



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# **Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)**

**Meeting minutes**

**12 December 2022**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

## Contents

1.0 – Preliminaries .....	3
1.1 Welcome and apologies.....	3
1.2 Declarations of interest .....	4
1.3 Adoption of agenda .....	4
1.4 Minutes of previous meeting.....	4
1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings .....	4
2.0 – Management and Industry Updates .....	5
2.1 Manager’s Update .....	5
2.2 Industry Update .....	6
3.0 – Orange Roughy.....	7
4.0 – Climate Change and Ecosystem Update .....	8
5.0 – TAC Recommendations for 2023-24 .....	9
6.0 – GAB Research Priorities.....	10
7.0 – Other Business .....	11
8.0 – Review of Action Items .....	11
9.0 – Next Meeting.....	11
10.0 – Close of Meeting .....	11
Attachment A – Register of Interests.....	11
Attachment B – Meeting Agenda.....	14
Attachment C – Summary of action items at the close of GABMAC 2022 .....	15

# Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)

## 2022 Meeting – 12 December

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1. Mr Barry Windle (the Chair), opened the meeting at 9:30 AEDT.

### 1.0 – Preliminaries

#### 1.1 Welcome and apologies

2. The Chair:
  - Welcomed members and observers to the meeting; and
  - Made an Acknowledgement of Country paying respect to this country's First People and Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Australia. Acknowledging Australia's Traditional Custodians of Country and recognising their continued connection to land, waters and community. Paying our respects to them and their cultures and to Elders past present and emerging.
3. The GABMAC (the MAC) members noted the Acknowledgement of Country, that the meeting was being recorded, and commenced proceedings.
4. The MAC noted the current membership ([Table 1](#)) and that all members, invited participants and observers were present (there were no apologies).

Table 1 – GABMAC members and other attendees.

Members	Position
Mr Barry Windle	Chair
Mr Lance Lloyd	Research Member
Dr Steven Rust	Economic Member
Mr Neil MacDonald	Industry Member
Mr Jim Raptis	Industry Member
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry Member
Dr Mark Grubert	AFMA Member
Executive Officer	Organisation
Ms Michelle Henriksen	AFMA
Invited Participants	Membership
Dr Nastaran Mazloumi	AFMA
Observers	Membership
Mr Daniel Corrie	AFMA

## 1.2 Declarations of interest

- MAC members declared their conflicts of interest as outlined in [Fisheries Management Paper 1](#). Members and participants reviewed and updated their Declarations of Interests which are included at [Attachment A](#).
- The Chair asked attendees to identify any conflicts of interest with specific agenda items ([Table 2](#)).
- Attendees with a declared conflict of interest for any agenda item left the meeting while the remaining members discussed their participation in the development of recommendations relating to that item.
- The MAC decided that participants would be permitted to contribute to discussions but would be excused from the meeting for any recommendation made by the MAC for the items listed in [Table 2](#).

Table 2 – Participation in items where there were declared conflicts of interest

Agenda Item	Potential conflicts of interest	Discussion Participation	Recommendation Participation
3.1 – Orange Roughy Research Plan	Mr Jim Raptis Mr Neil MacDonald Ms Marcia Valente	Present	Not present for the Research Catch Allowance (RCA) recommendation.
4.0 – Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendations for 2023-24	Mr Jim Raptis Mr Neil MacDonald Ms Marcia Valente	Present	Not present for TAC recommendations.

## 1.3 Adoption of agenda

- The MAC adopted the agenda ([Attachment B](#)) as final.

## 1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

- The MAC noted the final minutes of the GABMAC meeting on November 2021 is available on the [AFMA website](#).

## 1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

- The MAC discussed three action items from previous meetings:

### Action Item 2: February 2020 – Agenda Item 4

Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment group (GABRAG) to investigate research options for dogfish in the GAB. Options identified by GABMAC:

- Inclusion of the GAB within the survey design for the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) project proposal to establish a baseline index of abundance for Harrison’s dogfish and southern dogfish (research scope is currently being considered by FRDC).
  - Investigate options for mitigating catch of deepwater shark species as part of the FRDC project [“Improving and promoting fish-trawl selectivity in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector \(CTS\) and Great Australian Bight \(GAB\) Trawl Sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(SESSF\)”](#).
  - Developing a GAB specific project to explore mitigation options to prevent capture of deepwater sharks.
- No further comment was added, and the MAC agreed to close this item.

#### **Action Item 4: March 2021 – Agenda Item 4**

*AFMA management to liaise with the Policy, Environment, Economics and Research (PEER) team to further develop the social research priorities to be included in the [‘Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(SESSF\) Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2021-25’](#).*

- No further comment was added, and the MAC agreed to close this item.

#### **Action Item 1: November 2021 – Agenda item 5**

*Subject to the Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) being funded in 2024, GABRAG is to consider the sampling design and survey structure of the FIS.*

- It was noted that progression of this action item was contingent on the outcome of discussions at Agenda Item 6.0.

## **2.0 – Management and Industry Updates**

### **2.1 Manager’s Update**

12. The MAC noted the following updates provide by the GABTS manager, Dr Mark Grubert:

- The promotion of Daniel Corrie as Senior Manager of the Demersal and Midwater Fisheries Team. Dr Mark Grubert is the new AFMA member for both GABRAG and GABMAC and Michelle Henriksen has been appointed as executive officer for both groups.
- The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) Fishery Status Report was published and no species within the GABTS were classified as being overfished.
- AFMA attended the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment meeting on 16 November 2022.
- The updated preliminary GVP estimate for the GABTS in 2021-22 was \$9.48 million, with Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish accounting for approximately 58% and 10% of that amount, respectively.
- AFMA notes that the Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) are currently seeking advice from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) regarding an optimal harvest size for Deepwater Flathead in the GAB.
- Catch weights for the top ten caught species since 2019-20 SESSF season up to 2022-23 were updated and provided to the group.
- A gear selectivity trial is currently running in the GAB along with an FRDC project using environmental data loggers and integration with various fishing vessels into the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) database. Trials are due to begin in early 2023.
- Economics member, Mr Steven Rust, highlighted how the Sand Flathead fishery has seen a plasticity in fish size and asked the MAC if Deepwater Flathead has seen the same trend by CSIRO. AFMA and GABIA to raise with the GAB data working group to investigate the age-length relationship for Deepwater Flathead.

## 2.2 Industry Update

13. The MAC noted updates provided by Industry member, Mr Jim Raptis, on the 2022-23 fishing season to date:

- Since July, some vessels have been out of action due to ongoing maintenance and repairs which may be impacting total catch records. Rough winter conditions have been present up until the end of October impacting both fishing effort and total catch data.
- Deepwater Flathead catches are stable and have remained consistent, however noted the absence of other species such as Boarfish and lower valued species, which has been suggested to be linked to climatic changes.
- Orange Roughy catch has improved since the previous year to around 50 t, with around 500 otoliths and length frequency records collected. An observer was successfully added to the Roughy trips. Industry is convinced that Orange Roughy habitat does not extend to waters inside 700 m and hopes to remove the overlapping dogfish closure in the future.
- Industry requested AFMA to maintain dialogue with GABIA on the co-management agreement with a particular focus on future data collection regarding the dogfish closure.
- Fish prices remain high for Deepwater Flathead at \$10-20 per Kg with other species increasing by \$1 per Kg, helping the viability of the fishery. However, the industry has been impacted financially by increased fuel prices making the fishery overall at breakeven. Fuel prices are starting to drop providing some price relief.
- The Chair, Mr Barry Windle, highlighted an inconsistency in the catch data to the species mentioned to be absent. Jim Raptis responded stating the absence is particular for Boarfish which have not yet seen a spawning season. The statistics are half-yearly with Boarfish catches occurring in the half-year towards the end of December where you only get incidental catches. Industry expects the mixed species to come back but note that the situation is abnormal.
- MSC certification progressed with the draft report considered during a stakeholder meeting in late November 2022 involving the MSC assessment team, AFMA and GABIA. No third-party objections or comments were received meaning there is no potential for a third-party review to any final decisions. An assessment has been finalised and forwarded to MSC for peer review with recommendations that the three species including Deepwater Flathead, Bight Redfish and Gummy Shark, have passed the review process. Industry expects to see a wider market available to the fishery following MSC certification.

## 3.0 – Orange Roughy

### 3.1 Research Plan

14. Dr Mark Grubert introduced the agenda item and provided a background to the [Research Plan](#).
- The research plan was finalised in May 2020 after consultation with GABRAG and GABMAC.
  - The aim of the Research Plan is to assess the status of the GAB Orange Roughy stock and determine sustainable harvest levels for commercial fishing under the [Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery \(SESSF\) Harvest Strategy](#).
  - Two scientific permits were allocated for the 2022-23 fishing season with a 200 t Olympic RCA in place. To date, approximately 47 t of Orange Roughy has been caught under the Research Plan in the 2022-23 season, with successful collection of biological data.
15. The MAC recommended that the RCA is maintained at 200 t for the 2023-24 fishing season. The MAC also recommended that this be maintained as an Olympic RCA.

### 3.2 Rebuilding Strategy Review

16. The MAC noted the review process for the Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy, and the key changes that need to be considered as a part of this review. These included:

**Indications of how stock status is tracking against the Strategy objectives using available assessments, data, intelligence, or fishery indicators.**

- There has been no Orange Roughy stock assessment in the GAB. The purpose of the Research Plan is to collect data to support a stock assessment. Stock assessments will also be supported by the research into Non-Eastern Orange Roughy supported by GABRAG and the South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG). This includes using the FishPath tool to review stock assessment options.

**Analysis of current management measures implemented.**

- There have been no proposed changes to the general management approaches in the revised Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy. Closures remain in place for Orange Roughy stocks that are assessed as overfished to prevent targeted fishing, and data collection to support future stock assessments remains a focus of the Strategy.
- Relevant to the GABT, access to the ‘Racetrack/Hamburger’ and ‘Kangaroo Hill’ Orange Roughy closures under scientific permits were reinstated once it was determined that the risk to southern dogfish was low. Holders of scientific permits can now fish in waters deeper than 700 m in these closures for the purpose of collecting biological information on Orange Roughy.

**Review of catch and effort data, heat maps and other data collected including consideration of potential data gaps and needs.**

- GABRAG noted at the October 2022 meeting the data collected under the Research Program during 2022, and supported a Research Catch Allowance of 200 t for the 2023-24 fishing season.

### **Review of catches against incidental catch limits.**

- There has been no recent incidental catch of Orange Roughy in the GABT.

### **Consideration of potential changes to management measures or data collection approaches.**

- Changes to management arrangements were the focus of the five-year review of the 2014 Rebuilding Strategy (view of [AFMA website](#)). There were no changes recommended for the 2022 Rebuilding Strategy.
17. The MAC noted that AFMA intends to publish the updated Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy 2022 subject to final approval by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC).
- AFMA expects to publish the revised Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy in terms of references to threats to recovery (redefine the wording) for submission to the TSSC in early 2023.
18. Jim Raptis noted that industry is pleased to see the renewed interest in Orange Roughy. The Importance of maintaining the research program and commitment from industry to take up permits and collect the data was raised. With additional data based on FishPath advice, a stock assessment in the coming 2-3 years is possible demonstrating the benefit of the research plan.
19. The MAC recommended no further changes be made to the 2022 edition of the Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy.
20. The MAC noted that the biological data collected through research permits is providing a solid fountain for a future stock assessment for GAB Orange Roughy.

## **4.0 – Climate Change and Ecosystem Update**

21. The MAC noted updates provided by Dr Nastaran Mazloumi on AFMA's climate change and ecosystem program. The following points were noted:
- The commission endorsed the addition of a standing agenda item, the "Climate and ecosystem update", in RAG and MAC meetings where the annual/seasonal Total Allowable Catch/Effort (TAC/TAE) for different species are considered.
  - Projections suggest that southern Australian is likely to experience the following conditions of the next 30 years:
    - a) A further increase in average water temperature of up to 1.2°C by 2024;
    - b) Marine heatwave conditions for an additional 200 days a year;
    - c) Oxygen decreases by a further 5% on top of the already 2% decrease since 1950;
    - d) Further 30% increase in acidification; and
    - e) Sea level rise by a further 10–20 cm in addition to the 15 cm increase since 1950.
  - These changes may lead to a decline in primary production of up to 20% and a decrease in the abundance of demersal target species by 20%. Of the 46 southern Australian fishes examined so far, more than 20% are rated as being highly sensitive to environmental change.
22. Steven Rust noted the Tasmanian (TAS) case where reef habitats were depleted due to the warming of the East Australian Current (EAC) extending into southern waters. New fishing opportunities have developed creating a niche market for Sea Urchin Roe. Steven Rust asked the MAC if there are similar opportunities in the GAB to form a fishery from the change in climate. Nastaran responded noting AFMA



are not at a stage to know if this could happen or not but this will be highlighted to discuss with Industry in the future.

23. Mark Grubert noted the AFMA Trawl team continue working towards associate status to strengthen links with university and research providers. AFMA staff and industry may consider approaching the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and CSIRO to run a course on stock assessment to progress collaborative research projects.
24. Industry noted a need for effective systems flagging climate risks to the relevant industry.
25. Industry raised concerns on the transparency of the sensitivity analysis model results and requested to gain a better understanding of the parameters used relevant to SESSF and GAB species.
26. Industry asked if the assessment process incorporates an economic component looking into the cost to industry and the consequences of any substantive changes and what is considered long term stock behaviour. Nastaran Mazloumi responded by stating the assessment currently incorporates this and the way in which this information is communicated will be a focus in future workshops with Industry.
27. Nastaran Mazloumi to circulate the associated CSIRO report for the overview of the sensitivity analysis model.

**Action Item 1: AFMA**

AFMA to approach Dr Beth Fulton from CSIRO to present an out of session overview of the model parameters and the model type and pathway to producing SESSF/GAB species sensitivity to climate change results.

**Action Item 2: AFMA**

Dr Nastaran Mazloumi to circulate the associated CSIRO report for the overview of the sensitivity analysis.

## 5.0 – TAC Recommendations for 2023-24

28. The MAC noted the following:

- GABRAG provided RBC advice, based on the Multi-Year Total Allowable Catch (MYTAC) analyses for Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead.
- GABRAG provided advice on a bycatch TAC for Orange Roughy in the Albany-Esperance region.
- The MAC are required to provide TAC recommendations based on advice from GABRAG.
- Tier 1 stock assessments were undertaken for Deepwater Flathead in 2019 and Bight Redfish in 2022.

### 5.1 Deepwater Flathead

29. The MAC noted the following information for Deepwater Flathead:

- The Deepwater Flathead Tier 1 stock assessment was completed in 2019 and considered in 2020 by GABRAG and GABMAC for a 3-year MYTAC recommendation. Due to the Bight Redfish assessment being brought forward to 2022, Deepwater Flathead was extended beyond the 3-year MYTAC cycle.

30. The MAC accepted GABRAG's advice regarding the RBC for Deepwater Flathead and recommended that the AFMA Commission adopt a TAC of 1,238 t for this species during the 2023-24 fishing season.

## 5.2 Bight Redfish

31. The MAC discussed the following points regarding Bight Redfish:
- Bight Redfish were assessed in 2022 through a Tier 1 stock assessment which produced a biomass estimate of 67% of virgin biomass.
  - GABRAG suggested that the Bight Redfish RBC be changed from a 5-year to a 3-year MYTAC to enable more regular monitoring of stock status. AFMA advised that the Deepwater Flathead stock assessment will be postponed to 2024.
  - After deducting other sources of mortality from the RBC of 994 t (SA state catches of 35.11 t), the MAC recommended a Bight Redfish TAC of 959 t for the 2023-24 season.
32. The MAC accepted GABRAG's advice regarding the RBC for Bight Redfish (of 994 t) and recommended that the AFMA Commission adopt a TAC of 959 t for the 2023-24 season. The MAC also recommended that Commission adopt a shorter (3-year) MYTAC for Bight Redfish. .
33. The MAC noted Industry's concerns that by discontinuing the FIS process, the 3-year MYTAC period provides a quicker cycle to review the stock and the potential for any changes or consequences.

## 5.3 Orange Roughy (Bycatch)

34. The MAC discussed the following with respect to Orange Roughy:
- The Albany and Esperance Bycatch TAC was initially set at 25 t and was previously increased to 50 t.
  - While it was unclear from meeting records what was considered when the bycatch TAC was increased, GABRAG argued that 50 t is an appropriate TAC, given that Orange Roughy are an aggregating species and if Orange Roughy are incidentally caught, a 25 t TAC may be insufficient.
  - The advice from GABRAG was to maintain the incidental TAC at 50 t for the next season.
35. The MAC accepted the advice from GABRAG and recommended that the AFMA Commission adopt a 50 t bycatch TAC for Orange Roughy in the Albany and Esperance area during the 2023-24 season.
36. All proposed GAB species TACs and RBCs were accepted by the MAC.

## 6.0 – GAB Research Priorities

37. The MAC were asked to provide feedback on the research priorities submitted for the 2023-24 financial year. The MAC noted the following:
- Research considered for the 2023-24 financial year included:
    - a) Stock assessments for target species in the SESSF 2023-25 submitted by CSIRO requesting funding for assessment of fishes caught by the GABTS including the Tier 1 assessment of Deepwater Flathead in 2024.
    - b) Fish Ageing Services for SESSF quota species 3-year project ending 2025-26 submitted by Fish Ageing Services (FAS) requesting funding for ageing of fishes caught by the GABTS.
  - There are also ongoing FRDC funded projects relevant to the GAB including:
    - a) [Development and evaluation of multispecies harvest strategies in the SESSF](#) (FRDC project 2018-021); and
    - b) [Improving and promoting fish trawl selectivity in the CTS and GAB Trawl Sector of the SESSF](#) (FRDC project 2019-027).

38. Industry noted the GAB Tier 4 Orange Roughy assessment for 2025 interlinks with the FAS otolith ageing services project.
39. The MAC supported GAB related research proposals put forward to be submitted to the AFMA research committee (ARC). The MAC accepted the advice provided by GABRAG 2 on 6 December 2022.
40. The MAC discussed research priorities to be considered for 2024-25:
- Noting concerns raised by industry regarding the cost of the FIS and the current survey design, the MAC agreed to consider an alternative to the FIS as a research priority in the 2023-24 Annual Research Statement. Advice will be sought from GABRAG regarding survey design, and both committees will have the opportunity to provide critical feedback as part of the ARC call for research, and in response to Expressions of Interest received. GABRAG recommended that funding in 2024 should be sought to develop alternative survey methodologies to collect biological and environmental data from the GABTS in replacement of a FIS. The MAC accepted this recommendation.
  - The MAC accepted GABRAGs advice to bring forward the Deepwater Flathead stock assessment to 2023 and recommended that AFMA works with CSIRO to amend the assessment schedule where necessary.
  - The MAC also recommended that a benchmarking survey be developed to provide inputs to a baseline and define what is required in the future through the GAB Data Working Group.
41. The MAC noted that the identification form will be circulated out of session for comment and support.

## 7.0 – Other Business

42. Industry members provided some closing points that they wished to note:
- AFMA to extend an invite for the out of session climate sensitivity workshop to industry and scientific members from RAG and working groups.

## 8.0 – Review of Action Items

43. All action items from previous meetings were closed and two new items arose from GABMAC 2022. The status of action items at the close of the meeting are summarised in [Attachment C](#).

## 9.0 – Next Meeting

44. The MAC is expected to meet (online) once in 2023, ideally in mid-late November. An in-person MAC meeting may be considered based on member availability. This event will be preceded by two GABRAG meetings, one in-person and one online.

## 10.0 – Close of Meeting

45. The Chair closed the meeting at 12:03 AEDT.

## Attachment A – Register of Interests

Name	Membership	Declared interests
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Mr Barry Windle	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No interests in the fishery, pecuniary or otherwise</li> </ul>
Dr Mark Grubert	AFMA Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No pecuniary or other interests in the SESSF</li> <li>• Employed by AFMA. Manager of the Commonwealth Trawl Sectors</li> </ul>
Dr Steven Rust	Economic Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No interests in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise</li> <li>• Employed as a Marine Resource Economist with the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania</li> </ul>
Mr Lance Lloyd	Research Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No interests in the fishery pecuniary or otherwise</li> <li>• Member of GABRAG and SESSFRAG</li> <li>• Board Member, AwF – Aquaculture without Frontiers (Australia)</li> <li>• Director – Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd.</li> <li>• Research Fellow – Federation University Australia</li> </ul>
Mr Neil MacDonald	Industry Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director NMAC (SA) P/L</li> <li>• Executive Officer of GABIA</li> <li>• Executive Officer of Charter Boat Association South Australia</li> <li>• Executive Officer Southern Fishermen’s Association</li> <li>• Executive Officer of Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owner’s Association</li> <li>• Executive Officer of Marine Scale Net Fishers Association</li> <li>• Committee support services South Australian Rock Lobster Management Advisory Committee &amp; Research Sub-Committee</li> <li>• Support services South Australian Professional Fishers Association</li> <li>• Chair of CGG Gippsland MSS Scientific Advisory Committee</li> <li>• GABMAC Industry Member</li> <li>• Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (SVGPBOA) Member</li> <li>• Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Research Sub-Committee (SVGPBOA) Member</li> <li>• Lakes &amp; Coorong Fishery Management Advisory Committee (LCFMAC)</li> <li>• Director of the Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries</li> </ul>
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Consultant for Silver Phoenix Holdings who hold two GABT SFRs</li> </ul>

Mr Jim Raptis	Industry Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GABRAG Industry Member</li> <li>• Operates two boats in the GABT Fishery and owns four GABT SFRs as well as quota in the SESSF</li> </ul>
Dr Nastaran Mazloumi	AFMA Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employed by AFMA, Senior Management Officer, EO of SESSFRAG.</li> <li>• No pecuniary or other interests.</li> </ul>
Ms Michelle Henriksen	Executive Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No interests, pecuniary or otherwise</li> <li>• Employed by AFMA, in the Commonwealth Trawl Team</li> </ul>

## Attachment B – Meeting Agenda

Time (AEDT): 09:30 – 13:45

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chair Name: Mr Barry Windle

Approximate start time	Item	Purpose	Lead Presenter
09:30	<b>Agenda Item 1.0 – Preliminaries</b>		Chair (30 mins)
	1.1 Acknowledgement of country, welcome and apologies	For action	
	1.2 Declaration of interests	For action	
	1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	
	1.4 Minutes from previous meeting	For noting	
	1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings	For noting	
10:00	<b>Agenda Item 2.0 – Management and Industry Updates</b>		AFMA & GABIA (30 mins)
	2.1 Manager’s Update	For noting	
	2.2 Industry Update	For noting	
10:30	<b>Agenda Item 3.0 – Orange Roughy</b>		AFMA (30 mins)
	3.1 Research Plan - RCA Recommendation 2023-24	For advice	
	3.2 Rebuilding Strategy Review - Annual review	For advice	
11:00	<b>Morning Tea (15 mins)</b>		
11:15	<b>Agenda Item 4.0 – Climate change and ecosystem update</b>	For noting	Nastaran Mazloumi (30 mins)
11:45	<b>Agenda Item 5.0 – TAC Recommendations for 2023-24</b>		AFMA (1 hour)
	5.1 Deepwater Flathead	For advice	
	5.2 Bight Redfish	For advice	
	5.3 Orange Roughy (Bycatch)	For advice	
12:45	<b>Agenda Item 6.0 – GAB Research Priorities</b>		AFMA & GABIA (45 mins)
	6.1 Identify Research Priorities for 2023-24	For advice	
	6.2 Identify research priorities for 2024-25	For advice	
13:30	<b>Other business</b>	For noting	Chair (15 mins)
13:45	Close		

## Attachment C – Summary of action items at the close of GABMAC 2022

Complete/Redundant		Underway		Yet to start		Need further advice	
Actions remaining from previous meetings							
Agenda Item	No.	Action Item	Responsible Entity	Timeframe	Progress		
4/ Feb 2020	2	<p>GABRAG to investigate research options for dogfish in the GAB. Options identified by GABMAC:</p> <p>a) Inclusion of the GAB within the survey design for the FRDC project proposal to establish a baseline index of abundance for Harrison's dogfish and southern dogfish (research scope is currently being considered by FRDC).</p> <p>b) Investigate options for mitigating catch of deepwater shark species as part of the FRDC project improving and promoting fish-trawl selectivity in the SESSF and GATS (2019-027).</p> <p>c) Developing a GAB specific project to explore mitigation options to prevent capture of deepwater sharks.</p>	GABRAG	As soon as practicable	<p>The FRDC sampling design (relevant to point (a)) includes the 60-mile closure in the GAB.</p> <p>The initial interest in points (a) and (b) were on the basis that fishing for Orange Roughy was not permitted in the eastern part of the GABT because of overlap with southern dogfish closures.</p> <p>Industry have opted not to pursue dogfish mitigation options as a research priority, and it was removed from the draft GABT Research Statement.</p> <p>The MAC closed this item at the December 2022 meeting.</p>		

4/March 2021	4	AFMA to liaise with their Policy, Environment, Economics, and Research (PEER) team to further develop the social research priorities to be included in the 'Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2021-25.'	AFMA	As soon as practicable	The GABT management team did not directly engage with PEER, however social considerations were included in the strategic research plan which was formally adopted by the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SESSFRAG) in August 2021. The SESSF Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2021-25 has been established and is <a href="#">available online</a> . The MAC closed this item at the December 2022 meeting.
5/November 2021	1	Subject to the FIS being funded in 2024, GABRAG is to consider the sampling design and survey structure of the FIS.	GABRAG	2022 GABRAG meeting	GABRAG met on 6 December 2022 and accepted Industry's position that fuel prices would have a significant negative impact on the cost effectiveness of another GABFIS. The group did not however stress that the data collected through the nine previous surveys was informative. GABRAG advised that funding should be sought to develop alternative survey methodologies to collect biological and environmental data from the GAB. The 2024 GABFIS was not supported at the December 2022 meeting and so this action item was closed.
<b>Actions arising from December 2022 meeting</b>					
4/December 2022	1	AFMA to approach Dr Beth Fulton from CSIRO to present an out of session overview of the model parameters and the model type and pathway to producing SESSF/GAB species sensitivity to climate change results.	AFMA	SESSF chairs meeting 2023	Arrangements made for Beth Fulton to present at SESSFRAG Chair's meeting in April 2023 and potentially in Adelaide thereafter.
4/December 2022	2	AFMA to circulate the associated CSIRO report for the overview of the sensitivity analysis model.	AFMA	Out of session following GABMAC 2022.	Report distributed immediately after GABMAC 2022.