



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop
Fishery Management Advisory
Committee (ScallopMAC) Meeting 31**

Meeting minutes

Date: 7 June 2019

Holiday Inn, Melbourne Airport

Meeting Minutes

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Introduction and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 and welcomed members, invited participants and observers, and noted apologies. Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the meeting minutes. The Chair stressed the importance of declaring conflicts of interest and that the outcomes of the meeting would be confidential until the finalised minutes are available on the AFMA website.

| Attendees | Membership |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John Pollock | Chair |
| John Hammond | Industry Member |
| Brendan Kelaher | Research Member |
| Peter Mellios | Industry Member |
| Stuart Richey | Industry Member |
| Andrew Watts | Industry Member |
| Debbie Wisby | Industry Member |
| Sylvia Zukowski | Environment/Conservation Member |
| Sally Weekes | AFMA Member |
| Heather Johnston | Executive Officer |
| Dan Corrie | Invited participant, AFMA |
| John Cull | Invited participant, industry |
| Amelia Grant | Fisheries Victoria representative |
| Bob Lister | Invited participant, industry |
| David Mobsby | Invited participant, ABARES |
| Andrew Sullivan | Invited participant, industry |
| Graham Cull | Observer |
| Matt Koopman | Observer, Fishwell Consulting |
| Steve Mantzaris | Observer |
| Nick Matheou | Observer |
| Apologies | Membership |
| James Parkinson | DPIPWE, Tasmania representative |

1.2 Declaration of interests

The MAC followed the conflict of interest declarations as outlined in Fisheries Management Paper 1. Members, invited participants and observers reviewed and updated the Declarations of Interest included at [Attachment B](#).

The following participants declaring their interests left the meeting while the MAC considered their interests and how to manage them.

For the following industry members it was agreed that they could be part of the discussion and recommendations for all items:

- John Hammond
- Peter Mellios
- Stuart Richey
- Andrew Watts
- Debbie Wisby
- John Cull

For the following invited participants and observers it was agreed that they could be part of the discussion and as an invited participant or observer they would not be part of the recommendation decision making:

- Bob Lister
- Andrew Sullivan
- Matt Koopman
- Graham Cull
- Steve Mantzaris
- Nick Matheou

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda at [Attachment A](#) was adopted by ScallopMAC as final

2 Meeting administration

2.1 Minutes of previous meeting

The MAC noted the final minutes of the ScallopMAC meeting of 21 June 2018 are available on the AFMA website.

2.2 Actions arising from previous meetings

The MAC noted the action items from the previous meeting had either been completed or will be addressed in later agenda items.

3 Fishery update

3.1 AFMA management

The AFMA member provided an update on matters relevant to the MAC and the fishery including:

- Commercial catch/effort data for the BSCZSF 2018 season. The RAG noted the commercial scallops TAC was 83.9 per cent caught and zero bycatch and protected species information was reported.

- AFMA received a request from the Co-Management Committee to swap closures mid-season. AFMA encouraged industry to close beds/areas themselves where they can see value in doing so to improve their own profitability in subsequent seasons. AFMA did not support this request on the basis that:
 - The decision for the closures was based on the best available information at the time and there was no evidence provided that suggested this information was incorrect or lacking
 - Changing the rules mid-season creates uncertainty which undermines the harvest strategy
 - The reasons provided were not clear on ecological or economical grounds
- Revised Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy and Bycatch polices were released in late 2018.
- Consistent with AFMA's objective of maximizing economic returns to the Australian community, AFMA is starting to source fine-scale economic information (eg. Beach price) from industry. It is intended that this information will be used to integrate economic information into the TAC setting process. The response from industry have been limited to date. This matter was considered more under Agenda Item 4 economics.
- Wez Norris has been appointed as AFMA's CEO and Anna Willock is currently Executive Manager, Fisheries.
- From 1 July 2019, management of the BSCZSF will be moved to the Lakes Entrance with Dan Corrie as Manager and Heather Johnston as Senior Fisheries Management Officer.
- The 2018-19 budget was on track at the mid- year review, with a total budget of \$280 020. The 2019-20 budget is \$340 000

Action item 1 – AFMA to bring any comments or questions that arise out of session regarding the budget to subsequent ScallopMAC meeting.

3.2 Tasmanian management

The Tasmanian Government participant provided a written update on the Tasmanian fishery prior to the meeting.

- The Tasmanian Scallop Fishery will remain closed for 2019, with no survey to take place, this is the second year of a two year closure as implemented by the Minister following a recommended from the SFAT, ScFAC and follow consultation with licence holders.
- The Tasmanian Scallop Fishery will be next considered for an opening in 2020 following a survey.
- We are currently going through a remake of the Fisheries (Scallop) Rules 2010 (the Tasmanian scallop fishery management plan), these expire at the end of February 2020. The new rules will largely be a rollover of the old rules, with the main changes relating to the definition of a dredge and stating the quota unit in terms of kg rather than a percentage that can be fished. It is expected that the new rules will be released for a two month public comment period in August and September.

3.3 Victorian management

The Victorian Government participant provided a written update the Victorian scallop fishery prior to the meeting.

- There has been very little to zero catch reported in the Ocean Scallop fishery over the past 5 years.
- A stock assessment survey was completed in 2018 and indicates a continued low level of abundance throughout the fishery. Whilst the survey did find commercially available

scallops, they were not at a level considered sufficient to provide ongoing recruitment to the fishery and justifiable of a TACC increase.

- A low level TACC of 135 tonne is in place for the fishery to allow for exploratory fishing.
- The TACC was set at zero tonnes for the 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2013/14 seasons due to the stock assessment surveys in 2009 and 2012 finding that the fishery was neither commercially nor biologically viable. The TACC was set at 135 tonnes in 2014/15, it has remained at this level since.
- Initial planning has commenced to develop a harvest strategy that aligns with the other jurisdictions of the shared stock. This will be based on identifying scallop beds of a set abundance and density deemed sufficient to provide ongoing recruitment to the fishery. Options to close areas of the fishery to promote recruitment and guidelines to set sustainable TACC's will be further considered.

3.4 Industry update

The Industry Members provided an update on the BSCZSF 2018 season

- There is a large amount of scallops out there and the Industry have confidence in the fishery as demonstrated by investment in upgrading a number of processing plants.
- There was no exports in 2018 but there is an intention to export in 2019
- Targeting the highest quality scallops is a priority for next season.

3.5 Environment update

The MAC noted the update provided by the Environment member.

The Environment member provided an update on different research relating to scallops from the last 12 months.

1. The increase in the spread of the invasive New Zealand screwshell in Australian waters and the impacts on growth and condition of commercial scallops.
Cited as: Reid AP, Johnson CR, Ross DJ (2018) Impacts of the New Zealand screwshell *Maoricolpus roseus* on growth and condition of juvenile commercial scallops *Pecten fumatus*. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 604:173-185
2. The impact of ascidian growth on scallops
Cited as: Przeslawski, R. (2018). A short note on heavy cunjevoi growth observed on commercial scallops (*Pecten fumatus*). *Molluscan Research*, Online First 1-4.
3. The effectiveness of drop cameras and diver survey for biomass survey.
Cited as: Ewing, G and Keane, JP and Semmens, JM, Industry-independent video survey of commercial scallop (*Pecten fumatus*) densities in Great Oyster Bay - May 2017 survey, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, June (2018)
4. The linking of scallop spawning, settlement, size and condition and management strategies
Cited as: Semmens, J.M., Mendo, Jones, Keane, Leon, Ewing, Hartmann, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, 2018, Determining when and where to fish: Linking scallop spawning, settlement, size and condition to collaborative spatial harvest and industry in-season management strategies, University of Tasmania, Hobart June (2019)
5. Field trials of video survey in Canada of scallops
Cited as: Bayer, S.R., R. A. Wahle, D.C. Brady, P.A. Jumars, K. D. E. Stokesbury, and J. D. Carey. 2018. Fertilization success in scallop aggregations: reconciling model predictions and field measurements of density effects. *Ecosphere* 9(8):e02359. 10.1002/ecs2.2359

3.6 Economic update

The MAC noted that ABARES intend to undertake an economic survey of the fishery.

The MAC recommended that if possible it may be worth having a small working group with key industry members to discuss the methodology for the economic survey.

4 Economic data

AFMA introduced this item, asking the MAC to consider the advice from the Economic Working Group regarding how to integrate economic information into the decision making process, and the update on the Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) analysis.

The MAC noted:

- with healthy scallop stocks in Bass Strait and decisions regarding the sustainability of the fishery supported by logbook information and the annual biomass survey, a key information gap in this fishery relates to its economics
- the legislative and policy drivers for AFMA pursuing integration of economics into the decision making process for TAC setting;
- that an MEY analysis, once developed would be updated annually
- that ABARES is undertaking a broader economic survey of the fishery to get an understanding as to how the fishery is performing with regard to net economic returns but that this survey is independent to the work AFMA is pursuing. However, some of the information collected from the ABARES survey may inform the MEY analysis.

The MAC supported the collection of improved economic information to underpin a MEY analysis.

5 Survey results

Dr Koopman from Fishwell Consulting presented the results from the 2019 biomass survey. Dr Koopman thanked the owners and crew of the four vessels used to conduct the survey, whose contribution to the survey was highly valued and noting the high standard to which the survey was completed.

The 2019 stratified random survey was conducted during May 2019 and aimed to estimate the commercial scallop biomass, discard rate, number of meats per kg, bycatch and measure size frequency and calculate densities of 13 scallop beds (eight previously surveyed beds and five exploratory beds). Four vessels were selected to take part in the survey by an independent panel but only three vessels undertook the survey.

The beds were mostly pre-determined based on previous surveys and new beds from commercial catches, needed defining. Exploratory fishing was conducted at a potential new site based on marks provided by industry. One bed of juvenile scallops was based on marks provided by industry. The beds were prioritised based on advice from the RAG.

A summary of the survey results are at Table 1.

Table 1. Summary table of information collected for each of the beds surveyed during the 2019 Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery annual biomass survey. Information includes: estimated biomass (t), % weight greater than 85 mm, estimated biomass of scallops > 85mm, density of individual per

square metre, mean size and meats per kg. FI = Flinders Island, KI = King Island, AB = Apollo Bay.
Source: Fishwell Consulting.

| Area | Bed | Estimated biomass (t) | % weight > 85 mm | Estimated Biomass >85 mm (t) | Density (ind/m ²) | Mean size | Meats / kg |
|------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| FI | FI1 | 1,961 | 84.8 | 1,607 | 0.211 | 90.5 | 68 |
| | Sub-total | 1,961 | | 1,607 | | | |
| KI | KI5Small | 1,612 | 99.7 | 1,609 | 0.170 | 107.8 | 62 |
| KI | KIBDE | 8,353 | 86.5 | 7,135 | 1.597 | 90.6 | 80 |
| KI | KIBDSE | 19,592 | 94.2 | 18,714 | 3.088 | 92.8 | 88 |
| KI | KINew | 1,182 | 100.0 | 1,182 | 0.173 | 110.6 | 54 |
| KI | KI6 | 1,960 | 99.0 | 1,932 | 1.458 | 100.5 | 71 |
| KI | KI7 | 837 | 94.9 | 816 | 0.599 | 97.4 | 157 |
| KI | KI8a | 795 | 98.3 | 782 | 2.156 | 101.8 | 72 |
| KI | KI8a | 363 | 97.9 | 357 | 1.230 | 101.0 | 66 |
| KI | KI9 | 9,616 | 96.6 | 9,398 | 2.867 | 95.7 | 84 |
| KI | JH - Uncov | 956 | 8.7 | 119 | 0.842 | 61.0 | |
| | Sub-total | 45,267 | | 42,045 | | | |
| AB | Apollo1 | 631 | 99.9 | 631 | 0.390 | 104.5 | |
| AB | Apollo2 | 886 | 99.9 | 886 | 0.563 | 104.4 | 60 |
| | Sub-total | 1,517 | | 1,517 | | | |
| | Total | 48,745 | | 45,169 | | | |

The MAC noted that the Biomass survey covered 70% of the area commercially fished in the 2018 season.

MAC thanked industry for the efficient survey and Fishwell Consulting for the presentation and for compiling the report quickly.

6 ScallopRAG advice for the 2019 TAC and closed areas

The RAG Chair presented RAG advice from its meeting 6 June 2019.

The RAG considered the results of the survey, noting that the biomass of scallops greater than 85mm was 45 169 tonnes. From this, they considered Tier 2 of the Harvest Strategy was the most appropriate way forward.

In formulating its advice, the RAG considered:

- That most of the surveyed beds are ageing but that there is evidence of recruitment in JH, KIBDE, KIBDSE and KI7;
- While there is evidence of recruitment, it is not wide spread. In addition, there is uncertainty about where recruitment is coming from. It was noted that this needs to be considered in TAC setting and closure arrangements;
- All of the beds except JH uncovered and KI5 Small had a density of >0.2 individuals/m², which the RAG considers the minimum density for viable spawning potential.

- KI7 had an unusually high meat count compared to the other beds.
- As per previous years, it is prudent to implement closures across the three broad geographical regions of Flinders Island, Apollo Bay and King Island.
- Industry members agreed that a TAC could influence demand and beach price for some operators.
- The economic work is not progressed enough to be used to directly inform the TAC.

In light of the above, particularly the biological reason regarding ageing beds and limited recruitment, the RAG recommended a 4000 tonnes TAC (with no step up) and the following closures:

| Scallop beds | Estimated biomass > 85 mm (tonnes) | Density (individual/m²) |
|--|--|---|
| Flinders Island (area of 2018 closure) | 1 607 | 0.211 |
| Apollo Bay 1 | 631 | 0.390 |
| King Island Blue Dot East | 7 135 | 1.597 |
| Kind Island 7 | 816 | 0.599 |
| TOTAL closed biomass | 10 189 | |

RAG also considered the schedule of upcoming seismic activity, noting that there were three projects near Bass Strait at various stages of development. All planned activity from these projects is from 18 – 20 nm distance from known scallop beds. The RAG considered that this distance was not of concern for the known scallop beds in Commonwealth waters.

7 Seismic activity scheduled for 2019-20

The MAC considered the schedule of upcoming seismic activity, noting that there were three projects near Bass Strait at various stages of development. All planned activity from these projects is from 18 – 20 nm distance from known scallop beds.

The MAC noted that the RAG considered that this distance was not of concern for the known scallop beds in Commonwealth waters and did not raise any additional concerns.

8 Scallop MAC recommendation on the TAC and closed areas for the 2019 season

The MAC noted:

- the RAG advice
- that there was an increase in biomass but there was also an increase in area surveyed
- the RAG had recommended to close Apollo Bay 1 allowing for Apollo Bay 2 to be fished as both beds met the RAG requirements regarding density but that Apollo Bay 2 was more likely to be of commercial interest due to slightly higher tonnage and density.

The MAC supported the RAG recommendations for the 2019 season in full:

The MAC TAC recommendation: 4000 tonnes TAC

The MAC closure recommendations: Flinders Island (area of 2018 closure), Apollo Bay 1, King Island 7 and King Island Bluedot Extended.

The MAC supported voluntary closure of the bed of juvenile scallops off King Island ('JH area') by industry

Nick Matheou left the meeting

9 Research priorities

The MAC considered the research priorities for the fishery and RAG advice which was for the following:

- AFMA funding (for AFMA Research Committee consideration)
 - 1) The annual biomass survey including reference to bycatch data is an essential priority and high feasibility. Approximate cost- \$70,000
 - 2) A MEY project to inform the harvest strategy/ TAC setting process. The RAG identified this as a medium/high priority and high feasibility. Importantly, the RAG agreed that this project should occur as soon as practical and, if possible, completed prior to TAC setting in 2020. Approximate cost- \$15,000
 - 3) A project to age scallops, including a validation of the technique was identified as a medium priority and feasibility. Ageing could improve understanding of the fishery and contribute to TAC setting. Approximate cost- \$ 40,000
 - 4) Optimising the end of season date was identified as a high priority and feasibility. This has been a priority for industry for a long time and would provide updated information to support management arrangements for season closures. Approximate cost- \$240,000
- FRDC funding
 - 1) Impact of seismic surveys on scallop larvae. This was identified as high priority and feasibility. Approximate cost- \$ 300,000

The MAC noted that the research priority for optimising the end of season date was separate to the proposal submitted to the MAC by the BSSI association.

The MAC supported the RAG recommendations regarding the research priorities as outlined above, but that the cost of number 4 Optimising the end of season date is too high

10 Changes to fish receiver permits and CDR completion

AFMA introduced this item seeking MAC advice on the changes to landing requirements AFMA is proposing for the 2019 season following feedback from the 2018 season.

The MAC noted that at the Start of the 2018 season, AFMA changed the rules regarding landing of scallops taken in the BSCZSF by:

1. removing the requirement for operators to land scallops taken in the BSCZSF to a fish receiver permit holder;
2. using the weight of catch obtained by the fisher upon landing as the weight deducted from quota (where previously it was the weight obtained from the Fish Receiver);
3. simplifying the CDR booklet to reflect the above changes by removing "Part C" which used to be completed by the Fish Receiver.

The changes were intended to simplify reporting arrangements in the BSCZSF and assist in maintaining the integrity of the quota system in this fishery. However, the experience of both industry and AFMA during the 2018 season is that while some of the process worked, others did not. For example, having no paperwork accompanying the catch once it was landed meant that checking the weight recorded by the fisher was difficult from a compliance perspective. Consequently, AFMA is considering the following two options:

Option 1:

- Retain weighing at wharf for quota
- Re-instate requirement to land to a Fish Receiver
- Revise CDR to include a triplicate copy of paper work
- Revise SFR conditions to prevent processing on board
*noting FR would not be required to weigh but would need to meet usual requirements of permit

Option 2:

- Retain weighing at wharf for quota
- Fisher required to receipt all sales
- Revise CDR to include a triplicate copy of paper work as well as add some fields to make it easy for fisher to 'receipt' sale (the triplicate copy essentially acts as the receipt).
- Revise SFR conditions to make it clear that each consignment needs to have a receipt
- Revise SFR conditions to prevent processing on board

The MAC supported both options, with option 2 being the preferred option.

11 Data requirements for bycatch

The AFMA Member introduced this item, seeking advice from the MAC the most cost effective option for collecting the data required.

The MAC noted:

- The new Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch policy is now published
- In other fisheries, bycatch is monitored a number of ways including logbook, observer programs or Electronic Monitoring depending on the risk to the species posed by that fishery.
- That collecting bycatch information presents challenges for scallop fishers in catch is sorted by a tumbler prior to fishers seeing it.
- ScallopRAG advice that the annual biomass survey in its current form should be used as the primary tool to monitor the impact of fishing on bycatch species in the fishery as it provides information sufficient to meet the Commonwealth Bycatch Policy requirements.

The MAC supported the use of the annual biomass survey as the method of collecting information on bycatch for the fishery.

12 Harvest Strategy Framework review- scoping

The AFMA member introduced this item, seeking advice regarding aspects of the Harvest Strategy that should be considered as part of the upcoming review. A review of the harvest strategy is being driven by the release of the revised Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy in late 2018 and the need for AFMA to ensure consistency. Further, the fishery itself is in a more positive position in terms of both stock status, economics and science underpinning the fishery compared to when the harvest strategy was developed.

The MAC noted that AFMA Management has identified the following matters to be covered by the review:

- Objectives – potentially to be revised in light of the economic work to be undertaken.
- Guidance regarding how to scale the TAC and closures when a larger biomass is present in Bass Strait.
- The necessity to close (via voluntary industry closures) areas with a high discard rate of small scallops.
- Whether the option to set a 150 tonne TAC to allow industry to determine if they move to a full biomass survey should remain as the default option or be replaced by the full biomass survey as the default.
- Simplification of the document and making it easier to read.
- How flexibility in the harvest strategy regarding the opening and closing of the fishing season can be improved, allowing for the ability to adapt to variable conditions.

The MAC noted the RAG advice:

- The RAG supported the above matters being considered as part of the review and suggested that the following also be included:
 - consideration of the differences between eastern and western areas and whether that justifies different approaches,
 - clarification of definitions and terminology.

The MAC supported the development of a discussion paper by AFMA on the review of the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy that would be provided to both the RAG and MAC in the next 12 months for their consideration.

Action item 2 – AFMA to prepare a discussion paper that includes the matters outlined above, to inform the review of the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy. The discussion paper will be provided to ScallopMAC for its consideration at its meeting in June 2020.

13 Timeline for 2020- noting

The AFMA member introduced this item, asking the MAC to note the draft consultation schedule to open the BSCZSF for 2020.

The MAC noted:

- That having the survey in early May rather than late May/early June allows for Fishwell Consulting to analyse the data and the RAG and MAC to review the findings prior to the meeting.
- That AFMA will consider how the survey might incorporate up to date information on meat weight prior to the RAG and MAC meetings so that this information can be provided to industry prior to the start of the season

- That the co- management committee will be consulted regarding the survey areas for 2020 in February 2020 not March.

14 BSCZSF Management Plan amendment

AFMA introduced this item, asking the MAC to note the upcoming BSCZSF Management Plan amendments.

The MAC noted and discussed the following:

- that that Scallop Regulations are due to ‘sunset’ on 1 October 2019 and the Plan is due to be amended before that time. However, the amendment will not change any of the current management arrangements at this time a closure will be implemented by AFMA between 1 January and 31 March.
- This amendment will, however, allow for greater flexibility should there be a need or desire to change the management arrangements in the future.
- Proposed changes will be:
 - removing the obligation that prevents the doughboy scallop TAC being increased in-season. AFMA Management considers this redundant given f the TAC is set in accordance with the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy.
 - remove fishing method from the rules. AFMA Management considers that because the fishery is managed by quota, there is no need to specify fishing method.
 - Shorten the minimum period of notification for the season opening from seven days to 48 hours. This would allow the fishery to be opened sooner than it is currently.
 - Repeal fishing year and re-define fishing season ‘as determined by AFMA’. This streamlines the administrative process and provides greater flexibility for AFMA to modify the season start and end times should there be an argument to do so. That there would be a one month public consultation process on the proposed plan amendment during 2019 so individuals would have additional time to make comment.

The MAC supported the proposed changes to the BSCZSF Management Plan as outlined above noting that there is to be a one month public consultation period in which they can provide further comment.

15 Other business

The newly established Bass Strait Scallop Industry Association (BSSI) presented its proposal to develop an industry- led, adaptive and science- based approach to managing the season closure. MAC comment was being sought on the proposal that may be considered for FRDC funding.

Key points from the MAC discussion were:

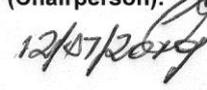
- It is a two year project aimed at developing a methodology that could be used in the future to support a flexible approach to the end of season closure.
- the RAG advice regarding the proposal which was that its main priority is to ensure that the methodology is scientifically robust and that there is no adverse effect on the fishery.
- there was general concern regarding inequity if a small group of fishers was allowed to fish commercially during a period where the fishery was closed and that if the purpose of the project is to collect data then it can be collected without commercial fishing.
- that the opportunity to participate in the project should be open to all of industry.

The MAC supported the intent of the industry led project, noting that the project should be open to all of industry to participate and the commercial fishing does not need to occur as part of the project.

Other

The MAC noted that AFMA would release a public statement regarding the RAG and MAC recommendations for the 2019 season to the AFMA Commission and that MAC discussions from the meeting are to remain confidential until the final minutes are published on the AFMA website

The meeting was closed at 3pm

Signed (Chairperson): 
Date: 

Attachments

Attachment A: ScallopMAC 31 final agenda

Attachment B: Declarations of interest

Attachment C: Action item status

Attachment D: 2020 timeline



Australian Government
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)

Meeting 31 – Holiday Inn, Melbourne Airport

Agenda

Friday 7 June 2019

Time (EDT): 9:00

| Participants | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Members | Membership |
| John Pollock | Chair |
| Brendan Kelaher | Research Member |
| Peter Mellios | Industry Member |
| John Hammond | Industry Member |
| Stuart Richey | Industry Member |
| Andrew Watts | Industry Member |
| Debbie Wisby | Industry Member |
| Sylvia Zukowski | Environment/Conservation Member |
| Sally Weekes | AFMA Member |
| Heather Johnston | Executive Officer |
| David Mobsby | Invited participant, ABARES |
| Amelia Grant | Fisheries Victoria representative |
| John Cull | Invited participant, industry |
| Bob Lister | Invited participant, industry |
| Andrew Sullivan | Invited participant, industry |
| Matt Koopman | Observer, Fishwell Consulting |
| Dan Corrie | Invited participant, AFMA |
| Graham Cull | Observer |
| Nick Matheou | Observer |

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Steve Mantzaris | Observer |
| Apologies | |
| James Parkinson | DPIPWE, Tasmania representative |

| Approximate time | Length | Agenda item | |
|------------------|--------|-------------|--|
| 9:00 | 20 | 1 | Preliminaries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and apologies 2. Declaration of interests 3. Adoption of agenda |
| 9:20 | 15 | 2 | Meeting Administration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of previous meeting 2. Actions arising from previous meetings |
| 9:35 | 45 | 3 | Fishery update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AFMA management 2. Tasmanian management 3. Victorian management 4. Industry update 5. Environment update |
| 10.20 | 15 | | <i>Morning tea</i> |
| 10.35 | 30 | 4 | Economics <i>ScallopMAC will consider advice from the Economic Working Group regarding how to integrate economic information into the decision making process, and outcome of the Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) analysis.</i> Attachement A |
| 11.05 | 45 | 5 | Survey results (Fishwell Consulting) <i>Fishwell Consulting will present the results of the 2019 scallop biomass survey</i> Attachment B |

| | | | |
|-------|----|----|--|
| 11.50 | 15 | 6 | <p>ScallopRAG advice for the 2019 TAC and closed areas</p> <p><i>ScallopRAG Chair will present the ScallopRAG advice regarding the TAC and closed areas for the 2019 season at the meeting.</i></p> |
| 12.05 | 10 | 7 | <p>Seismic activity scheduled for 2019-20</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC to consider the schedule of planned seismic activity and if there are any implications for the closures to be recommended under Item 8.</i></p> <p>Attachments C,D,E,F,G,H and I</p> |
| 12.15 | 30 | 8 | <p>2019 TAC and closure recommendations</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC develop the 2019 TAC and closure recommendation to the AFMA commission.</i></p> <p>Attachment J</p> |
| 12.45 | 45 | | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 13.30 | 20 | 9 | <p>Research Priorities</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC consider and provide advice on the strategic research priorities for the fishery (the Strategic Research Plan) and identify projects for funding in 2019-20 (the Annual Statement).</i></p> <p>Attachments K and L</p> |
| 13.50 | 30 | 10 | <p>Changes to fish receiver permits and CDR completion</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC will consider and provide advice on the proposed changes to catch landing requirements for the 2019 season.</i></p> |
| 14.20 | 20 | 11 | <p>Data requirements for bycatch</p> <p><i>ScallopRAG Chair to update the MAC with its advice regarding data needs for bycatch species.</i></p> |

| | | | |
|-------|----|----|---|
| | | | <p><i>Subject to RAG advice, ScallopMAC to provide advice regarding the most cost effective option for collection the data required.</i></p> <p>Attachments M and N</p> |
| 14.40 | 15 | | <p><i>Afternoon tea</i></p> |
| 15.55 | 30 | 12 | <p>Harvest Strategy Framework review - scoping</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC to provide advice regarding aspects of the harvest strategy that should be considered as part of the review.</i></p> <p>Attachments O, P and J</p> |
| 15.25 | 5 | 13 | <p>Timeline for 2020- for noting</p> |
| 15.30 | 30 | 14 | <p>BSCZSF Management Plan amendment</p> <p><i>ScallopMAC to provide advice regarding the amendment of the BSCZSF Management plan</i></p> |
| 16.00 | 30 | 15 | <p>Other business</p> <p>BSSI proposal (20 minutes)</p> <p><i>Maximising economic returns in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) - an industry-led, adaptive and science-based approach to managing the season closure.</i></p> |
| 16.30 | | | <p>Close</p> |

Attachment B – Register of interests

| Name | Membership | Declared interests |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| John Pollock | Chair | No interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |
| Professor Brendan Kelaher | Research Member | ScallopRAG Chair. No interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |
| John Hammond | Industry Member (Tasmania) | Holds Commonwealth and State concessions. |
| Stuart Richey | Industry Member (Tasmania) | Holds Commonwealth and State concessions. |
| Andrew Watts | Industry Member (Victoria) | Holds Commonwealth and State concessions. |
| Debbie Wisby | Industry Member (Tasmania) | Holds State concessions and leases commonwealth quota. Local council member |
| Peter Mellios | Industry Member (Victoria) | Holds Commonwealth concession and a processor |
| Dr Sylvia Zukowski | Environment Member | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the fishery. |
| Sally Weekes | AFMA Member | Fishery manager. No interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |
| Heather Johnston | Executive Officer | AFMA employee. No interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |
| Amelia Grant | Fisheries Victoria representative | Recently taken over the management of the scallop ocean fishery for Victoria, and have no interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |
| John Cull | Invited participant | Holds Commonwealth and State concessions. |
| Bob Lister | Invited participant | Executive Officer, Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania |
| Andrew Sullivan | Invited participant | Executive Officer, Bass Strait Scallop Industry Association |
| Dr Matt Koopman | Observer, Fishwell Consulting | Fishwell Consulting. Have undertaken the BSCZSF since 2015. Submit research funding applications and undertake research projects for Commonwealth, State and International fisheries agencies and other organisations including fishery associations and private companies. Engaged by SETFIA to report to numerous seismic exploration companies on fishing catch, effort and value that takes overlaps with the proposed seismic testing areas. This included catch and effort from the BSCZSF |
| Daniel Corrie | Invited Participant, AFMA | AFMA employee. No interest in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise. |

| Name | Membership | Declared interests |
|--------------|---------------------|--|
| David Mobsby | Invited Participant | ABARES employee. Organisation known to submit research funding application for consideration by ScallopMAC |

Previous action items

| MAC meeting # | Agenda item | Action item # | Action item | Agency/person | Timeframe | Progress |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Nil | | | | | | |

New action items

| MAC meeting # | Agenda item | Action item # | Action item | Agency/person | Timeframe |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--|---------------|--------------|
| 31 | 3.1 | 1 | AFMA to bring any comments or questions that arise out of session regarding the budget to subsequent ScallopMAC meeting. | AFMA | Next meeting |
| 31 | 12 | 2 | AFMA to prepare a discussion paper that includes the matters outlined above, to inform the review of the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy. The discussion paper will be provided to ScallopMAC for its consideration at its meeting in June 2020. | AFMA | Next meeting |

Attachment D – 2020 timeline

| Proposed Date | Meeting/event/process | Purpose |
|--|--|---|
| November 2019 | Co-management committee | Co-management Committee to advise AFMA how to proceed with the 2020 season: 1. open with 150 tonnes on 1 April 2020, or 2. proceed directly to biomass survey |
| If proceed directly to biomass survey, the following schedule would apply | | |
| March 2020 | Co-management committee (teleconference) | Provide input into the survey areas for 2020 to be considered by ScallopRAG. |
| March 2020 | ScallopRAG (teleconference) | Recommend survey areas and Research Catch Allowance (RCA) for 2020 survey. |
| March 2020 | Survey EOI (letter) | Call to all concession holders and active fishers for Expressions of Interest to participate in 2020 survey. |
| April 2020 | Vessel/s selection (teleconference) | Survey vessel selected by an independent panel. |
| May 2020 | Survey undertaken | Survey undertaken |
| June 2020 | ScallopRAG (in person) | RAG meeting to provide TAC and closure advice, set research priorities for 2021-22 |
| June 2020 | ScallopMAC (in person) | MAC meeting to provide TAC and closure advice to the AFMA commission, set research priorities for 2021-22. |
| July 2020 | Commission decision (out of session) | Consider RAG and MAC advice and set TAC |
| July 2020 | Fishery opened or closed. | |