



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Tropical Tuna and Billfish Fisheries Management Advisory Committee TTMAC 27 Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

27 April 2022

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1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair opened the 27th meeting of the Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC), held as a teleconference via Microsoft Teams. The Chair welcomed several new participants to TTMAC: Chad Lunow, Fisheries QLD State invited participant, Fiona Hill, Senior Manager of Tuna and International Fisheries and Kate Martin, Manager Tropical Tuna Fisheries. The Chair informed the MAC of the resignation of the Environment/Conservation member Alice McDonald, who has accepted a position with AFMA. Efforts are underway to recruit a new Environment Member.
2. Apologies were received from Mr Brian Jeffriess AM, Australian SBT Industry Association.
3. The following participants were present at the meeting:

Table 1 Members, invited participants and observers in attendance at TTMAC 27

Members	
Ms Catherine Sayer	Chair
Ms Fiona Hill	AFMA Member
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Industry Member
Mr Pavo Walker	Industry Member
Mr Gary Heilmann	Industry Member
Mr Grahame A Williams OAM	Recreational/Charter Fishing Member
Dr Ash Williams	Research Member
Mr David Ellis	Tuna Australia, CEO
Invited Participants	
Mr Ian Bladin	Recreational/Charter Fishing
Mr Brian Jeffriess AM	Australian SBT Industry Association
Dr Don Bromhead	ABARES, Fisheries Science
Observers	
Ms Kate Martin	Manager, AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries
Dr Rich Hilary	CSIRO
Mr Mat Kertesz	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Mr Neil Hughes	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Mr Luke McKee	TTRAG Executive Officer
Executive Officer	
Ms Sara Murphy	AFMA

1.2 Adoption of agenda

4. TTMAC adopted the final agenda for the 27th meeting of Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC).
5. A draft agenda was sent to TTMAC on 30 March 2022.
6. Two agenda items were added to the agenda:
 - 4.4 AFMA's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and First People Acknowledgement Guide
 - 3.4 Tropical Tuna Draft 2022-23 Cost Recovered Budget

1.3 Declaration of interests

7. The Chair stated that as outlined in the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and Fisheries Management Paper 1, all members, and invited participants of TTMAC must declare any interests in Tropical Tuna Fisheries as they relate to specific agenda items at the commencement of the meeting (**Table 2**). TTMAC noted that if a member or invited participant discloses an interest in an agenda item, the person must absent themselves from the meeting, while TTMAC makes a decision as to whether they can participate in the discussion and in the making of recommendations or remain absent from the meeting for the agenda item. The attendees declared their conflict of interests as follows:

Table 2 Declared interests of members, invited participants and invited observers at TTMAC 27

Name	Declared Interests	Agenda Items Relevant to Declared Interests
Members		
Ms Catherine Sayer	Chair TTMAC, CEO of Food South Australia. No pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries. Aquaculture Tenure Allocation Board member, Glenelg Football Club Board member. Chair of KIN Premium Seafood, Port Lincoln. Director of Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) Board.	Nil
Ms Fiona Hill	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) boat statutory fishing rights (SFRs), minor line SFRs, ETBF longline SFRs, Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) boat SFRs, WTBF longline SFRs, Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery (WSTF) purse seine permit, Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) purse seine, mid-water trawl SFRs, and SPF quota SFRs. Director of Bite Fisheries PTY. Industry member on Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) MAC and industry representative at the Commission for the Conservation of SBT (CCSBT). Invited participant for squid concession holder. Alternate on the Board of Tuna Australia. Member of the Southern and Western Marine Park Advisory Committee. Currently has outstanding claim with Federal Government regarding structural adjustment in relation to marine park and recent IOTC decision on yellowfin tuna.	Agenda Item 3

Name	Declared Interests	Agenda Items Relevant to Declared Interests
Mr Pavo Walker	Owner of several ETBF boat SFRs, and ETBF quota SFRs for all five species. Holds a Coral Sea permit and minor line permit.	Agenda item 3
Dr Ashley Williams	Employee of CSIRO undertakes research related to tropical tuna fisheries. No pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Mr Grahame A Williams OAM	Past President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, Treasurer and Records Officer of the NSW Game Fishing Association and Game Fishing Association Australia Executive Officer. No pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries. Member of the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. NSW Minister for Fisheries Special Advisory Council – RFNSW.	Nil
Mr David Ellis	CEO of Tuna Australia (industry association), Director of consultancy company (David Ellis and Associates).	Agenda item 3
Mr Gary Heilmann	Director of companies that hold a fish receiver permits in ETBF. Member of TTRAG.	Agenda item 3
Executive Officer		
Sara Murphy	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries	Nil
Invited Participants or Regular Observers		
Mr Ian Bladin	President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, Director Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation, former Queensland charter boat owner.	Nil
Ms Kate Martin	Manager, Tropical Tuna Fisheries, Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Dr Don Bromhead	ABARES, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Nil
Observers		
Mr Mat Kertesz	Employee of Department of Agriculture, Water and Energy	Nil
Mr Neil Hughes	Employee of Department of Agriculture, Water and Energy. No pecuniary interest.	Nil
Dr Rich Hilary	CSIRO, no pecuniary interests in tropical tuna fisheries.	Agenda item 3

8. The following members declared interests under Agenda Item 3:

- i. Mr Terry Romaro OAM – as per requirements as a MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the teleconference at the same time as other members who declared interests under Agenda Item 3.
- ii. Mr Pavo Walker – as per requirements as a MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Walker left the teleconference at the same time as other members who declared interests under Agenda Item 3.
- iii. Mr Gary Heilmann had not yet joined the meeting but was included in the consideration of MAC members of who declared interests under Agenda Item 3.
- iv. Mr David Ellis – as per requirements as an MAC member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Ellis left the teleconference at the same time as other members who declared interests under Agenda Item 3.
- v. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro, Mr Walker, Mr Ellis and Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda Item 3.

1.4 Adoption of minutes from TTMAC 26

9. The draft minutes from TTMAC 26, held 6 October 2021, as a virtual meeting, were circulated for comment on 19 October 2021.

10. Comments were received from:

- Catherine Sayer;
- Dr Ash Williams;
- Alice McDonald and
- Phil Ravanello

11. The minutes were revised in consideration of comments received and finalised for adoption.

12. The Manager, Tropical Tuna Fisheries noted that, in line AFMA's policy - FMP 1, the minutes will in future be finalised soon after members' comments are received and following final sign off from the Chair. This will mean that they are finalised as soon after the meeting as is practical and not at the following meeting which is often 6 months later.

1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

13. The MAC discussed the action items arising from previous meetings and commented on the progress on each item in Table (3).

Item	Meeting raised	Action	Responsibility	Status	Comments at TTMAC 27
1	TTMAC 25 – action arising	(a) TTMAC members to provide AFMA with feedback on what information would be useful to include in the FMS annual report (b) An agenda item for discussion on the FMS annual report to be added to the next TTMAC meeting in October 2022.	AFMA	Discussion deferred – AFMA currently reviewing ERA/ERM framework across fisheries, outcomes to be reported to TTMAC during 2022.	Discussion deferred. AFMA is currently reviewing the framework considering moving away from one consolidated document to an easier to access system on the web.
2	TTMAC 26 – action arising	Circulate the CSIRO paper on Japanese catches after meeting.	AFMA	Incomplete. AFMA to follow up with CSIRO to clarify the appropriate paper for distribution.	Paper will be disseminated before next MAC meeting.
3	TTMAC 26 – action arising	AFMA catch data will not in future provide nominal CPUE information (calculated from logbooks) as the data produced by CSIRO as part of their annual data summaries is the most accurate. In future CPUE information will be reported from the CSIRO work.	AFMA	Complete. New format for TTMAC 27 papers at agenda item 2.2: Catchwatch and agenda item 4.3: TEP Species Interactions Update	The meeting agreed to the format and timing changes to these papers.
4	TTMAC 26 – action arising	TTMAC to ask TTRAG to undertake analysis to determine if the low catch to TACC constitutes exceptional circumstances in some way. TTMAC to also ask TTRAG to investigate the opportunity to collect and integrate additional data in to the CPUE standardisation around bait types and sizes, and to undertake discussions with industry if there are other data that could be useful but aren't included.	AFMA	In progress. Update provided at Agenda Item 3.1: Swordfish Harvest Strategy – outcomes of TTRAG 34 discussion.	In progress. Report provided to MAC at Agenda Item 3.1
5	TTMAC 26 – action arising	TTMAC EO to provide ABARES Seabird management publication to TTMAC members out of session.	AFMA	Complete. Sent with TTMAC 27 meeting papers.	Completed.

Item	Meeting raised	Action	Responsibility	Status	Comments at TTMAC 27
6	TTMAC 26 – action arising	AFMA to contact both NSW and Queensland regarding attendance at future TTMAC meetings.	AFMA	Complete. AFMA has invited a QLD Fisheries representative to attend TTMAC as an Invited Participant and will consult with NSW prior to MAC meetings to determine, based on the agenda, if there are any items which are of interest to NSW.	Completed. Chad Lunow was welcomed as an invited participant at TTMAC 27.
7	TTMAC 26 – action arising	AFMA to provide a paper to the next MAC meeting outlining possible ways of reviewing RAG operations (mainly meeting logistics) to reduce management costs.	AFMA/Tuna Australia (TA)	No further action. Consideration of the operations of TTRAG is does not fall within the remit of TTMAC. AFMA will continue to work with TA on this issue, noting a move to a mix of face to face and virtual meetings has already been implemented.	No further action. This sits outside the remit of the MAC however the Senior Manager noted that an AFMA-wide review of MACs and RAGs will be undertaken this year.
8	TTMAC 26 – action arising	Tuna Australia to provide a paper to the next meeting of the MAC regarding the development of options for quota pooling for the fishery to lease out uncaught quota to international operations to be caught as part of Australia's WCPFC allocation on the high seas.	Tuna Australia	In progress. Paper to be provided for MAC consideration.	Paper not provided – verbal report to MAC.

1.6 Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 26 and TTMAC 27

14. The MAC noted the out of session correspondence which related to minutes from the previous meeting, organising the current meeting and the call for MAC members.

2. Background and discussion items

2.1 AFMA Management Report

15. The MAC noted a verbal management report from the AFMA Senior Manager Tuna and International Fisheries which reported on the following issues.

Environment/Conservation Member

- Alice McDonald has resigned from the MAC and accepted a position within AFMA. AFMA is in the process of filling this MAC position but couldn't gain a candidate in time for TTMAC 27. AFMA will advertise for any vacant positions which will include the TTMAC conservation member position.

Fisheries Information and Service Branch (FISB) / Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program (DT&EM) update

- In November, AFMA established a new branch, the Fisheries Information and Services Branch (FISB) headed by Claire van der Geest, to deliver the existing Fisheries Services Program (observer, data management, licencing, electronic monitoring, etc.), and to administer the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program (DT&EM).
- The DT&EM program is the \$20 million dollar package to modernise its data management infrastructure, processes, enhance and expand the use of electronic monitoring in Commonwealth fisheries. The key focus since FISB was established was to finalise the governance and implementation arrangements for the DT&EM program. This includes the establishment of a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), which includes Tuna Australia representation. The SAC will provide high level strategic advice to the DT&EM program board. Specific and detailed input for the DT and EM project will also be sought from stakeholders.
- Over the remainder of the financial year, the DT&EM program is focused on investing in the IT infrastructure to have all the empirical data moved into AFMA's Agency Data Capture (ADC) platform. This includes the remaining eLogs, eCDRs, moving to eObserver and incorporating industry data collection programs into ADC. This work is foundational as it enables timely access to the data and for it to be linked to other data sources in the future. For the Electronic Monitoring (EM) program, the focus is on developing technical and maintenance standards for the EM equipment, fishery specific performance standards for existing fisheries with EM, and commencing the internalisation of the review component of the program.

AFMA will work closely with the MAC over the next four years to establish the key program objectives and implementation. This will include ongoing updates to both TTRAG and TTMAC, plus other engagement and consultations on the work specifically.

March Commission meeting outcomes

- The AFMA Commission met on 15-16 March 2022 and endorsed a determination to again set the fishing season in the WTBF to be the period starting on 1 February in a year and ending on 31 January in the following year, consistent with the previous determination.
- The determination came into force on the day after registration on the Federal Register of Legislation and will sunset in 2032.

2.2 Fishery Catch Data – 2020/21 to date

16. The MAC noted the fishery catch data provided by AFMA in the Fishery Catch Data Report at agenda item 2.2. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager, highlighted key aspects of the paper and noted

that this Catchwatch paper and the associated TEP Interactions Report at Agenda Item 4.4 will in future be provided only at April meetings of the MAC, as part of the yearly MAC cycle, not the October meetings.

17. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager noted that the Catchwatch data and the Threatened Abatement Plan (TAP) data were separated into two papers. The Threatened, Endangered, Protected Species (TEPS) Interaction Report was discussed under agenda item 4.3. Graphs presented in the paper were modified based on advice from TTRAG 34. Catchwatch report graphs represent a reference year, the current season and the prior 10 years as individual lines and an application of shaded area between historical maximum and minimum value.
18. It was noted that the majority of the trends are similar to previous seasons in the ETBF and WTBF. In the ETBF, monthly catch by year for the target species for 2022 is trending similarly to previous years.
19. It was also noted that 2021 saw the highest percentage of SBT TACC caught in the East Coast longline sector since 1995.

2.3 International Meetings update

20. Dr Don Bromhead, ABARES Fisheries Science Program Lead, provided an update on recent and upcoming Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meetings.

21. Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) met from 1-7 December 2021. The Australian delegation was led by Emma Campbell from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and included AFMA, ABARES, DFAT and industry members.
- The WCPFC was scheduled to negotiate a new Tropical Tuna Conservation and Management Measure (CMM), which provides a core management framework for Western Pacific skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks. Despite extensive efforts on redevelopment of the CMM since the 2020 meeting, the existing measure was extended for 2 years with only minor changes to mitigate the impacts of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS) on the marine environment.
- Given the extent of some proposed changes raised during the negotiations, and the risk of having no CMM in place for these species, the retention of a strong Tropical Tuna CMM is a good outcome.
- The WCPFC also considered the Compliance and Monitoring Scheme (CMS), the central CMM for assessing member compliance with obligations. The Commission agreed to extend the CMS CMM for an additional 2 years while agreeing to undertake work to respond to weaknesses in the CMM during that period. Extension of the existing measure ensures requirements continue to apply to member fleets, and auditing work against the rules of the Commission continues.
- The WCPFC considered Harvest Strategy (HS) development, with little substantive progress made. Members agreed to prioritise the HS in the coming year, and the Commission agreed to hold a Science-Management Dialogue following the next meeting of the WCPFC-SC, to progress key technical and policy work. Australia led the work to revise and update the Commission's harvest strategy workplan and the group heard that Australia would provide a convenor for the Management Issues Theme.
- Australia led the work to revise and update the HS Workplan, setting out key milestones in coming years. In 2022, HS decisions are scheduled to be agreed for skipjack tuna and south pacific albacore tuna. These discussions are likely to be complex.
- Australia continues to advocate for strengthened management of swordfish in the South West Pacific and introduced (with support from FFA members) a first draft of a new Swordfish Management CMM to Commission Members for their consideration and feedback. Australia will continue to facilitate discussions with other Commission Members during 2022 on this draft CMM with the intention to submit for adoption at WCPFC19 in December 2022.

- The primary aim of the draft Swordfish Management CMM is to prevent future increases in swordfish fishing mortality, noting that the current CMM places no restrictions on total fishing mortality. The new CMM describes a framework incorporating a series of catch limits for swordfish targeting fleets in addition to a suite of alternate measures for fleets taking swordfish as bycatch. The CMM was developed taking into account the stock assessment, future catch projections, and swordfish target and bycatch information.
- A Departmental observer reiterated the significance of progressing the draft Swordfish CMM to the Commission during the coming year, noting the vast amount of work already undertaken to secure FFA support and move the framework to this point.
- The impact of COVID and online meetings in slowing WCPFC work more generally, particularly on the issues of tuna HS development and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) supporting Target Reference Point (TRP) setting and updating, was noted.
- An industry member queried the likelihood that there will be adoption of the measure in 2022 and the meeting heard that while the general framework on which the draft CMM is based has received support from FFA members, this year will require extensive negotiations with other WCPFC members to secure a similar level of support.
- The MAC heard that Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is revising their standard, and it is hoped that feedback from a range of fisheries in the Pacific will cause MSC to take into account the complex nature of the development of HS in multinational fisheries, in comparison to single species and single fishery certification approaches. However, there is still concern that longer timelines may not be allowed for fisheries subject to complex management environments.

22. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

- The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Scientific Committee (SC) met on 6-10 December 2021. The Australian delegation was made up of ABARES and CSIRO, including current and past RAG members and participants.
- Among species of particular interest to Australia, there were new stock assessments considered for yellowfin tuna, black marlin, striped marlin and blue shark. The 2021 yellowfin tuna assessment indicates that the stock remains overfished relative to the IOTC SB_{MSY} reference point (which differs from the harvest strategy policy default Limit Reference Point (LRP) of 20% of unfished SB) and subject to overfishing ($F > F_{MSY}$). Median spawning biomass depletion was estimated to be ~31%.
- The new assessment improved on the 2018 assessment in some aspects and was endorsed by SC24 alongside some new catch projections, however a range of technical issues remain, creating uncertainty in assessment outcomes. SC24 recommended that IOTC Commission fund and implement a full independent review of the assessment from 2022-24. Approval of this recommendation by the Commission is anticipated, and background work is underway.
- The yellowfin tuna catch projections generated from the 2021 assessment were reviewed by SC24 against a range of catch level and time frame scenarios to achieve the MSY-based objectives. This exploration will inform Commission discussions on the revision of the main yellowfin tuna Resolution (Res. 21/01) which applies the catch limits for the stock. The projection outcomes that are likely to be of most interest to the Commission are those indicating that if catches are reduced to less than 80% of 2020 levels (~344,000 tonnes) this would result in a >50% probability of ending overfishing by 2023 and 2030, and the stock no longer being in an overfished state by 2030.
- The SC noted that skipjack catches in 2020 were approximately 555,000 tonnes and exceeded both the Harvest Control Rule generated TACC for that time period (470,000 tonnes) and the revised TACC 2021-23 (513,000 tonnes).
- The updated black marlin and striped marlin assessments indicated that striped marlin is overfished, subject to overfishing, and severely depleted, with estimates putting the stock at between 6-12% of B_0 . Black marlin status remains uncertain, and recent average catches of black marlin and indo pacific sailfish have exceeded MSY levels and catch limits under Res. 18/05. The SC has

recommended that the IOTC Commission review Res. 18/05 to provide mechanisms to ensure limits are adhered to, noting that take of these species is primarily coastal.

- Australia holds particular interest in the implementation of Management Procedures (MP), with key technical work being led by CSIRO. The SC24 recommended a revised schedule of work (drafted by Australia), and endorsed a paper describing exceptional circumstances guidelines developed by CSIRO. The SC also recommended to implement an independent review of the bigeye tuna MSE (led by CSIRO). The SC agreed that this work had progressed sufficiently to inform a Commission decision in determining a MP for this stock and indicated that the review should not delay a decision on adopting an MP for bigeye tuna.
- SC noted that redevelopment of the yellowfin tuna Operating Model (OM) may be required due to ongoing issues with the stock assessment model that underpins the current OM.
- The SC recommended the Commission endorse the continuation of the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Standards Working Group and to determine reporting lines for this group. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for June 2022.
- The MAC noted industry's ongoing concerns regarding catch reductions in the IOTC convention area, and the broader challenges in data collection and precautionary decision making.
- A Departmental representative provided an update on the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) ecologically related species working group meeting, which was held virtually last month. There were three key agreements from the meeting:
 - A multi-year seabird strategy
 - holding of annual meetings, including a regular meeting every two years and a technical meeting every other year so that scientists can look at technical and scientific ways of improving mitigation measures in Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) fisheries
 - continued to advocate the use of electronic monitoring as a way of improving and confirming data going into management.
- He also acknowledging the industry members at the meeting observing and participating in the meeting and thanked them for participating.

23. The Chair thanked those involved for providing updates on recent and upcoming international meetings.

2.4 Verbal updates from Tuna Australia (TA) / Industry update

24. Tuna Australia and Industry members

- The Chair welcomed Industry member David Ellis back to MAC following 6 months leave. The industry member noted the fishery is experiencing labour retention issues largely relating to visa application processes and are complicated to navigate. Additionally, industry is experiencing difficulty retaining crew, even when crew arrive from overseas. Whilst they intend to work in the sector they often move to other employment opportunities on the job market.
- The industry member drew the MAC's attention to advice he has recently received from Austrade in relation to the International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM). This is a temporary, targeted, emergency support measure put in place by the Australian Government to keep global air links open in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and will only be funded to 30 June 2022 with trial to the end of July 2022.
- This assisted freight program has and will continue to be crucial for the ETBF and WTBF as they are predominantly (70%) an export industry and rely on pre-COVID freight rates or the subsidized IFAM rates to maintain economic viability. The industry member predicted that the ceasing of this emergency support measure would create huge problems not only for the ETBF, but also the SBT fishery. It was highlighted that fishing practices and the species targeted might move away from export species because of freight costs/access to domestic markets or high-volume frozen albacore. It was noted the freight issues will affect many other Australian export industries. The meeting heard that the issue would likely be discussed at both levels of government in the coming weeks.

- An Industry member, fishing out of Southern Queensland remarked that it has been a standard fishing year in terms of fish/timing etc. It was also noted issues already flagged by TA, such as crewing and IFAM ceasing but in addition the difficulty sourcing mechanics or finding companies to perform routine servicing of equipment such as life rafts or medical equipment (AMSA requirements), due to staff shortages in these support industries.
- Another industry member also noted good yellowfin catches early in the season, but since then boat hasn't been able source crew. This is a common experience not only in ETBF, but across fisheries. It was also noted that it is normal summer season unfolding with air freight still costly, but more flights are appearing.
- Similar situations are being experienced on the west coast of Australia in relation to crew and related industries issues where an industry member noted continued dissatisfaction with IOTC allocation caps.

2.5 General update from members, invited participants and observers

- The MAC noted the written updates provided by the recreational member and the SBT invited participant.
- The recreational fishing invited participant reported that recreational fishing off Southern Queensland has been affected by rain and flooding although he hopes fishing in North Queensland will be reasonable when tournaments begin in June. It was noted that there have been a few juvenile black marlin caught off Fraser Coast and the southern end of the Barrier Reef. They're quite young and their size indicates that they may have a different spawning date to other fish encountered. If juveniles of this size are encountered again samples will be taken for testing.
- Mr Chad Lunow was welcomed and introduced to the MAC. Mr Lunow is a Fisheries Manager from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and a newly appointed state fishery invited participant.

3. Consideration / Decision items

3.1 Swordfish HS update

25. The MAC noted a presentation by Dr Rich Hilary from CSIRO summarising TTRAG 34 discussions and recommendations relating to the ETBF Harvest Strategy for Swordfish and the CSIRO Workplan; the results of which will inform TTRAG and the MAC's discussions on Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) recommendations for the 2023 fishing season.

- TTMAC members supported the 2021 Swordfish TACC recommendation, and TTMAC took an action to request TTRAG "undertake analysis to determine if the low catch to TACC constitutes exceptional circumstances and to investigate the opportunity to collect and integrate additional data in to the CPUE standardisation around bait types and sizes". (TTMAC 26, Action item 3).

TTRAG 34 Outcomes

26. TTRAG met online on 9-10 March 2022, and in relation to the Swordfish HS, focused on two distinct issues:

- CPUE standardisation and
- Low catch to TACC ratio

CPUE standardisation

- Dr Hilary explained the RAG's discussion CPUE standardisation and approaches to identify changes in fishery characteristics regarding bait data. The RAG identified areas where additional bait data could be included or collected for future inclusion in the CPUE standardisation. AFMA, CSIRO and Tuna Australia agreed to progress actions relating to CPUE standardisation.

- The MAC heard that while CPUE for swordfish is low, it is within the bounds tested through the MSE and does not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances.
- Similarly, CSIRO reported that an analysis indicated that external fishing pressure was not outside the bounds tested through the MSE and does not meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances, noting that the MSE had explored a scenario with twice as much fishing from distant water fleets.

Low catch to TACC ratio

- The RAG considered if the low catch to TACC ratio constitutes exceptional circumstances as defined in the HS.
- The RAG discussed that the MSE testing was modelled on pre-COVID fishery characteristics. The RAG noted that the most recent season brings the swordfish fishery to 3 of 4 years with a low catch to TACC ratio, which was not tested in the MSE.
- RAG members agreed that the persistent low catch to TACC ratio experienced in recent years meets exceptional circumstances under the Swordfish HS.
- In the case of low recruitment, it was noted that this event has been included in modelling, and that it takes approximately four-years for this signal to move through the model, and that industry has reported increasing numbers of juvenile swordfish more recently.
- CSIRO advised that in a scenario of low sub-adult recruitment, which stock assessment data indicates is also occurring in the fishery, there are ways to ameliorate TACC cut recommendations generated by the HS.

Workplan for TTRAG

27. TTRAG and CSIRO will work to determine two key issues:

- Exploring offsetting a decrease in the TACC under the HS, by comparing average catch to additional recent undercatch and;
- Developing a MSE tested decision rule based on the relationship of actual and additional undercatch proportions, in time for TTRAG to consider at its July meeting.
- The purpose of this work will be considered if modifying the HS for a short period, without removing its ability to detect downturns in actual stock abundance which should be reflected in changes to the TAC. MSE testing is being undertaken as part of this work and will be used to inform the review of the HS in 2023.
- Dr Hilary noted that if signals from HS indicate that a cut is required due to low CPUE from low catches, but catches are already low due to other influences, this could be recognised and the TACC may not need to be further reduced. The RAG will discuss options and the MSE results at the TTRAG July meeting 2022.
- The Industry member asked about the genetics of Swordfish in the region and Dr Hilary explained that although there is migration from an evolutionary perspective it is a single stock in our region. The region is divided into two - left of 165 west is ETBF and the other stock region. There is no particular point at which a HS stops working there is just have less and less leverage. The HS was tested against a wide range of non-ETBF catches.

3.2 Coral Sea Hook Trial Update

28. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager gave a brief update on the trial noting that:

- The trial will continue in 2022 to establish a greater dataset to support further analysis before considering a management decision about hook limits in the Coral Sea Zone; and

- Amendments have been made to 2022 Coral Sea Zone SFR conditions to allow for multiple shots with a maximum of 1,200 cumulative hooks within a day in the Coral Sea Zone and the changes apply to the whole year if fishing east of 148°E and March 2022 to August 2022 if fishing west of 148°E.

3.3 DRAFT 2022/23 cost recovered budget for ETBF and WTBF.

- The AFMA member gave an overview of the draft AFMA 2022-23 budget applied under the 2022-23 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS).
- The MAC noted that the draft AFMA 2022-23 budget has been released to industry for comment.
- The draft 2022-23 cost recovered budget is \$16.174 million, or \$0.342 million (3.0%) higher than 2021-22. This increase is in line with government inflation expectations for 2022-23 (also 3.0%).
- AFMA acquits its cost recovered expenditure each year and adjusts levies in the following year for each fishery to account for any over or under recoveries so there is an expectation that there will be some adjustments, particularly in staff expenditure to account for vacancies as this financial year closes.
- Annual levy collections also include a research component collected on behalf of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).
- The MAC noted the major changes in the draft 2022/23 budget are at the fishery level compared to the final 2021/22 budgets for each of the fisheries outlined below:
 - i. for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) the levy budget has increased by \$62,463 (3.9%) compared to 2021-22.
 - ii. for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) the levy budget has decreased by \$386 (0.2%) compared to 2021-22.
 - iii. for the Skipjack Tuna Fishery the levy budget has increased by \$2,487 (5.1%) compared to 2021-22.
- The draft ETBF 2022-23 cost recovered budget is \$1.657 million, or \$0.062 million (3.9%) higher compared to 2021-22.
- ETBF- the increase in the cost recovered budget is largely due to an increase in costs associated with Data Collection and Management (+\$95,009) including increased EM usage and data storage costs (+\$41,409), increased costs for VMS (+\$17,320), increased Data Management (+18,771) and Logbooks and CDRs (+\$17,507). Other lesser increases include Licensing Administration and Revenue Collection (difference of +\$12,865) and Management of Domestic Commercial Fisheries (difference of +\$14,482).
- The AFMA member noted that the draft budget will change because the split between SBT and ETBF Fisheries for the EM costs is based on a 2-year average rolling percentage of catch of SBT by ETBF operators and that percentage was applied incorrectly when this draft budget was prepared. It is estimated that this will result in a roughly \$50,000 reduction of this budget for ETBF.
- The AFMA member drew the MAC's attention to the across fisheries increase in the total VMS and Data Management budgets which is therefore reflected across all fishery levy budgets, including the ETBF budget.
- In response to questions about the MAC and RAG travel budgets the AFMA member noted these had been trimmed in the 2022/23 draft. However, more cuts were planned for future budgets to reflect further online meeting efficiencies.
- In reference to the Bycatch component of the draft budget the AFMA member explained that this does not relate to the Size Monitoring Co-management Contract currently in place. This covers AFMA staff time including for example, membership of FRDC project steering committees by the Manager and Senior Manager, Tuna and International Fisheries. Under the CRIS is one of several areas which receive a government contribution.

- Industry questioned the ongoing costs of EM noting that in their view they were promised in that EM would be 20% cheaper than observer costs. An industry member stated that it is industry's belief that physical observers would be cheaper than the EM Program.
- The AFMA member explained that approximate of \$1100 per day for an observer is only the partial at sea cost; the figure is closer to an approximate figure of \$1700 when land days and associated travel costs are (and must be) factored in.
- The AFMA member further explained to MAC members that this issue is currently being discussed separately with AFMA Executive and the Commonwealth Fisheries Association and other industry bodies.
- The invited participant disagreed with the costings presented by AFMA but agreed to continue to discuss this in a separate forum. A few industry members questioned historic EM recommendations which they state gave undertakings that EM would be cheaper than observers, particularly in relation to amortisation of the cost of EM purchases.

Action 1: AFMA will review EM discussion documents for reference to the amortisation of capital costs EM equipment.

- A question was raised about the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) expenditure within the VMS budget and AFMA agreed to discuss this issue with the relevant AFMA Section and forward the response out of session to the MAC.

Action 2: AFMA to forward information explaining costings in the VMS draft budget to the MAC out of session.

4. Information Papers

4.1. Tuna Australia out of zone quota pooling verbal update

- Tuna Australia industry member David Ellis gave a verbal update to the MAC and indicated that the in zone / out of zone quota and the pooling issue will be priorities Tuna Australia will raise with the AFMA Commission in its the upcoming meeting.
- Their proposal covers two separate concepts. The first relates to quota pooling: Industry suggests that unused quota could be pooled and fishers who want to lease that quota can then pay the lease price, calculated based on a percentage of what the fish return at the market. This would, for example, benefit new entries to the fishery as they would be able to budget across a season of fishing knowing that a percentage of their catch price will be paid for fish leases which would mean fishers don't get locked into a higher price or a lower price, and it evens out the market.
- The second concept Industry is seeking to explore is the allocation of quota to the out of zone area which could then be fished in-zone once the in-zone TACC is close to fully caught. Industry believes that this would reduce the risk of inflating the quota price, potential for discarding of quota species and ensure that the domestic fleet could maximise the benefit from the one-off episodes that result in an unexpectedly high abundance in-zone. They are considering this as way to maximise fishing over 10-year timeframe. The option of a multi-year TACC where catch could be caught across years was discussed briefly, however industry was concerned with the downside risk when the TACC needs to be reduced.
- These concepts will be presented to the AFMA Commission at its May 2022 meeting.

4.2. PEER Report

- The MAC Members noted a written update paper provided prior to the meeting.

4.3. Research Update

- The MAC Members noted a written update paper provided by AFMA prior to the meeting.

- The Tuna Australia (TA) industry member provided a verbal update on TA research projects.
- TA is progressing the MSC Bait Fish Project. This project is looking at alternative bait sources and making sure that baitfish used is sustainably sourced.
- Two FRDC projects are currently running looking at the impacts and safety of current mitigation methods on fishers and testing Industry solutions to manage seabird interactions.
- TA is working in conjunction with students from the Sunshine Coast University in conducting research into False Killer Whale interactions, total interactions, seabirds and sharks. This work will help to support MSC certification and inform eNGO partners.
- Additionally, TA started work on a project to assist in future proofing the tuna industry. The industry member noted that with IFAM closing and as it is a 70% export industry investigating how to maximise returns to industry from domestic and international markets on all qualities of fish, as well as how to deal with pulses of wild caught fish is vital into the future
- The MAC noted that TA recently received an award through the MSC process and offered congratulations to David and the TA Team.

4.4. TEP Species Update

- The MAC members noted a written update paper provided prior to the meeting.
- An industry member noted whether the existing TAP, which was introduced because longlining was identified as a key threatening process, was still necessary in the current circumstances.
- The AFMA Member noted that it was unclear how a key threatening process might be denominated under the EPBC Act, noting that the Department responsible for administration of the TAP – the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), may be unlikely to remove the TAP.
- The MAC discussed whether reductions in TEP interactions in recent years could be due to reduced effort during the Covid-19 period, but also noted recent industry trials on mitigation innovations are proving positive.
- AFMA will seek further information from DAWE regarding how nomination and delisting of a key threatening process occurs and provide this to the MAC out of session.

Action 3: AFMA will seek further information from DAWE regarding how nomination and delisting of a key threatening process occurs and provide this to the MAC out of session.

4.5. AFMA's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Plan

- The MAC Members noted a written update paper provided prior to the meeting. There were no comments regarding the paper.

5. Other business

- Industry member raised the research paper recently released by CSIRO – *By-catch rates in fisheries largely driven by variation in individual vessel behaviour*. It was noted that the paper sourced AFMA data via CSIRO, shared through an existing MOU.
- Dr Hilary responded on behalf of CSIRO. CSIRO recognised that there were errors in the data. They have requested that the associated paper and documents be removed from the online platform. There is not a guarantee that the journal article will be removed. CSIRO key scientists were not notified of the paper and will now be overseeing future reporting based on this data. He apologised for the occurrence.
- The AFMA member also asked the MAC to note that ETBF and WTBF WTO re-assessment process is underway and WTBF will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for re-assessment soon.
- No other business was raised.

6. Date and venue for next meeting

- The MAC discussed setting a date for the second meeting of 2022 which will be held in October and agreed meeting date will be decided in in consultation with participants.
- The Chair thanked participants and members for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12:45.

ATTACHMENT 1: Written Updates from members (Agenda Item 2.5)

A template was provided for TTMAC members and invited participants wishing to submit a written general update for inclusion in record of meeting. These were taken as read during the teleconference meeting.

Agenda Item 2.4 Update from members

Template for TTMAC members and invited participants wishing to submit a written general update for inclusion in record of meeting.

A)

Provided by: Grahame Williams, OAM

Position on TTMAC: Recreational/Charter Member. **General Update:**

Game fishing in NSW since the last TTMAC meeting in October 2021 has been reasonably successful with a few tournaments having to reschedule dates due to weather, large seas and recently run out from rivers in flood mainly up the north coast.

The 2022 NSW Game Fishing season started September 2021 with the first Tournament being the Wollongong GFC Tournament however that was cancelled due to Covid-19.

Next up was the Jervis Bay GFC White Sands Tournament held 4th December with 17 boats entered.

No game fish were caught or Tagged which was very unusual for that area, however the sharks were around so there were 7 Tagged & Released and 5 captured.

Start of 2022 saw the 38th Golden Lure Tournament held 7th-15 Jan 2022.

Fishing was tough with the tag and captures down on average but this made competition tight. Weather played its hand with the first two days postponed due to the big tides and large cyclone easterly swell causing issues with the bar. The week long north east winds made in the inshore water cold and green and the current was pushing quite hard out on the shelf. It was hard fishing with 5 days in a row (including ladies day Tues) but a great time was had by all.

Total number of boats – 62

Total number of fish T & R – 95, Marlin – 43, S/B Spearfish – 4, Mahi – 25, Y/f tuna – 2,

Sharks – 21

Total Number Fish Captured – 2, Spanish Mackerel – 17.2kg, Wahoo – 26.1kg

Next was Batemans Bay Tollgate Islands Classic – 14-16 January 2022

42 boats fished with 12 Striped Marlin, 4 Black Marlin, 4 Mako and 1 Dolphin Fish Tagged & Released. No captures.

Then we had 2 Tournaments on the week-end of 22-23 January, one down south and one in the Sydney area.

The Bermagui 86th Bluewater Classic – 3 days 22-24 January.

66 Boats fished with 250 Anglers entered.

81 Striped Marlin, 3 Black Marlin, 2 Blue Marlin, 9 Dolphin Fish, 11 Striped tuna, 2 Hammerhead Sharks and 1 Yellowfin Tuna were Tagged & Released during the 3 days.

There were also 3 captures of Striped Marlin. On 22 January, Cain Gawne on board La Dolce Vita captured a 72kg Striped Marlin on 10kg line. On 23 January, Josh Mears on board Send It captured a 101kg Striped Marlin on 15kg line and on 24 January small fry angler Miller Finch on board Elmer captured a 73.2kg Striped Marlin on 15kg as the minimum weight in NSWGFA is 80kg on 15kg line for Marlin. Miller was still presented with a \$100 gift voucher to Bermagui Bait and Tackle for the fantastic achievement. They tried swimming the marlin to revive it but were unsuccessful hence why they brought it in to weigh.

The Botany Bay Bill Heyward Tournament fished the 2 days 22-23 January.

This Tournament had cash prizes. \$25,000 for a Blue Marlin over 200kg on any line class and \$25,000 for a Tiger or Mako over 350kg but had to be caught on 15kg or less line class.

35 boats fished with 173 anglers entered.

Tagged & Released statistics were 8 Mahi Mahi, 14 Striped Marlin, 2 Blue Marlin, 2 Tiger Sharks and 4 Blue Sharks.

Captures statistics were 3 Tiger sharks weighed, all on 15kg line. 190kg, 285.5kg and a \$25,000 winning 356.5kg. **The \$25,000 fish was caught on the afternoon of day 2 by the Hudson brothers fishing on their boat Reaper.**

The other captures were 3 Mako Sharks, 141.5kg, 187kg and 233.5kg, 1 Mahi Mahi 13kg and 1 Whaler Shark, 134.5kg on 8kg line.

Newcastle & Port Stephens Shootout 19-20 February.

Number of boats? - 154 Boats

Number of anglers? - 714 Anglers

Fish results breakdown, T&R

Marlin 33, H/H Sharks 2, S/B Spearfish 1, total 36

Capture. Marlin 8, Tiger Sharks 3. Total 11

Heaviest Marlin 219.2kg, Heaviest Shark 321.9kg

Next Tournament on our calendar is our prestigious State Club Championships. Due to Covid-19 issues holding this tournament in past few years has been difficult so 2021 saw us run an All Ports fish from your selected port Championship which was very successful and which I reported to outcome to the MAC last year.

This year we decided to hold 2 tournaments in conjunction with one another so the Interclub went back to Port Stephens where it has being held for over 50 years and at the same time we also ran the All Ports Tournament where the vessel owners decided which port they would fish from, those who entered the Interclub also entered the All Ports at the same time. The results are listed below.

2022 NSWGFA INTERCLUB CHAMPIONSHIP PORT STEPHENS FEBRUARY 25-27.

Number of Boats Entered – 102

Number of Anglers Entered – 495

Champion Team T & R. N&PSGFC – Team 3 (Hoodlum, Wild Thing, True Grit)

Runner-Up Team T & R. Broken BGFC – Team1 (Anyfin, Prime Time, Blackrat)

Champion Team Capture. PHGFC – Team 5 (Doghouse, Dark Horse, Rage)

Runner-Team Capture. CCGFC – Team 4 (Kill Tank, Go Getum)

Champion Boat T & R. Prime Time – Broken Bay GFC 46,000 Points. Count back on time.

Runner-Up Boat T & R. True Grit – N&PSGFC - 46,000 Points. Count back on time.

Champion Boat Capture. Doghouse – PHGFC – 35,908.25 Points.

Runner-Up Boat Capture. Go Getum – CCGFC – 15,840.09 Points.

Champion Angler T & R. Phillipa Walker – True Grit – N&PSGFC – 34,500 Points.

Champion Angler Capture. Joel Sinclair – Doghouse – PHGFC – 20158 Points.

Champion Junior T & R. Mia Wright – Sydney GFC, Tantrum.

Champion Small Fry T & R. Isaac Moussa – Botany Bay GFC, Punisher.

Heaviest Marlin. 174.6kg Blue – Daniel Pietrangelo – Go Get-um CCGFC.

Heaviest Shark. 133kg Mako – Cory Radford – Public Enemy – N&PSGFC.

Heaviest OGF. 19.1kg Mahi Mahi – Kye Woodforth – Reel Crazy – LMGFC.

2022 ALL PORTS TOURNAMENT February 26-27.

Number of Boats Entered - 162

Number of Anglers Entered – 716

2022 ALL PORTS WINNER CAPTURE TROPHY TEAM

CENTRAL COAST GFC - TEAM4 15,840.09 (KILL TANK & GO GETUM)

RUNNER UP CAPTURE

PORT HACKING GFC - TEAM 5 (DOGHOUSE, DARK HORSE & RAGE)

HEAVIEST MARLIN

GO GETEM, DANIEL PIETRANGELO - 174.6KG BLUE MARLIN ON 24KG LINE

HEAVIEST OGF INC TUNA

WEEKEND DETENTION N&PSGFC KAYSIE FANCETT - 17.7KG MAHI MAHI ON 15KG LINE

2022 ALL PORTS WINNER TAG & RELEASE TROPHY TEAM

ULLADULLA GFC - TEAM 2 (TEASER, MAYHEM & STARSKY)

RUNNER UP ALL PORTS TEAM - TAG & RELEASE

N&PSGFC - TEAM 3 (HOODLUM, WILD THING & TRUE GRIT)

CHAMPION BOAT TAGGING MOST MARLIN

HOLESHOT 5 MARLIN JERVIS BAY GFC.

CHAMPION BOAT TAGGING MOST SHARKS

WILD THING 3 Sharks N&PSGFC

CHAMPION BOAT TAGGING MOST OGF INC TUNA.

FULL MONTY 6 TUNA & 1 OGF PHGFC

CHAMPION JUNIOR TAG & RELEASE- MIA WRIGHT - BOAT TANTRUM SYDNEY GFC

CHAMPION SMALL FRY TAG & RELEASE - FRANCO RACO - GAME CHANGER JERVIS BAY GFC.

Last tournament for this report was the Newcastle GFC East Coast Classic/GFAA AIBT March 12-13.

Number of boats - 34

Number of anglers - 140

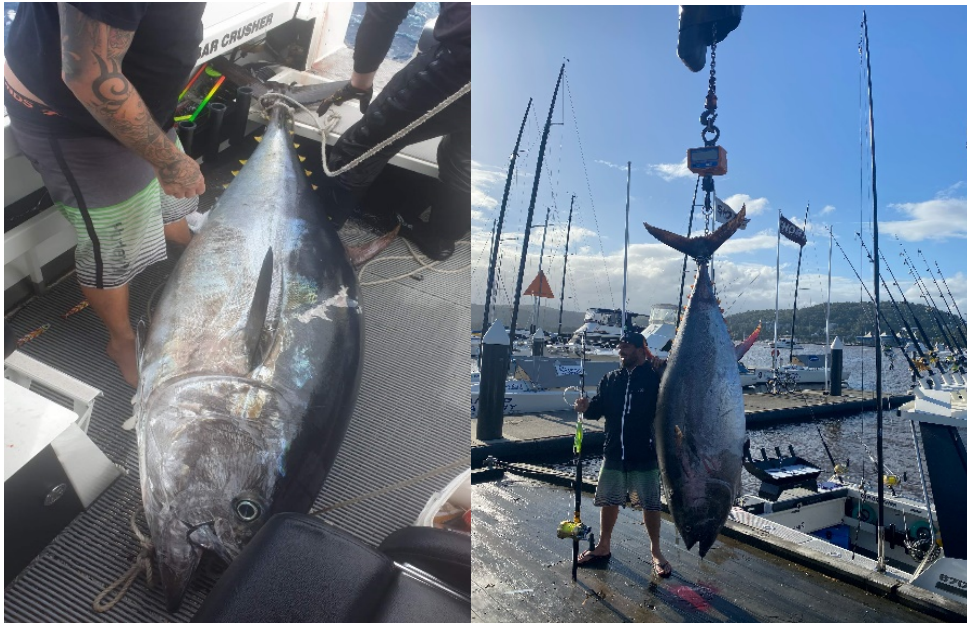
Fish results breakdown, **T&R** , Marlin 35, Tiger Shark 1, Whaler Shark 1, Mahi 2

Capture. Tiger Sharks 2, Heaviest Fish Capture Tiger Shark 369.60 Boat Reaper, Sydney GFC.

Champion Boat T&R, Lucky Strike, Newcastle GFC.

Champion Boat Capture, Reaper, Sydney GFC.

One recent capture that should interest MAC Members was a Bluefin Tuna caught on the 90 fathom line east of Broken Bay on the 26th March, see photos below:



There was debate at time of weighing whether it was a SBT or a Northern Bluefin so DNA was taken by a scientist at the weigh station, still waiting on results of that test. My opinion was Northern Bluefin based on short length of 230cm and the weight on the scale of 197kg, noting the world record for a SBT is 167kg with a short length of 198cm. Either way this fish will be a line class WORLD/AUS/NSW RECORD as it was caught on 24kg line. A great effort by angler and crew.

As stated at start of this report I mentioned tournaments and clubs in NSW have been active with some reasonable results. Weather and seas including fast currents from the north have made game fishing difficult at times, however, anglers have been keen to get out on the water which is great for our sport.

Happy to answer any questions MAC participants may have on the fishing scene along the NSW coast.

Agenda item 2 Background Information

Agenda Item 2.4 Update from members

Template for TTMAC members and invited participants wishing to submit a written general update for inclusion in record of meeting.

B)

Provided by: Brian Jeffriess. Australian Southern Bluefin Industry Association (ASBTIA)

Position on TTMAC: Invited Participant

General Update: Main stock, catch and market developments since the October 2021 Brief for TTMAC.

SBT Stock:

- a. Global SBT stock is now assessed by ABARES (Status Reports), and by AFMA (see www.afma.gov.au) as “not overfished,” “no overfishing” taking place and now as “sustainable.”
- b. The 2021 CCSBT stock review (see www.ccsbt.org/ESC) found stock growth continues in line with Harvest Strategy targets. This target, and the quota setting are based **solely** on a scientific formula (Management Procedure). Quotas are set to achieve B30 (MSY) by 2035. The stock has recovered as follows:

	% of original spawning biomass (in 1932)
2011	5.5
2014	9.0
2017	13.0
2020	20.0

Source: www.ccsbt.org

- c. In September 2021, IUCN only downlisted SBT from “critically endangered” to “endangered” despite the above information. In contrast, IUCN downlisted Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBT) from “endangered” to “near threatened” despite PBT being at less than 5% of virgin Spawning Biomass, and the stock declining (see www.iucn.org/red list).
ASBTIA appreciates that the major part of these contradictions is due to the IUCN relying largely on terrestrial life history criteria rather than the stock status and management. However, ASBTIA has formally requested IUCN to review the SBT situation, based on changes in SBT since the IUCN assessment in January 2021.
- d. In October 2021, SBT was included in the list of species to be considered for delisting from the EPBC Act. It is currently listed as Conservation Dependent.
- e. There has been no **“overfishing”** since 2009, and the SBT stock has continued to increase by 5% pa (Source: CCSBT) since then. As a result, the quotas have increased (in whole tonnes):

Total global quota	Australian quota	
1991	11,935	5,265
2009-2011	9,449	4,015
2013	10,949	4,698
2015-2017	14,647	5,665
2018-2020	17,336	6,165
2021-2023	17,642	6,273
2024-2026	To be decided in Oct. 2022	

Source: www.ccsbt.org

Catch: Catches in the GAB have been heavily influenced by continuing La Nina conditions, with highly variable weather restricting catching to approx. one fishing day to every four days at sea. The Australian catch (whole tonnes) for farming and longlining has been:

	Farms	Longline	Total
2017	4,683	650	5,333
2018	5,130	1,029	6,159
2019	5,308	766	6,074
2020	4,586	844	5,430
2021	4,592	1,030	5,622
2022	4,900	na	na

Source: AFMA, ASBTIA

Note: Catches for farming have been restricted in recent years by the limits on the area and tonnage (growout maximum) which is allowed to be farmed in the Tuna Farming Zone (TFZ). From 2023 these will be changed to:

	Maximum tonnes in TFZ	Max. stocking rate (t/ha)
Until 2022	10,500	5.8
From 2023	17,000	8.0

Markets: Main issues are:

- a. East Coast longliners have done a very good job diversifying markets from Japan to the US, as has Mexico with farmed Pacific Bluefin to the US:

	East Coast (t)		Mexico (t)	
	Japan	US	Japan	US
2020	492	48	1,913	1,017
2021	287	270	2,388	2,602

- b. Prices in Japan in 2022 are much higher, but this will largely/totally be cancelled out by extreme Yen weakness and by much higher transport costs. For example – the Yen is at the weakest against the \$US for 20 years and against the \$A for 7 years.

	\$A/kg fob	Y/kg landed Japan
2018	14.67	1,368
2019	16.61	1,369
2020	11.57	1,068
2021	12.52	1,199
2022*	12.52*	

Source: www.frdc.com.au and www.customs.go.jp

*The required landed Japan price to return the same \$12.52 needs to include the 16% weaker Yen/\$A and the much higher transport costs.

Other issues

This includes only items which may be relevant to TTMAC:

- a. ERS issues: Eight ASBTIA Members participated in the CCSBT ERS Working Group in March 2022. Given the continuing resistance of High Seas and NZ longliners to concrete mitigation packages and compliance measures – we are concerned not just for the seabirds, but also that the CCSBT’s legacy is not the great science, but the poor performance on seabirds. The Australian Government did its best.
- b. CCSBT Market Study: The CCSBT has contracted another study of the Japanese and other SBT markets, to assess whether there is any overcatch. ASBTIA has made a major submission. This study coincides with prosecutions in Japan for breaches of Pacific Bluefin quotas – which one Japanese Government official calls “the tip of the iceberg” – see: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/01/30/national/bluefin-tuna-management/>
- c. MSC: ASBTIA will participate in the East Coast MSC renewal for SBT (secondary) with Bio Inspecta on 22/4/22. ASBTIA has made direct submissions to MSC on their current review of the MSC Standard, and also was part of joint submissions.
- d. National Fisheries Plan: ASBTIA welcomes the long-debated clause in the final Plan – commitment 9.1:
 - 9.1 “Engaging in international fisheries management through cooperation to protect Australia’s access to shared stocks, promotion of sustainable fisheries management and ensuring a level regulatory playing field for Australian operators.”

Brian Jeffriess

CEO – Australian SBT Industry Association (ASBTIA)

Ph: 0419840299E. ceo@asbtia.org

ATTACHMENT 2: TTMAC 27 Agenda

Tropical Tuna Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC) 27 Meeting

27 April 2022

10:00am to 4:00pm (EST)

Online

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Preliminaries/Matters Arising

- 1.1. Welcome (including acknowledgement of Country) and apologies
- 1.2. Adoption of agenda
- 1.3. Declaration of interests
- 1.4. Notification of finalisation of Minutes from TTMAC 26
- 1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings
- 1.6. Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 26 and TTMAC 27

2. Background Information/Discussion Items

- 2.1. AFMA Management Report
- 2.2. Fishery Catch Data – 2021/22 season to date
- 2.3. International meetings update
- 2.4. Tuna Australia / Industry update
- 2.5. General update from members, invited participants and observers

3. Consideration Items

- 3.1. Swordfish Harvest Strategy – outcomes of TTRAG 34 discussion
- 3.2. Coral Sea Zone hook trial 2022 update
- 3.3. Draft 2022-23 cost recovered budget

4. Other Information/Discussion Items

- 4.1. Tuna Australia “out of zone quota pooling” verbal update
- 4.2. Policy, Environment, Economics and Research Section (PEER) update
- 4.3. Research update
- 4.4. TEP Species Interactions update
- 4.5. AFMA’s Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and First People Acknowledgement Guide

5. Other business

- 5.1. No other business

6. Date and venue for next meeting