



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)

30 November 2023

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Minutes

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Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)

2023 Meeting – 30 November

Mr Barry Windle (the Chair), opened the meeting at 9:02am ACDT/9:32am AEDT.

1.0 – Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and apologies

1. The Chair:
 - Welcomed members and observers to the meeting.
 - 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.
2. GABMAC (the MAC) members noted the Acknowledgement of Country, that the meeting was being recorded, and commenced proceedings.
3. 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.

Member	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
Ms Rachel Downes	Executive Officer, AFMA
Invited Participant/s	Affiliation
Dr Alice McDonald	AFMA
Observer/s	Affiliation
Mr Keith Rowling	NMAC (SA)

1.2 Declarations of interest

4. MAC members declared their conflicts of interest as outlined in [Fisheries Management Paper 1](#). Members and reviewed/updated their Declarations of Interests at [Attachment A](#).
5. The Chair asked attendees to identify any conflicts of interest with specific agenda items ([Table 2](#)).

6. The MAC decided that conflicted 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 Catch Allowance	Jim Raptis Neil MacDonald Marcia Valente Keith Rowling	Present	Members will be asked to leave if a conflict arises.
5.0 – Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendations for 2024–25	Jim Raptis Neil MacDonald Marcia Valente Keith Rowling	Present	Not present for TAC recommendations.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

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

1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

8. The MAC noted that the finalised minutes of the GABMAC meeting held on 12 December 2022 are now available [online](#).

1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

9. The MAC discussed two action items arising from previous meetings:

Action Item 1: GABMAC December 2022

AFMA to approach Dr Beth Fulton 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.

- Advice required: Beth Fulton gave presentations on climate sensitivity modelling at both the SESSF Chairs’ meeting and SESSF data meeting in 2023. Is GABMAC comfortable that this action item has been addressed and can be removed?
- Industry noted they attended the presentation and were happy to close the item.
- No further comment was added. The MAC agreed to close this item.

Action Item 2: GABRAG December 2022

AFMA to circulate the CSIRO report for the overview of the sensitivity analysis model.

- Completed: AFMA circulated the CSIRO report titled “Appendix: Summary of Commonwealth Fishery Climate Sensitivity. Qualitative evaluation of climate sensitivity and exposure” on 12 December 2022 to GABMAC members.
- No further comment was added. The MAC agreed to close this item.

2.0 – Management and Industry Updates

2.1 Manager's Update

10. The MAC noted the following updates provided by the manager of the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABTS), Dr Mark Grubert:

- There have been several staff changes in the Demersal and Midwater Fisheries team since the previous GABMAC meeting. Dan Corrie has been working remotely since March 2023 as a Strategic Monitoring and Assessment Program Manager and will return to the Lakes Entrance office in February 2024. Sally Weekes returned to the Demersal and Midwater Team in January 2023 and assumed the role of Acting Senior Manager, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries in March 2023. Michelle Henriksen transferred to the GHaT September 2023. Nathan Jackson was promoted to a Senior Management Officer in the trawl team following Michelle's transfer. Nathan continues as the Executive Officer (EO) for the SERAG. Rebecca Jol remains in the trawl team as the EO for SEMAC. Rachel Downes and Jen Power-Geary joined the trawl team as Senior Management Support Officers in October. Rachel takes on the role of EO for GABRAG and GABMAC while Jen will work across a range of management processes and issues relating to the GAB and South East Trawl sectors. Tamre Sarhan is now acting Senior Manager of the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Team.
- AFMA congratulates GABIA on obtaining MSC certification for the harvest of Deepwater Flathead, Bight Redfish and Gummy Shark. AFMA staff attended the public launch of this certification in Adelaide on 21 November 2023.
- Alice McDonald (AFMA) has been working to better understand the influence of climate change on the SESSF and to integrate current assessments of climate sensitivity into management. Research and information has been presented to a number of RAG and MAC meetings over the past 12 months and was included in the SESSF species summaries for TAC setting in early 2023.
- SESSFRAG met on 30–31 August 2023 and supported a proposal from AFMA to re-cast the stock assessment and data analysis schedule ('SMARP Alternative'). This aims to reduce cost, report size and to free up money from the research budget to allocate to more targeted research. Key changes include the introduction of triggers for ten low-risk species, postponing and/or cancelling a number of stock assessments in 2024 and 2025 and from 2026, MYTAC species will change to either a two-year or four-year period
- AFMA issued scientific permits to four vessels (*Explorer S*, *Noble Pearl*, *Saxon Onward* and *Silver Phoenix*) to pursue the 200 tonne (t) Research Catch Allowance (RCA) for Orange Roughy in the GAB during the 2023–24 season. Approximately 711 kg of Orange Roughy has been caught so far this season.
- An environmental data logger/telemetry system has been fitted to the otter-trawl boat *Noble Pearl* as part of FRDC project 2022-007 *Trials of oceanographic data collection on commercial fishing vessels in SE Australia*. This project undertaken by Ian Knuckey will provide valuable data for Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) and CPUE standardisation. AFMA encourages other GABTS operators to participate in this project, in particular at least one Danish seine vessel.
- The EM program recently completed a technical analysis of internalisation of footage review, with a decision and possible approach to market for software solutions occurring in quarter four, 2023. EM feasibility assessments will be consulted through appropriate channels over the coming months. These will provide the basis for the decision to further explore the cost and capability of EM to

support fisheries management arrangements. Trials in the GAB are expected to commence in early 2024 to confirm the EM design needs and requirements.

- Staff shortages have limited progress on the finalisation of a three-year co-management contract between AFMA and GABIA. AFMA intends to finalise the contract in December. The contract will span three years to reduce the annual workload and will be staggered with SETFIA co-management contract.

11. Jim Raptis noted that industry engineers are keen know where cameras will be positioned and receive some pre-installation information. Mark Grubert will ask AFMA's EM team to relay this information to industry.

Action Item 1: The AFMA EM team to relay information to Industry regarding camera positions for the upcoming EM trial in the GAB.

2.2 Industry Update

12. The MAC noted updates provided by Industry member, Neil MacDonald on the 2023–24 fishing season to date:

- The current season has seen good catches, particularly for Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead. This is particularly noticeable for Bight Redfish which has not had good catches in previous years.
- The GAB has seen some climate variability, with noticeably cooler conditions observed recently.
- Despite good catches, the markets and economy are not as positive, which has been adding to business pressures. Fuel costs, lower demand and lower price have all put pressure on GAB fishers, and all seafood operators.
- Orange Roughy Research Permits were issued to four boats, two of which searched for Orange Roughy, receiving low catches.
- GABIA thanks AFMA for the congratulations on the MSC certification and noted GABIA is the only industry to have MSC certification for Gummy Shark.
- The fishery has one MSC condition relating to improved understanding of the impacts of the Danish seine fleet. More data is being collected from Danish seine vessels which will feed into the stock assessment to separate the fleets into otter trawl and Danish seine. This data collection is supported by a Danish seine skipper providing voluntary size data, as well as having an observer on board to observe targeted catch and incidental catch data which is being better understood.
- The MSC certification has two recommendations, one being to continue to examine the causes and implications for changes in catch composition of fishery-independent surveys (FIS) and to identify the small quantity of sponges caught. GABIA noted it is unlikely the FIS will be re-established and there is a need to look beyond FIS for data collection to help support the information previously obtained. GABIA noted this is a job for the GAB Data Working Group.
- GABIA met with the AFMA Commission in Port Lincoln in September and noted it was a good opportunity to talk about bigger issues AFMA may or may not be able to address.
- GABIA look forward to having the co-management contract in place and to continue to build on the successes of the past 12 months.

3.0 – Orange Roughy

3.1 Research Catch Allowance for 2024–25

13. Dr Mark Grubert introduced the agenda item and provided a background to the [Research Plan](#).

14. The MAC noted that:

- The current Research Plan expires in 2024 and will need to be reviewed next year;
- AFMA issued four scientific permits to pursue the 200 tonne (t) Olympic RCA for Orange Roughy during the 2023–24 SESSF season;
- Approximately 711 kg of Orange Roughy has been caught so far this season. There is interest in further research fishing early in 2024, so this figure may rise.
- GABRAG supported a 200 t Olympic RCA when it met on 22 November 2023;
- AFMA proposed an option whereby an additional 200 t RCA may be issued within a fishing season if at least 150 t of Orange Roughy is caught in one or two of the more accessible Orange Roughy Management Zones (e.g. the East and Central East zones). This additional 200 t RCA would only apply to those remaining zones where minimal research fishing had occurred that season.
- AFMA noted that the AFMA CEO is comfortable with the above proposition being brought to GABMAC, noting the fall back is the status quo of the Olympic RCA of 200 t.

15. The MAC discussed:

- The proposal is a good initiative to encourage data collection from different parts of the fishery
- Previous discussions around the issue of stock assessments having a narrow focus on one or two key areas, despite the GAB being divided into five management areas. The MAC discussed the proposal is good to extend focus beyond they key areas and to obtain more data to consider if the Orange Roughy population varies across regions, noting that Orange Roughy populations across the GAB appear to be highly resident.
- GABIA welcomed the opportunity to gather data in other areas, noting this is important to the longer-term benefit of the fishery
- Research member Lance Lloyd discussed that there was some caution around the proposal at GABRAG. He agreed with GABIA and noted views that Orange Roughy stock and populations are probably different across locations and that the more data that is collected the better.
- The proposal is for one year (to be reviewed next year) which limits any risks to the stock.
- Research fishing for Orange Roughy was on hiatus until three years ago. Ongoing data collection to support the assessment is important, noting Orange Roughy are a long-lived species.
- Economics member Steven Rust added he can see the value in, and supported, the proposal.

16. The MAC recommended a 200 t Olympic RCA for Orange Roughy for the 2024–25 season, with a provision for an additional 200 t RCA if at least 150 t of Orange Roughy is caught in one or two of the

more accessible Orange Roughy Management Zones. The additional 200 t RCA will only apply to those remaining zones where minimal research fishing has occurred.

3.2 Rebuilding Strategy Review

17. Dr Mark Grubert introduced the agenda item and noted that AFMA published the [Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy 2022](#) in December 2022.
18. AFMA sought feedback and advice on any recommended changes to the management of Orange Roughy in the GAB as well as any advice regarding gear technology improvements.
19. It was noted that the trial of Electronic Monitoring in the GAB in 2024 may provide information that can be incorporated into the next iteration of the strategy.
20. The Chair noted there is an absence of data on which to base any view or change. The research member Lance Lloyd commented that there are plans to age historical Orange Roughy otoliths to inform an assessment in 2025. As this analysis is still several years away, it would be premature to update the strategy at this point in time. Economics member Steven Rust agreed with this position.
21. AFMA noted that Paul Burch presented a research proposal to GABRAG when it met on 22 November to explore the use of catch and age models implemented in Stock Synthesis / Data Limited Stock Synthesis from the Eastern Zone Orange Roughy assessment to determine if it could be used to assess the data-limited GAB Orange Roughy stock.
22. The MAC recommended that the Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy 2022 remain unchanged for the time being.

4.0 – Climate and Ecosystem Update

23. The MAC noted the update provided by Alice McDonald on AFMA's climate adaptation program.
24. The MAC noted that AFMA are undertaking work regarding climate adaptation and sensitivity of relevant fish species including the following:
 - Climate and ecosystem updates are now a standing agenda item at RAGs and MACs
 - Fishery specific 'climate and ecosystem status reports' are being provided to RAGs and MACs.
 - Climate considerations are now included in TAC/E discussions and advice to the AFMA Commission
 - AFMA is developing guidance for RAGs and MACs on how to incorporate climate advice into discussions and decisions.
 - Further work includes a Climate Risk Framework to provide more structure to the integration of climate change information into TAC/E decision making. This is in draft form but consultation with stakeholders and the Commission is underway. The draft framework will be trialled next year
 - AFMA is undertaking stakeholder workshops around climate adaptation planning.
 - AFMA is developing guidance for RAGs and MACs on how to incorporate climate advice into discussions and decisions.
25. The MAC noted the Draft Climate and Ecosystem Status Report for the SESSF and discussed the following points regarding GAB species:
 - The AFMA 'roadshow' in June 2023 to Port Lincoln discussed environmental factors relevant to the GABTS, which informed the development of the Climate and Ecosystem Status Report.

- Environmental factors important to the GAB include ENSO, bottom temperatures, thermoclines, upwelling nutrients and intensity, currents, winds and fish health/condition.
- Observations that some species are being caught deeper than usual and later in the season. Alice McDonald noted the importance of these, and other, fisher observations being included in the reports.
- AFMA and CSIRO note that feedback is welcome on what the report includes as the process evolves. The reports are available at the hyperlinks in the attachment to the paper.
- Atlantis modelling undertaken by Beth Fulton (CSIRO) shows changes in stock status for key species with and without the influence of climate drivers since 1980. For Gummy Shark and Orange Roughy, changes in stock status are mainly driven by fishing, not climate. For Eastern Morwong, climate change is likely to have contributed to the decline in stock. For these analyses, the ‘without climate’ projection shows the effect on the stock due to fishing and management arrangements only. Deepwater Flathead has seen some climate effect on stock, but status is primarily driven by fishing mortality. For Bight Redfish, changes in climate conditions are the dominant driver for the stock status.

26. Jim Raptis raised the issue of fishing industry carbon emissions and noted that GABIA want to be part of the solution, not the problem. Jim mentioned that in his view, the solution is to have access to bio fuels that reduce emission without replacing boats, and that industry needs access to bio diesel and government needs to drive innovation in the fishing industry.

27. The MAC discussed the effect of fuel prices on fishing and noted that reduced fuel costs would assist industry. Alice McDonald noted that Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) currently have a project investigating the feasibility of alternate fuel sources for the fishing industry. The MAC requested that AFMA provide further information on the SIA alternate fuel project to GABRAG and GABMAC.

Action Item 2: AFMA to provide further information on the SIA alternative fuel project to GABRAG and GABMAC.

5.0 – Total Allowable Catch Recommendations for 2024–25

28. The MAC noted the following:

- The 2023 SESSF species summaries were the first in the series to include climate sensitivity information for each quota species/stock;
- On 31 August 2023, SESSFRAG supported AFMA’s proposal to change the Multi-Year TAC (MTYAC) periods for a range of SESSF species as part of a broader proposal to re-cast the stock assessment and data analysis schedule for all SESSF species;
- As a result of this change, the next assessments for Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead are currently scheduled for 2026 and 2028, respectively;
- Following a request from SESSFRAG in August 2023, GABRAG considered the impacts of climate change on Bight Redfish but found no compelling evidence to deviate from the current Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) of 994 t for this species;
- GABRAG accepted the Tier 1 assessment for Deepwater Flathead when it met on 22 November 2023 and recommended an RBC of 1,209 t and a 3-year MYTAC period for this species (with caveats around these recommendations outlined below);

- GABRAG also recommended that a 50 t bycatch TAC for Orange Roughy in the Albany and Esperance zone be maintained for the 2024–25 SESSF season.

29. The MAC was asked to provide advice on TACs for Bight Redfish, Deepwater Flathead and Orange Roughy (Albany and Esperance) for the 2024–25 SESSF fishing season.

30. The MAC agreed for industry members to step out of the room when recommendations were being made.

5.1 Deepwater Flathead

31. The MAC noted the following information relating to Deepwater Flathead:

- GABRAG reviewed the preliminary base case for the Tier 1 assessment of Deepwater Flathead at its 17 October 2023 meeting and accepted the inclusion of Danish seine as a separate fleet in the model. Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) is projected to be 44% at the start of the 2024–25 season, just above the target of 43%.
- The 2024–25 RBC for Deepwater Flathead under the 20:35:43 harvest control rule is 1,220 t. The average RBC over the four-year period 2024–25 to 2027–28 is 1,209 t. The long-term RBC is 1,199 t.
- GABRAG noted that the estimated recruitment deviations were below the long-term average in eight of the previous 10 years and requested that a sensitivity be conducted. GABRAG reviewed these projections when it met again on 22 November 2023 and noted that fixed catches of approximately 940 t will maintain the stock near the target of 43% of virgin spawning biomass under the recent 10-year average recruitment scenario. Fixed catches of 1070 t and 1200 t were predicted to reduce the relative spawning biomass over time, but this would take 20 years of constant catches of 1200 t (under the recent 10-year average recruitment scenario) to reduce SSB below 30% of virgin stock biomass
- GABRAG noted the value of the fixed catch projections when providing RBC advice, and that the use of such projections is now considered best practice in some countries, but ultimately accepted the finalised base case and associated 4-year average RBC value of 1,209 t. The decision to adopt this RBC value was not unanimous, with one member suggesting that the RBC be set at 940 t on the basis that recent recruitment appears to be below average and that the TAC is not currently constraining catches (which have averaged around 560 t over the last decade).
- GABRAG highlighted the importance of the MYTAC working group in monitoring catches and indicator data and suggested that any future catches in excess of 1000 t should trigger consideration of an early stock assessment.
- GABRAG recommended a MYTAC period of three years and that the next stock assessment for this species (currently scheduled for 2028) be brought forward to either 2026 (ideally) or 2027. The RAG deferred the decision regarding the timing of the next Deepwater Flathead assessment to SESSFRAG.
- AFMA management recommends a TAC of 1,209 t for Deepwater Flathead during the 2024–25 season with overcatch/under catch provisions of 10% and a determined amount of 2 t.
- The GABRAG chair and research member, Lance Lloyd, highlighted the importance of understanding the caveats around the RAG’s advice and that these need to be considered when providing advice to the AFMA Commission. He also noted the issue of lower-than-average recruitment in recent years

and that GABRAG requested CSIRO run a sensitivity analysis around this. GABRAG accepted the model was robust when recommending the RBC of 1209 t.

32. The MAC recommended a 1,209 t TAC for Deepwater Flathead during the 2024–25 fishing season with 10% undercatch and overcatch provisions and a determined amount of 2 t. The MAC noted that due to low discard rates and unknown state catches, the TAC for Deepwater Flathead mirrors the RBC.
33. The MAC also recommended a 3-year MYTAC for Deepwater Flathead as well as a 1000 t catch trigger to initiate consideration of an earlier stock assessment for this species.

Action Item 3: AFMA (through the MYTAC Working Group) to consider an early stock assessment for Deepwater Flathead if the annual catch exceeds 1000 t.

5.2 Bight Redfish

34. The MAC noted the following information relating to Bight Redfish:
 - Bight Redfish were last assessed in 2022 through a Tier 1 stock assessment which produced a biomass estimate of 67% of virgin biomass. Under the 20:35:41 harvest control rule, the 2023–24 recommended biological catch (RBC) was 1,056 t, with a three average of 994 t.
 - At its 17 October 2023 meeting, GABRAG noted the potential impacts of climate change on Bight Redfish and that TAC has been significantly under caught for many years.
 - GABRAG recommended that the RBC of 994 t for Bight Redfish be maintained and that the MYTAC period be extended into a 4th year to align with the new stock assessment schedule for the SESSF.
 - AFMA management recommends a TAC of 959 t for Bight Redfish during the 2024–25 season with undercatch/overcatch provisions of 10% and a determined amount of 2 t.
35. There was no additional commentary on the 2024–25 TAC for Bight Redfish from MAC members.
36. The MAC accepted the RBC recommendation of 994 t for Bight Redfish and recommended a TAC of 959 t for the 2024–25 season with over/under catch of 10% and a determined amount of 2 t.
37. The MAC supported the extension of the MYTAC period to a 4th year to align with the new stock assessment schedule (adopted out-of-session on 3 and 4 December 2024 via email correspondence)

5.3 Orange Roughy (Albany and Esperance)

38. The MAC noted the following:
 - At its 17 October 2023 meeting, GABRAG recommended that the 50 t bycatch TAC for Orange Roughy in the Albany and Esperance zone be maintained for the 2024–25 season.
 - AFMA management recommends a bycatch TAC of 50 t for Orange Roughy (Albany and Esperance) zone during the 2024–25 season.
39. Neil MacDonald asked if the 10 t incidental catch triggers for Orange Roughy in each of the five GAB Orange Roughy Management Zones should be considered by GABMAC each year. The MAC requested that AFMA clarify this matter.
40. The MAC recommended a 50 t bycatch TAC for Orange Roughy in the Albany and Esperance zone during the 2024–25 season.

Action Item 4: AFMA to clarify if the 10 t incidental catch triggers for Orange Roughy in each of the five GAB Orange Roughy Management Zones should be considered by GABMAC each year.

6.0 – Research Proposals for 2024–25 and Priorities for 2025–26

41. The MAC was asked to provide feedback on the research priorities submitted for the 2024–25 financial year. The MAC noted the following:
- No research priorities for the GABTS were submitted to the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) for potential funding in 2024–25.
 - The research proposal “*Evaluating contributing factors to catch per unit effort (CPUE) standardisation in the SESSF*” was developed by Dr Miriana Sporic in response to a research priority identified by SESSFRAG to examine CPUE data from all SESSF sectors
 - The [Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) certification for the GABTS \(relating to Deepwater Flathead, Bight Redfish and Gummy Shark\)](#) expires on 22 August 2028 and that the [MSC Public Certification Report for the GABTS](#) contains one condition and two recommendations. GABRAG has identified measures to address the single MSC condition and the two recommendations
42. The MAC discussed the following:
- AFMA considers Miriana Sporic’s CPUE project to be value for money, noting that it will be used in subsequent stock assessments for three species.
 - GABIA support the CPUE project, noting it has merit for the fishery and based on previous discussions at the RAG (November 2023). Research member Lance Lloyd also noted that the RAG was happy with the project and added that CPUE is important indicator and the project will inform assessments for major species in the fishery.
43. The MAC recommended supporting the research proposal ‘*Evaluating contributing factors to catch per unit effort (CPUE) standardisation in the SESSF*’.
44. The MAC discussed two research priorities to be considered for 2025–26.
- 1) Ecological Risk Assessments for the otter trawl and Danish seine fleets in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector
 - An ERA of the Danish seine fleet in the GABTS has not been conducted and the most recent ERA on the otter-trawl fleet (published in 2021) used data from 2012–2016. There is a need to conduct ERAs on both fleets, using more recent data, to assist with MSC re-certification in 2027/2028.
 - 2) Data needs to support a stock assessment on Ocean Jackets in the Great Australian Bight.
 - Neil MacDonald explained that Ocean Jackets are an aspirational species for MSC certification. He noted that there is increased demand for certified species as supermarkets have changed their buying philosophy to only buy certified products.
 - The re-assessment of the current MSC certification will start in late 2027. Ideally, an Ocean Jacket assessment would be undertaken by that time to feed into the re-assessment. This will require a large amount of data be collected in the meantime. The MAC noted it is best to start this process as soon as possible.

- Ocean Jackets do not currently have a stock assessment and they are a shared stock with South Australia. From GABIA's perspective, any research would need to be shared across jurisdictions as the Commonwealth would not be the only beneficiary. GABIA believe that if South Australia were not on board with the project then it would not get off the ground (as South Australia would need to match it dollar for dollar).
- Neil MacDonald stated that some South Australian fisheries use different methods to catch Ocean Jackets and that this would need to be identified in any future assessment. Keith Rowling also noted that South Australia has previously discussed the need for an Ocean Jacket assessment and would probably support this work.
- It was also noted that small amounts of Ocean Jackets are caught in Western Australia and a suggestion was made that AFMA approach Fisheries Western Australia regarding the proposed work. AFMA agreed to this suggestion.

45. The MAC recommended that both proposed projects be included in GAB Research Statement and that AFMA and GABIA to work together to progress them.
46. The MAC discussed potential economic research for the GABTS, including projects identified by economics member Steven Rust. The MAC noted potential projects relating to climate adaptation and improving the fuel efficiency of vessels to lower operating costs.
47. The MAC requested that Steven Rust work with Eriko Hoshino (the economics member for GABRAG) and AFMA to identify potential economic projects for inclusion in the GAB Research Statement.
48. Jim Raptis stated that industry want to be 'part of the solution, not the problem' with respect to climate change. He spoke of his interest in alternative fuels that may allow industry to reduce its carbon footprint without buying new boats (given the expense involved) as well as incentives to modernise the fishing fleet (as most boats are more than 40 years old).
49. Jim explained that using biofuels would cost less and reduce emissions and suggested that this topic be discussed at future GABRAG and GABMAC meeting. He also expressed a desire to engage a broader range of stakeholders (including other Commonwealth departments) on this issue.

Action Item 5: AFMA and GABIA to engage with SARDI and PIRSA regarding data collection to support a stock assessment for Ocean Jackets.

Action Item 6: AFMA to contact Fisheries Western Australia regarding data collection to support a stock assessment for Ocean Jackets.

Action Item 7: Steven Rust to work with Eriko Hoshino (the economics member for GABRAG) and AFMA to identify potential economic projects for inclusion in the GAB Research Statement.

7.0 – Other Business and action items

50. The Chair noted that the review of RAGs and MACs has been released. Mark Grubert explained that the main recommendations related to how AFMA could streamline the organisation of travel arrangements and the production/publication of meeting minutes.
51. GABIA noted problems with fish names not being consistent and some species being marketed incorrectly. The MAC noted that FRDC have implemented the Australian Fish Names Standard and that MSC certification should assist with the use of correct fish names.

52. Neil MacDonald asked AFMA for an update on the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) review, particularly with respect to South Australia. AFMA agreed to provide industry with an update out of session.
53. Jim Raptis asked if it is appropriate to add climate change and reduction of emissions to all GABRAG and GABMAC agendas. The MAC discussed that this is already under way, as per agenda item 4.
54. The MAC agreed to postpone this discussion until after AFMA's investigation of SIA's alternative fuel project (as per action item 2).
55. AFMA agreed to request a presentation from SIA to be delivered at the next GABRAG meeting.
56. Jim Raptis asked AFMA for an update on the Southern Dogfish project. AFMA agreed to provide Industry with an update of the project out of session.

Action Item 8: AFMA to provide GABIA with an update on the OCS review.

Action Item 9: AFMA to ask SIA to present the results of the alternative fuel project to GABRAG in 2024.

Action Item 10: AFMA to provide Industry with an update on the Southern Dogfish project.

57. All action items from previous meetings were closed and 10 new items arose from GABMAC 2023. The status of action items at the close of the meeting are summarised in [Attachment C](#).

8.0 – Future meeting schedule

58. The MAC noted that only one GABRAG meeting is required in 2024, as no Tier 1 assessments are scheduled that year.
59. The MAC is expected to meet once in 2024, ideally in the last fortnight of November. An in-person MAC meeting may be considered based on member availability.

9.0 – Close of Meeting

60. The Chair closed the meeting at 12:09 ACDT / 12:39pm AEDT.

Attachment A – Register of Interests

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

Mr Jim Raptis	Industry Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates two boats in the GABT Fishery and owns four GABT SFRs as well as quota in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
Ms Rachel Downes	Executive Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed by AFMA, Senior Management Support Officer (trawl team) No interest, pecuniary or otherwise
Dr Alice MacDonald	AFMA Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed by AFMA, Climate Adaptation Senior Program Manager No pecuniary or other interest
Mr Keith Rowling	Observer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GABIA

Attachment B – Meeting Agenda

Time (ACDT): 09:00 – 12:30

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chair Name: Mr Barry Windle

Start time ACDT (duration)	Item	Purpose	Lead presenter/s
09:00 (20 min)	1. Preliminaries		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	For action	Chair
	1.2 Declaration of interests	For action	Chair
	1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	Chair
	1.4 Minutes from previous meeting	For noting	Chair
	1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings	For noting	Executive Officer
09:20 (10 min)	2. Annual updates		
	2.1 AFMA update	For noting	AFMA
	2.2 Industry update		GABIA
09:30 (30 min)	3. Orange Roughy		
	3.1 Research Catch Allowance for 2024–25	For advice	AFMA
	3.2 Rebuilding Strategy Review		
10:00 (30 min)	4. Climate and Ecosystem update	For noting and advice	AFMA
10:30 (15 min)	Morning Tea		
10:45 (45 min)	5. Total Allowable Catch Recommendations for 2024–25		
	Deepwater Flathead	For advice	AFMA
	Bight Redfish		
	Orange Roughy (Albany and Esperance)		
11:30 (45 min)	6. Research Proposals for 2024–25 and Priorities for 2025–26	For advice	AFMA
12:15 (10 min)	7. Other business and action items	For advice	Executive Officer
12:25 (5 min)	8. Future meeting schedule	For noting	Executive Officer
12:30	Close		

Attachment C – Actions arising from GABMAC 2023

Agenda Item	No.	Action Item	Responsible Entity	Timeframe
2.1	1	The AFMA EM team to relay information to Industry regarding camera positions for the upcoming EM trial in the GAB.	AFMA	Out of session
4	2	AFMA to investigate the alternative fuel project by SIA and report back to GABRAG and GABMAC.	AFMA	Out of session
5.1	3	AFMA (through the MYTAC Working Group) to consider an early stock assessment for Deepwater Flathead if the annual catch exceeds 1000 t.	AFMA	MYTAC Working Group meetings
5.3	4	AFMA to determine if the 10 t incidental catch triggers for Orange Roughy in each of the five GAB Orange Roughy Management Zones should be considered by GABMAC each year.	AFMA	Out of session
6.0	5	AFMA and GABIA to engage with SARDI and PIRSA regarding data collection to support a stock assessment for Ocean Jackets.	AFMA GABIA	Out of session
6.0	6	AFMA to contact Fisheries Western Australia regarding data collection to support a stock assessment for Ocean Jackets.	AFMA	Out of session
6.0	7	Steven Rust to work with Eriko Hoshino (the economics member for GABRAG) and AFMA to identify potential economic projects for inclusion in the GAB Research Statement.	Steven Rust Eriko Hoshino AFMA	Out of session
7.0	8	AFMA to provide GABIA with an update on the OCS review process.	AFMA	Out of session
7.0	9	AFMA to ask SIA to present the results of the alternative fuel project to GABRAG in 2024.	AFMA	GABRAG 2024
7.0	10	AFMA to provide Industry with an update on the Southern Dogfish project.	AFMA	Out of session