



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**South East Management Advisory
Committee Fishery Management Advisory
Committee (SEMAC) Meeting No 36**

Meeting minutes

Date: 5-7 February 2019

Venue: Radisson Flagstaff Melbourne

Attendees

Name	Member type
<i>Diane Tarte</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Anissa Lawrence</i>	<i>Environment member</i>
<i>George Day</i>	<i>AFMA member</i>
<i>Les Scott</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Sandy Morison</i>	<i>Scientific member</i>
<i>Shane Dugins</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Simon Boag</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Grant Pullen</i>	<i>State Invited Participant</i>
<i>Sarah Jennings</i>	<i>Economics Invited Participant</i>
<i>Max Kitchell</i>	<i>SPF Scientific Panel Chair</i>
<i>Belinda Norris</i>	<i>Executive officer</i>
<i>Anna Willock</i>	<i>Invited participant</i>
<i>Sally Weekes</i>	<i>AFMA presenter</i>
<i>Daniel Corrie</i>	<i>AFMA presenter</i>
<i>Ryan Keightley</i>	<i>AFMA presenter</i>
<i>Veronica Silberschneider</i>	<i>NSW Fisheries Observer</i>
<i>Dave Schubert</i>	<i>AFMA observer</i>
<i>Tim Davie</i>	<i>AFMA observer</i>
Apologies	
<i>Debbie Wisby</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Neil Macdonald</i>	<i>EO GABBIA</i>
<i>Gerry Geen</i>	<i>Industry member</i>

Meeting Minutes

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Introduction and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:00 am and welcomed participants. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners past and present on whose land we are meeting and recorded apologies from Debbie Wisby, Neil MacDonald and Gerry Geen (who could not be present at the meeting but provided feedback via email). Members were advised the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the minutes; which will be deleted after the minutes are finalised. No objections were raised.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The MAC adopted the agenda (**Attachment A**), noting that there were no additional items to be added.

1.3 Declaration of interests

The MAC reviewed the table of members', invited participants' and observers' standing declarations as outlined in the revised *Fisheries Management Paper 1* (FMP 1). The Chair asked participants to declare any specific conflicts of interest with items on the agenda and to declare conflicts of interest that were not recorded in the provided table.

- Economics member Dr Sarah Jennings submitted an update to the program information, updating her title from 'Economics coordinator- FRDC Social Science and Economics Research Program' to 'Economics coordinator - FRDC Human Dimensions Research Subprogram.'
- Industry member, Mr Les Scott, confirmed a conflict of interest with regards to agenda item 3.2 – specifically grenadier, pink ling, ocean perch, ribaldo, orange roughy and blue eye. The MAC discussed the conflicts, noting that Mr Scott holds a large proportion of quota for four species in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). The MAC agreed that Mr Scott should participate in the discussion, formulation and recommendations; subject to advice of the policy position. The MAC noted that Mr Scott will abstain from recommendations on species where his company has a major holding quota.
- Industry member, Mr Shane Dugins, confirmed a conflict of interest with regards to agenda items 3,2 – SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season and 3.4 – Review of Dolphin Strategies for SPF and gillnet. The MAC discussed the conflicts and recognising Mr Dugin's knowledge and valuable contribution, the MAC agreed Mr Dugins should participate in the discussion and recommendations; noting that he will abstain from recommendations on species where his company has a major interest.
- Industry member, Mr Simon Boag, confirmed a conflict of interest for agenda items 3.2 – SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season (for all species), 3.4 – Review of Dolphin Strategies for SPF and gillnet, 3.5 – Research Proposals for Funding 2019-20, 3.6 – Accounting for discards in SPF, 3.7 – SPF TAC recommendations for 2019-2020 season and 3.8 – SPF Data and Monitoring Strategy. The MAC discussed the conflicts and recognising Mr Boag's knowledge and valuable contribution, the MAC agreed that Mr Boag should participate in the discussion and recommendations; noting that he will abstain when there is a high degree of interest.

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

1.4 Status of actions arising from previous meetings

A consolidated list of outstanding action items from previous SEMAC meetings (**Attachment C**) was circulated to the MAC prior to this meeting. The MAC discussed the items and the following was raised:

- Action item 35.1 (SEMAC 35): *Clarify and document a general process for declared interests and conflicts when recommending TACs; including whether members participate in discussion and recommendations or just discussion.* The MAC Recommendation regarding handling conflicts of interest is that in general it would be appropriate for members stay in the room for both discussion and recommendation, noting however that individual members may abstain from the recommendation where appropriate.

- Action item 34.8 (SEMAC 34): *AFMA to follow up the number of seabird interactions in the CTS sector in 2018, despite the implementation of bird bafflers.* Industry and AFMA will be undertaking field trips to look at effectiveness of bird bafflers and all spatial, temporal and operational issues will be considered.

ACTION ITEM 1: AFMA and Industry (SETFIA)

AFMA and industry to update the MAC at the next meeting on the field trips to look at effectiveness of bird bafflers

- Action item 34.18 (SEMAC 34): *AFMA to check the comments made by Humane Society International Australia (HSI) and what was addressed in the revised draft AFMA seabird strategy.* The environment member provided advice that HSI should be engaged in the issues and problem solving relating to mitigation of seabird interactions early in this process. This was noted by the MAC. Additionally Industry members noted that HSI were invited to participate in the bird baffle program but declined.
- Action item 34.14 (SEMAC 34): *AFMA to monitor logbook catches along with Catch Disposal Records data, for pink ling catches in 2018-19 for more up to date monitoring of the in-season catches.* Monitoring of pink ling has been undertaken and the catches are tracking against the same time last year. The TAC for this year is 428 t noting that 435 t was caught last year. There is a risk that without further management intervention catch may exceed the TAC, depending on fishing activities undertaken in the next few months. AFMA is monitoring the situation. The NSW fisheries representative noted that, commencing in May, NSW pink ling catch will be capped and there will be no increase unless the TAC increases. New South Wales has accepted the most recent Commonwealth stock assessments and has been engaged in consultation over the last 18 months; to better integrate the fisheries. Transition of the NSW Southern Fish Trawl to the SESSF is anticipated to be given effect through changing the Offshore Constitutional Settlement Fisheries Arrangement with operators fishing under the new arrangements from 1 May 2020. The MAC emphasised the importance of meeting this deadline.
- Action item 34.22 (SEMAC 34): *Dr Jennings to relay the concerns raised by the MAC on the cost benefit analysis of individual accountability for discards (i.e. whether all benefits are being captured) and circulate a redacted copy of the analysis to the MAC (removing all confidential information) for further consideration.* The MAC noted that the cost benefit analysis provided to the economic working group had not been circulated to the MAC because of confidentiality restrictions around the electronic monitoring service provider's data.

ACTION ITEM 2: AFMA

AFMA to provide a redacted copy of cost benefit analysis to Dr Jennings for consideration before the next MAC meeting.

- Action item 31.3 (SEMAC 31): *AFMA to advise the MAC of the date of the first TAG meeting and include the Terms of Reference and membership when established.* The current draft co-management agreement is currently sitting with SETFIA and apologies

from AFMA were noted about the slow timeframe. Industry member noted that someone from the autoline sector should be on the TAG.

- Action item 29.10 (SEMAC 29): *AFMA to consider the options to improve the incentives for operators to correctly report dolphin interactions. For example, allowing an operator to reduce the review rate if they have a proven record of correctly reporting interactions. The MAC noted that this would require a change to the EM monitoring costs within the levy base. AFMA is considering the option to improve incentives for operators; this is being undertaken as part of the broader Dolphin Mitigation Strategy review. The MAC noted that this action item is now two years old.*

MAC recommendation: Incentives for operators to improve dolphin interaction reporting be included in both the Dolphin Mitigation Strategy and Bycatch Strategy

- Action item 6 (SEMAC 28): *AFMA to review western gemfish trigger limits within the GABTF. The Industry member asked for access to the RAG advice regarding maintaining the trigger limits that are currently set for western gemfish within the GABTF. AFMA provided advice that the triggers have been there for some time and that they are maintained with proviso that the triggers can be reviewed. The time period for review is the next 18th months; as part of the broader SESSF harvest strategy review.*

ACTION ITEM 3: AFMA

AFMA to provide access to the RAG advice regarding maintaining trigger limits currently set for western gemfish within the GBFT

2. Updates

2.1 Mangers Update

The AFMA member provided an update to the MAC on the key manager's items arising since the last MAC meeting on 16 October 2018. The MAC noted that:

- AFMA provided advice that the camera trial in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector is underway; but that there is no formal start or end date. In February, at the AFMA data meeting, once binary questions have been answered, there will be a program that looks at more quantitative assessments of data that could be collected.
- Budgets have not yet been made available but will be circulated to the MAC when they are available.
- The AFMA Commission has approved a slightly higher eastern catch limit for Pink Ling. The eastern catch limit of 404 tonnes was decided upon at the start of the MYTAC period and it had been continued without updated consideration of state catches and discards. The decision to increase the eastern catch limit was informed by the new 2018 stock assessment. It was noted that even with the increase in eastern catch limit, the SETFIA commitment vessels took a 10% reduction in pink ling take and the 75/25 ratio boats were

restricting their eastern catch below the level of ratio of recommended biological catches (RBCs) which was approximately 70/30.

- The MAC noted the scientific member, in his capacity of Chair SERAG, at SEMAC 34 raised the concern that the previous RBC was nearly double what was recommended under the SESSF Harvest Strategy and in his view, the principle of increasing the notional eastern TAC because catches have been exceeded is poor justification and so he did not support this increase.

2.2 Industry update

The Chair asked the Industry members of the MAC to provide an update on any items arising since the last MAC meeting 16 October 2018. The MAC noted that:

- [SETFIA] Marine seismic surveys are now currently 75% of SETFIA's time; with SETFIA's revenue from oil and gas having increased exponentially compared to revenue from members. CGG is now offering up to one million dollars for boats that have to relocate or have reduced catches. As part of the seismic surveys funding, a scaled back version of a Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) is being undertaken. CGG has engaged Fishwell to put the FIS together to look at effects of seismic surveys on fish; octopus will be included in these surveys.
- [SPFIA] The SPF eastern jack mackerel survey finished on February 4. This was funded by Industry - not through the levy base. This project was funded by the product buyer and has been very successful.
- [SPFIA] Assessment of the SPF against the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standards is being undertaken.
- [SETFIA] Current eastern ling management is being effectively managed and industry is working to ensure that no vessel will exceed their allocation and that the fleet does not exceed the RBC.
- [SETFIA] Some years ago industry undertook a paired trial using a shortened codend to look at decreasing seal mortality and interactions. The results showed that it was not effective at mitigating seal interactions. In light of this, Industry is currently discussing options with marine gear specialist Dr John Wakeford. Project aims to develop a device that constricts the trawl mouth after being deployed with an acoustic release. Currently the project plan is to develop a 1/30th scale model in flume tank and if effective stage ½ scale model and if effective go to a full scale model and full trial on trawl boats. Industry awaits funding approval from AFMA.

The MAC gives in principle support and endorsement for the proposal for the PYTHON device in the trawl sector.

- [SSIA] The SSIA data collection program has commenced and was developed in a response to the GHAT fishery changing to EM monitoring and the need to continue to collect biological data.
- [SSF] The catch rate spring spike for gummy shark has been noted to be occurring (a normal event at this time of year)

- [SSF] The price for gummy shark is lower than usual at this time of year due to there being a continuous supply to the market. Prices for elephant fish and swordshark are low and industry is seeing an increase in discards.
- [SSF] Fishers have noted that school shark is being seen on all trips now and as the species rebuilds this could become an increasing management issue moving forward.

3.1 Amendments to SESSF harvest Strategy

The AFMA member outlined the proposed changes to the Harvest Strategy for TAC setting for the next season. It was noted that these changes are about clarifying how management should be undertaken and to ensure effective management in the interim period. The changes have been supported by relevant Resource Assessment Groups and the MAC's advice will be provided to the Commission.

Proposed amendments to current SESSF harvest Strategy

1. Amendment to clarify that, when other sources of mortality (e.g. state and recreational sectors) or research catch allowance, are included in assessments, they are subtracted from the RBC to produce a Commonwealth TAC.

MAC Recommendation: The MAC supported this amendment

2. For Tier 4 assessments, if discards or state catches are included in the reference period catches C^* , they should be included in the CPUE series and deducted from the RBC to calculate the TAC.

MAC Recommendation: The MAC recommended changes to the Harvest Strategy wording under 6.4.2, second paragraph to remove the formula and to establish the principal that the RAGs use the best available data regardless of source.

3. Alternative estimates of discards may be available from logbooks verified by electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring data sets.

MAC recommendation: The RAGs should use the best estimate of discards, regardless of source and it should be a RAG decision to determine the source providing the most appropriate estimates.

MAC recommendation: The MAC noted that logbooks and EM can provide useful information for determining discards and bycatch and should be utilised where appropriate

4. For gummy shark, the requirement that state catches are not deducted from the RBC but a proportion of the RBC is allocated to relevant state sectors, has been removed. This means a weighted average of state catches will be used for TAC calculations; as is the case for other SESSF species.

An industry member asked for clarity around why the shark fishery has been different to the rest of the SESSF. The AFMA member noted that the reason that this has been different is that gummy shark is the only target species which has an MOU with the states.

MAC recommendation: The MAC supported the amendment that a weighted average of state catches be used for gummy shark TAC calculations and to ensure that the formula is consistent with others.

5. The Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABT) trigger table at **Appendix A** was reviewed by the GAB Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG) and GAB Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC). They recommended:
- The heading of column three at **Appendix A** be changed to 'Trigger for analysis of biological data (including ageing of otoliths)'.
 - The reference to management arrangements in lieu of 'cease fishing' triggers for some species be moved to column four.

MAC recommendation: The MAC supported the GABT trigger table amendments

6. GABRAG and GABMAC advised the triggers for western gemfish remained appropriate, noting the following:
- data is currently collected through the ISMP and crew-based programs; and catches and length frequencies are monitored by the relevant RAGs annually
 - the SESSF Harvest Strategy is currently being reviewed as part of an FRDC-funded project and catches of western gemfish are unlikely to increase in the interim.

An Industry member expressed concern that as catches have been very low for gemfish (5-120 tonnes per year), it is difficult to reconcile the trigger limit of 500 t with catches. Having such a high trigger limit will not allow for adequate management and biological data collection to be enacted in a timeframe which will provide effective management.

AFMA noted that the trigger limit will be reviewed as part of the Harvest Strategy review and this will provide an opportunity to review gem fish triggers and how we assess and monitor all species across the SESSF.

ACTION ITEM 4: AFMA

AFMA to make the blue eye and western gemfish data catches available to the MAC

ACTION ITEM 5: AFMA

AFMA to consider industry comments as part of the Harvest Strategy review

3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for 2019-20 fishing season

AFMA introduced the agenda item and asked the MAC to provide recommendations for TAC setting for the SESSF 2019-20 fishing year. The MAC discussed the agenda item and made recommendations (**Attachment 3 SESSF TAC recommendations outcomes 2019-20**).

3.4 Review of Dolphin Strategies for SPF and Gillnet

AFMA introduced the agenda item and asked the MAC to note: the background to the review of the Gillnet and SPF Dolphin Strategies, outcomes of consultation on the review of both strategies and provide comment on the questions for consideration at **3.4 Attachment A**. The MAC was also asked to recommend any additional issues for consideration as part of this review process.

Key points from the discussion:

- Dolphin interactions per 6 month review period initially increased (1st review period 35, 2nd review period 32, 3rd review period 32, current review period 7), and are now showing a decline in the current fourth review period.
- When analysed by calendar year there is an increasing trend (2015-31, 2016-40, 2017-68, 2018-60) with a 9% decline seen in 2018. Industry member Mr Boag proposed that this was not as a result of the Dolphin Mitigation Strategy but is through chance and analysis of data would give a better indication of the Strategy's effectiveness
- Industry member Mr Shane Dugins and AFMA noted that due to the exclusion of one boat and the work being undertaken with Industry to improve their mitigation plans and interaction reporting this downward trend is expected to continue.
- The MAC noted the consultation process that has been undertaken as a part of the review including with the Marine Mammal Working Group (MMWG) and the public. Two submissions were received from the public, one from an industry group and the other a combined submission from Humane Society International (HSI) and Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS). Issues raised are summarised in the Attachment 4.
- The MMWG was generally supportive of the approach of the strategies, acknowledging that it will take time to better understand the causes of interactions and how they might be mitigated. Three key areas they identified for consideration as a part of the review was the need to ensure data collection of as much information as possible, process and procedures around approval and compliance with dolphin mitigation strategies, and the need to review the balance between incentives and disincentives.
- The MAC noted that an industry member, environment member and AFMA view the increase in dolphin interactions as partially the result of improved logbook reporting with the introduction of electronic monitoring on gillnet vessels. Industry Member Mr Boag noted that electronic monitoring has been in place for 4 years and disagreed with this assessment.
- The MAC noted that Simon Boag, EO of the SSIA, SPFIA and SETFIA, had provided a written submission to the MAC (3.4 Attachment D) noting
 - The Strategy should not be fishery specific and that all sectors likely to interact with dolphins be covered by a policy that is not fishery specific – this is in line with AFMA's 5 by-catch principles
 - It is important that a review of the data collected from every interaction since the introduction of the Strategy occur
 - Industry supports the current interaction rate as it is based on current best practice
 - There seem to be no justification for east and west zones - ideally dolphin zones would be "dolphin centric" rather than those used to model fish stocks
 - Industry accepts the escalation of management responses if interactions persist, however must be consistent between fisheries

- AFMA should increase the proportion of electronic monitoring footage reviewed for operators where reporting is proven to be inaccurate
 - The MAC should endorse trials of experimental mitigation techniques under a scientific permit and these trials should be immune to the management arrangements implemented under the Strategy.
- Mr Boag raised concerns that dolphin triggers work well when there are ways to avoid interactions, however, given no mitigation mechanisms have been proven, avoiding interactions may be determined by dolphin abundance and bad luck. AFMA and another industry member noted that there have been changes in fishing activities on one vessel and practices and that, to date (2 months in 2019), interactions had been reduced.
 - The scientific member noted that there was insufficient data and analysis provided to be able to determine if the strategies have been effective or to understand what factors may be contributing to interactions. Further analyses, including tests for statistical significance, needed to be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the Strategy.

The MAC questioned why the South East Trawl fishery was exempt from the Strategy given the overlap of the fishery with both the SPF and Gillnet fishery and supported the concept of having an overarching dolphin strategy for all fishing sectors.

- The MAC noted that the reporting on dolphin interaction has improved through both more comprehensive interaction evaluation reports and through contact with AFMA regarding mitigation activities and recommendations
- Industry recommended that escalation of consequences needs to be consistent for all fisheries.
- There was no consensus from the MAC concerning changes to allow for spatial separation in the Gillnet Dolphin Management Strategy.

MAC recommendation: That the MAC note the review being undertaken is after a relatively short period since implementation. In preparation for the next review, a thorough scoping process for the specifics of the analysis that needs to be undertaken is done and that the necessary data is being collected.

ACTION ITEM 6: Individual MAC members to provide additional comments on the dolphin issues paper ASAP.

3.5 Research proposals for funding 2019-20

AFMA introduced the agenda item and asked the MAC to provide comment on the proposed research proposals for the SESSF and SPF.

SESSF Stock Assessments 2019-20 to 2021-22

The MAC noted that the proposal has been put forward by CISRO and posed the question of whether or not any other organisations had submitted proposals to undertake this work.

AFMA advised that this went to market three years ago and CSIRO was, and is, currently the only organisation submitting a proposal for the grouped stock assessment work.

An Industry member raised the question of whether or not the gummy shark stock assessment is included for 2019, as industry does not want to see assessments run where not all data, such as biological samples over the last 2-3 years and ideally also CPUE by metre, is available.

AFMA advised that SESSFRAG will make final recommendations in February about whether gummy shark will be assessed in 2019.

Industry also noted that at this stage the RAG did not have an accepted stock assessment for elephantfish given difficulties in accounting for discards.

MAC recommendation: The MAC endorsed the research proposal, noting that the MAC would like to see contestability in the process for this ongoing core business research.

Review/Investigate SESSF observer length data before 1998

An Industry member enquired as to whether or not this should have been completed earlier and prior to SESSFRAG's meetings. AFMA member noted that this work has been scheduled to be undertaken in 2019.

MAC recommendation: The MAC endorsed the research proposal noting that the MAC relies on the advice from AFMA and the RAG and that this proposal has high priority.

Monitoring and assessment of SPF quota species under the SPF Harvest Strategy

The MAC noted that this is required as part of the Harvest Strategy and is a high priority project. The SPF Scientific Panel did consider that this project is required to be undertaken annually given the five year period between undertaking DEPMs for each stock. The scope of the project was reviewed with sample sizes for key species reduced following a cost-benefit analysis by SARDI, and the reporting structure was simplified. The Panel also agreed that no biological samples are required to be collected for sardine or redbait until such time as catches significantly increase. The project proposal has been revised in light of the Panel's advice and the overall cost has reduced.

MAC recommendation: The MAC endorsed this proposal noting the advice that this is a high priority proposal and the SPF Panel has confirmed its support.

SPF DEPM Survey for Blue Mackerel East and Sardine

The MAC noted that if this DEPM survey does not proceed then the TAC for both blue mackerel and sardines will halve in 2021-22.

MAC recommendation: The MAC endorsed this proposal noting the advice provided by AFMA that it is a priority project and the MAC encourages AFMA to pursue co-contribution from NSW given the flow of benefits.

SPF DEPM Survey for Jack Mackerel East

The MAC noted that the TAC for jack mackerel is scheduled to halve in 2020-21 if the results of this project are not available.

The MAC noted Industry funded \$300 000 directly for field work given the survey missed the ARC process. The current proposal is for the analysis and results write up of the field work that was undertaken.

MAC Recommendation: The MAC endorsed the proposal noting that it is a high priority, given the money already outlaid by industry.

Eastern Zone Orange Roughy Spawning Biomass Survey 2019

The MAC acknowledged that the Eastern Zone Orange Roughy Spawning Biomass Survey 2019 proposal is yet to be submitted, however the 2016 survey application is being used as a placeholder adding 5% to the costing.

MAC recommendation: The MAC endorsed this proposal, noting that this proposal was strongly supported by SERAG, Industry and the Commission, to hold the survey in 2019

ACTION ITEM 7: AFMA to send an updated project proposal regarding Eastern Zone Orange Roughy Spawning Biomass Survey 2019 to MAC members when received

AFMA provided the MAC with an overview of projects for FRDC funding.

COMRAC priorities included in FRDC's 2018 call for research were:

- quantify reductions in bycatch and discards in the GABTS and the Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the SESSF
- revisiting biological parameters and information used in the assessment of Commonwealth fisheries: a reality check and work plan for future proofing
- an updated understanding of eastern school whiting stock structure, biological parameters, and catch composition with stout whiting along the east coast of Australia
- a scoping proposal for common harvest strategies and catch sharing for fisheries.

The MAC noted the need to see the most effective outcomes supported increasing contestability for research proposals to ensure the best value for investment.

3.6 Accounting for Discards in SPF

The SPF Panel Chair introduced the agenda item seeking MAC support for the revised method to calculate the discard tonnage to be deducted as part of the annual TAC setting process for 2019-20 and onwards.

- The MAC noted that AFMA and the Panel agreed on the revised method for calculating discards to be applied to the SPF RBCs.

- The MAC noted that discarding in the SPF is very low and is not of concern however there needs to be an agreed method to account for discards in the TAC process as part of the management framework.
- The MAC noted the issue with the previous recommendation by the Panel was the different discard profiles of the two sectors, Purse Seine and Midwater trawl, combined with the rapid entry and exit of the midwater trawl boats resulted in an inflated discard amount being estimated.
- SEMAC Chair noted a submission received from Industry member Gerry Geen and read the submission into the meeting noting that Mr Geen suggested that the SPF Panel should stick with the current methodology, which is the absolute tonnage of discards that occurred in the previous year.
- The environment member queried as to why there are discards in the Small Pelagic Fishery. AFMA noted that in the initial stages there were issues relating to gear malfunction resulting in discards, however discards in the SPF sector are generally very low.
- Industry queried the need to change from the current method, as the TAC is very unlikely to be caught and the approach seems unnecessary.
- AFMA noted that the SPF Panel were very clear that the most robust method of estimating discards is to use a rate-based method applied to the RBC. This approach reduces the risk of total fishing mortality exceeding sustainable levels in any one year, particularly in light of the short-lived nature of the species and potential catches that can occur.

MAC recommendation: Noting the work undertaken by the Panel and the need to use a rate-based method of calculating discards applied to the RBC, and account for the different fishing methods, the revised method for calculating discards in the SPF is supported by the MAC.

3.7 Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) TAC Recommendation for 2019-20 season

Table 2. MAC discussion, recommendations and any dissenting views for the SPF 2019-20 TACs.

Species	Discussion	MAC recommendation and any dissenting views
<i>Jack mackerel east</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 t of catch from other Commonwealth fisheries is deducted. • Catch by other fisheries is minor compared to the catch that is available. 	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFMA TAC recommendation of 18,730 t for 2019/20 year
<i>Jack mackerel west</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel's advice remains consistent with previous year - due to potential stock structuring, as a precautionary measure catch will be restricted to 20% of TAC in The 	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFMA TAC recommendation of 4,200 t for 2019/20 year

	<p>Kangaroo island area, until more is known about stock structure. Given low level of effort, investing in research is not currently justified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Commission's request for advice on triggers: understanding stock structure requires a dedicated project including genetics and is not currently justified given low effort; monitoring for depletion off Kangaroo Island is captured by existing annual fishery assessment which looks at all information (age, length frequency and CPUE) spatially. Fishing in that area would be a trigger for the Panel to look at that area in particular. Consequently, nothing in addition to what is already being undertaken is required. 	<p>noting and supporting the Panel's recommendation in relation to the areas directly south of Kangaroo Island and that any catch should be restricted to 20% of the total RBC for that area.</p>
<i>Blue mackerel east</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the DEPM survey no adult samples were collected which added some uncertainty to the biomass estimate however the Panel consider the exploitation of 15% (rather than 23 %) is sufficiently precautionary to account for the uncertainty associated with the biomass estimate. The catch / discards from other Commonwealth fisheries is likely to be more than currently reported. 	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AFMA TAC recommendation of 11,970 t for 2019/20. Noting and supporting the work that the Panel have carried out in terms of clarifying any information provided by Geelong Star samples and noting the confirmation of using the 15% exploitation rate (addressed under Action Item 6).
<i>Blue mackerel west</i>	<p>The AFMA member introduced the item and there was no discussion.</p>	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AFMA TAC recommendation of a 3240 t for 2019/20 year.
<i>Australian sardine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding state catch, only that from NSW is deducted from the RBC given the recent work on stock structure which shows evidence of a stock boundary near the NSW/Victorian boarder which corresponds to the Commonwealth management area. 	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AFMA recommended TAC of 9 050 t for 2019/20 year.
<i>Redbait east</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No discussion points 	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AFMA TAC recommendation of 3,150 t for the 2019/20 year.
<i>Redbait west</i>	<p>The AFMA member introduced the item and the following arose from the discussion</p>	<p>The MAC endorsed:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A biomass estimate from the recently completed DEPM is available and moves the stock from a Tier 3 Atlantis (model-derived biomass estimate with most conservative exploitation rate) to a Tier 1 which has an exploitation rate of 10%. MAC noted that the that the consistency between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AFMA TAC recommendation of 6,680 t for the 2019/20 year noting the significant increase due to a new biomass estimate which move it to Tier 1.
--	--	--

The **MAC** noted and supported the recommended under and over catch as proposed by AFMA.

ACTION ITEM 8: SPF Panel and AFMA

MAC requests the SPF panel and AFMA to review the formula to estimate state catches for TAC calculations and to determine whether or not to apply a four year weighted average for consistency with the SSSF rather than an unweighted five year average.

ACTION ITEM 9: AFMA

AFMA to forward to CSIRO the results of the DPM which provide validation of the reliability of the previously used Atlantis model

3.8 SPF Data and Monitoring Strategy

The SPF Scientific Panel introduced the item outlining the Panel's advice regarding the revised data and monitoring regime for the SPF, and seeking MAC support for the strategy. In developing its advice, the SPF Panel considered the parameters for data and monitoring:

- what was required scientifically?
- was it practical and safe to do on the vessel?
- was it affordable – have we managed to reduce the costs to industry?

The MAC:

- noted that the review of data and monitoring requirements for the fishery had focused primarily on the midwater trawl sector however the Panel did recommend that biological samples for sardines no longer needed to be collected given the ongoing low level of catch. No other changes were recommended for the purse seine sector, leaving monitoring of catch composition and protected species interactions at five per cent (on board coverage).
- Noted that for commercial species biological samples in the SPF trawl sector could be collected by the crew, eliminating the need for observer coverage for this purpose.
- Noted that electronic monitoring for large protected species will be reduced from 100 per cent to 10 per cent in light of a review of the EM, logbook and observer data and evidence

from other fisheries that 10 per cent review is sufficient to drive adequate logbook reporting and in line with other fisheries.

- Noted that the Panel recommended 10 per cent on board observer coverage to monitor small bycatch/byproduct (i.e. that passes through the pump). This coverage level is considered by the Panel the level necessary in order to provide confidence in the data. The MAC queried this level of coverage for midwater trawl, considering it to be high for this purpose and coverage levels in the SESSF are much lower. SEMAC noted that catch levels of these species should be established and then observer coverage level reassessed
-
- Noted that the 10 % recommendation for bycatch is not based on a specific piece of work for the SPF but rather international work and the expertise of the Panel and that AFMA Management is currently pursuing a piece of work specific to the SPF regarding this. This work is expected to be completed before the start of the new season.

MAC recommendation: supported all the Panel's recommendations regarding the data and monitoring regime for the midwater trawl sector of the SPF which includes:

- **100 per cent EM with 10 % review for protected species and large bycatch/byproduct species;**
- **no recommendation on the 10 % on board observer coverage proposal to monitoring small bycatch/byproduct subject to the outcomes of a target project becoming available;**
- **biological samples of commercial species to be collected by the crew. Further, that targeted sample collection for biological purposes for sardines and redbait is not required until such time as catches increase significantly.**

3.9 Compliance Risk Assessments

The MAC noted the background and information presented by AFMA regarding the need for compliance risk assessments. Some members of the MAC suggested that they did not have enough information to provide accurate information for the risk assessments. The MAC noted that there were different aspects of compliance and that most MAC members would be able to contribute useful information about the risks.

MAC recommendation: MAC members to provide input into the compliance risk assessment on an individual basis.

4.0 SEMAC Self Evaluation

AFMA and the SEMAC Chair presented the information from the MAC self-evaluation survey. The MAC noted that overall members felt that the MAC was operating effectively. The key areas for recommendation relating to the running and effective functioning of the MAC:

- that there has not been a need for additional working groups
- there is benefit in having continuity for the SEMAC executive officer and AFMA management staff

- the lack of recreational fishing expertise on the MAC needs to be remedied.

5.0 Other business

5.1 School Shark

An Industry member requested that the MAC revisit the issues relating to the 20% school shark to gummy shark rule. Based on information provided from the SESSF on the ISMP 2017 discards report, industry noted that for the shark hook sector, the take was 65.93 t with no discarding recorded and no observer coverage for school shark to gummy shark ratio monitoring in one small area. This reflected 43.8 % for the fishery, which is higher than the 20% school shark to gummy shark. The AFMA Member noted that the data in the CSIRO report only includes human observer coverage and not discards from logbook reporting, that was verified by electronic monitoring on boats with cameras. The MAC noted that human observers are no longer used in the gillnet sector.

ACTION ITEM 9: AFMA member to provide logbook discards to the MAC for information on the discard rates of school shark

It was noted by the MAC that there remain concerns around school shark targeting and non-recording of discards; which could potentially be impacting rebuilding. Concern was raised by an industry member about the effectiveness of the compliance with the school shark live release rule.

ACTION ITEM 10: AFMA member to provide information to the MAC on the coverage of EM on shark hook boats (e.g. number of hooks covered by EM)

5.3 Hagfish

The environment member noted that after providing direction and recommendation regarding the Hagfish fishery, no further updates have been provided to the MAC on the current state of the fishery. The AFMA member provided a brief update on hagfish and noted that the GHAT simplification project is investigating the options for simplifying access arrangements for the fishery, including the use of new methods.

It was noted that NSW fisheries has concerns relating to hag fishing and that there is some conflict over the current grounds. NSW fisheries is very reluctant to see this fishery expanded at all.

ACTION ITEM 11: AFMA to provide a comprehensive update on hagfish at the next SEMAC meeting; tentatively proposed for 21 and 22 May 2019

4.1 Review of Actions and close

In review of the actions the MAC noted that:

- In principal, all action items are to be cleared within 12 months.

- In the next managers update, include synopsis on MAC advice that has been provided to the Commission and what the response has been.
- When making action items, timeframes should be included.

Attachments

- 1) Final Agenda
- 2) SEMAC 36 Declared conflicts of Interest
- 3) SESSF TAC Recommendation Outcomes 2019-20

Signed (Chairperson):



Diane Tarte

Date: 19 March 2019

East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) 36 – Final Agenda

Meeting Tuesday 5th – Thursday 7th February 2019
 Day 1: 11:00 am – 5:45 pm (AEST)
 Day 2: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (AEST)
Time Day 3: 8:30 am – 12:45 pm (AEST)
Location Flagstaff Meeting Room, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne
 Lawnbowls Meeting Room, Melbourne
Chair Diane (Di) Tarte

Attendees	Members	Anissa Lawrence	Environment member	
		George Day	AFMA member	
		Gerry Geen	Industry member	
		Les Scott	Industry member	
		Sandy Morison	Scientific member	
		Shane Dugins	Industry member	
		Simon Boag	Industry member	
			Recreational member	
	Invited Participants		Max Kitchell	SPF Scientific Panel Chair
			Grant Pullen	State Invited Participant
			Sarah Jennings	Economics Invited Participant
			Anna Willock	Acting CEO AFMA
	Executive Officer		Belinda Norris	AFMA
	Presenters		Sally Weekes Daniel Corrie	AFMA
Observers		Veronica Silberschneider	NSW Government	
		Dave Schubert	AFMA	
		Tim Davie	AFMA	

Apologies Gerry Geen, Debbie Wisby, Neil Macdonald

Day 1: 11:00 am – 5:45 pm Radisson Flagstaff

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
1. Preliminaries		60 minutes 11:00am - 12:00pm
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	For Noting
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	For Noting
1.3 Declarations of interest	All	For Action
1.4 Action items	Executive Officer	For Noting
2. Updates		60 minutes 12:00am – 13:00pm
2.1 Managers Update, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Australian trip limits, snapper closure, commonwealth allocation for bycatch, camera trial , harvest strategy 	George Day	20minutes For Questions
2.2 Industry Update	All	40 minutes For Questions
Lunch		30 minutes 1:00pm - 1:30pm
3. Business		
3.1 2019 amendments to the SESSF Harvest Strategy	George Day	20 minutes 1:30pm - 1:50pm For Recommendation
3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season.	George Day	1hr 40 mins 1:50pm – 3:30pm For Recommendation
Afternoon tea		15 minutes 3:30pm – 3:45pm
3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season (cont.)	George Day	2 hours 3:45pm – 5:45pm For Recommendation

Day 2: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm Lawnbowls Meeting Room

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
Business (cont.)		
	George Day	1 hour 45 minutes 8:30am – 10:15am

3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season (cont.)		For Recommendation
Morning tea		15 minutes 10:15am – 10:30am
3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season (cont.)	George Day	1 hour 30 minutes 10:30am – 12:00pm For Recommendation
Lunch		40 minutes 12:00pm – 12:40pm
3.2 SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2019-20 fishing season (cont.)	George Day	2 hours 30 minutes 12:40-3:10pm For Recommendation
3.3 Afternoon Tea		20 minutes 3:10pm – 3:30pm
3.4 Review of Dolphin Strategies for SPF and gillnet	George Day	1 hour 3:30pm – 4:30pm For Noting and Advice
3.5 Research Proposals for funding 2019-20	Dan Corrie Sally Weekes	1 hour 4:30pm -5:30pm For Comment

Day 3: 8:30 am – 12:45pm Lawnbowls Meeting Room

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
Business (cont.)		
3.6 Accounting for discards in SPF	Sally Weekes	30 minutes 08:30am – 9:00am For Noting and Advice
3.7 Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) TAC Recommendations for 2019-2020 season	Sally Weekes	1 hour 30 minutes 9:00am -10:30am For Recommendation
Morning tea		20 minutes 10:30am - 10:50am
3.8 SPF Data and Monitoring Strategy	Sally Weekes	1 hour 10:50 am - 11:50am For Noting and Advice
3.9 Compliance Risk Assessments	AFMA	15 minutes 11:50am - 12:05pm For Recommendation

Day 3: 8:30 am – 12:45pm Lawnbowls Meeting Room

4.0 SEMAC self evaluation	Di Tarte	30 minutes 12:05 pm – 12:35 pm For Action
4.1 Review of actions and close	Di Tarte	10 minutes 12:35pm – 12:45pm For Noting
Meeting Close		12:45pm

South East Management Advisory Committee SEMAC 36

Agenda item 1.3 Declarations of interest

Declared Interest - Last updated: 30 August 2017

Members	
Ms Anissa Lawrence	<p>Independent consultant. Director of TierraMar Consulting. Conservation member on SharkRAG Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters. No pecuniary interest. President of the SEA LIFE Trust (ANZ). Director of FISHI International.</p>
Ms Diane Tarte	SEMAC Chair - No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr George Day	AFMA - Senior Manager Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Les Scott	<p>I, Ronald Leicester Scott (Les) in my capacity as a member of the South East Advisory Committee (SEMAC) provide below a disclosure of my interests that conflict or could conflict with the proper performance of my functions as a member of the SEMAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing Director: Petuna Sealord Deepwater Fishing P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the SESSF, GHAT, East Coast Deepwater Fishery, Coral Sea and International fisheries operating a vessel under an Australian Flag; Consultant to: Australian Longline P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the Australian Sub-Antarctic fisheries (Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Macquarie Island Fisheries) and waters under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisor to PG&UM Rockliff – Petuna Fisheries who hold various fishing rights in the SESSF, GHAT, Commonwealth and State (Tasmania) Scallop Fishery, East Coast Tuna Fishery, Off Shore Fisheries and Tasmanian State Fisheries. <p>My pecuniary interest is limited to the extent of: an employee of the company's and partnership disclosed.</p>
Mr Sandy Morison	<p>Director of Morison Aquatic Sciences. Chair of SERAG, SharkRAG, and Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group. Contracted by government departments, non-government agencies and companies for a range of fishery related matters including research and MSC assessments of AFMA managed and other fisheries (by SCS Global Service). No pecuniary or other interest.</p>
Mr Shane Dugins	<p>Chair of the Sustainable Shark Fishery Association. Shareholder and Director of a Fishing Company that holds: Commonwealth SFRs including Shark and Scalefish quota SFRs, Victorian and Tasmanian licenses and Victorian Crayfish quota. Representative of the Sustainable Shark Fishing Association. Consultation services provided to AFMA for specialist fishery knowledge</p>
Mr Simon Boag	<p>Non-beneficiary Director of two fishing companies in the SESSF. Industry member on SERAG. SETFIA receives funding from various bodies to complete projects. Involved in the delivery of industry training courses through East Gippsland TAFE. Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.</p>
Invited participant	
Anna Willock	<p>AFMA- Acting Chief Executive Officer- No interest pecuniary or otherwise</p>
Ms Debbie Wisby	<p>CEO of a fishing company based in Tasmania. Company/Director holds Commonwealth squid jig SFRs and various Tasmanian licences. Commonwealth Fish Receiver. Member of Squid RAG, invited participant SEMAC, industry representative of Tasmanian Scallop FAC. Local Government Councillor. Consultant for private enterprises on a range of fishery related matters. Advisor to Fishwell Consulting for Squid project 2016/2017</p>
Mr Grant Pullen	<p>No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise. Employed by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).</p>
Dr Sarah Jennings	<p>Economics member on SERAG. Economics coordinator, FRDC Social Science and Economics Research Program. Member of AFMA Economics Working Group. Independent economics consultant. No pecuniary or other interest.</p>
Executive Officer	
Ms Belinda Norris	<p>AFMA – Senior Fisheries Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest whether pecuniary or otherwise.</p>

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
1	AFMA and industry to update the MAC at the next meeting on the field trips to look at effectiveness of bird bafflers	George Day	1.4	SEMAC 37
2	AFMA to raise the issue of the effectiveness of the redacted copy of cost benefit analysis issue with the economic working group at their next meeting	George Day	1.4	SEMAC 37
3	AFMA to provide access to the RAG advice regarding maintaining trigger limits currently set for western gemfish within the GBFT	Dan Corrie	1.4	SEMAC 37
4	AFMA to make the blue eye trevalla and western gemfish data catches made available to the MAC and take note of industry comments considered as part of the Harvest Strategy review	Dan Corrie	3.1	with minutes
5	AFMA to consider industry comments as part of the Harvest Strategy review	Dan Corrie	3.1	as part of ongoing review
6	Individual MAC members to provide comment on the dolphin issues paper as per personal choice.	All members	3.4	17 th February
7	AFMA to send an updated project proposal regarding Eastern Zone Orange Roughy Spawning Biomass Survey 2019 to MAC members when received	George Day	3.5	SEMAC 37
8	MAC requests the SPF panel and AFMA to review the formula to determine state catch for blue mackerel east and to determine whether or not it is a weighted average	SPF Panel Sally Weekes	3.7	November 2019, RAG to complete at next meeting
9	AFMA to forward to CSIRO the results of the DPM which provide validation of the reliability of the previously used Atlantis model	Sally Weeks	3.7	

Action Item		Member to action	Agenda Item in which the matter was raised	Date to be completed by
10	AFMA member to provide logbook discards to MAC to provide information on the discard rates of school shark	George Day/ Ryan Keightly	5.1	SEMAC 37
11	AFMA member to provide information to the MAC on the coverage of EM on shark hook boats (e.g. number of hooks covered by EM)	Ryan Keightly	5.1	SEMAC 37
12	AFMA to provide a comprehensive update on hagfish at the next SEMAC meeting tentatively proposed for 21st and 22nd May 2019	George Day	5.3	SEMAC 37