



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting No 41

Meeting minutes

Date: 10-11 November 2020

Venue: Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Member type
David McGlennon	Chair
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Michael Steer	Scientific member
Fiona Hill	AFMA member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Sarah Jennings	Economics member
Will Mure	Industry member
Shane Dugins	Industry member
John Harrison	Recreational sector member
Toni Clarke	Industry invited participant
Veronica Silberschneider	State invited Participant
Neil MacDonald	Industry invited participant (for Rebuilding item)
Claire Van Der Geest	AFMA observer (presenter)
Daniel Corrie	AFMA observer (presenter)
Natalie Couchman	AFMA observer (presenter)
Sally Weekes	AFMA observer (presenter)
Mardi Albert	AFMA observer (presenter)
David Smith	AFMA Commissioner
Brett McCallum	AFMA Commissioner
Heather Johnston	AFMA observer
James Van Meurs	AFMA observer
Julia McCourt	AFMA observer
Aaron Puckeridge	AFMA observer
Denis Brown	Industry observer (for Hagfish item)
Latif Siddique	Executive officer

Meeting Minutes

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Introduction and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1000 AEST and welcomed participants. The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners past and present on whose land the meeting was taking place. Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the minutes, with audio/video to be deleted after the minutes are finalised. No objections were raised. Ms Debbie Wisby was an apology for both the days of the meeting.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The MAC adopted the agenda (**Attachment A**) with following changes:

Agenda item 3.2 Hagfish research plan and 3.6 Rebuilding species – five year rebuilding strategy updates – i) orange roughy (except, ‘blue warehou’ part) would be considered ‘for noting’, rather than for advice.

1.3 Declaration of interests

The MAC reviewed the table of standing declarations by members, invited participants and observers. Prior to the meeting, in addition to the table of declarations circulated via email, the Chair asked participants to declare any specific conflicts of interest with the agenda items 3.1, 3.3 and 3.5 and any that were not previously declared, in order to streamline discussions during the meeting.

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

Process for managing declared conflicts: Members and invited participants who declared conflicts of interest with agenda items 3.3 and 3.5 left the meeting to allow remaining members to discuss how the declared conflicts should be treated. Industry participants Mr Shane Dugins and Mr Boag declared conflicts of interest with agenda item 3.6, but the MAC agreed that as the item was confirmed for noting, Mr Dugins and Mr Boag should participate in the discussion.

The MAC discussed the declared conflicts of interest and resolved the following:

3.3 Amendments to SESSF Deepwater Closure: Industry participants, Mr Will Mure and Mr Simon Boag declared conflicts of interest with agenda item 3.3. The MAC agreed that as the item was for initial advice, Mr Mure and Mr Boag should participate in the discussion but will disconnect from the conference call whilst recommendations are made.

3.5 Ecological Risk Assessment for the shark gillnet sub-fishery: Industry participants, Mr Shane Dugins and Mr Boag declared conflicts of interest with agenda item 3.5. The MAC agreed that as the item was for final advice, Mr Dugins and Mr Boag should participate in discussion but will disconnect from the conference call whilst recommendations are made.

1.4 Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The MAC Executive Officer, Latif Siddique, introduced the item and provided an update on outstanding action items from previous meetings. A consolidated list of action items (**Attachment C**) was circulated to

the MAC prior to the meeting. The MAC discussed the action items and noted updates against the following action items:

40.1: AFMA to clarify the intent of action item 38.7 (*AFMA to notify SharkRAG the potential for changing gear types as part of the 12 month trial and its possible assessment implications.*), and if found to specifically relate to the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait, to redraft this action item to specify that link.

- The MAC noted that the action item 38.7 does not relate to the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait. This action pertains to the proposed granting of temporary gear permits in the gillnet, hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the SESSF, to allow operators to trial different gear types for up to twelve months, as part of the GHAT simplification project.

Industry member, Mr Dugins, expressed that the outcomes of the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait should be taken into account under the GHAT simplification project. He also expressed his concern as to the detrimental impacts of automatic longline fishing on gummy shark and other fish stocks. AFMA advised that there was no proposal for automatic longline fishing in the Bass Strait at this time.

The MAC supported changes to the wording of action item 38.7 to read as follows:

“AFMA to notify SharkRAG of the proposed granting of temporary gear permits in the gillnet, hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the SESSF, to allow operators to trial different gear types for up to twelve months, as part of the GHAT simplification project, and its possible assessment implications”.

There were no comments on other action items.

2. Updates

2.1 Managers Update

The AFMA member, Ms Fiona Hill, introduced the paper on the key management issues arising since the last MAC meeting on 1-2 July 2020, and asked the MAC to consider it as read. The MAC discussed the following key issues.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) arrangements

- AFMA and officials from South Australia (SA), Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales (NSW) continue to meet regularly on matters relevant to OCS agreements and associated Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs).
- An industry member noted that the school whiting catch in NSW remained high, and also praised the AFMA Commission decision to roll-over the school whiting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the 2020-21 fishing season.
- The AFMA member noted that establishing a catch-sharing agreement with NSW for school whiting was a priority for AFMA.
- AFMA and NSW are in ongoing discussions regarding the development of a NSW School Whiting Harvest Strategy, and transitioning the NSW Southern Fish Trawl Fishery into the Commonwealth.
- The NSW State participant added that the NSW Total Allowable Fishing Committee (TAFC) would be setting the TAC for school whiting for the 2021-22 fishing season.
- The AFMA manager added that the Commonwealth TAC for school whiting is calculated by deducting weighted average state catches for calendar years 2016 to 2019. Any reduction in NSW catches for 2020 would not influence the 2021-22 SESSF TACs. This will be considered by SEMAC at its February 2021 TAC meeting.

Annual catches of blue grenadier and orange roughy in the SESSF

- The MAC noted the range of factors considered when reviewing deeming applications from foreign boats, as outlined in the Manager's Update.
- An industry member expressed concern about the potential impact of deemed foreign boats on the Australian fleet, especially on competition for fishing grounds and market price, and whether this had been considered by AFMA.
- The economic member suggested AFMA better communicate the economic benefits of permitting deemed foreign boats to fish in Commonwealth waters, in particular the flow-on benefits to local communities.
- AFMA noted that the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) were coordinating a review of the foreign fishing policy and AFMA would consider the MAC advice when consulting with the Department.

Impacts of seismic testing

- French-owned seismic surveyor, CGG finished its six-month long survey of the seabed near Lakes Entrance on 11 July 2020 and the operators in the SESSF had reported significant declines in catch rates of flathead and eastern school whiting in the area.
- A survey undertaken by Fishwell Consulting has demonstrated that catch rates of flathead and eastern school whiting were significantly lower within the seismic testing area (impact zone) during the testing period, compared to catches outside the impact zone (control sites).
- Six months after the seismic testing ended, the Fishwell survey detected no significant difference between school whiting catch rates in the impact zone compared to the control sites, however catch rates for flathead remained significantly lower.
- The final stage of the Fishwell survey is due to commence soon, and final results are expected early in 2021.
- The potential impacts of the seismic testing on SESSF stocks, and implications for stock assessments, had been discussed at recent SESSF and SERAG meetings. Further consideration will be given when fishery indicator data from the period of the assessment is available in 2021.
- An industry member noted there could be a 12-month time lag before the impacts of seismic testing is detected in the data.

Multi-species Harvest Strategy project (MSHS)

- The MSHS project team are currently developing a series of candidate harvest strategies. The project is scheduled to be complete in December 2021.
- Industry noted the project has been underway for some time, and were eager to see it progress.

Western Orange Roughy Research Program

- AFMA granted scientific permits to five boats to collect data under the Western Orange Roughy Research Program (WORRP) from 1 May to 31 October, 2020.
- Data collection was successfully coordinated by the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA).
- Observer coverage was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. There were no observed interactions with Threatened, Endangered and Protected (TEP) species, including upper slope dogfish, and catch composition data was typically consistent with what operators had recorded in their logbooks.
- One of the boats had cameras installed, and the video footage suggested that the operator was accurately reporting catch in their logbooks.
- SERAG reviewed the program at its October 2020 meeting and provided very positive feedback and recommended to continuing the program for 2021.

- SEMAC will be provided a detailed overview of the program at its February 2021 meeting as part of considering the RCA for the 2021-22 fishing season.

Conservation dependent status of Orange Roughy

- The MAC noted that the process for delisting conservation dependent fish species had not previously been undertaken by Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC).
- The TSSC would need to be confident that the species and/or stock no longer meets any of the criteria outlined in the Guidelines for assessing the conservation status of native species, which may pose a challenge for orange roughy, given its long generation time.
- Industry members supported progressing the delisting of the eastern orange roughy stock.
- The MAC noted that the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) was currently under review, the outcome of which may clarify the process for delisting marine species.

Small Pelagic Fishery – Redbait (East) Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) survey

- The MAC noted that the field component of the Redbait (East) DEPM survey for both adult and eggs had been completed, but it might take another six months to count all the eggs.
- It was also noted that the survey was successful in getting enough spawning adults covering the entire spawning area.
- The final result of that survey would be available in December 2021, but would be used to inform TAC setting process in 2022-23.

FRDC hook trial in the Bass Strait

- The MAC noted that the principal investigator, Dr Ian Knuckey would present the outcomes of the project at the SEMAC 42 meeting in February 2021.
- The project involves the trial of automatic longlines as an alternative to using gillnets for targeting gummy shark in Bass Strait with the commissioned boat, the *FV Candice K*.
- Draft results from the first phase of the trials conducted from 23 May to 11 June, showed that there were significant catches of gummy shark and draughtboard shark including some other species. The second phase would be conducted in November 2020.
- The recreational and an industry member raised a number of queries concerning the draft report provided. AFMA would send those points to Dr Knuckey to be included in his presentation to the next meeting. It was noted that this would be an information item, and that there is no proposal to consider permitting the trialled activity:
 - o Discard to retained ratio of longline (table 3) trial seems rather high ~2.8:1;
 - o What is life status of discarded fish - table 4 describes this for retained catch;
 - o Need a comparison of the discarded catch for current gillnet method;
 - o What is the discarded to retained ratio for gillnet method;
 - o What is effort to interaction rate for the automatic longline method compared to the gillnet method for protected species?

SESSF Fishery Independent Data collection

- The MAC noted that a Fishery Independent Data Working Group (FIDWG) has been formed to establish the objectives of a future fishery independent data collection program, as the trawl Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) had been cancelled as it was not cost-effectively delivering useful data.
- The FIDWG have established a set of objectives, similar to that of the FIS which focus on identifying approaches to collecting data and establish an independent index of abundance for key species, as well as collecting information to support assessments of the broader ecosystem
- Option currently being explored include Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR), acoustic surveys and industry-led trawl surveys.
- The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) have identified the development of a fishery independent data 'toolbox' as a research priority in its recent call for research funding

applications. There will likely be overlap between this and the work being considered by the FIDWIG.

Action 41.1: FDRG Hook Trial - Dr Ian Knuckey to present the outcomes of the project at the SEMAC 42 meeting in February 2021

2.2 Industry update

The Chair asked industry members to provide an update on any items arising since the last SEMAC meeting on 1-2 July 2020. The MAC noted updates from the following industry/representatives.

Gerry Geen – Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd

- A single midwater trawler was operating in the Eastern area of the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF), but there was continued interest by investors in further developing the fishery in both the East and West.

Will Mure – Industry Member

- Eastern ling catches are very good, the regionalisation strategy looks to be working well.
- Although catches of blue eye trevalla have been OK, the status of this stock and high orca activity are ongoing concerns.
- Fishers had large catches of pink ling and gemfish in the eastern zones.
- Eastern gemfish had been an unavoidable bycatch when targeting blue eye trevalla, with large quantities encountered across the whole distribution.
- The AFMA member suggested that SERAG might discuss the gemfish abundance issue by examining the catch per unit effort (CPUE) from longline boats to understand trend, if there was any.

Shane Dugins – Industry Member

- There has been an increase in beach prices, but also a corresponding increase in the lease prices.
- The spring season had an abundance of gummy shark. The high numbers of gummy shark made it easier to avoid school shark bycatch. It was observed that when searching, there are incidental catches of school shark. But when they know where there are high concentrations of gummy shark, then this is usually accompanied by low numbers of school shark.

Simon Boag – Industry Member

- Low fuel prices and best period in years of sustained high prices across the various sectors.
- Industry had a very good orange roughy season that has also been assisted by low Australian dollar value, which was good for the exporters.
- Under-water camera project in the SPF will recommence shortly after disruption by COVID 19.
- CCG are slowly paying compensation to fishers for the impacts of seismic surveys on key fishing grounds.
- MSC certificate of orange roughy might be transferred, as the existing holder was no longer engaged in the fishery.
- Eastern ling catches are good.
- Industry were dealing with an MSC certificate objection in the western orange roughy.
- Gummy shark quota owners have commenced the MSC certification process.
- Negative campaigns from eNGOs and universities are causing concerns for industry.

Toni Clarke – Petuna Sealord Deepwater Fishing

- Observed high numbers of school sharks during winter.
- Blue eye trevalla catches had been lower compared to previous years.
- Western pink ling catches had been high.

- Border openings have helped with crew availability. This included workers from New Zealand.

3.1 Southern Squid Jig Fishery

Mr Daniel Corrie introduced the item and asked SEMAC to note that there were three components to the agenda item; a harvest strategy review update, Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for the 2021 fishing season, and a draft bycatch and discarding workplan.

The MAC noted Ms Debbie Wisby was an apology, but had engaged with AFMA management before the meeting and was supported of the recommendations in each of the papers.

Harvest strategy review update (for noting)

The MAC noted the following:

- AFMA decided to delay the review of the current Harvest Strategy until additional information is collected to support a review of the triggers within the strategy. This was supported by SquidRAG at their October 2020 meeting.
- AFMA are currently developing a SSJF data plan which will provide a more strategic approach to collect data to support a review of the Harvest Strategy.
- ABARES are currently developing a proposal to analyse catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) as an input to future depletion analyses, which will be considered by SquidRAG in 2021.
- SquidRAG were comfortable continuing to implement the current Harvest Strategy for the 2021 fishing season.

Members made the following key points:

- Searching time should be considered a factor when standardising the CPUE, and a field included in logbooks to determine search time versus fishing time.
- Catch and effort in the trawl sector should also be considered when assessing the status of the squid stock, noting the trawl boats catch a smaller age class than the jig boats. This could provide useful information regarding recruitment.

SEMAC agreed with the SquidRAG advice and supported AFMA delaying the review of Harvest Strategy.

Total Allowable Effort (TAE) 2021 (for recommendation)

The MAC noted the following:

- Recent catch and effort in the SSJF are low, and none of the catch or effort triggers in the SSJF Harvest Strategy had been reached.
- There were only seven active squid jig boats in 2019, and squid catch in the SESSF trawl sectors was higher than in the SSJF for 2019.
- Catches in 2020 are also low, with 67 t caught in the SSJF as of 2 November 2020.
- The fishery was assessed as 'not overfished' and 'not subject to overfished' in the 2020 ABARES Status Report.
- SquidRAG were unable to provide a formal recommendation due to there not being a quorum at the meeting, but provided advice that the 2021 TAE for the SSJF be set at 550 standard squid jig machines.

Members made the following key points:

- The scientific member, Dr Steer, noted that squid life history characteristics are highly dynamic, and heavily influenced by environmental factors. This plasticity allows for the stock recover quickly if it were overfished.

- AFMA referred to a report by Fishwell Consulting which considered environmental drivers on squid availability and catch rates in the SSJF, and noted environmental factors would be more explicitly accounted for the revised SSJF Harvest Strategy.
- The AFMA Commissioner, Dr Smith, noted concerns that the triggers in the current SSJF Harvest Strategy had never been triggered, and were based on catches in the early part of the fishery when effort was much higher.

SEMAC agreed with the SquidRAG advice and recommended maintaining the SSJF TAE at 550 standard squid jigging machines for the 2021 SSJF fishing season.

Draft Bycatch and Discarding Workplan (for advice)

The MAC noted the following:

- Bycatch and discarding workplans are implemented to address and minimise the ecological risk to non-target species in Commonwealth fisheries.
- The SJF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan (the Bycatch Workplan) was last updated in 2004.
- SquidRAG provided advice regarding the revised Bycatch Workplan at its June and October 2020 meetings.
- Bycatch is considered low in the SSJF, and no ecological risks were identified in the 2007 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA).
- The focus of the revised Bycatch Workplan is to ensure accurate reporting of bycatch species in logbooks to support future ERAs.
- Unless a high priority issue arises, requiring immediate action, the next SSJF ERA is not scheduled until after 2022.
- After considering SEMAC advice, AFMA will provide a final revised Bycatch Workplan to SquidRAG for adoption out of session before the start of the 2021 fishing season.
- The Bycatch Workplan will be reviewed every two years, subject to any significant changes in fishing effort.
- The following actions have been included in the draft Bycatch Workplan:
 1. Undertake an updated ERA for the fishery
 2. Distribute an annual report to industry regarding reporting of bycatch and discards in logbooks and CDRs
 3. Distribute an annual report to industry regarding reporting of interactions with TEP species.

Members made the following key points:

- There is currently no observer program in the SSJF which means logbook records are not validated.
- AFMA advised that if effort were to increase, observer coverage might be considered, noting the cost of deploying observers should be considered in a relatively small fishery.

3.2 . Hagfish research plan

Ms Couchman introduced the item and asked SEMAC to note an update regarding the development of a draft Hagfish Research Plan to support an assessment of common hagfish (*Eptatretus cirrhatus*) in the waters of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF).

The MAC noted:

A draft Hagfish Research Plan was presented at the December 2019 SERAG meeting. SERAG supported the research plan but noted that before the plan was presented again:

- AFMA should further develop the research plan;
- The research plan should include a catch allowance with caution and justification; and
- AFMA should compile a supporting detailed summary of existing data and a literature review covering international experience with hagfish management.

AFMA undertook this further work and most recently presented an updated draft research plan to the SERAG in October 2020. Noting the minutes for this meeting are still being finalised, the key outcomes from this meeting were for AFMA to undertake further analysis of the available data (logbook and observer) to inform the plan. AFMA will undertake this further work, with the outcomes to be presented at the next meeting of SERAG. SEMAC advice on the draft research plan will be sought in early 2021, with further consultation with stakeholders also envisaged, prior to the finalisation of the plan.

Members made the following key points:

- There is a concerning lack of data pertaining to common hagfish in the area of the SESSF and agreed that improved data collection is needed to support any further development of the fishery. This includes at a finer scale data is needed given the aggregating nature of hagfish. Life history data is also needed.
- An industry observer noted that he could have answered many questions raised in the last SERAG meeting if asked. He also advised that information provided at that meeting on hagfish species managed by other jurisdictions across the globe is not applicable to the species being fished in the SESSF. It was noted however, that New Zealand commercially fishes the same species and so some of New Zealand's research could be applicable. The industry observer noted that the operator currently spreads their fishing activity across the area of the fishery, and if they don't repeat shots in the same areas over a 12 month period, then catches remain stable. It was noted that there have been some gear conflicts with State fishers in 2015, but none in recent times. It was noted that there are two trap fishing permits in the SESSF, though only one is currently being used.
- The State invited participant advised that gear conflicts are an ongoing issue.
- AFMA noted that the involvement of affected stakeholders' in the development of the research plan would be highly beneficial.

3.3 Amendments to SESSF Deepwater Closure

Mr Corrie introduced the item and asked SEMAC to provide advice on the proposal from SETFIA to amend part of the boundary of the South East Trawl Deep Water Closure (the Deepwater Closure) to align more closely with the 700 metre depth contour.

The MAC noted:

- SETFIA have proposed that the Western boundary of the Deepwater Closure be amended (northeast of Montague Island to the southeast of Tathra) to more closely align with the 700 m depth contour based on bathymetry data collected by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
- Industry believe the current closure includes depths in the area as shallow as 530 m.
- The proposed amendment would not undermine the intent of original closure, which was introduced to protect orange roughy stocks beyond 700 m.

- While amending the closure would provide access benthic habitat that would otherwise be protected, the area is very small relative to the size of the closure for the whole fishery.
- Orange roughy catches are expected to be negligible in this area because of the depth and location. However, any catches of orange roughy would be closely monitored.

Members made the following key points:

- The proposed amendment introduces a large number of additional coordinates.
- The proposal does not include revisions to other parts of the closure.
- The proposed amendment does not impact on upper-slope dogfish closures.
- AFMA will liaise with the compliance and intelligence team as part of the process to ensure map and closure coordinates are updated.

SEMAC supported the proposed amendment to the Deepwater Closure in the SESSF subject to AFMA obtaining updated bathymetry data from CSIRO.

- SEMAC members noted they did not need to consider the proposal out of session, however it be included in the Managers update at the February 2021 SEMAC meeting.

Action 41.2 AFMA to provide an update on the final amendment to the SESSF Deepwater Closure at SEMAC 42.

3.4 Internal review of Electronic monitoring

Ms Van Der Geest presented an update on the internal review of AFMA’s Electronic Monitoring program.

The MAC noted:

- The current contract for the delivery of the AFMA Electronic Monitoring (EM) program is due to expire in the next few years, and AFMA will undertake the normal contract review process in the intervening period.
- AFMA has also undertaken a review the EM program to examine its advantages and disadvantages both for industry and AFMA. This included consulting with a broad range of stakeholders, including commonwealth fishing industry, environmental Non-Government Organisations (eNGOs), other industry representatives and vendors.
- Findings from the EM review went to the AFMA Commission for consideration. AFMA intends to undertake further consultation with industry as part of this process.

Members made the following key points:

- Industry members are generally in support of the EM program, as it has helped change fishers’ behaviour, understand TEP interactions in the GHAT sector and is being used as a tool for broader data collection. However, industry members expressed their concerns about the high cost of the EM program and questioned how it is currently used, for example the utility and cost of piece counts.
- Industry members advised a clear data plan would help address these concerns. AFMA noted that the SESSF have a data plan which is currently under review, which will include further consideration of the piece count issue.

- Another industry member expressed that he would like to see EM and VMS combined to reduce system maintenance and costs.
- Ms Van Der Geest provided that pending work with external probity experts, updates on the EM review would be available in early 2021.

Action 41.3: AFMA to provide the SESSF data plan to SEMAC out of session and an update on the progress of the review of data plan at SEMAC 42.

3.5 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Shark Gillnet Sub-fishery

Ms Couchman introduced the paper seeking SEMAC advice on finalising the 2019 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the Shark Gillnet sector of the SESSF.

The MAC noted the following:

- The ERA identifies risks posed by fishing to the ecological sustainability of species, habitats and communities.
- In response to the risks identified by ERA, AFMA develops strategies to respond to the risks posed by fishing.
- An ERA for the shark gillnet sector of the SESSF was completed in 2018 and considered by SharkRAG in December 2018. Following the identification of a spatial input error, CSIRO re-ran the assessment in April 2019, which resulted in a change in risk scores for a number of species. There was a decrease from thirteen high/extreme high risk species in the 2018 assessment to eight high/extreme high risk species in the 2019 assessment.
- In August 2019, CSIRO advised SESSFRAG that a new, and more appropriate approach to quantifying effort in the ERA was possible. Rather than applying effort homogeneously, it can now be applied heterogeneously to account for intensity. This approach is considered to be more appropriate for the SESSF where effort tends to be concentrated in certain areas. The RAG supported the new methodology to account for different fishing intensity and recommended CSIRO apply a residual risk assessment to the updated results prior to being finalised by the individual RAGs at the end of the year. The application of this new approach, did not result in any changes to those species assessed as high risk in the Shark Gillnet sector.
- The updated ERA results found that fishing activity in the SESSF posed a low risk¹ to one of the shark species identified as 'potential concern' in the 2019 Shark and Ray Status in Australia report and not applicable to the others².
- The next step is to update the 2015 ERM strategy and bycatch and discarding workplan for the GHAT sector of the SESSF that would be brought to SEMAC in the future meetings for further endorsement.

Members made the following key points:

- SEMAC members discussed the risk ratings for specific species including draughtboard sharks, dolphins and the great white shark. The environment member requested clarification for species identified as of concern by the 2019 Shark and Ray Status in Australia report, in particular draughtboard sharks. Clarification of the risk rating for the shortfin mako shark was also requested.
- Mr Corrie provided further background on AFMA's ERA and ERM process.

¹ White finned swell shark.

² Eastern angel shark, saddled swellshark / northern draughtboard shark.

- Ms Couchman noted that current ERA was based on the data available in between 2012 and 2016 where there were 40 great white sharks caught and returned alive and 8 caught and returned dead. The AFMA member advised that AFMA cannot override the risk score for this assessment based on current interactions.
- Members discussed the five year schedule of ERAs. AFMA Commissioner Dr Smith noted he was the Chair of the ERA working group and would raise the five year scheduling issue at the next meeting. He advised that his view was that ERAs should be repeated when changes occur, not necessarily on a specific schedule. The economics member suggested whether an interim update of management arrangements could be done before next ERA, as the current ERA is based on the data up to 2016, which is a bit out dated.
- Industry members requested that AFMA be prepared with a communication strategy to explain the results of the ERA and how they will be addressed through AFMA's ERM strategy. The AFMA member noted that AFMA does not provide media releases on ERA, except uploading finalised ERAs and ERM strategies to AFMA website but would consider how this information can be communicated more clearly to avoid misinterpretation.

SEMAC supported ERA for the shark gillnet sub-fishery, noting the action item below.

Action 41.4: AFMA to seek clarification from Dr Miriana Sporcic regarding the risk rating in the current Gillnet sector ERA report for species identified as of concern by the 2019 Shark and Ray Status in Australia report, in particular draughtboard sharks. The risk rating for the shortfin mako shark also requires clarification.

3.6 . Rebuilding species – five-year rebuilding strategy updates

Ms Albert introduced the paper for noting regarding proposed changes to the orange roughy and blue warehou rebuilding strategies based on the findings of the five-year strategy reviews undertaken in 2019 and feedback received from the South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG), Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG), and the Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC). AFMA are also seeking SEMAC advice on two key issues for blue warehou.

The MAC noted that:

- Rebuilding strategies are implemented for overfished stocks when their biomass is assessed as being below the designated limit reference point, specified under the *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018* (HSP) and associated Guidelines.
- When a stock biomass is assessed as being below the designated limit reference point, AFMA directs that targeted fishing ceases and then in consultation with the AFMA Commission, industry and key stakeholders, develops a rebuilding strategy to rebuild the stock back to the limit reference point within a specified timeframe.
- The strategy is reviewed annually to monitor progress in the preceding 12 months towards achieving the rebuilding objectives and outcomes from the five-year reviews are published on the AFMA website. The orange roughy rebuilding objectives does not cover the eastern and Cascade Plateau zones which are assessed as having rebuilt.
- To date, progress has been reviewed by the relevant RAGs and MACs, an update has been provided to the TSSC and AFMA is now seeking SEMAC advice (current meeting), particularly on the outstanding issues for blue warehou (i.e., establishing an alternative index of abundance and reviewing the rebuilding timeframe - currently specified as 2024).

- Once the revised rebuilding strategies have been finalised, AFMA will conduct public consultation for four weeks likely starting in mid-January 2021. After addressing public submissions, a final draft will be presented to SEMAC in February 2021 and then a final version incorporating SEMAC input will be presented to the AFMA Commission for endorsement at their May 2021 meeting.
- Outcomes from the five-year review of orange roughy (2019), included an ongoing focus on preventing targeted fishing, including some commentary about the influence of data usage in improving knowledge of stock status and adding research plans (GAB in the Western zones) into the strategy.
- The Eastern orange roughy would remain as conservation dependent until they are delisted by the TSSC.
- In case of blue warehou review, the move on provision (e.g., when the operators catch more than 200kg of blue warehou in one shot, need to move at least 3 nautical miles away) had been successful. The review also noted that there were some significant issues, as the industry were avoiding to catch blue warehou, which impacted on data collection and discard estimation. Therefore, SERAG suggested to -
 - o increase for observer coverage for data collection;
 - o continue requesting Tasmanian recreational catch data;
 - o undertake annual companion species analysis;
 - o develop industry education programs and
 - o consider potential ecosystem shifts that may lead to non-recovery of some stocks;
- AFMA is proposing an updated reporting regime covering various aspects of stock status monitoring.
- There were following outstanding issues with blue warehou that required SEMAC advice-
 - o **Index of abundance:** As the Tier 4 CPUE calculation is unreliable for patchy distribution and cohort-based schooling, one alternative could be conducting a Close Kin Marked Recapture (CKMR) study (proposal is with COMRAC) and
 - o **Rebuilding timeframe:** Proposing reasonable rebuilding time frame, as it is unlikely that the existing one can be achieved.

Members made the following key points:

Orange roughy:

- One of the industry members noted that the Eastern orange roughy along with other six or seven stocks, need to be managed within the rebuilding strategy and AFMA should not remove just one stock as having rebuilt, as it may risk all the other stocks.
- Invited industry representative from Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) stated that they were comfortable with the orange roughy rebuilding strategy, but expressed concerns about collecting sufficient data to support the strategy, as the data collection is constrained by research, fishing, spatial distributions and costs associated with targeted orange roughy fishing.

SEMAC supported the orange roughy rebuilding strategy with inclusions of GAB/Western research plans and commentary about data usage for improving knowledge of stock status.

Blue Warehou:

- One of the industry members raised concerns about very low observer coverage in the Danish seine boats that could have impacts on blue warehou stocks, as their footprints have been increased. He suggested to increase the observer coverage at least three percent for this fishery. He also added that that state catch might have some impacts too. The other issue, he raised, was that the

skippers on the Danish seine boats are not owner operators, so they are always in pressure to perform well. Therefore, if any of those skippers gets a good or reasonably profitable shot of either flathead or whiting, he might not leave the area just because of blue warehou 'move on' practice. Another industry member also echoed that Danish seine footprints have increased and stock assessment also need to consider all sorts of fishing mortalities.

- The Recreational member raised concerns about accounting the states' recreational catches in to AFMA's TAC setting, as there are data available only from Tasmania. AFMA member assured that the matter would be reviewed during annual review of the re-building strategy.
- Stock assessments of blue warehou are based on catch rates. Considering blue warehou are listed as conservation dependent and cannot be targeted by fishers, catch rates are no longer an indicator of the stock status.
- An industry member expressed that the existing rebuilding strategy would need to be changed, as it is unlikely that it would achieve the objectives within the stipulated period of time. He was also concerned to know the circumstances after 2024, if the stock has not recovered. AFMA member provided that as the CPUE is the only indicator of species abundance, it is difficult to comment on the stock status. It is also difficult to change the indicator within the rebuilding strategy, as there might be other factors involved, such as environmental regime shift for which expert advice might be sought from people outside AFMA and CSIRO. In addition, Mr Corrie noted the followings-
 - o Apart from the CPUE index, there are some length data available, which might indicate something different, but that data needed to be plotted in a model to identify any signal related to recruitment.
 - o As an alternative index abundance, SESSF research plan is focusing on CKMR methodology.
 - o Recent research by Andy Mure from ABARES on Eastern Gemfish shows that by doing some genetic analysis it is possible to know about the number of viable spawning adults or the number of adults in a stock contributing to the population each year. These numbers may indicate whether a stock has a capacity for sufficient recruitments, as there are certain number of viable spawning adults required for healthy recruitment in a stock. Conducting this type of research on blue warehou could be another way of getting an alternative index or getting an idea whether there is any environmental impact that hindering the recruitment.
- SEMAC scientific member suggested to moving forward with the existing strategy and timeframe with a focus on trying to get some alternative indexes of abundance and better understanding the environmental processes that may impact the stock rebuilding.
- Environment MAC member suggested to check with Dr Beth Fulton's research in climate change impacts on Commonwealth fisheries whether blue warehou is one of the species that might be affected by climate change.
- AFMA Commissioner, Dr Smith added that as blue warehou feed on pelagic tunicates there is potentially an environmental signal there, particularly in the East coast.

SEMAC supported the blue warehou rebuilding strategy, which would be focusing on establishing alternative index of abundance without modifying the existing rebuilding timeframe of 2024, noting that it would be unlikely to achieve the objectives.

Action 41.5: AFMA to seek advice from SERAG, and provide feedback to SEMAC, on the availability of environmental data in the SESSF and whether it can be used to inform a revised rebuilding timeframe for blue warehou based on climate change-driven influences on recruitment and population dynamics.

Action 41.6: AFMA Management to seek advice from SERAG regarding a possible sampling regime for blue warehou Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR).

Action 41.7: Simon / AFMA to follow up with Fishwell Consulting regarding the results of the M-BACI surveys, and whether there are catch data for blue warehou.

3.7 . Update on School Shark

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

The MAC noted:

- School shark is subject to a rebuilding strategy with the initial objective to rebuild the stock to above 20% of unfished biomass levels within three generation times (66 years). The Strategy is required to be “reviewed by AFMA, with input from SharkRAG and SEMAC, when the results of the fishery independent measure of abundance using close kin genetics techniques are available and in any case after five years”. The Strategy was last reviewed in 2015. In line with these requirements, AFMA has commenced a review of the Strategy.
- The Strategy comprises a number of components including objectives (inclusive of rebuilding targets and time frames), management actions to be taken to achieve the objectives of the Strategy and monitoring, data collection and assessment needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Strategy. The review will be progressed through SharkRAG, SESSFRAG and SEMAC.
- Initially, SharkRAG will be asked to give particular consideration to a number of policy and technical developments since 2015, including: the revised Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines which were implemented in 2018; changes to the assessment approach for school shark and the implications of this change in assessing the status of the stock against the objectives of the Strategy; and the results of the close-kin mark recapture (CKMR) assessment, including outcomes of subsequent peer review processes, some of which are still in progress. As using CPUE as an index of abundance in rebuilding species is difficult, CKMR offers to provide an absolute estimate about the number of individuals in the stock. However, it does not provide a relative index against B_0 , which is an issue AFMA and the RAG needs to address as a priority. In examining these issues, AFMA will seek expert advice from ABARES and DAWE where it relates to the Harvest Strategy Policy.
- In January 2020, SharkRAG members supported the engagement of a third party to review the results of the CKMR assessment for school shark. A draft terms of reference for the review was considered by SharkRAG in May 2020 and was finalised out of session.
- AFMA have established an Expert Panel to undertake the review. Each member was selected for their requisite skills and availability to complete the review in the required timeframe. The Expert Panel comprises: Associate Prof Colin Simpfendorfer (Chair, expertise in shark biology); Dr Robin Waples (expertise in statistical genetics, including close-kin); Prof Sean Cox (expertise in quantitative stock assessment); and, Dr Kevin Stokes (expertise in quantitative stock assessment).
- The Expert Panel Chair and Members will each contribute input to the review within their fields of expertise, with the Chair also coordinating and preparing the final report. The Panel’s report will be presented to SharkRAG and SEMAC in early 2021. The Panel has met a couple of times and are also meeting with CSIRO to discuss a range of matters.
- In addition to the Panel, a sub-group of SEMAC has been established to evaluate the performance of current management arrangements for school shark. The work of this sub-group will occur in

parallel with SharkRAG's work described above. The Sub-group meet for the first time on 14 July 2020

- Sub-group members raised a number of matters concerning the current Strategy including: consistency with the Harvest Strategy Policy, industry's difficulty with quota ratio compliance, the need to update current closures, uncertainty in the post capture mortality assumptions, and monitoring and enforcement inequities across different sectors of the fishing fleet.
- AFMA is currently developing a Discussion Paper assessing the performance and proposing updates to the Strategy, for initial consideration by SharkRAG, the Sub-group and then SEMAC.

Members made the following key points:

- The environment member enquired whether SEMAC would be able to advise further on the outcomes of the Expert Panel's review. Ms Couchman advised that the Panel's Chair would be presenting the Panel's final report to both SharkRAG and SEMAC where there would be opportunity to ask questions and provide advice to AFMA on this matter going forward.
- With regards to the two FRDC peer review reports, Ms Couchman noted that AFMA is following up with FRDC concerning the release of these reports to SharkRAG, sESSFRAG and SEMAC, noting they are normally confidential. FRDC has approved for these reports to be provided to the Expert Panel, on a confidential basis, so that they can inform the review.
- AFMA Commissioner asked whether CSIRO have responded to the FRDC reviewers' comments. Ms Couchman advised that this has occurred and FRDC was working to finalise the project report. AFMA will send a copy of the final report to the MAC and RAGs once released by FRDC.

3.8 . Update on protected species management

Ms Couchman, Manager Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery provided an updated on protected species management for the SESSF and SPF.

Members noted the update on various initiatives relating to protected species and raised the following key points: ...

- Regarding the dolphin strategy in the SPF, the SPF Industry member expressed concern about the significant economic pressure the exclusion rule placed on operators when they exceeded or tried to prevent exceeding, the dolphin triggers and they were using all feasible mitigation options. Further, that trialling new dolphin mitigation devices should be allowed under a scientific permit. AFMA Indicated that one aspect of the review of the dolphin strategies was to look at whether the balance of incentives and penalties was appropriate and that the process for trialling new devices could also be considered. SPF industry member supported the under-water camera project aimed at better understand dolphin behaviour around trawl gear. Regarding dogfish, SEMAC noted that industry is developing a research proposal in consultation with a dogfish expert to improve the identification of conservation-dependent dogfish from species not of concern. Regarding the GHAT more broadly, a high priority for the gillnet sector is a review of the piece count undertaken as part of the electronic monitoring program. He also expressed interest on behalf of SETFIA to work with AFMA in all aspects, such as school shark, species identification, data collection and reporting in the gillnet sector under Co-management agreement. AFMA member appreciated industry's spirit to work under Co-management and stated that AFMA would be continuing working on SIDAC and blue eye trevalla on the Seamounts with industry associations in GAB sectors and offered to discuss the piece counting issue with Mr Boag and Mr Dugins out of the MAC meeting.

Action 41.8: Mr Simon Boag to report back to SEMAC on the development of the proposal to improve species identification of dogfish to support consideration of industry proposal to allow the retention of non-conservation dependent squalidae species.

4. Any other business

No other business was raised by members.

5. Review of action items

The Executive Officer presented the action items from the meeting and the revised action items after addressing the MAC's comments are now placed under the relevant agenda items (3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.8).

6. Meeting Close

The Chair thanked all for participating and engaging in fruitful discussions and declared the meeting closed at 2.45pm.

Next meeting TBC

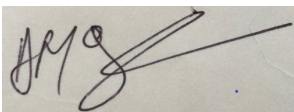
Date 2-4 February 2021

Time TBA

Location TBA

Attachments

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



David McGlennon

SEMAC Chair

24 December 2020

**South East Management Advisory Committee
(SEMAC) 41 – Agenda**

Meeting Date 10-11 November 2020

Time Day one: 10:00am – 2.30pm (AEDST/ Daylight saving time in Canberra)

Day two: 10:00am – 2.45pm (AEDST/ Daylight saving time in Canberra)

Location Teleconference

Chair David McGlennon

Attendees

Members	Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
	Fiona Hill	AFMA member
	Gerry Geen	Industry member
	Michael Steer	Scientific member
	Shane Dugins	Industry member
	Simon Boag	Industry member
	Will Mure	Industry member
	John Harrison	Recreational Member
	Sarah Jennings	Economics member
Invited Participants	Debbie Wisby	Industry invited participant
	Veronica Silberschneider	NSW State invited participant
	Toni Clark	Industry invited participant
	Neil McDonald	Industry invited participant (for this meeting)
	Denis Brown	Industry invited participant (for this meeting)
Executive Officer	Latif Siddique	AFMA
Presenters	Natalie Couchman	AFMA
	Daniel Corrie	AFMA
	Sally Weekes	AFMA
	Claire Van Der Geest	AFMA
Observers	Brett McCallum	AFMA Commissioner
	David Smith	AFMA Commissioner
	Heather Johnston	AFMA – Senior Management Officer
	Mardi Albert	AFMA – Senior Management Officer
	James Van Meurs	AFMA – Senior Management Officer
	Aaron Puckridge	AFMA – Graduate

Apologies: Ms Debbie Wisby

Day one

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Duration and Paper Action</i>
1. Preliminaries		60 minutes 10:00am -11:00pm
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair/Latif	For noting
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair/Latif	For action
1.3 Declarations of interest	Chair/Latif	For action
1.4 Action items	Executive officer	For noting and questions
2. Updates		
2.1 Managers update	Fiona Hill	45 minutes 11:00am-11:45am For noting and questions
2.2 Industry update (STAG update and COVID 19)	All	30 minutes 11:45am -12.15pm For noting and questions
Lunch break (30 minutes) 12.15pm-12.45pm		
3. Business		
3.1 Southern Squid Jig Fishery a. Harvest strategy review update b. Total Allowable Effort 2021 c. Draft Bycatch and Discarding Workplan	Heather Johnston and Daniel Corrie	75 minutes 12:45pm- 2:00pm For advice
3.2 Hagfish research plan	Natalie Couchman	10 minutes 2.00pm – 2.10pm For noting
Day two		
3.3 Amendments to SESSF Deepwater Closure a. East of Babel Island b. Southern ORMA	Daniel Corrie	45 minutes 10.00am – 10.45am For advice
3.4 Internal review of Electronic Monitoring	Claire Van Der Geest	30 minutes 10.45am – 11.15am For noting
3.5 Ecological Risk Assessment for the shark gillnet sub-fishery	Natalie Couchman	15 minutes 11.15am – 11.30am

		For advice
3.6 Rebuilding species - five year rebuilding strategy updates i. Orange Roughy ii. Blue Warehou	Mardi Albert, Daniel Corrie and Fiona Hill	90 minutes 11.30am – 1.00pm For noting
Lunch break (30 minutes) 1.00pm to 1.30pm		
3.7 Update on School Shark	Natalie Couchman	30 minutes 1.30pm – 2.00pm For noting
3.8 Update on protected species management	Natalie Couchman, Daniel Corrie, Sally Weekes and Fiona Hill	30 minutes 2.00pm – 2.30pm For noting
4 Any other business	All	5 minutes 2.30pm – 2:35pm
5 Review of action items	Latif Siddique	10 minutes 2:35pm - 2:45pm
6 Meeting Close	Chair- David McGlennon	2:45pm

Next meeting TBC

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

Declared Interest - Last updated: November 2020	
Members	
Ms Anissa Lawrence	<p>Independent consultant. Director of TierraMar Consulting.</p> <p>Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation Non-Government Organisations, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters.</p> <p>No pecuniary interest.</p> <p>President of the Ocean Future Fund Inc.</p> <p>Director of FISHI International.</p> <p>Conservation member on South Australia Rock Lobster MAC</p> <p>Conservation member on GABMAC</p> <p>Conservation member on SPFRAG</p>
Dr David McGlennon	SEMAC Chair - No interest pecuniary or otherwise
Mr Gerry Geen	<p>A partner in Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds approximately 60 per cent of the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) Jack mackerel Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs), 70 per cent of the redbait (east) SFRs, 30 per cent of blue mackerel (east) SFRs and significant quota holdings in the western zone.</p> <p>Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd owns a Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Trawl Boat SFR.</p>
Mr Will Mure	<p>Sole Director of Mures Fishing P/L</p> <p>Commonwealth fish receiver permit</p> <p>Tasmania fish processing licence</p> <p>Scalefish hook boat SFR</p> <p>SEQ Quota Holding Permits</p> <p>Auto longline fishing permit</p> <p>High Seas permit</p> <p>Blue eye trevalla SFRs</p> <p>Ling SFRs</p> <p>Ribaldo ITP</p> <p>Mixed species Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and SFRs</p> <p>Member of various fishing related associations including Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA), Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)</p>
Dr Michael Steer	<p>Acting Research Director at South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences</p> <p>Chair of South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG)</p> <p>Member of Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark RAG (SESSFRAG)</p> <p>Member of the Snapper Management Advisory Committee (SA)</p> <p>No pecuniary interest in the SESSF.</p>
Dr Sarah Jennings	Economics member on SERAG.

	Economics coordinator, FRDC Social Science and Economics Research Program. Member of AFMA Economics Working Group. Independent economics consultant. No pecuniary or other interest.
Mr John Harrison	FutureFocused Consulting and Executive Chair for FRDC's Seafood Industry Safety Initiative. Member, NW Marine Park Advisory Committee.
Mr Simon Boag	Non-beneficiary Director of two fishing companies in the SSSF. Industry member on SERAG. Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA. SETFIA receives funding from various bodies to complete projects. Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.
Mr Shane Dugins	Chair of the Sustainable Shark Fishery Association. Shareholder and Director of a Fishing Company that holds: Commonwealth SFRs including Shark and Scalefish SFRs, leases quota, Victorian and Tasmanian licences and Victorian Crayfish quota. Consultation services provided to AFMA for specialist fishery knowledge.
Ms Fiona Hill	AFMA Demersal and Midwater Senior Manager – AFMA SEMAC member – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Invited participant	
Ms Toni Clark	Operations manager for Peter and Una Fishing Co Pty Ltd and Sealord Deepwater fishing P/L an Australian resident company which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in the SSSF, GHAT, Commonwealth and state (Tasmania) Scallop fishery, East Coast Tuna Fishery, Offshore Fisheries and Tasmania State Fisheries. My pecuniary interest is limited to the extent of an employee of the company.
Ms Debbie Wisby	CEO of a fishing company based in Tasmania – scallops, squid and shark. Partner owns Tasmania State Scallop Units and Entitlements. Commonwealth Fish Receiver. Tasmania Scallop Fishery Association Committee member.
Dr Veronica Silberschneider	Acting Senior Fisheries Manager, NSW Department Primary Industry Cross jurisdictional management and research interests for NSW DPI, no pecuniary interest.
Mr Neil McDonald	Director NMAC (SA) P/L. Executive Officer of the Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA). Executive Officer of Surveyed Charter Boat Owners and Operators Association South Australia. Executive Officer Southern Fishermen's Association. Executive Officer of Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owner's Association. Executive Officer of Marine Scale Net Fishers Association. Committee support services South Australian Rock Lobster Management Advisory Committee & Research Sub-Committee. Chair – CGG Gippsland MSS Scientific Advisory Committee.
Executive Officer	
Dr Latif Siddique	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Observers	
Dr Brett McCallum	AFMA Commissioner – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Dr David Smith	AFMA Commissioner

	<p>Consultant in the areas of fisheries and marine resources research and assessment. No activities directly related to AFMA (except where national project or funded by AFMA).</p> <p>Independent Chair for National Research Providers Network, where AFMA is a member.</p> <p>Member (as RPN Chair and AFMA is also member) in the National Marine Science Committee.</p> <p>Member of the Snapper Management Advisory Committee (SA)</p> <p>Member in the Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee and provides advice on projects of direct relevance to AFMA.</p> <p>Adjunct Professor at the Centre for Marine Socio-ecology, IMAS, UTas. IMAS, CMS undertakes projects of relevance to AFMA.</p> <p>Steering Committee member in the FRDC Multi-species Harvest Strategy project.</p>
Ms Anna Willock	AFMA – Executive Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Claire Van Der Geest	AFMA – Senior Manager Fisheries Services - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Dan Corrie	AFMA Trawl, Squid and Scallop Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Sally Weekes	AFMA Small Pelagic Fishery Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Natalie Couchman	AFMA Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery Manager - no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Mardi Albert	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Heather Johnston	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr James Van Meurs	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Fisheries Services. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Aaron Puckridge	AFMA – Graduate. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.

Action items arising from previous SEMAC meetings

Complete/Redundant	Underway	Yet to start	SEMAC advice required / for noting
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SEMAC 40 (1-2 July 2020)

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	1.4 Status of actions arising from previous meetings	40.1	AFMA to clarify the intent of action item 38.7 (<i>AFMA to notify SharkRAG the potential for changing gear types as part of the 12 month trial and its possible assessment implications.</i>), and if found to specifically relate to the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait, to redraft this action item to specify that link.	AFMA (Natalie)	SEMAC 41	This action does not relate to the automatic longline trial in the Bass Strait. This action pertains to the proposed granting of temporary gear permits in the gillnet, hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the SESSF, to allow operators to trial different gear types for up to twelve months, as part of the GHAT simplification project. Suggest wording is amended to read, “ <i>AFMA to notify SharkRAG of the proposed granting of temporary gear permits in the gillnet, hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the SESSF, to allow operators to trial different gear types for up to twelve months, as part of the GHAT simplification project, and its possible assessment implications.</i> ”.
	2.1 Managers update	40.2	AFMA to report back to SEMAC on annual catches of blue grenadier and orange roughy in 2020.	AFMA (Fiona)	SEMAC 41	An update will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 2.1 (Managers update).

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	2.1 Managers update	40.3	AFMA to provide an update to SEMAC 41 on the review of the foreign fishing policy being done the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.	AFMA (Fiona)	SEMAC 41	An update will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 2.1 (Managers update).
	2.1 Managers update	40.4	AFMA to provide a high-level written summary to SEMAC members regarding the process for considering deeming of foreign vessels as 'Australian boats', with a particular focus on benefits to Australian community.	AFMA (Fiona)	Before SEMAC 41	An update will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 2.1 (Managers update).
	3.1 SSJF Harvest Strategy	40.5	AFMA to invite Dr Mike Steer to the next SquidRAG meeting as an invited participant (subject to his availability) to provide advice on aspects of the squid harvest strategy review and act as a conduit between SquidRAG and SEMAC on this issue.	AFMA (Dan)	November 2020	Dr Steer has not been engaged at this point – the review of the Squid Harvest Strategy has been delayed, subject to further investigation of appropriate indicators and assessments approaches.
	3.2 EM piece counts	40.6	AFMA to invite Ms Claire Van Der Geest, Senior Manager, Fisheries Services, to provide an update on AFMA's internal review of Electronic Monitoring (EM).	AFMA (Fiona)	SEMAC 41	A presentation from Ms Claire Van Der Geest will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 3.4 (Internal review of Electronic Monitoring).
	3.3 Research priorities for 2020-21	40.8	AFMA to invite Dr Beth Fulton (CSIRO) to the next SquidRAG meeting to provide a brief presentation regarding her ecosystem modelling research and how this might be considered in the review of the harvest strategy.	AFMA (Dan)	November 2020	Dr Fulton has not been engaged at this point – the review of the Squid Harvest Strategy has been delayed, subject to further investigation of appropriate indicators and assessments approaches.
	3.5 Trawl ERA	40.9	AFMA to summarise management arrangements for conservation dependent species or species subject to rebuilding in the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan, noting its focus is on high risk ERA species.	AFMA (Dan)		This will be progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan – drafting has been delayed. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the February 2021 SEMAC meeting.
	3.5 Trawl ERA	40.10	AFMA to include a footnote on the Gould squid risk rating under the ERA PSA methodology in the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan to note there is a targeted fishery for this species with triggers that consider trawl catch.	AFMA (Dan)	SEMAC 41/42	This will be progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan – drafting has been delayed. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the February 2021 SEMAC meeting.

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3.5 Trawl ERA	40.11	AFMA to consider application of 'enhanced SAFE' (eSAFE) methodology under the CTS bycatch and discarding workplan to better understand the risk to some species assessed as potentially high risk in the 2019 CTS ERA.	AFMA (Dan)	SEMAM 41/42	This will be progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan – drafting has been delayed. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the February 2021 SEMAM meeting.
	3.5 Trawl ERA	40.12	AFMA to table the revised draft CTS bycatch and discarding workplan at either SEMAM 41 (November 2020) or SEMAM 42 (February 2021).	AFMA (Dan)	SEMAM 41/42	AFMA intend to draft the workplan for consideration at the SEMAM February 2021 meeting.
	3.7 Update on review of the school shark close kin assessment	40.13	AFMA to provide an update to SEMAM on the outcomes of the school shark sub-group meetings.	AFMA (Natalie)	August 2020	An update will be provided at SEMAM 41 under agenda item 3.7.

SEMAM 39 (4-6 February 2020)

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	39.4	AFMA to include details of any species-specific research projects underway in future SEMAM TAC recommendations paper.	AFMA	SEMAM 42	This will be considered at the SEMAM February 2021 meeting.
	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	39.5	Recognising uncertainty in the Tier 4 blue eye stock assessment and industry concerns around low catch rates up to January 2020, SEMAM recommended SESSFRAG (August 2020) consider fishery indicator data and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider an alternative approach to assessing the slope stock in 2021 and applying a precautionary reduction to the TAC for the 2021-22 SESSF season; or 	SESSFRAG		SESSFRAG recommended bringing the Tier 4 assessment for the slope stock forward to 2020 – SERAG considered the catch and effort data at its October 2020 meeting and will consider the Tier 4 assessment at its November 2020 meeting.

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bring the assessment forward to 2020, if the Tier 4 assessment is to be applied again, SERAG should consider application of the 15 per cent discount factor. 			
	3.2 (Blue Warehou)	39.6	AFMA to more clearly specify how the TAC is calculated – e.g. why no discards are included in the assessment or deducted from the RBC when calculating the TAC.	AFMA	SEMAC 42	This will be considered at the SEMAC February 2021 meeting.
	3.2 (Orange roughy (Cascade))	39.7	AFMA to seek advice from SERAG regarding application of a 100 per cent undercatch provision for orange roughy cascade, as is done for eastern orange roughy.	AFMA (Dan)	November 2020	This will be considered by SERAG at its November 2020 meeting.
	3.2 (Silver trevally)	39.10	AFMA to encourage collaboration between CSIRO and NSW on the silver trevally Tier 4 assessment, with a particular focus on the inconsistencies in CPUE between the two jurisdictions.	AFMA (Dan)	SERAG 2020	NSW attended the SESSFRAG August 2020 Data meeting and CSIRO are liaising with NSW regarding the silver trevally Tier 4 assessment. While NSW CPUE cannot be incorporated in the current Tier 4 assessment, NSW has been invited to the SERAG 2020 assessment meetings to provide advice on the inconsistencies between the two CPUE series.
	5.9 (Orange roughy rebuilding)	39.11	AFMA to liaise with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the conservation dependant status of orange roughy, with a particular focus on delisting the eastern stock and implications for other stocks if this were to occur.	AFMA	SEMAC 41	An update will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 2.1 (Managers' update).

SEMAC 38 (6-7 November 2019)

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	2.1 (Managers update)	38.4	SEMAC request that SharkRAG consider the 20 per cent school shark retention rule and other additional management options as part of the annual review of the rebuilding strategy and to provide formal advice to SEMAC on the management of school shark.	AFMA		An update will be provided at SEMAC 41 under agenda item 3.7.
	4.3 (Review of EM requirements)	38.6	AFMA to consider cost effective approaches to determine whether current EM coverage is representative of overall hook fishing effort in the GHAT for the purpose of reporting requirements under the seabird Threat Abatement Plan.	AFMA		This item was considered at SEMAC 39, AFMA will progress discussions concerning the representativeness of current EM coverage in the GHAT sector at the next SESSFRAG data meeting.
	4.4 (GHAT simplification project)	38.7	AFMA to notify SharkRAG of the potential for changing gear types as part of the 12 month trial and its possible implications for stocks assessments.	AFMA	August 2020	Replace this action item with updated wording proposed against action item 40.1.
	4.4 (GHAT simplification project)	38.8	AFMA to investigate the introduction of a shark 'trigger' for all Scalefish Hook SFRs, similar to that applicable to Auto longline permits.	AFMA		Ongoing. To be included in the GHAT Simplification Implementation Plan.
	4.8 (Shark report card and relevance to SESSF)	38.13	AFMA and Industry member Mr Boag to report back at SEMAC 39 on the history, rationale and cost of obtaining piece counts using EM in the GHAT Fishery.	Mr Boag and AFMA		Completed. Advice provided to SEMAC 40 under Agenda Item 3.2. SEMAC recommended that EM data collection protocols remain unchanged and for AFMA to commence the review of data collection in the GHAT sector, with a data plan to be developed in conjunction with SharkRAG. Industry MAC members are to be consulted in its development.

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	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	3.2	37.5	AFMA to request advice form SharkRAG on an appropriate figure for school shark survivability to inform the TAC setting advice for 2020-21 season.	AFMA/Brodie Macdonald		Ongoing. A project scope (School shark and gummy shark post release survival) was supported by the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) and provided to Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee (COMRAC) for consideration at its early April 2020 meeting. COVID-19 however resulted in FRDC delaying this meeting. It is not possible to report on whether these were supported by COMRAC until FRDC provides confirmation at its next meeting. AFMA has not been advised as to when that will take place.
	3.2	37.6	AFMA and SharkRAG to confirm the work required to determine and recommend a figure/ percentage for school shark post release survivability to all due consideration by the MAC and Commission time for the 2022-23 season.	AFMA/ SharkRAG		Ongoing. As for action item 37.5.