



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting 42

Meeting minutes

2-4 February 2021

Online Meeting

Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and apologise

1. The SEMAC Chair, Mr David McGlennon, opened the meeting at 1000 on 2 February 2021 by welcoming those present and making an Acknowledgement of Country statement recognising the traditional owners of the many lands in which we met, paying our respects to elders past, present and emerging.
2. SEMAC members noted the Acknowledgement of Country, and after accepting that the meeting was being recorded, commenced proceedings.
3. The Chair confirmed attending members, participants and observers and noted an apology from Ms Debbie Wisby. Mr Shane Dugins advised he would not be in attendance on Day 3.

SEMAC Members

David McGlennon	Chair
Michael Steer	Scientific member
Sarah Jennings	Economic member
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Shane Dugins	Industry member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Will Mure	Industry member
John Harrison	Recreational member
Fiona Hill	AFMA member
Julia McCourt	Executive officer

Invited Participants

Toni Clark	Industry participant
Heath Folpp	NSW DPI Fisheries - State participant

Observers

Brett McCallum	AFMA Commissioner	All sessions
Daniel Corrie	AFMA Staff	Presenter
Sally Weekes	AFMA Staff	Presenter
Natalie Couchman	AFMA Staff	Presenter
Max Bayly	AFMA Staff	Items 4 and 5
Mandy Goodspeed	AFMA Staff	Item 5

Aaron Puckeridge	AFMA Staff	All sessions
Neil MacDonald	Industry - GABIA	Item 5
Frances Seaborn	Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)	Item 3 (blue warehou, flathead)
Christopher Spurrier	Industry - Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd	Item 6
Denis Brown	Industry - Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd	Item 6

Apologies

Debbie Wisby	Invited participant
Shane Dugins (not in attendance on 4 February 2021 only)	Industry member

1.2 Declarations of interest

4. SEMAC members noted the conflict of interest requirements as outlined in the *Fisheries Management Paper 1*. Members and participants reviewed and updated the Declarations of Interest made at **Attachment A** including any specific conflicts of interest with items on the agenda.
5. The Chair sought advice on how the MAC should manage these conflicts, and whilst members with a conflict left the room, remaining members agreed that members and invited participants with an agenda conflict will be managed as follows:
 - Industry members and invited participants with a conflict with Item 3 (SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season) could participate in the discussion but would be excluded from the meeting for recommendations.
 - Observers with direct conflicts will be allowed to participate in the discussion but would be excluded from the meeting for recommendations.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

6. SEMAC members adopted the agenda at **Attachment B** as final.

1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

7. SEMAC members noted the final minutes of the SEMAC 41 meeting of 9-10 November 2020 are available on the AFMA website <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/committees/south-east-management-advisory-committee-semac/south-east-mac-past-meetings>.

1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

8. A consolidated list of outstanding action items from previous SEMAC meetings was circulated to SEMAC members prior to this meeting at **Attachment C**. Members noted progress and the update provided by the Executive Officer (EO). Issued were flagged by the EO to be dealt with by exception, and no items were raised by members either prior, or during the meeting.

Agenda item 2 – Updates

2.1 Managers Update

9. The AFMA member, Ms Fiona Hill, provided a written update to SEMAC members on the key management issues arising since the last meeting on 9-10 November 2020. The Chair had noted that issues were to be dealt with by exception, and no items were raised by members either prior, or during the meeting.

2.2 Industry Update

10. The Chair asked industry members to provide an update on any items arising since the last SEMAC on 9-10 November 2020. The MAC noted the following:
 - Simon Boag (Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA) and South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA)) noted that the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) was catching well, dolphin interactions remained relatively low but the Dolphin Mitigation Project is significantly delayed by COVID 19 restrictions and personnel issues. He noted catches and prices are positive in the gillnet, hook and trap (GHAT) sector of the SESSF, fuel price is low and the market prices are good. There are ongoing industry concerns regarding school shark rules (e.g. live release), stock assessment outputs and recommended biological catches (RBCs) but he is working with AFMA on these, and is looking forward to the outcome of the school shark close kin assessment review. The Shark Industry Data Collection (SIDaC) program is achieving its targets. Regarding the trawl fishery, it is experiencing good catches, good prices and strong market demand. At the same time fuel price, a significant input cost, has been low and the government also waived levies this season. Overall it is a good period for the Commonwealth fishing industry, and he is looking forward to resolving some ongoing issues in the GHAT sector.
 - Shane Dugins (Sustainable Shark Fishing Association (SSFA)) noted that gummy shark catches are good. This season has seen record breaking trips. He has also seen lots of school shark (mainly juveniles but some adults around shelf), squid and bait fish around, possibly attributed to La Niña weather patterns. He also noted strong prices, but cautioned that some boats will be tied up soon as they are running out of gummy shark quota.
 - Will Mure noted that he is also having a good season. Orcas are still an issue but are managed by moving on if they are around. He noted gemfish numbers are settling, blue eye trevalla has been good (not great) but all positive.
 - Toni Clark noted good catches of gemfish, strong market prices, and couple of record breaking trips too.
 - John Harrison noted nothing to report for the recreational sector.

Agenda Item 3 – SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season

11. The Chair noted that Ms Frances Seaborn (DPIPWE) would be observing some of the species discussions in this item. Mr Daniel Corrie (AFMA presenter) introduced the agenda item and asked SEMAC to provide recommendations for total allowable catch (TAC) setting for the SESSF 2021-22 fishing year. SEMAC considered TACs for all SESSF species, excluding bight redfish, deepwater flathead and orange roughy (Albany Esperance). MAC discussions and recommendations are provided for each species in the 2021 SESSF species summaries at **Attachment D** 'SESSF TAC Recommendations Outcomes 2021-22'.
12. Action items arising in relation to this agenda item are outlined below and provided in **Attachment F**:

Action item 42.1 AFMA to request that the SESSFRAG (August 2021) review the current SESSF data plan to ensure suitable data is being collected with a particular focus on discard estimates across sectors and species, and then provide SEMAC an overview of observer coverage in the trawl sector (included days planned vs achieved) in June 2021.

Action item 42.2 SEMAC recommends South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) invite a shark biologist to participate in the SERAG 2021 Tier 5 assessment of deepwater sharks, to inform the assessment.

Action item 42.3 SEMAC recommends SERAG consider the potential impact on future catch per unit effort (CPUE) if discards were to increase when providing recommended biological catch (RBC) advice for john dory for the 2022-23 fishing year.

Action item 42.4 AFMA to include revised estimates of biomass from the most recent stock assessments in the 'stock status against reference' tables in the SESSF species summary for future SESSF TAC Recommendations.

Agenda Item 4 – SPF TAC Recommendations for the 2021-22 Fishing Season

13. The Chair noted that Mr Max Bayley (AFMA) would be observing this item. Ms Sally Weekes (AFMA presenter) introduced the agenda item seeking SEMAC TAC recommendations for the SPF 2021-22 fishing year. The MAC recommendations are recorded in **Attachment E** 'SPF TAC Recommendations Outcomes 2021-22'.

14. Action items arising in relation to this agenda item are outlined below and provided in **Attachment F**:

Action item 42.5 AFMA to confirm whether an additional row can be included on recreational fishery catches for SPF fishery species summary to be consistent with SESSF species summary.

Agenda Item 5 – Revised Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy

15. The Chair noted Mr Neil MacDonald (EO GABIA) and Ms Mandy Goodspeed (AFMA) were observing this item. Ms Sally Weekes (AFMA presenter) introduced the agenda item, providing SEMAC with a summary of the outcomes of the review and seeking SEMAC support for the revised Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy (the revised Strategy) and Research and Monitoring Plan.

16. SEMAC noted:

- AFMA sought public comments on the review of the Strategy between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021. Two submissions were received: a joint submission from the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and Humane Society International (HSI); and from the Great Australian Bight Trawl Industry Association (GABIA). The issues raised by AMCS/HSI centred on broadening the Strategy to include other high risk sharks and rays of the upper-slope. The GABIA submission centred on the population of southern dogfish being less depleted within the area of the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABTS), proposing greater recognition of this in the Strategy and seeking alternative management arrangements in the GABTS.
- The Strategy was initially developed based on the best available scientific information, including several, targeted research projects, and in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including the fishing industry. The review did not identify any new information that would support a change to the management arrangements and consequently, no material changes have been made to the rules that fishers must adhere to.
- Substantial revision of the text in the Strategy has been made to improve clarity and readability.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation section of the Strategy, and associated Research and Monitoring Plan, has been updated to reflect the outcomes of the research project "*Research to support the upper-slope dogfish management strategy: options for monitoring the recovery of southern dogfish and Harrison's dogfish*", completed in 2018. The priority for the next five to ten years is executing the first survey of the monitoring program, for which funding is currently being sought.

- Given the conservation dependent status of Harrison’s dogfish and southern dogfish under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, a copy of the revised Strategy will be considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) in March 2021, before being considered by the AFMA Commission.

17. SEMAC discussed:

- Work being led by industry was still underway to determine if a robust species identification process could be established to support the retention of *Squalus* species, excluding greeneye spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*), by the automatic longline sector. The MAC noted that this broader group of species, while not of concern, were currently no-take given the challenge of quickly being able to differentiate them from the species of concern.
- Regarding broadening the Strategy raised through the public comment process, and also while ecological risk assessments are being finalised, members noted that existing closures and measures in the Strategy are likely to provide protection to a broader range of upper-slope shark and skate species. That this is the case is supported by a research paper by Dr Ross Daley, who was heavily involved in the development of the Strategy.
- The need for AFMA’s Ecological Risk Assessment process to better account for cumulative impacts. The MAC noted that this matter has previously been identified and is expected to be considered by AFMA’s ERA working group in the future.

18. Mr MacDonald, Executive Officer to GABIA and observer to SEMAC, re-iterated GABIA’s concerns about the Strategy and that management should be on a finer regional or sub-regional basis, taking into account spatial and regional differences in depletion. Mr MacDonald noted that GABIA does not support the Strategy in its current form. To this point, AFMA acknowledged that western portion of the central stock of southern dogfish that occurs within the GABTF is less depleted than the eastern portion of the stock. However, the approach to managing the central stock as one unit is based on a reasonable body of scientific work and advice.

19. SEMAC noted that GABRAG and GABMAC had provided input to the review of the Strategy at their 2020 meetings, and that no significant changes to the Strategy were being made in response to public consultation. However, SEMAC supported providing the revised Strategy and public consultation outcomes to GABMAC for information out of session, noting the Commission timeframes.

20. After careful consideration, SEMAC supported the revised Strategy and Research and Monitoring Plan.

Action item 42.6 AFMA to provide GABMAC with an update on the outcomes of the public consultation process and revised Upper Slope Dogfish Strategy for information prior to finalisation.

Agenda Item 6 – Hagfish Research Plan and Management

21. The Chair noted that Mr Christopher Spurrier and Mr Denis Brown from Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd were observing this item and had provided a confidential written submission to the MAC detailing their operational approach to the fishery and views on the future direction of management while further scientific data is being collected. Ms Natalie Couchman (AFMA presenter) introduced the agenda item and gave a presentation regarding:

- the life history of common hagfish (*Eptatretus cirrhatus*);
- international hagfish management frameworks;
- SERAG and SEMAC consideration to date;
- options for the future management of the hagfish resource in the SSSF; and
- proposed additional measures for the management of the hagfish resource in the area of the SSSF for the 2021-22 fishing season.

22. Ms Couchman outlined AFMA's concerns about the hagfish resource in the SESSF, including uncertainties as to sustainability and whether AFMA is effectively pursuing its sustainability objective. Ms Couchman asked SEMAC to note that a draft research plan is under development, consider options for the future management of the hagfish resource in the SESSF and recommend the implementation of additional measures for the management of the hagfish resource in the area of the SESSF for the 2021-22 fishing season. SEMAC considered the following options for future management:
- Option 1 – continued fishing with immediate changes to management arrangements, while work progresses towards the endorsement of the Research Plan by 2022-23; or
 - Option 2 – cease fishing while work progresses towards the endorsement of the Research Plan by 2022-23; or
 - Option 3 – end the current temporary fishing permit arrangements and move to scientific permit arrangements for the period 1 May 2021 – 30 Sep 2021. Data collected via the scientific permits to form the first stage of the Research Plan, and contribute to the development and finalisation of the Research Plan requirements.
23. The scientific member noted that in his position as SERAG Chair, making decisions on hagfish management was difficult due to the paucity of information on the species. He outlined the processes undertaken in reviewing the research plan via SERAG, including scientific and industry input, to distil the current recommendations. He noted that more information is needed to ensure that we have a sustainable resource going forward. Members then engaged in some general discussion around the status of international hagfish stocks and fisheries, and Ms Couchman noted that she would share the literature review presented to SERAG.
24. The Chair gave the industry observers opportunity to comment. The current operators concerns are summarised as follows:
- lack of consultation by AFMA with the existing operators;
 - there are inconsistencies in the data and information presented versus current fishery practices. Further the draft research plan is currently inconsistent with AFMA policies including FMP 5, FMP 11 and the Government's Fishing Futures Policy;
 - fishing for hagfish is a commercial fishery and should be treated as such and limited to the two existing historical Commonwealth trap fishing permits until more is learnt about the species and the fishery;
 - hagfish should be assessed using a Tier 4 assessment (i.e. CPUE based assessment);
 - a management framework similar to gulper shark should be adopted whereby a percentage of the stock distribution is reserved. It was advised that Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd are operating in less than 10% of the SESSF and CPUE has been fairly stable. Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd have developed their own research plan in the absence of consultation as they take their obligations to fish sustainably very seriously;
 - the number of escape holes should be tailored to the size of the traps being used (e.g. 40 holes for 60L traps, and 100 holes for 200L traps);
 - the precautionary maximum catch limit is uneconomical and AFMA should work with the industry to resolve a better way ahead including detailed discussions on operating arrangements and gear settings.
25. Ms Couchman noted that the proposed management arrangements were designed to ensure that fishing can continue in a precautionary manner while AFMA gathers the data necessary to undertake an assessment of the status of the hagfish resource and make informed management decisions. The following discussions between members were noted:

- The economic member noted that some decisions taken in the past and the delays to the research plan have contributed to some confusion in the fishery.
- An industry member noted that the operator has made a considerable investment under the expectation that the fishery will be developed along similar lines of other commercial fisheries, but the recommendation is to implement a catch limit which will halve the catch of the existing operator, greatly undermining the economic viability of the operation and severely impacting on the operator's ability to continue fishing. He noted, that based on the information presented, there is little imperative to make this change.
- Members expressed support for option 1 on the basis that it would limit disruption to existing operations and provide procedural fairness.
- The scientific member noted that the RAG advice was precautionary as very little is known about the hagfish resource, including what a sustainable level of take may be, and the data AFMA does have, namely CPUE data, may be affected by hyper-stability, thus affecting the ability to use this data to assess the status of the resource. The member further explained that when using CPUE, the assumption is that the number of fish caught per unit of effort is proportional to stock size. However, experience from commercial fisheries shows that CPUE can remain high even when a stock is rapidly declining, masking overfishing until the stock collapses.
- SEMAC members expressed concern as to the proposed precautionary catch limit when little is known in terms of sustainability, but the economic impact is known and immediate. It was also noted that SERAG had commissioned an independent review of CPUE data in the hagfish fishery that did not reveal any indications of stock decline, but also noting that CPUE may be affected by hyper-stability. Some members did not support the proposed limit, noting that there was no empirical basis for 40 t. Some members provided an alternative of 80 t which is approximately equivalent to current catch levels. The AFMA member noted they still held concerns regarding the sustainability of maintaining catches at 80 t, but noted other SEMAC member views that risk was minimised due to it being a single operator fishing in limited waters, the limit being spatially distributed and reviewed annually, and the likelihood of hagfish populations existing in unfished areas. It was noted that 80 t would have less of an economic impact than the proposed limit of 40 t.
- Members agreed a spatial distribution catch management factor should be applied. This would be a maximum catch limit of 40 t in each of the currently fished SESSF statistical zones (zones 10 and 20) to a maximum of 80 t for the 2021-22 fishing season, to be reviewed annually, so as to effectively support data requirements of the research plan. It was noted that this was not consistent with recommendations of SERAG. After further discussion, members agreed on this approach in the short term.

26. SEMAC members noted that the draft research plan is a work in progress, and requires close industry consultation. SEMAC members suggested further work will be undertaken with industry to refine the draft research plan, including strategies to incentivise data collection and to provide for effective management.

27. Whilst recognising the SERAG advice, and AFMA's concerns as to the sustainability and accepting the risks associated with making decisions with limited data, SEMAC:

- **Noted** that the draft Hagfish Research Plan is under revision following SERAG advice and recommendations provided at the December 2020 meeting.
- **Considered** the options for the future management of the hagfish resource in the SESSF, and agreed with Option 1 (Continued fishing with immediate changes to management arrangements, whilst work progresses towards the endorsement of the Plan).

- **Recommended** the implementation of additional measures for the management of the hagfish resource in the area of the SESSF for the 2021-22 fishing season:
 - Limit the take of hagfish to the common hagfish (*Eptatretus cirrhatus*).
 - The MAC did not support the SERAG recommendation to limit catches within the 40t limit. Instead the MAC recommended a catch limit of 80t with a spatial distribution catch management factor. This would be a maximum catch limit of 40t in each of the currently fished SESSF statistical zones (zones 10 and 20) to a maximum of 80t for a single year (2021-22 fishing season), to inform finalisation of the hagfish research plan (the Plan). The MAC supports further development of a finer scale spatial distribution in consultation with the existing operator. Noting, this recommendation goes against SERAG advice. Members supported AFMA working with the current operator to inform future catch limits.
 - Require each hagfish trap of 200L benchmark size to have a minimum of 100 escape holes each with a minimum diameter of 18mm, to allow escapement of smaller animals. The MAC recommended AFMA review these conditions in terms of current operator gear settings, in particular to scale the number of escape holes to the size of the operator's traps compared to the benchmark used to set 100.
 - Implement a minimum observer coverage of 10 per cent until the Plan is operationalised, with data collected by observers to be consistent with data needs described in the draft Plan.
 - Review existing logbook and CDR reporting to identify improvements to reporting accuracy (e.g. location and discards).
- **Noted** that the next steps are to:
 - consult with industry and other interested stakeholders on proposed changes to the management of the hagfish resource, including developing a draft research plan and data plan that leads to informed decisions, for consideration by SERAG at the end of 2021;
 - amend concession conditions to give effect to agreed changes for the next fishing season; and
 - continue to develop management arrangements for the hagfish resource in the SESSF.

Action Item 42.7 The SEMAC EO will provide a copy of the hagfish international research/literature review to members with the minutes from SEMAC 42.

Agenda Item 7 – Other Business

28. The Chair sought input from members on any other business. No further items of business were raised.

Agenda Item 8 – Review of Action Items and Meeting Close

29. The EO shared draft actions items with members and made some minor edits, noting that they will be reviewed as part of the meeting, and are at **Attachment F**. The Chair noted the out of session meeting on 9 March 2021, and the EO noted that dates have not yet been finalised for the mid-year SEMAC meeting, but will resolve that in the coming weeks via an online poll.

30. The Chair thanked attendees for their input and closed the meeting at 1645 on 4 February 2021.

Attachments

- A. SEMAC 42 Declared conflicts of Interest
- B. Final Agenda

- C. Consolidated list of SEMAC action Items
- D. SESSF TAC Recommendations outcomes 2021-22
- E. SPF TEC Recommendations outcomes 2021-22
- F. SEMAC 42 Action Items

Attachment A- Declared Conflicts

Declared Interest - Last updated: December2020

Members	
Dr David McGlennon	SEMAC Chair - No interest pecuniary or otherwise
Ms Anissa Lawrence	Director of TierraMar Ltd, Independent consultant TierraMar Consulting Pty Ltd 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. No pecuniary interest. Conservation member on South Australia Rock Lobster MAC Conservation member on GABMAC Conservation member on SPFRAG
Mr Gerry Geen	A partner in Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds a SESSF Trawl Boat SFR Agenda item 4
Mr Will Mure	Sole Director of Mures Fishing P/L Commonwealth fish receiver permit, Tasmania fish processing licence Scalefish hook boat SFR SEQ Quota Holding Permits Auto longline fishing permit High Seas permit Blue eye trevalla SFRs Ling SFRs Ribaldo ITP Mixed species Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and SFRs Member of various fishing related associations including Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA), Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) Agenda items 3 and 5
Dr Michael Steer	Acting Research Director at South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences Chair of South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) Member of Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark RAG (SESSFRAG) Member of the Snapper Management Advisory Committee (SA) No pecuniary interest in the SESSF.
Dr Sarah Jennings	Economics member on SERAG and SESSFRAG Economics coordinator, FRDC Human Dimensions Subprogram. 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 SESSF. Industry member on SERAG. Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant. Agenda items 3 and 5
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.

	Agenda item 3
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 SESSF, 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. Agenda Item 3 and 5
Executive Officer	
Julia McCourt	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Observers	
Mr Brett McCallum	AFMA Commissioner – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Neil MacDonald	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 Agenda item 5
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.
Mr Max Bayly	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Mandy Goodspeed	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Christopher Spurrier	None declared Agenda Item 6
Denis Brown	Commonwealth SFR’s and Permit holder, NSW State Fisheries Consultant and business associate Hagfish Australia Pty Ltd Agenda item 6

Attachment B- Final Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker	SEMAC Action	Timing/Duration
DAY 1 – AFMA Aquarium Room, Teams Conference			1000-1630
Preliminaries			
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	Advice	60 mins 1000-1100
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	Advice	
1.3 Declarations of interest	Chair	Noting	
1.4 Action items	Executive officer	Noting/questions	
Updates			
2.1 Managers update	Fiona Hill	Noting/questions	30 min 1100-1130
2.2 Industry update	All	Noting/questions	30 mins 1130-1200
Lunch			30 mins 1200-1230
Business Items			
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season	Daniel Corrie	Advice	105 mins 1230-1415
Afternoon Tea			15 mins 1415-1430
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season (contd.)	Daniel Corrie	Advice	120 mins 1430-1630
DAY 2 – AFMA Aquarium Room , Teams Conference			1000-1630
Welcome and administration	Chair		15 mins 1000-1015
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season (contd.)	Daniel Corrie	Advice	120 mins 1015-1215
Lunch			30 mins 1215-1245
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season (contd.)	Daniel Corrie	Advice	120 mins 1245-1445
Afternoon Tea			15 mins 1445-1500
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season (contd.)	Daniel Corrie	Advice	90 mins 1500-1630
DAY 3 – AFMA Aquarium Room, Teams Conference			1000-1600
Welcome and administration	Chair		15 mins 1000-1015
3. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2021-22 fishing season (contd.)	Daniel Corrie	Advice	105 mins 1015-1200
Lunch			30 mins 1200-1230
4. Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) TAC recommendation for the 2021-2022 fishing season	Sally Weekes	Advice	45 mins 1230-1315
5. Revised Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy	Sally Weekes	Advice	60 mins 1315-1415
Afternoon Tea			15 mins 1415-1430
6. Hagfish Research Plan and Management	Natalie Couchman	Advice	60 mins 1430-1530
Any other business	Chair	Noting/Questions	15 mins 1530-1545
Review of action items	EO	Advice	10 mins 1545-1555
Next Meeting/Meeting Close	Chair		5 mins 1555-1600

Attachment C- Consolidated List of Action Items

Complete/Redundant	Underway	Yet to start	SEMAC advice required / for noting
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SEMAC 41 meeting (10-11 November 2020)

Agenda item ref	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
3.3 Amendments to SESSF Deepwater Closure (a) East of Babel Island and (b) Southern ORMA	41.2	AFMA to provide an update on the final amendment to the SESSF deepwater closure agreed to at SEMAC 41.	AFMA (Daniel)	SEMAC 42	To be covered in Managers Update SEMAC 42
3.4 Internal review of electronic monitoring	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.	AFMA (Natalie)	SEMAC 42	To be covered in Managers Update SEMAC 42. SESSF data plan to be sent out of session.
3.5 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) for the shark gillnet sub-fishery.	41.4	AFMA to seek clarification from Dr Miriana Sporcic regarding the risk rating in the current Gillnet sector ERA report for draughtboard sharks and shortfin mako shark.	AFMA (Natalie)	SEMAC 42	To be covered in Managers Update SEMAC 42.
3.6 Rebuilding species – five year rebuilding strategy updates for orange roughy and blue warehou.	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.	AFMA (Daniel)	SEMAC 42	SERAG were unable to provide advice regarding revised rebuilding timeframes for blue warehou in the context of available environmental data. The focus of the revised rebuilding strategy will be developing an alternative index of abundance and understanding the influence of environmental changes on stock and recruitment dynamics.
	41.6	AFMA Management to seek advice from SERAG regarding a possible sampling regime for blue warehou Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR).	AFMA (Daniel)	SEMAC 42	SERAG recommended waiting for the outcomes of the FRDC CKMR scoping study – this will provide a considered sampling program.

	Agenda item ref	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
		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.	SETFIA (Simon)/ AFMA (Daniel)	SEMAC 42	Dr Knuckey was consulted and advised that the data would not be suitable to resolve any uncertainty around catches of blue warehou in the Danish seine sector because of the nature of the survey.
	3.8 Update on protected species management.	41.8	Mr Simon Boag to examine the spatial overlap of auto-longline effort with the known distribution of squalidae species to assist in the development of an industry proposal to allow the retention of non-conservation dependent squalidae species.	SETFIA (Simon)	SEMAC 43	Underway, update to be provided next SEMAC.
	2.1 Managers Update	41.1	FDRC Hook Trial - Dr Ian Knuckey to present the outcomes of the project at the SEMAC 42 meeting in February 2021	Dr Ian Knuckey	SEMAC 43	Presentation delayed until SEMAC 43.

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	Complete. Confirmed in SEMAC 41 minutes to: <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>
	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.

	Agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
						AFMA will consider extending an invite to Dr Steer once the review of the harvest strategy progresses.
	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. AFMA will consider extending an invite to Dr Fulton once the review of the harvest strategy progresses.
	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)	SEMAC 43	This is being progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the June 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 43	This is being progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the June 2021 SEMAC meeting.
	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)	SEMAC 43	This is being progressed as part of drafting the CTS bycatch and discard workplan. AFMA intends to present the CTS bycatch and discard workplan at the June 2021 SEMAC meeting.
	3.5 Trawl ERA	40.12	AFMA to table the revised draft CTS bycatch and discarding workplan at either SEMAC 41 (November 2020) or SEMAC 42 (February 2021).	AFMA (Dan)	SEMAC 43	AFMA intend to draft the workplan for consideration at the SEMAC June 2021 meeting.

SEMAC 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 SEMAC TAC recommendations paper.	AFMA	SEMAC 42	This has been considered when drafting the 2021-22 SESSF TAC papers and will be covered in SEMAC 42 Agenda Item 3 – SESSF TAC Recommendations
	3.2 (Blue-eye trevalla)	39.5	<p>Recognising uncertainty in the Tier 4 blue eye stock assessment and industry concerns around low catch rates up to January 2020, SEMAC recommended SESSFRAG (August 2020) consider fishery indicator data and:</p> <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 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. 	SESSFRAG	SEMAC 42	<p>SESSFRAG recommended bringing the Tier 4 assessment for the slope stock forward to 2020.</p> <p>SERAG considered consider the Tier 4 assessment at its November 2020 meeting.</p> <p>An overview of the assessment outcome is provided at agenda item 3 – SESSF TACs.</p>
	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 has been considered when drafting the 2021-22 SESSF TAC papers and will be covered in SEMAC 42 Agenda Item 3 – SESSF TAC Recommendations
	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)	2021	This will be considered by SERAG at its 2021 meetings.

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		Complete – being addressed as part of the review of the strategy.
	4.3 (Review of EM requirements)	38.6	AFMA to consider cost effective approaches to determine whether current EM coverage is representative of overall hook fishing effort in the GHAT for the purpose of reporting requirements under the seabird Threat Abatement Plan.	AFMA	SEMAC 43	Verbal update to be provided in Managers update SEMAC 42 – broader update SEMAC 43.
	4.4 (GHAT simplification project)	38.7	<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>	AFMA	August 2020	Complete. (Wording changed as per SEMAC 41)
	4.4 (GHAT simplification project)	38.8	AFMA to investigate the introduction of a shark ‘trigger’ for all Scalefish Hook SFRs, similar to that applicable to Auto longline permits.	AFMA	2021	Ongoing. To be included in the GHAT Simplification Implementation Plan.

Attachment F- Action Items from SEMAC 42

No	Action	When	Who
42.1	AFMA to request that the SESSFRAG (August 2021) review the current SESSF data plan to ensure suitable data is being collected with a particular focus on discard estimates across sectors and species, and then provide SEMAC an overview of observer coverage in the trawl sector (included days planned vs achieved) in June 2021	SEMAC 43	Daniel Corrie
42.2	SEMAC recommends South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) invite a shark biologist to participate in the SERAG 2021 Tier 5 assessment of deepwater sharks, to inform the assessment.	SERAG 2021	Daniel Corrie
42.3	SEMAC recommends SERAG consider the potential impact on future catch per unit effort (CPUE) if discards were to increase when providing recommended biological catch (RBC) advice for john dory for the 2022-23 fishing year	2021	Daniel Corrie
42.4	AFMA to include revised estimates of biomass from the most recent stock assessments in the 'stock status against reference' tables in the SESSF species summary for future SESSF TAC Recommendations	22/23 TAC	Daniel Corrie
42.5	AFMA to confirm whether an additional row can be included on recreational fishery catches for SPF fishery species summary to be consistent with SESSF species summary	22/23 TAC	Sally Weekes
42.6	AFMA to respond to GABIA with outcomes of the public consultation and send the package of documents for the revised Upper Slope Dogfish Strategy to the GABMAC for information prior to finalisation	Feb 2021	Sally Weekes
42.7	The SEMAC EO will provide a copy of the hagfish international research/literature review to members with the minutes from SEMAC 42.	Feb/Mar 2021	EO