prof. Ward. Members agreed that they could stay to contribute to the discussion but would be asked to leave prior to the RAG making recommendations on research proposals and priorities.

Research proposals for consideration by the ARC for funding in 2023-24

40. The SPFRAG discussed the research proposals and newly identified research priorities.

41. Assoc. Prof. Ward noted that Stage 2 of the Blue Mackerel spawning fraction project spans two financial years to allow for training of fishers. Samples collected in 2023-24 will inform the design of the 2024-25 DEPM survey and the sampling in 2025-26 will potentially replace the adult sampling undertaken as part of the DEPM. As a result, there may be a potential offset of costs from Stage 1 that will reduce the cost of the next DEPM survey to obtain and collect information on adult reproductive parameters required for the survey.
42. The RAG noted the potential challenges for the Stage 2 project and likely solutions, including:
- The need to identify the right people for training given the technical and safety aspects of fixing samples;
 - A key difficulty identified during Stage 1 was associated with sample collection in terms of where to find the desired animals. Previous trawling, despite fast towing speeds, did not get the required samples. The fish might be deeper than what was previously trawled. It may be worth sampling more on the edge of the shelf in the 150 to 170 meter band, however this makes sampling expensive if in areas not typically fished commercially;
 - The potential for a recreational fishing project (citizen science) with charter operators to encourage fishers to collect data as a more cost effective alternative. The RAG however acknowledged the subtleties required to catch mature fish and that only a small number of fishers along the coast have had success;
 - The 2025-26 Blue mackerel DEPM is dependent on completion of Stage 2 which involves multiple research components and presents a risk. The RAG sought assurance that what is proposed is achievable and that the PI has the capacity to meet the various project requirements and can manage this risk;
 - Assoc Prof Ward assured the RAG that the explicit outcome around estimating a spawning fraction was a low risk project and was confident he would get an adequate number of samples needed to undertake the age/growth and productivity analysis. A student project around stock structure has also been added to the project at no extra cost. Associate Professor Ward is confident that this project will feed directly into the blue mackerel DEPM quite seamlessly and will be completed within the proposed timeframe;
43. Members noted the importance of the Stage 2 Blue mackerel spawning fraction project considering that Blue mackerel from the Eastern zone is the dominant species in the SPF.

Newly identified research priorities for 2024-25

44. The SPFRAG further discussed the merits of the proposed research priority to develop harvest control rules for incorporation into the revised SPF Harvest Strategy and made the following points:
- Members viewed this project as essential.
 - An Industry member supported the proposal although voiced concern about the delay in getting the HCR work done, noting that it must meet the requirements and timeframes of the MSC process. Parties will need to work closely to ensure good communication around the timing of the HCR project and MSC expectations.
 - Members queried whether the funding for the project should solely be an expense for industry who benefit directly. An industry member clarified that the project has a dual outcome in that it addresses AFMA's objective in revising the Harvest Strategy and assist the MSC certification.
 - Some members had an expectation that the budget for the project would be high (above \$100k). AFMA advised that the budget is flagged as low (i.e. less than \$100k) and anticipate to be between \$20-40K based on the budget for similar HCR work currently underway in the Scallop fishery that was \$20k.

45. The SPFRAG agreed to support the two research proposals that are to be considered by the ARC for funding in early 2023. RAG comments were recorded in the respective assessment forms attached to the agenda paper for the ARC's consideration. The SPFRAG also supported the two newly identified research priorities, which will be developed into detailed scopes for further review by SEMAC and SPFRAG before being considered by the ARC in September 2023 as part of AFMA's annual call for research.

Research underpinning the development of a Tasmanian Sardine Fishery

46. Assoc. Prof. Ward provided an overview of the proposed research project intending to undertake a biomass estimate of sardines around Tasmania to assess the potential for setting up a commercial fishery and incorporating a DEPM survey for Jack mackerel (west). The RAG noted the following:

- The project would be funded by FRDC (via TasRAC) and the Tasmanian Government with IMAS carrying out the survey component off eastern Bass Strait west to the Victorian - South Australian border;
- No funding is required from AFMA for the project even though there are potential benefits of a DEPM survey for Jack mackerel (west) being carried out, which would return this stock to Tier 1 (noting there is not currently any fishing activity in the western zone);
- Assoc. Prof. Ward is seeking the SPFRAG's in-principle support for the proposed research project. Should the SPFRAG support the project, Associate Professor Ward has asked that this be expressed in a letter to him from the RAG.

47. The SPFRAG discussed the proposed research to support the development of a Tasmanian sardine fishery and noted the following:

- Industry is not interested in funding the project and do not want it to incur any cost to SPF levy holders;
- The SPFRAG is otherwise supportive of the proposed project and the Chair will draft a letter to Assoc Prof Ward expressing the RAG's support based on the above condition relating to funding;
- In Assoc. Prof. Ward's earlier presentation (Agenda item3 - Annual Fishery Assessment) indicated there was a boundary division of Jack mackerel, between Kangaroo Island and Bass Strait. RAG members support the project with an expected outcome of clarifying stock boundaries for Jack mackerel in the region of the Bass Strait.
- If a jack mackerel DEPM goes ahead, the outcomes from this survey will impact the basis for setting the TAC in this area;
- Noting the above, the Chair's letter should also specify that while applying the DEPM to Jack Mackerel West is not currently a high priority of the SPFRAG, it is interested in any additional information on the boundaries of Jack Mackerel West stock in the region of the Bass Strait.

48. RAG Industry member asked AFMA for clarification around the potential Tasmania sardine fishery development and how this could affect the Commonwealth RBC. AFMA responded that the sardines adjacent to Tasmania are a separate stock and therefore would not be a consideration when assessing the RBC for the Commonwealth SPF Australian Sardine stock, which only applies to the sub-area off QLD/NSW.

ACTION: The Chair to draft a letter of support on behalf of the SPFRAG to Assoc. Prof. Ward regarding the proposed research to support the development of a Tasmanian sardine fishery. The letter is to specify that the RAG supports the research on the condition that it does not increase the costs charged to AFMA. While applying the DEPM to Jack Mackerel West is not currently a high priority for the SPFRAG, it is interested in any additional information on the boundaries of Jack Mackerel West stock in the region of the Bass Strait that the study may yield.

Agenda item 11 – Climate change adaptation

49. AFMA introduced the agenda item, asking the RAG to note the program of work being undertaken by AFMA to ensure that climate impacts are routinely incorporated into the management of Commonwealth fisheries, and discuss the draft 'Climate and Ecosystem Status Report'.

50. AFMA also sought feedback from all attendees regarding the usefulness of the Climate change ecosystem status and what indicators might be useful for the SPF.

51. The RAG noted the following:

- The challenges in the assessment and a need for robust management of climate change projections due to uncertainty;
- Climate change indicators should be encapsulated in the HCR project to ensure HCRs are conservative;
- Management arrangements need to be conservative now to deal with uncertainty and variability;
- Discussion is important but there needs to be opportunities to fill gaps in information. For example, all vessels that fish in the SPF have potential to collect information specifically relevant to the fishery and if there was an acceptance that it was an ongoing requirement this would quickly build up databases to track dramatic changes in the fishery.

Agenda item 12 – Other business

52. No other business was raised.

Close of meeting

53. The Chair thanked attendees for their contribution and closed the meeting at 1825 AEDST.

Attachment A - Register of interest

Table 2. Members, invited participants and observers declarations of interests.

Name	Membership	Declared interests
Mr Max Kitchell	Chair	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. Chair of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee.
Mr Gerry Geen	Industry Member	No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF declared via email 18 th November 2022
Mr Simon Boag	Industry Member	<p>Industry member on SERAG.</p> <p>Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA.</p> <p>SETFIA and SSIA receives funding from AFMA to complete projects under co-management agreements.</p> <p>Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.</p>
Dr Tim Ward	Scientific Member	<p>Associate Professor in Fisheries Science Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) College of Sciences and Engineering University of Tasmania.</p> <p>Director, Pelamis Pty Ltd Pelamis an environmental consulting company.</p> <p>IMAS is undertaking two projects for the SPF: Annual Fishery Assessment and Blue Mackerel Spawning Fraction.</p> <p>Both IMAS and Pelamis have potential interest in conducting research projects on the SPF.</p>
Dr Andrew Penney	Scientific Member	Director of Pisces Australis (Pty) Ltd which has a potential interest in research in relation to the SPF.

<p>Ms Anissa Lawrence</p>	<p>Conservation Member</p>	<p>No interest, pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Declared via email 18 November 2022.</p> <p>Director of TierraMar Ltd</p> <p>Independent consultant</p> <p>Undertakes contracts for several Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters</p> <p>Conservation member on GABMAC, SPFRAG, SEMAC, South Australian Rock Lobster MAC and the Spencer Gulf Prawn Trawl Fishery RSC</p>
<p>Mr Steve Hall</p>	<p>AFMA Member</p>	<p>AFMA – Manager, Small Pelagic, Squid and Scallop Fisheries- no interest pecuniary or otherwise.</p>
<p>Yvette Lamont</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>	<p>AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Small Pelagic Fishery. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.</p>
<p>Prof Caleb Gardner</p>	<p>Invited Participant</p>	<p>No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. Employee of Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), which conducts research on a range of fisheries issues including at times the SPF</p>
<p>Ms Rocio Noriega</p>	<p>Observer</p>	<p>No interest pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 22 November 2022</p>
<p>Mr Kurt Davis</p>	<p>Observer</p>	<p>No interest pecuniary or otherwise, in the SPF completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 22 November 2022</p>

Ms Frances Seaborne	State Observer	No interest pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 18 November 2022
Dr John Stewart	State Observer	No interest pecuniary or otherwise in the SPF. Completed confidentiality and declared interest document via email 21 November 2022. Employee of the NSW Department of Primary Industries that manages shared stocks in state waters.

Attachment B- Action items

Table 3. New action items from SPFRAG05

Agenda Item	No.	Action Item	Agency/Person Responsible	Timeframe
2.	1	AFMA to liaise with industry to ensure that protected species such as Manta Rays are reported accordingly in logbooks (i.e. recorded as TEP interactions not bycatch)	AFMA and Industry	As part of season rollover
2.	2	SPFRAG to formally raise the ongoing lag in AFMA data requests by writing to the AFMA Commission, seeking a more efficient process and resolution to the identified data issues.	SPFRAG Chair on behalf of SPFRAG	Prior to next meeting
5.	3	AFMA to seek advice around timeframes for implementing recommendations from HCR project and meeting MSC requirements.	AFMA	As part of the HCR project and MSC audit
9.	4	RAG members requested a copy of the current IMA which are in place as part of the dolphin strategy within the SPF.	AFMA	To be distributed following finalisation of minutes
10.	5	The Chair to draft a letter of support on behalf of the SPFRAG to Assoc Prof Ward regarding the proposed research to support the development of a Tasmanian sardine fishery. The letter is to specify that the RAG supports the research on the condition that it does not increase the costs charged to AFMA. While applying the DEPM to Jack Mackerel	SPFRAG Chair	Completed

		West is not currently a high priority for the SPFRAG, it is interested in any additional information on the boundaries of Jack Mackerel West stock in the region of the Bass Strait that the study may yield		
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