



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Great Australian Bight Resource Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 December 2018

Venue: The Pier Hotel, Glenelg

Attendees

Name	Member type i.e. industry member
Mr Barry Windle	Chair
Mr Lance Lloyd	Scientific Member
Mr Jim Raptis	Industry Member
Mr Neil MacDonald	Industry Member
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry Member
Mr Peter Trott	Environmental Member
Mr Daniel Corrie	AFMA Member
Ms Kehani Manson	Executive Officer

Minutes

1. Preliminaries

1.1 Introduction and apologies

- 1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and other participants at 09:02, Friday 7 December 2018.
- 2 The MAC noted that Peter Trott was in transit to the meeting.
- 3 The Chair provided the MAC with an overview of the MAC and RAG Chairs workshop held in August 2018. Key points included:
 - It is now a legal requirement for MACs to ensure that the interests of recreational and indigenous fishers are included in fisheries management, when those interests clearly are involved in the fishery.
 - The MAC discussed whether there are recreational and/or indigenous interactions in the GAB. Industry advised the MAC that currently there is very little interaction for both recreational and indigenous fishing.
- 4 The Chair noted that the minutes from the previous meeting were not included as an agenda item. It was advised that, although settled, previous minutes should be included for discussion/background in the agenda of future meetings.

1.2 Declaration of interests

- 5 Members reviewed and updated the table of Declarations of Interest (included at Attachment 1) prior to the meeting.
- 6 The Chair asked participants to declare any interests in matters being considered, not limited to pecuniary gain. Such interests were declared by:

- Jim Raptis, Marcia Valente and Neil MacDonald due to commercial interests.

7 Mr Raptis, Ms Valente and Mr MacDonald left the room while the MAC discussed their potential conflict of interest. In each case, the MAC noted the conflict of interest and, recognising the participant's knowledge and valuable contribution to the discussions, the MAC agreed that they should participate in the discussion for all agenda items however should leave the room while recommendations are being made. All three members re-joined the meeting.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

8 The MAC adopted the agenda (Attachment 2), noting that there were no additional items to be added.

1.4 Outstanding action items

Peter Trott arrived at 9:36.

9 The AFMA Member updated the MAC on the status of actions arising from previous GABRAG meetings. The updated Action Item status is included at Attachment 3. The MAC noted:

- Action item Nov 2017 (1): *AFMA to formally write to the Department of the Environment and Energy to enquire about the granting of WTO accreditation for a period of 10 years.* The MAC raised concerns about the 10 year accreditation being too big of a gap. A 5 year accreditation would be more appropriate for this fishery. The AFMA member informed the MAC that the WTO applies to the entire SESSF fishery, most of the conditions relate to specific sectors; with a low number of conditions directly relating to the GAB.
- Action item November 2017 (4): *GABIA to review the port sampling program and put forward an alternative proposal.* This item was agreed to be removed however a follow up action was required to be undertaken by AFMA and GABIA to ensure that there is a record outlining the port sampling schedule for GAB vessels; including species landed by vessels and where they are being landed.

ACTION ITEM 1: AFMA and GABIA

AFMA and GABIA to ensure that there is a record outlining the port sampling schedule for GAB vessels; including species landed by vessels and where they are being landed.

- Action Item November 2017 (6): *AFMA and GABIA to work together on developing a mechanism for distributing orange roughy scientific research costs across all SFR holders.* The AFMA member advised that this would be

addressed in greater detail during Agenda Item 4 – Orange Roughy. A brief overview was provided. 2019 is a non-onboard observer year and port sampling will be conducted instead. In the next observer year (2020), AFMA have suggested aligning the orange roughy Research Program with the ISMP Program to minimise costs to Industry.

2. Management Items

2.1 Managers update

- 10 The AFMA member provided the MAC with an update on the management of the fishery. Key points included:
- **Sustainability:** In the most recent ABARES Fishery Status Report for 2018, no SESSF species were classified as ‘subject to overfishing.’
 - **GVP estimates:** for 2017-18 are not available in the 2018 ABARES report; however GVP for the 2016-17 is estimated at \$10.04 million. Of this, deepwater flathead contributed \$5.86 million (58% of total GVP) and Bight redfish contributed \$1.43 million (14% of total GVP). Remaining 28% is made up of byproduct species.
 - **SESSF Fishery Management Strategy (FMS):** The SESSF FMS is being drafted and is compilation of management arrangements under the existing SESSF Harvest Strategy, Bycatch Strategy and research and data planning. This is expected to be drafted during 2019.
 - **Review of the SESSF Harvest Strategy:** The project proposes to develop, evaluate and operationalise a fishery-wide harvest strategy with multiple and appropriate reference points, and multispecies decision rules to cost-effectively meet the requirements of the revised Commonwealth harvest strategy and bycatch policies. This is expected to be completed over the next 2-3 years.
 - The environmental member noted that ocean jacket doesn’t have age structure data for the GAB despite being one of the most frequently caught species.
 - The AFMA member advised that within the new policy any key economic species are going to be monitored and assessed. This will be considered by SESSFRAG in February 2019.
 - **Reducing bycatch and discards in Commonwealth Trawl Fisheries:** This project was instigated by GABIA and the RAG. It was supported by FRDC and is part of the November 2018 call for research. Applications are due 15th February 2019. Industry are encouraged to work with research providers and submit proposals.

- The environmental member noted that there is still an issue around the public perception of discards. Questions arising in relation to the survivability of bycatch species. How much cryptic mortality of species is occurring during these practices?
- Industry suggested that to investigate this further, cameras would need to be deployed with the nets to understand how bycatch species are escaping; and then modifying gear accordingly. This may be considered as part of the FRDC project.
- The **Lakes Entrance Office** was officially opened in 2018. The team consists of two domestic compliance officers and five fisheries management staff.
- Canberra office is relocating to a new office near Canberra Airport.
- Protected species sub-strategies are being developed for seabirds, seals and dolphins under the AFMA Bycatch Strategy.
- **South Australian OCS:** correcting the OCS for Bight redfish is a key priority for AFMA. Changes to the finfish OCS have already been agreed to; Commonwealth to have jurisdiction of Bight redfish in Commonwealth waters (outside 3 nautical miles) and State to have jurisdiction in State Waters (inside 3 nautical miles). A Memorandum of Understanding will establish catch limits; the aim is to have these discussions over the next 6-12 months.
- **Snapper:** AFMA have implemented a no-possession/landing prohibition for hook and gillnet operators to compliment SA arrangements (6 week closure 1 November – 15 December). The size of the snapper bycatch allocation and revised trip limit will be agreed between the two jurisdictions by 1 May 2019; including consultation with associated Industry.
 - The environmental member raised concerns regarding an increase in trip limit without conducting the research (i.e. biology and reproduction of species). Without establishing that understanding, increasing the trip limit could have detrimental impacts on the stock.
 - The MAC noted the differences in trip limits between SA and WA. It was suggested that the MAC put forward an **observation that there are unintended consequences arising from different trip limits between SA and WA; resulting in the discard of catch.**
- The GABIA EO advised that the SA snapper management arrangements are currently being reviewed.

- GABIA expect that within the next 3 or so years, snapper will be moved to a quota based system in SA.
- **OCS between Commonwealth and NSW:** The Southern Fish Trawl (SFT) will be absorbed into the SESSF Commonwealth Trawl Sector (CTS) by 1 May 2020. Operators will be allocated quota based on historical catches.
- **Co-Management:** The South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) is looking at entering into formal co-management with the AFMA. GABIA is looking at taking a similar approach with the GABTS.
- Catches provided in the manager's update papers were taken as read by the MAC.

2.2 Industry Update

- 11 The GABIA EO provided an industry update. Key points included:
- Industry are recommending that the boat hire costs associated with the FIS are revised given increased operating costs. This is likely to have an impact on the overall cost of future FISs.
 - The AFMA member advised that the next GAB FIS is scheduled for April/May 2020. AFMA are currently budgeting for these costs and the cost that has been budgeted in the draft is the same as that for the previous FIS. The AFMA member will raise Industry's recommendations with AFMA management to reflect the proposed increase in costs.
 - The recommendation from GABRAG yesterday was to bring forward the Bight Redfish stock assessment from 2020 to 2019 and, if resources won't allow for both assessments and the FIS to be completed in 2019, that the FIS is postponed for 12 months.
 - GABIA are in discussions with AFMA regarding Co-management arrangements; moving to a fee for service type arrangement.
 - Industry are conscious of the fact that there has been an apparent temporal shift in Deepwater Flathead catches over the past two seasons; with spawning yet to occur this season.

3. Co-Management Agreement

- 12 The AFMA member provided an update on the co-management agreement between AFMA and GABIA. Key points included:
- AFMA and GABIA will discuss the potential to enter formal co-management in 2019 whereby GABIA undertake certain functions and projects under contractual arrangements. The costs of associated work would be recovered via levies.
 - Industry raised concerns about entering into this agreement in light of the recent decision by AFMA to require observer coverage in the upper-slope dogfish closures as part of the GABT Orange Research Program. Industry were disappointed with the lack of consultation prior implementation and noted that no scientific evidence has been provided to support these decisions. Industry suggested the requirement is inconsistent with management arrangements in St Helen's.

GABMAC would like to see the issue of dogfish closures and their impact on orange roughy sampling addressed as a matter of urgency.

4. Orange Roughy

4.1 Bycatch TAC Recommendations (Albany & Esperance)

- 13 The MAC agreed to rollover the 50 t bycatch TAC for the 2019-20 season.

Recommendation

The MAC agreed (in the absence of Industry Members), that the orange roughy bycatch TAC for Albany and Esperance should remain at 50 t for the 2019-20 season.

4.2 Orange Roughy Research Program

Research catch allowance (ORR Zones)

- 14 The AFMA member informed the MAC that catches of orange roughy over the last few years has been low; with none caught this year. Key points included:
- The RAG discussed at their December 2018 meeting that scientific permit applications should be submitted to GABIA by April 1 each year. Quota would be evenly split between proponents. An action arising from GABRAG yesterday (6

Dec 2018) was to investigate the feasibility of issuing 12 month permits; recognising the fact that it is not always the same time of year that research is conducted.

- The RAG recommended that the orange roughy research allowance for the 2019-20 season should remain at 200 t.
- The MAC agreed with the recommendation from the RAG that the orange roughy research allowance should remain at 200 t for the 2019-20 season.

Recommendation

The MAC agreed (in the absence of Industry Members), that the orange roughy research allowance should remain at 200 t for the 2019-20 season.

Observer requirements and data collection

- 15 The RAG discussed this in detail at their December 2018 meeting. It was suggested that orange roughy observer trips be aligned with the ISMP program to reduce the cost to Industry. An onboard observer would only be required once operators had caught orange roughy to ensure samples can be collected. The cost of the observer will be recovered to the operator for any day spent fishing inside an orange roughy zone.
- 16 If an observer is onboard as part of the Orange Roughy Research Program but no orange roughy are caught, then the operator may decide to fish on the shelf; at which point the trip would become part of, and funded by, the ISMP program. If, for example, the whole trip was spent fishing for orange roughy, the cost of the observers would be recovered to the operator. There would still be resources available to ensure the targets under the ISMP program are met.
- 17 GABRAG discussed whether an onboard observer every second year is sufficient or whether an observer should be taken every year. The possibility of non-AFMA observers in the alternate year was discussed. A GABRAG action item arose from this discussion: *AFMA and GABIA to investigate the possibility of using a non-AFMA observer. Observers would need to possess relevant credentials to undertake the same sampling as AFMA observers.*
- 18 The RAG agreed that AFMA and GABIA should work together to establish a set of guidelines for orange roughy samples required from crew based collection. Samples collected by crew and through port based sampling could substitute for having an observer on board. If these guidelines are not complied with, the vessel will be prohibited from undertaking future roughy trips without an onboard observer. These guidelines will be reviewed after 12 months and amendments made as necessary.

- 19 The MAC agreed with the suggestions and action items put forward by GABRAG.

5. TAC Recommendations for 2019/20

Deepwater Flathead

- 20 The AFMA member informed the MAC that Deepwater Flathead is scheduled for a stock assessment in 2019.
- 21 Industry advised the MAC that there has been an apparent temporal shift in the spawning of this species. As such, they recommend that the stock assessment includes data up to and including June 2019.
- 22 The RAG recommended at their December 2018 meeting that the RBC for Deepwater Flathead remain at 1128 t for the 2019-20 season.

Bight redfish

- 24 The AFMA member informed the MAC that the Bight redfish stock assessment was scheduled for 2020. However, due to concerns regarding estimates of relative biomass in the recent Fishery Independent Survey and changes to length frequencies in the commercial data, GABRAG recommended that the Bight redfish stock assessment be brought forward to 2019.
- 25 GABRAG also recommended that the RBC for Bight redfish be cut to 600 t for the 2019-20 season to recognise the concerns with FIS indices and length frequency data. GABRAG recognised that the TAC is less than 50 per cent caught and the risk to the stock over the next twelve months is low.
- 26 Industry members left the room due to conflicts of interest.

GABMAC Recommendation

The deepwater flathead TAC to be set at 1128 t for the 2019-20 season.

The Bight redfish TAC to be set at 600 t for the 2019-20 season.

6. TAC Recommendations Continued

Western Gemfish – CTS TAC

- 27 Western gemfish are assessed as a Tier 4 species in Commonwealth Trawl Sector only. Western gemfish are managed under catch triggers in the GABT and would not be considered for a stock assessment until catches increased in-line with triggers in the SESSF Harvest Strategy.
- 28 GABMAC supported the management of western gemfish in the CTS be delegated to the South East Management Advisory Committee. GABRAG were meant to

consider the assessment for western gemfish being delegated to the South East Resource Assessment Group however the item was not raised at yesterday's meeting (6 Dec 2018). The RAG will be asked to consider the matter out of session.

Western Gemfish – GABT Triggers

- 29 The RAG discussed the triggers in the SESSF Harvest Strategy for Western Gemfish at their December 2018 meeting.
- 30 The RAG recommended that the triggers should remain as they are currently set however the wording of the column heading for the data collection trigger (third column from the left in the table; see Table 1) be amended to 'Trigger for analysis of biological data (inc. ageing of otoliths).'
- 31 The MAC supported GABRAG's recommendation. A copy of the new table is to be distributed with the minutes.

7. Other Items

- 32 The MAC made the comment that species that are caught in high quantities need to be included in the SESSF Data Plan to ensure any risks to the stock are monitored. SESSFRAG will be considering data requirements for the fishery at a workshop in February 2019.
- 33 The AFMA member suggested allowing more time for next year's RAG and MAC meetings as it is likely that we will be discussing two stock assessments and potentially the results of a FIS. It was also suggested that an additional RAG meeting be held in November 2019 to discuss the base case assessments. The December RAG would proceed as usual and would be followed by the GABMAC meeting.
- 34 GABRAG and GABMAC memberships expire in June 2019. Calls for expressions of interest are currently out for Chairs for both positions. Calls for members will go out early next year once a Chair has been appointed.
- 35 The Chair closed the meeting at 13:25.

Table 1: Current GABT Trigger limits (original column headings)

Species	Trigger to collect biological data	Trigger for data collection and development of assessment plan	Cease Fishing for that species	Commence Stock Assessment
Gemfish	Currently Collected	400 t	500 t / year	1000 t / 3 years
Blue Grenadier	Currently Collected	400 t	500t/year cease fishing. If a spawning aggregation is found, trigger acoustic survey (500t) and operator collects 100 whole fish.	1000 t / 3 years
Ling	Currently Collected	100 t	250 t	250 t
Blue-eye Trevalla	Currently Collected	100 t	250 t	-
Ribaldo	Currently Collected	100 t	250 t	-
Hapuka	Currently Collected	100 t	250 t	-
Gulper Sharks	Code of practice by industry to not target these species in addition to area closure.	-	2 t	-
Deepwater sharks (black/brier)	Code of practice by industry to not target these species in addition to area closure.	-	-	-
Chinaman Leatherjacket	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	-	-	-
Angel Shark	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	-	-	-
Jackass Morwong	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	-	-	-

Signed (Chair - Barry Windle):



Date: 30/01/2019

Attachments

- 1) GABMAC declared conflicts of interest
- 2) GABMAC draft annotated agenda
- 3) Outstanding action items from previous meetings
- 4) Actions arising from this meeting

GABMAC Declared Conflicts of Interest

Member	Declared Interest
Mr Barry Windle – Chair	Chair of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Advisory Committee for Industry and PIRSA.
Mr Jim Raptis – Industry	GABRAG Industry Member Operates two boats in the GABT Fishery and owns four GAB SFRs as well as quota in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.
Mr Neil MacDonald - Industry	Director NMAC(SA) P/L Executive officer of the Great Australian Bight Industry Association Executive officer of Surveyed Charter Boat Owners and Operators 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 Chair – CGG Gippsland MSS Scientific Advisory Committee
Marcia Valente - Industry	Consultant for Silver Phoenix Holdings who hold two GAB SFRs
Mr Lance Lloyd – Scientific Member	Research Fellow, Federation University Australia. Director of Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd, GABRAG Chair, SESSFRAG and GABMAC member, no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Peter Trott - Environment	Independent consultant (often liaises with WWF and Greenpeace). No pecuniary interest. Working in markets, supply chains and MSC certification. On the MSC board of trustees
Mr Daniel Corrie	AFMA, Trawl Manager, Coral Sea Fishery Manager. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise
Ms Kehani Manson	AFMA, Executive Officer GABRAG and GABMAC. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise

Attachment 2

Drafted Annotated Agenda – GABMAC Meeting 7 December 2018

Time	Item	Presenter
09:00	1. Preliminaries 1.1 Welcome and introductions/apologies 1.2 Declarations of interest 1.3 Adoption of agenda	Chair
	1.4 Action item review	AFMA
09:45	2. Updates 2.1 Manager's Update 2.2 Industry Update	AFMA GABIA
10:00	3. Co-Management Agreement Seeking GABMAC support to explore formal co-management with GABIA.	AFMA
10:30	Morning Tea	
10:45	4. Orange Roughy 4.1 Bycatch TAC Recommendation (Albany & Esperance) 4.2 Orange Roughy Research Program a) Research Catch Allowance (ORR Zones) b) Observer requirements & data collection	AFMA AFMA/GABIA
12:00	5. TAC Recommendations for 2019/20 5.1 Deepwater Flathead 5.2 Bight Redfish	AFMA
12:30	Lunch	
13:00	6. TAC Recommendations Cont` 6.1 Western Gemfish a) CTS TAC b) GABT trigger c) MAC responsibility	
13:45	7. Other Items	Chair
14:00	8. Schedule Next Meeting	Chair
15:30	Meeting Close	

Outstanding action items from previous GABMAC meetings

- Complete/Redundant
- Underway
- Not yet started
- Need GABRAG advice

Meeting & agenda item reference	No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status as of Nov Meeting 2017
1.4/ Nov 2017	1	AFMA to formally write to the Department of the Environment and Energy to enquire about the granting of WTO accreditation for a period of 10 years.	AFMA	As soon as practicable	The SESSF is currently being considered for re-accreditation for export approval. As part of the process, AFMA will enquire about extensions to the accreditation period.
5/ Nov 2017	4	GABIA to review the port sampling program and put forward an alternative proposal	GABIA	Next 12-18 Months	AFMA and GABIA to check whether there is any record of the work done by Christian Pyke outlining the sampling schedule for GAB vessels; including species landed by vessels and where they are being landed.
8/ Nov 2017	9	AFMA to clarify that the \$300,000 licensing cost was a one off item relating to system upgrades and that no further additional costs will be incurred in the 2018-19 budget.	AFMA	As soon as practicable	

Action items arising from GABMAC 7 December 2018

Action Item	Description	Person Responsible	Timeframe
1	AFMA and GABIA to ensure that there is a record outlining the port sampling schedule for GAB vessels; including species landed by vessels and where they are being landed.	AFMA and GABIA	As soon as practicable