



# Australian Government

## Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AFMADMW-1932364602-99074

Minutes

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| Meeting              | South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |              |
| Meeting Number       | 61                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dates | 30 June 2026 |
| Location             | Online                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Time  | 9:30 AM      |
| Members              | Mr Clayton Nelson, Chair<br>Ms Anissa Lawrence, Environment member<br>Ms Sally Weekes, Senior Manager, AFMA<br>Dr Sarah Jennings, Economics member<br>Dr Paul McShane, Scientific member<br>Mr Simon Boag, Industry member<br>Mr Kyri Toumazos, Industry member<br>Mr Will Mure, Industry member<br>Mr Daniel Hogan, Industry member<br>Ms Danielle Ghosn, Recreational member |       |              |
| AFMA                 | Dr Mark Grubert<br>Dr Lianos Triantafillos<br>Mr Will Bowman<br>Ms Rebecca Jol<br>Ms Hannah Maude                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |       |              |
| Apologies            | Mr Keith Rowling, GABIA<br>Mr Will Mure, Industry member<br>Mr Daniel Hogan, Industry member<br>Ms Sally Troy, AFMA Commissioner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |              |
| Invited Participants | Yolande Markey, PIRSA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |              |

| Agenda Item | Title/Topic/Issue | Notes, Action & Recommendations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 1.          | Preliminaries     | <p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair, Mr Clayton Nelson opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed participants. Meeting participants were informed that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of assisting the preparation of meeting minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies were received from industry members Will Mure, Daniel Hogan, Keith Rowling</li> </ul> <p><b>Adoption of agenda</b></p> <p>SEMAC adopted the agenda at <a href="#">Attachment A</a> as final.</p> <p>AFMA noted an additional agenda item was added, Electronic Monitoring (EM) Discard Estimates under other business</p> <p><b>Minutes of previous meeting</b></p> <p>No amendments were proposed.</p> <p>Minutes were formally moved and seconded.</p> <p><b>Declarations of interests</b></p> <p>Members were reminded of their obligations under Fisheries Management Paper 1 to declare all relevant interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declarations were invited verbally.</li> <li>Industry member Simon Boag, declared conflicts for agenda items 4, 5, 6 and 7.</li> <li>Industry member Anissa Lawrence is no longer Chair of Ocean Future Fund Inc.</li> <li>Declared interests are recorded in the register of interest at <a href="#">Attachment B</a>.</li> <li>The Chair outlined the agreed approach to managing conflicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members may participate in discussion.</li> <li>Members may be excluded from decision-making where a direct conflict exists.</li> <li>Conflicts to be managed on an item-by-item basis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The committee agreed this approach was appropriate.</p> <p><b>Actions arising from previous meetings</b></p> <p>AFMA provided a status update on actions arising from previous SEMAC meetings:</p> <p>Actions ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EM rollout cost breakdown still pending. AFMA advised the project is effectively complete, but final reporting is still pending.</li> </ul> |

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|   |                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCS bug arrangements progressing. AFMA has sent correspondence sent to Victoria, but no response, AFMA has drafted SFR conditions that should be in place in July 2026.</li> <li>• Monitoring in the Gillnet fishery: on hold pending investigating of lower-cost camera systems.</li> <li>• Implementation of EM in the CTS: standing action, MAC will be updated annually</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2 | <b>Managers Update</b><br>(taken as read) | <p>The Manager's Update was taken largely as read, with the Committee noting the following additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A desk-top study on the risks of either a small, medium and large up-take of auto baiting in the shark fishery is complete and is being presented at SharkRAG in July 2026 and then will be considered by SEMAC.</li> <li>• EM is mandated from tomorrow (1<sup>st</sup> July 2026), all CTS boats have cameras fitted. Some minor hard drive issues arose during implementation but have since been resolved. The EM Direction will also be registered tomorrow.</li> <li>• SEMAC acknowledged that the EM rollout will deliver a number of operational, compliance and environmental benefits. These include improved monitoring and reporting of protected species interactions, enhanced verification of catch and bycatch information, support for access arrangements in certain closures, and greater confidence in bycatch handling and compliance outcomes. Members also noted that EM is expected to become an increasingly important source of fisheries data, particularly for bycatch and discard reporting.</li> <li>• SEMAC participated in further discussions regarding future funding arrangements for EM-related work, particularly the development of methods for estimating quota species discards. Industry representatives expressed concern about the prospect of funding additional EM development projects following the completion of the government-funded \$10 million EM rollout, while AFMA noted that further calibration work may be required now the system is in place to fully realise the fisheries management and data collection benefits of the program. The issue remains unresolved and will be the subject of further consideration.</li> </ul> <p>AFMA updated SEMAC on EPBC listing assessments, with decisions expected in August. It was noted that the whitefin swell shark requires further analysis but if listed, may be considered as no-take. The eastern angel shark has been proposed as a no-take species. A decision on the proposed redfish listing is also expected in August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFMA has sought WA's support to increase the current zero sardine trip limit for Commonwealth operators off WA, with WA indicating in-principle support. WA also confirmed that an exemption for State operators targeting blue mackerel applies only within 3 nautical miles of the coast, with Commonwealth management arrangements continuing beyond that limit.</li> </ul> |

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| 3 | <b>Industry Update</b><br>(For Noting) | <p>The Industry Update was taken as read, with updates circulated to members prior to the meeting. The following additional points were raised:</p> <p><b>South East Trawl</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry remains heavily engaged in offshore wind, oil and gas decommissioning activities, EPBC referrals and other regulatory processes, which continue to place significant demands on industry resources.</li> <li>• Industry acknowledged the benefits achieved through the EM program and AFMA's broader red-tape reduction initiatives. However, concern was expressed regarding proposals for industry to fund further EM development work. Industry considered that the government-funded EM project should have resolved these matters and indicated resistance to funding further project development.</li> <li>• An update was provided on the Australian Government's 30 by 30 marine protection commitment. Industry noted ongoing uncertainty regarding how additional high-protection marine park areas would be identified and expressed concern about the cumulative reduction in available fishing grounds. It was also noted that the fishing industry is continuing to engage collaboratively with government and environmental stakeholders to minimise impacts on fishing operations.</li> <li>• Industry reported a positive outcome regarding NOPSEMA's decision not to approve the proposed CGG Western Victorian seismic survey and acknowledged the significant influence of work undertaken by Fishwell Pty Ltd.</li> </ul> <p><b>Southern Shark Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry continues to seek timely decisions on the auto-baiting in Bass Strait proposal and dual-jurisdiction trip arrangements with South Australia, noting that both matters have been under consideration for an extended period.</li> <li>• Recent management changes relating to school shark bycatch have improved operational flexibility for operators. Industry is also focusing on country-of-origin labelling initiatives to improve product value and market access.</li> <li>• Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) is continuing to engage with government, environmental organisations and industry stakeholders regarding marine park planning and the 30 by 30 commitment, with a view to achieving balanced outcomes for industry and environmental objectives.</li> </ul> <p>AFMA acknowledged industry concerns regarding delays in progressing dual-jurisdiction trip arrangements and auto-longlining proposals and noted that discussions with South Australia have</p> |

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|   |                                                                                                         | been productive. Further noting that while progress is being made, both matters require formal approval processes and ongoing consultation before implementation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 4 | <p>Research Priorities for the SESSF, SPF and SSJF</p> <p>Presenters: Sally Weekes and Mark Grubert</p> | <p>SEMAC considered the draft 2027–28 Annual Research Statements for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF), Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) and Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF), which will be provided to the AFMA Research Committee for funding consideration.</p> <p>For the SESSF, AFMA outlined the proposed research priorities developed by the relevant Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs). SEMAC considered each proposal and provided comments and recommendations, which are summarised in Tables 1 and 2 of <a href="#">Attachment C</a>. The additional discussion points arising from these deliberations are outlined below.</p> <p><b>Review of Tier 1 assessments of SESSF stocks:</b> AFMA advised that independent reviews of Tier 1 stock assessments are undertaken periodically to ensure assessment methodologies remain robust and fit for purpose. SEMAC noted that SESSFRAG identified gummy shark as the highest priority for review, followed by tiger flathead and blue grenadier. Members also noted that reviews are most effective when completed prior to the next scheduled stock assessment.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAC supported the research priority and endorsed gummy shark as the highest-priority Tier 1 stock assessment for future independent review.</p> <p><b>Survey of protected dogfishes in the 60-mile dogfish closure</b> - Industry representatives questioned the ongoing value of the project given changes to the fishery, reductions in fleet size and associated cost pressures. AFMA advised that the survey forms part of long-term monitoring commitments associated with conservation-dependent management arrangements. Following discussion, SEMAC supported retaining the project as a low priority and requested confirmation of industry support previously attributed by GABIA.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Action:</b> AFMA to confirm whether GABIA continues to support the proposed survey of protected dogfish within the 60-nautical-mile dogfish closure and the associated priority ranking.</p> </div> <p><b>Detection and estimation of discards and bycatch mitigation using AI-enabled Electronic Monitoring</b> - AFMA advised that this research priority has shifted from a trawl-focused project to a shark fishery application and is now being progressed through a CSIRO-supported industry PhD project. Members noted that a national workshop on artificial intelligence and electronic monitoring is being planned and that future research priorities would likely be informed by the outcomes of that workshop.</p> <p>SEMAC acknowledged the potential benefits of AI-enabled EM for discard estimation, bycatch reporting and compliance monitoring, but noted</p> |  |

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|  |  | <p>concerns regarding intellectual property arrangements associated with the project.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAG supported the SESSFRAG position and recommended that industry representatives be included in future AI and EM workshops.</p> <p><b>Calibration of the Modular Acoustic Optical Survey (M-AOS) unit for future Orange Roughy surveys – Removed as the</b> calibration work was already underway and expected to be completed through existing arrangements.</p> <p><b>Research Proposals for consideration by COMRAC/FRDC</b></p> <p><b>Development of Best Practice Approach for Stock Assessments Dealing with Low Recruitment in Models</b> - AFMA advised that this proposal had been referred to FRDC for consideration, noting its potential application across multiple Commonwealth and State fisheries. Members recognised the increasing use of low recruitment projections in stock assessments and the need for guidance on best-practice approaches and harvest control rules.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAG supported the proposal as a high-priority, cross-fishery research project and endorsed its referral to FRDC for further consideration.</p> <p><b>Using a multivariate approach to estimate age from otolith weight, shape, depth and other biological inputs using OR as a case study noting it has potential application more broadly than OR and other fisheries</b> - AFMA outlined a proposal to investigate the use of otolith weight, shape, depth and other biological characteristics to estimate fish age, using orange roughy as a case study with potential application across other species and fisheries. Members noted the potential for the approach to improve ageing efficiency and reduce assessment costs over time.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAG supported the proposal as a high-priority research project and requested that AFMA provide information on current otolith analysis costs and the potential efficiencies that could be achieved through the proposed approach.</p> <p><b>Proposed priorities for the SPF</b></p> <p>AFMA presented the proposed SPF research priorities for 2027–28. Discussion focused on the relative priority of proposed DEPM surveys and assessment projects. Members supported the jack mackerel DEPM survey as the highest SPF research priority and agreed that the redbait east DEPM survey should remain a lower priority given that under current catches the TAC for eastern redbait is not constraining. The proposed blue mackerel age and growth project was referred for further consideration through the relevant RAG. Members also noted that a previously proposed project examining barriers to higher catches was no longer required.</p> |  |
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|    |                                                                                            | <p>Industry member Simon Boag updated his declared interests during the meeting. Further details were subsequently provided to AFMA and have been incorporated into the Register of Declared Interests (Attachment B).</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAM supported the SPF research priorities, with the jack mackerel DEPM identified as the highest priority, redbait east DEPM supported as a medium priority, and the blue mackerel age and growth project referred to the relevant RAG for further consideration.</p> <p><b>Southern Squid &amp; Jig Fishery</b></p> <p>For the Southern Squid Jig Fishery, members noted limited current research activity and low industry appetite for large-scale research investment given low catch rates and economic conditions. A proposed stock structure project was considered too costly in its current form and would require further refinement before progressing.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAM noted the proposed stock structure project would require further refinement and consideration before progressing and did not support it as a priority in its current form</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 5. | <p>Protected Species Updates and Management Arrangements</p> <p>Presenter: Rebecca Jol</p> | <p>AFMA presented updates on dolphin, seabird, seal and shark interactions across the SESSF and SPF fisheries for the 2025-26 season.</p> <p>SEMAM discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns regarding the frequent breaching of the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) due to shearwater interactions rather than interactions with bird species of higher conservation concern such as albatrosses.</li> <li>Potential amendments to the TAP to better reflect conservation status, noting that shearwaters are not a threatened species and have a population exceeding 23 million.</li> <li>Possible management measures to reduce shearwater interactions and seabird interactions more broadly, noting that the high number of shearwater interactions this season was associated with night setting during a full moon.</li> <li>Potential mapping of known shearwater and albatross nesting areas.</li> <li>The significant success in reducing sealion interactions and opportunities to communicate this achievement to the public.</li> <li>The reliability of seal species reporting, noting that fishers may not be able to accurately distinguish between Australian fur seals and New Zealand fur seals.</li> <li>Interest in the consistency of interactions recorded through EM and logbooks, including the potential to incorporate this information into a future presentation. AFMA noted that ABARES produces a congruence report on this that is made public.</li> </ul> |  |

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|    |                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEMAM reiterated concerns regarding the effectiveness of the TAP, including suggestions to advocate for the incorporation of species conservation status into the TAP framework.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In future presentations have seal and sealion analysis separate</li> <li>AFMA to include comparison of interactions from logbooks to EM in future presentations.</li> </ol> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFMA to obtain maps of nesting areas for shearwaters and albatross if available and include in future presentation. These may be made available to industry as part of seabird mitigation information.</li> <li>AFMA to map breeding areas for seal colonies and pupping areas in future presentations.</li> </ol> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 7. | <p>Seal Mitigation Strategy – GAB, CTS</p> <p>Presenter: Will Bowman</p> | <p>AFMA presented the draft Seal Mitigation Strategy that will focus on improved seal interaction data collection using EM, mitigation device trials, crew safety, and building the evidence base for future management measures.</p> <p>A condition of the SESSF Wildlife Trade Operation approval under the EPBC Act. Requires the development of a strategy by 2027.</p> <p>Members discussed historical and current seal interaction trends, noting that reported interactions generally align with fishing effort and that EM is expected to provide more accurate information on the nature and frequency of interactions. The effectiveness and feasibility of previous mitigation measures, including seal excluder devices and industry codes of practice, was also noted.</p> <p>Discussion focused on the need to clearly define "risk" within the strategy and ensure that both conservation outcomes and crew safety considerations are appropriately reflected. Members agreed that any management response should be proportionate to the conservation risk while recognising the operational hazards associated with seal interactions.</p> <p>SEMAM supported the staged approach proposed by AFMA, including further assessment of interaction data and trialling of new mitigation tools before implementing any additional management arrangements.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAM supported the draft Seal Mitigation Strategy and the proposed staged approach to its implementation.</p> |

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|    | <p>Request for extension of closures related to the SA Algal Bloom</p> <p>Presenter: Lianos Triantafillos</p> | <p>AFMA presented PIRSA's request to extend the shark closure in waters adjacent to Kangaroo Island until 30 April 2027 and associated snapper closures until 30 June 2027 due to ongoing impacts from the harmful algal bloom. PIRSA advised that monitoring and stock assessments remain ongoing and will inform future reopening decisions.</p> <p>Members discussed the available information on fishery impacts and supported the precautionary approach while additional recovery information is collected. Industry representatives supported the extensions and highlighted the importance of consistency with South Australian management arrangements. Members also acknowledged the collaborative approach adopted by AFMA, PIRSA and industry in responding to the issue.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> SEMAC supported extending the shark closure to 30 April 2027 and the snapper closures to 30 June 2027.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9. | Other Business                                                                                                | <p><b>Agenda 8 – Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Electronic Monitoring (EM) Discard Estimates</b></p> <p>AFMA advised that additional work is required to develop robust methods for estimating quota species discards using EM. While recent trials demonstrated that discard estimation is feasible, further calibration work based on pair trials using observer data and EM data is needed to improve confidence in the estimates. AFMA indicated that approximately \$100,000 may be required to continue this work.</p> <p>Industry members expressed strong support for the objective of improving discard estimates, but strongly opposed industry funding any additional development work. Members noted that the EM rollout had been supported through a \$10 million government-funded program and considered that the development of discard estimation methods should have been completed within that project. Concerns were also raised regarding the current economic conditions facing industry and the prospect of further cost recovery.</p> <p>AFMA acknowledged industry concerns and noted that alternative funding options were being explored. Members generally supported the need for the work to continue but encouraged AFMA to investigate funding sources other than industry levies.</p> <p><b>Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <p>SEMAM noted the following meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEMAM 62: 29 October 2026 (online).</li> <li>• SEMAM 63: 9-10 February 2027 (Melbourne).</li> </ul> <p><b>Sitting Fee Claims</b></p> <p>Members were reminded to submit any outstanding sitting fee claims as soon as possible, noting that claims are generally required to be submitted</p> |

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|                  |  | within three months of a meeting and that timely submission assists with end-of-financial-year budget management. |
| Close of meeting |  | The Chair closed the meeting at 15.24 pm.                                                                         |

## Attachment A – Adopted agenda

| Start<br>(Duration) | Item                                                                                          | Purpose    | Presenter/s          |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 9.30<br>(30 min)    | 1. Preliminaries                                                                              |            |                      |
|                     | 1.1. Welcome and apologies                                                                    | For ACTION | Chair                |
|                     | 1.2. Declarations of interest                                                                 | For ACTION | Chair                |
|                     | 1.3. Adoption of agenda                                                                       | For ACTION | Chair                |
|                     | 1.4. Minutes from previous meetings                                                           | For NOTING | Chair                |
|                     | 1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings                                                   | For NOTING | AFMA                 |
| 10:00<br>(15 min)   | 2. Manager's Update (taken as read)                                                           | For NOTING | Sally Weekes         |
| 10:15<br>(15 min)   | 3. Industry Update (taken as read)                                                            | For NOTING | Industry             |
| 10:30<br>(15 min)   | Morning Tea                                                                                   |            |                      |
| 10:45<br>(1 hr)     | 4. Chondrichthyans of Concern                                                                 | For ADVICE | Michelle Henriksen   |
| 11:45<br>(1 hr)     | 5. Electronic monitoring (EM) program changes                                                 | For ADVICE | Tamre Sarhan         |
| 12:45<br>(30 min)   | Lunch                                                                                         |            |                      |
| 13:15<br>(30 min)   | 6. Proposed change to SPF SFR conditions<br>6A. Contract variation for SPF monitoring project | For Advice | Mark Grubert         |
| 13:45<br>(15 min)   | 7. Introduction of a size limit for striped trumpeter                                         | For NOTING | Lianos Triantafillos |
| 14:00<br>(15 min)   | Review of action items                                                                        | For ADVICE | Membership           |
| 14:15               | End of Day                                                                                    |            |                      |

## Attachment B – Register of interests

Table 1. SEMAC meeting 60 member, invited participant and observer declarations of interest.

| Name               | MAC position / organisation | Declared interests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Relevant agenda item(s) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr Clayton Nelson  | Chair                       | Chair<br><br>Member of Seafood Industry Australia<br><br>Independent consultant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                         |
| Ms Anissa Lawrence | Environment member          | No pecuniary interest<br><br>Director of TierraMar Ltd<br><br>Independent consultant<br><br>Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters<br><br>Conservation member on SharkRAG, SPFRAG, SEMAC, Spencer Gulf Prawn RSC and the South Australian Rock Lobster MAC |                         |
| Daniel Hogan       | Industry member             | Managing director - Toberfish Pty Ltd<br><br>Owner/Operator – FV Zeehaan<br><br>CTS Trawl Licence & Quota Holder<br><br>Non-Beneficiary Director – SETFIA<br><br>Industry member for SERAG                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |
| Mr Will Mure       | Industry member             | Sole Director of Mures Fishing P/L<br><br>Commonwealth fish receiver permit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                         |

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|                   |                   | <p>Tasmania fish processing licence</p> <p>Scalefish hook boat SFR, SEQ Quota Holding Permits, Auto longline fishing permit</p> <p>High Seas permit</p> <p>Blue eye trevalla SFRs, Ling SFRs, Ribaldo ITP</p> <p>Mixed species Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and SFRs</p> <p>Member of various fishing related associations including Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA), Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)</p> <p>Industry member on SERAG</p> |  |
| Dr Paul McShane   | Scientific member | <p>Chair of SERAG and a member of SEMAC and SESSFRAG.</p> <p>No pecuniary interest in the SESSF.</p> <p>Principal of Global Marine Resource Management Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Adjunct Professor (Fisheries and Aquaculture) College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
| Dr Sarah Jennings | Economic member   | <p>Economics member on SESSFRAG.</p> <p>Member of AFMA Economics Working Group.</p> <p>Independent economics consultant.</p> <p>Member on SA MSFMAC</p> <p>No pecuniary or other interest in the SESSF</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |

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| Ms Danielle Ghosn    | Recreational member | <p>Recreational member of SEMAC &amp; SPFRAG</p> <p>Independent Consultant and Scientific Officer of the NSW Game Fish Tournament Monitoring Program.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                    |
| Mr Simon Boag        | Industry member     | <p>SETFIA EO (SETFIA undertakes work for oil and gas, but also under co-management for AFMA with fish sampling, snapper and ling)</p> <p>SSIA EO (SSIA undertakes fish sampling by under co-management, SSIA also developing EM AI review technology with CSIRO)</p> <p>Engaged by two companies (east and west) in the SPF</p> <p>Work on various MSC accreditations across the SE</p> <p>Work with offshore wind proponents</p> <p>CFA director</p> <p>MAC and RAG member</p> | Agenda 4, 5, 6, 7. |
| Mr Kyriakos Toumazos | Industry member     | <p>Chief Executive Officer (South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association Inc.);</p> <p>Director of Southern Sea Eagles Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director of Southern Fisheries Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director Health Balance Pharmacies Pty Ltd;</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |

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|                         |                                                                                          | <p>Member South Australian Boating Facility Board;</p> <p>Member of Shark Resource Assessment Group (AFMA);</p> <p>Member of South East Management Advisory Committee;</p> <p>Member of AMSA Regional Safety Committee;</p> <p>Director Southern Shark Industry Alliance;</p> <p>Director PACK Investments Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director Cruickshank's Corner Developments Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director Cruickshank's Corner Commercial Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director Seafood Industry Australia;</p> |  |
| AFMA                    |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| Ms Sally Weekes         | AFMA Demersal and Midwater Senior Manager– AFMA SEMAC member –                           | No interest pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| Ms Rebecca Jol          | AFMA Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. Executive Officer SEMAC | No interest pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  |
| Dr Mark Grubert         | AFMA Manager SPF, Scallop and Squid.                                                     | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| Mr Lianos Triantafillos | AFMA Manager-Gillnet, Hook and Trap (GHAT)                                               | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |

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|                      | and High Seas (SPRFMO) Fisheries,                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| Ms Yvette Lamont     | AFMA Senior Management Officer SPF, Scallop and Squid.                | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Ms Hannah Maude      | AFMA, Senior Management Support Officer.                              | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Mr Will Bowman       | AFMA, Manager South East Trawl & Great Australian Bight Trawl Manager | No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| Invited Participants |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| Mr Keith Rowling     | GABIA                                                                 | <p>Owner – Bluefin Consulting</p> <p>Associate – NMAC(SA) Pty Ltd</p> <p>Executive support of Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA)</p> <p>Executive officer of Charter Boat Association of South Australia (CBASA)</p> <p>Executive officer of Southern Fishermen’s Association (SFA)</p> <p>Executive support of Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owner’s Association (SCGPBOA)</p> <p>Executive support of South Australian Professional Fishers Association (SAPFA)</p> <p>Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) – CBASA member</p> | Agenda 6, 6A |

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|  |  | <p>Allocation Review Committee –<br/>Commercial fishing representative</p> <p><i>SERAG - Industry member</i></p> <p><i>Structural Adjustment Assessment<br/>Panel (SAAP) - Industry member</i></p> |  |
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## Attachment C:

**Table 1 - Priorities for potential ARC funding in the 2027-28 financial year**

| Title                                                        | Need                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Deliverables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Evaluation           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |                                                                                                                                                                    |
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|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Total cost (approx.) | Priority/ranking                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Feasibility | SEMAC Advice                                                                                                                                                       |
| Review of Tier 1 assessments of SESSF stocks                 | <p>Tier 1 assessments of SESSF stocks should undergo routine independent review to ensure that they are as robust as possible. Ideally, this review should occur in the year prior to the next assessment of that stock.</p> <p>AFMA requests that SERAG, and SharkRAG each nominate a Tier 1 assessment for review during the 2026–27 financial year.</p>                                                                         | <p>Review of the input parameters, catch and CPUE/biomass time series, model structure and assumptions of Tier 1 assessments as nominated by the RAGs. The review of each assessment will be a separate research call, but proponents can elect to review more than one assessment.</p>               | \$30k-<br>\$50k      | SESSFRAG – Gummy Shark identified as the highest priority followed by Tiger Flathead and Blue Grenadier. Reviews best done a year before the next assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | High        | Supported. SEMAC agreed Gummy Shark should remain the highest-priority.                                                                                            |
| Survey of protected dogfishes in the 60-mile dogfish closure | <p>A large network of spatial closures was implemented as part of the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy (the Strategy) in 2011 to support rebuilding of Harrison's and Southern dogfishes. A baseline survey in the closure network from which to monitor and measure the recovery of these species forms a key part of the Strategy. The first baseline survey was undertaken during 2022-2023 however the 60nm closure</p> | <p>Completion of a survey (using two or more complementary methods) in the 60-mile dogfish closure in order to ascertain the status of their recovery, consistent with the methodology outlined in <i>Research to support the upper slope dogfish management strategy: options for monitoring</i></p> | High                 | <p>SERAG – Medium priority, nothing the GAB Industry representative considered it a High priority.</p> <p>SESSFRAG – low given low risk of fishing pressure and likely cost increases given fuel crisis. Commitment to monitor under the USDMS. SESSFRAG seeking DCEW and AFMA's views on the appropriate priority of this research.</p> <p>SEMAC – supported a low ranking for this research priority.</p> | High        | Supported as Low Priority. SEMAC noted industry concerns regarding cost and changing fishery circumstances. AFMA to confirm current GABIA support for the project. |

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|                                                                                                           | <p>in the GAB, while identified as one of four key monitoring sites, was not able to be surveyed at the time.</p> <p>The Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) is interested in understanding the status of protected dogfishes in this closure to determine if access to the area can be re-instated.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><i>the recovery of Southern Dogfish and Harrison's Dogfish, completed in November 2018</i> (Williams et al. 2018).</p>                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Detection and estimation of discards and bycatch mitigation using AI-enabled Electronic Monitoring</p> | <p>Effective monitoring of discards is essential for sustainable management of SESSF species. Current discard estimates are based on limited observer coverage or skipper reported logbooks, logbooks, or crew declarations, each subject to uncertainty. AI-enhanced EM provides an opportunity to generate consistent, cost-efficient, and high-resolution discard data to support Tier 1 stock assessments and meet audit and third-party certification standards.</p> <p>Similarly, wildlife interactions remain a critical compliance and conservation concern. Trawl fisheries globally have been shown to cause additional mortality for some threatened populations of seabirds, particularly from warp cable</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An AI Model for Detection and Quantification of Discards</li> <li>• A seabird interaction detection and mitigation compliance tool</li> <li>• An integrated workflow for post-processing and human review of EM footage.</li> </ul> | <p>Low annual cost if undertaken as a 4-year CSIRO Industry PHD project.</p> | <p>SERAG – High priority, noting its applications expands across fisheries outside of the SESSF and recommended other fisheries be approached to broaden scope of the project.</p> <p>SESSFrag noted project has been moved to a PhD project focused on School Shark and now supported through the CSIRO process. Research priority subject may be removed or re-introduced to ARC funding at a later date following potential workshop discussion.</p> <p>SEMAC supported project update and recommended that Industry representation be included in any future workshop discussions.</p> | <p>High</p> | <p>SEMAC supported the SESSFrag position. Members noted concerns regarding IP arrangements. SEMAC recommended industry participation in any future workshop discussions.</p> |

strikes. While mitigation measures like bafflers have been developed and approved by AFMA, it is important that sound mechanisms exist to verify their deployment and effectiveness. Automated detection of bird-scaring devices and interactions via AI using EM footage offers a scalable path to increase the level of compliance monitoring while reducing review costs.

|                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                         |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |      |                                                                                                                                  |
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| Calibration of the Modular Acoustic Optical Survey (M-AOS) unit for future Orange Roughy surveys | <p>The AOS unit used in the 2024 Eastern Zone Orange Roughy survey is now 15 years old and has reached the end of its effective service life.</p> <p>CSIRO recently constructed a new M-AOS unit but this device requires calibration prior to its use in the 2028 acoustic survey.</p> <p>This calibration is most efficiently achieved if the unit is deployed from a New Zealand factory freezer trawler and the next available opportunity is likely to be the winter of 2026.</p> | Calibration of the new M-AOS unit such that the survey results from this device are comparable with those from the “old” unit used in previous surveys. | Medium | <p>SESSFRAG -Essential due to importance of the acoustic biomass estimate for the next assessment of OR East in 2029.</p> <p>SEMAC noted that CSIRO has successfully completed this project using underspent project funds. SEMAC agreed that the research priority could be removed from the research priorities list.</p> | High | <p>Not supported as a future priority. SEMAC noted the calibration work is being completed and considered the item complete.</p> |
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**Table 2: Research priorities and proposals for consideration by COMRAC/FRDC**

| Title                                                                                                                                                    | Need                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Deliverables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                        |             | SEMAC Advice                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Total cost (approx.)                                                                                                                                                                                       | Priority/ranking                                                                                       | Feasibility |                                                                                            |
| Development of Best Practice Approach for Stock Assessments Dealing with Low Recruitment in Models.<br><br>(Priority deferred to FRDC for consideration) | <p>The use of low recruitment projections to inform recommended biological catches for various stocks caught in a number of Australian Fisheries has become more common in recent years and is expected to continue. This being the case, there is a need to develop guidelines on when low recruitment scenarios are appropriate and how to apply harvest control rules (HCRs) when using low recruitment projections. For example, direct application of the HCR could prevent the stock from meeting the target biomass. Approaches include using a range of fixed catch projections to enable estimation of an RBC, and the use of dynamic Bo is being considered.</p> <p>In addition, recent research has been critical of how low recruitment projections have been used in stock assessment models (e.g. Edgar et al. 2024), therefore understanding what is best-</p> | <p>A set of guidelines for when to apply low recruitment scenarios and how to develop harvest control rules when using low recruitment scenarios for incorporation into various harvest strategies informed by case study analysis of Commonwealth and State fisheries.</p> | <p>Aspects of this work could be considered as part of the SESSF multi-species harvest strategy, but it would be best done as a separate project given the application is much broader than the SESSF.</p> | <p>SESSFRAG – High priority noting it would be cross-cutting project that benefits many fisheries.</p> |             | <p>Supported. SEMAC endorsed referral to FRDC and supported the high-priority ranking.</p> |

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| <p>practice, and the implications to common stock assessment models, will assist in addressing these criticisms, and improving model outputs and subsequent management decisions.</p>                             |            |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |                                                                                                                               |
| Using a multivariate approach to estimate age from otolith weight, shape, depth and other biological inputs using OR as a case study noting it has potential application more broadly than OR and other fisheries | Case study | Medium | High priority<br><br>SEMAC supported priority as high noting that the project was proposed to explore a quicker, lower-cost alternative to traditional otolith ageing by assessing whether otolith shape, size and weight could provide comparable information for stock assessments. | High feasibility | Supported. SEMAC requested further information on otolith ageing costs and potential efficiencies from the proposed approach. |

## Attachment D: Summary of Actions and Recommendations

| Agenda Item                                        | No. | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Agency/Person Responsible | Timeframe                |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4.                                                 | 1.  | AFMA to confirm whether GABIA continues to support the proposed survey of protected dogfish within the 60-nautical-mile dogfish closure and the associated priority ranking.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Will Bowmwn               | As soon as possible      |
| 5.                                                 | 2.  | AFMA to map nesting areas for shearwaters and albatross – inform industry of seabird breeding colonies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AFMA                      | ETP Updates Agenda, 2027 |
|                                                    | 3.  | AFMA to map nesting areas for seal colonies and pupping areas in future presentations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AFMA                      | ETP Updates Agenda, 2027 |
| <b>Recommendations</b>                             |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                           |                          |
| 4. Research Priorities for the SESSF, SPF and SSJF | 1.  | <p><b>Review of Tier 1 assessments of SESSF stocks:</b> SEMAC supported the research priority and endorsed gummy shark as the highest-priority Tier 1 stock assessment for future independent review.</p> <p><b>Survey of protected dogfishes in the 60-mile dogfish closure:</b> SEMAC supported retaining the project as a low priority and requested confirmation of industry support previously attributed by GABIA.</p> <p><b>Detection and estimation of discards and bycatch mitigation using AI-enabled Electronic Monitoring;</b> SEMAC supported the SESSFrag position and recommended that industry representatives be included in future AI and EM workshops.</p> <p><b>Calibration of the Modular Acoustic Optical Survey (M-AOS) unit for future Orange Roughy surveys:</b> SEMAC recommended to remove the calibration work as it was already underway and expected to be completed through existing arrangements.</p> <p><b>Development of Best Practice Approach for Stock Assessments Dealing with Low Recruitment in Models – FRDC/COMRAC:</b> SEMAC supported the proposal as a high-priority, cross-fishery research project and endorsed its referral to FRDC for further consideration.</p> <p><b>Using a multivariate approach to estimate age from otolith weight, shape, depth and other biological inputs using OR as a case study noting it has potential application more broadly than OR and other fisheries – FRDC/COMRAC:</b> SEMAC supported the proposal as a high-priority research project and requested that AFMA provide information on current otolith analysis costs and the potential efficiencies that could be achieved through the proposed approach.</p> <p>SEMAC recommendations for the SESSF research priorities 2026-27 are summarised in Attachment C.</p> |                           |                          |

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|                                   |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                   | 2.  | SEMAC recommendations for the SPF research priorities 2026-27 include: Jack Mackerel DEPM identified as the highest priority, Redbait East DEPM supported as a medium priority, and the Blue Mackerel age and growth project referred to the relevant RAG for further consideration. |
| 5. Protected Species Updates      | 3.  | In future presentations have seal and sealion analysis separate                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                   | 4.  | AFMA to include comparison of interactions from logbooks to EM in future presentations.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7. Draft Seal Mitigation Strategy | 15. | SEMAC supported the draft Seal Mitigation Strategy and the proposed staged approach to its implementation.                                                                                                                                                                           |

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