



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Southern and Eastern Scalefish and
Shark Fishery
Great Australian Bight Management
Advisory Committee (GABMAC)**

Meeting minutes

Date: 22 November 2017

Stamford Grand Adelaide

Attendees

Name	Membership
Mr Barry Windle	Chair
Mr Lance Lloyd	Scientific Member
Dr Malcolm Haddon	Scientific member
Dr Brigid Kerrigan	AFMA member
Mr Jim Raptis	Industry member
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry member
Mr Christian Pyke	Industry member
Dr Giverny Rodgers	Ag Executive Officer
Mr Neil MacDonald	Observer

Meeting Minutes

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Introduction and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 09:15 am and welcomed participants. Members were advised the meeting was being recorded to assist with the preparation of the draft minutes, there were no objections.

The MAC noted unable to contact Peter Trott.

Neil MacDonald joined the meeting as an observer.

1.2 Declaration of interests

Members reviewed and updated the table of Declarations of Interest included at **Attachment B**.

The Chair asked participants to declare any interests in matters being considered, not limited to pecuniary gain. Such interests were declared at the RAG and reviewed for the MAC meeting.

Members reviewed and updated the table of Declarations of Interest included at **Attachment B**.

- Malcom Haddon noted that he is also member of Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee. Research interests.
- Jim Raptis noted that he operates two boats in fishery and owns four GAB SFRs as well as quota in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.
- Lance Lloyd noted that he is also chair of GABRAG.
- Marcia Valente noted that she is not an SFR holder.

The Chair asked participants to declare any interests in matters being considered, not limited to pecuniary gain. Such interests were declared by:

- Jim Raptis, Christian Pyke and Marcia Valente due to commercial interests.
- Malcolm Haddon due to research interests.

Each member left the room in turn while the MAC considered their interests.

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 they should participate in the discussion and recommendation for all Agenda Items and the member re-joined the meeting.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda **Attachment A** was adopted with the following modifications:

- Additional agenda item to other business – Discuss the RAG's recommendations regarding the Kangaroo Island 700 m closure following yesterday's GABRAG meeting.

1.4 Actions arising from previous meetings

The AFMA Member updated the MAC on the status of actions arising from previous GABMAC meetings. The updated Action Item status is included at **Attachment C**. The MAC noted:

December Meeting 2015:

- Action Item 1: AFMA member noted value of Neil joining the mac in terms of his experience in OCS discussions and experience working at PIRSA.
- Action Item 4: The AFMA member asked the MAC if they wish to pursue a 10 year-WTO accreditation from the Department of the Environment and Energy. The MAC expressed support for this however the GABIA industry member noted concerns regarding whether the Department would be willing to grant the extended accreditation period given a number of ongoing projects related to bycatch etc. in the GABTF.

ACTION ITEM 1: AFMA

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.

- Action Item 5: The RAG agreed to remove action item "Mr Moore to contact Mr Rob Curtotti at ABARES to discuss how GVP for the fishery is calculated" and replace with an updated action item "Economics section at AFMA to provided background information on how ABARES calculate GVP information".

ACTION ITEM 2: AFMA

Economics section at AFMA to provide background information on how ABARES calculate GVP information.

- Action Item 6: The MAC was provided with an update on the bycatch utilisation project presented at previous days GABRAG.

2 Management items

2.1 Managers update

The AFMA member provided the MAC with an update on the management of the fishery (note: paper in Agenda), key points included:

- Managers update was accepted following GABRAG on November 21 2017. There were no further questions or comments. Please refer to the GABRAG minutes for additional points.

2.2 Industry update

Update from the GABIA EO was accepted following GABRAG on November 21 2017. The MAC further noted that:

- Flathead catches are improving but were delayed by approximately one month.
- Seabird mitigation devices are working well.
- Bycatch reduction project is being progressed. Some results are already being seen with acoustic equipment.
- RAG has agreed to progress Bycatch Research and Development Plan which has been supported by the ARC and is being put forward for funding via FRDC. The project objectives are to:
 - Quantify performance of bycatch reduction devices;
 - progress bycatch reduction further using hydro-acoustic technology;
 - evaluate economic benefits of bycatch reductions; and
 - extend initiatives to the rest of the trawl fishery.
- To assess the success of bycatch reduction measures developed or tested under the project bycatch will be compared with historical levels and a sleeve can be implemented to measure reduction in discards in real time.
- GABIA and AFMA should be co-investigators on the Bycatch project.
- A project team would be established and FRDC may request a steering committee to be developed given the number of interest groups involved and high level of interest in the project.
- An industry member questioned whether the project should address SET and GAB separately, potentially with separate co-investigators for each. The AFMA member highlighted that there will be overarching strategies that will be applicable across both fisheries.

- Industry are being encouraged to contact their EO and provide to AFMA information on bycatch reduction methods that they have trialled.

2.3 Environment update

The AFMA member provided the MAC with an update on the ERA discussion which occurred at GABRAG on 21 November. The MAC further noted:

- The MAC reviewed and clarified the byproduct and bycatch species groupings.
- Industry member stated that bycatch definition should refer to species that are not permitted to be retained. The AMFA member acknowledged that the definition should also cover any species that are not retained because they are not marketable, poor quality etc.
- Industry concerns around classifying items as bycatch leading to losing access to product.
- An industry member noted that bycatch and byproduct should be classified based on the merit of the species rather than on catch weight.

ACTION ITEM 3: AFMA

AFMA to provide greater clarity around the definitions for ERA groupings in terms of bycatch, byproduct etc.

- This agenda item is revisited with additional information under agenda item 9.2, other business, Ecological Risk Management.

3 Orange Roughy Bycatch Limits

3.1 TAC recommendation

The MAC considered the TAC recommendation for orange roughy (Albany and Esperence), noting the following:

- The RAG recommended continuing to apply a 50 t bycatch TAC for orange roughy (Albany and Esperence).
- The MAC accepted the recommendation of the RAG.

3.2 Research catch allowance

- The RAG recommended continuing to apply 200 t research catch allowance for orange roughy.
- The MAC accepted the recommendation of the RAG.

4 TAC Recommendations for 2018-19

4.1 Deepwater Flathead

The MAC considered the TAC recommendations for deepwater flathead, noting the following:

- RAG confirmed continuation of the MYTAC and supported an RBC of 1128 t

The MAC recommended continuing the multi-year TAC for deepwater flathead, with a 1128 t RBC.

GABIA will provide AFMA with TAC recommendations for deepwater flathead for information as part of the co-management arrangement and will provide advice direct to the AFMA Commission.

4.2 Bight Redfish

The MAC considered the TAC recommendations for bight redfish, noting the following:

- The species is currently under a 5 year multi-year TAC
- The RAG recommended continuing the multi-year and adopting the recommended RBC of 797 t.
- The scientific member clarified that the depletion curve is above the management target.

The MAC recommended continuing the multi-year TAC for bight redfish, with a 797 t RBC.

GABIA will provide AFMA with TAC recommendations for bight redfish for information as part of the co-management arrangement and will provide advice direct to the AFMA Commission.

4.3 Western Gemfish (CTS)

The MAC considered the TAC recommendations for western gemfish (CTS), noting the following:

- The RAG recommended continuing the multi-year TAC and adopting the recommended RBC of 200 t.

The MAC recommended continuing the multi-year TAC for western gemfish (CTS), with a 200 t RBC.

GABIA will provide AFMA with TAC recommendations for western gemfish (CTS) for information as part of the co-management arrangement.

5 Co-Management Agreement

GABIA and AFMA members presented the proposed changes to the co-management agreement between AFMA and GABIA. The table of responsibilities were presented to the MAC noting the following amendments:

- Ecological Risk Assessment reviews (item 7) were changed to a joint responsibility. Previously under AFMA.
- The review of biological catch and effort, economic and observer data (item 12) was moved to a joint responsibility, as proposed by GABIA. Previously under AFMA. This could be implemented via industry data collection programs. The MAC noted that future responsibilities of GABIA may extend to data collection itself.

ACTION ITEM 4: GABIA

GABIA to review the port sampling program and put forward an alternative, more cost effective proposal.

- The chair questioned the need to better define data collection requirements and processes however it was noted that this is covered under item 19.
- An industry member raised the issue of cost recovery where GABIA is taking on a greater management responsibility. This becomes an issue when licence holders leave the GABIA. For this reason GABIA may be hesitant to take on further responsibility whilst this risk exists. The AFMA member noted that if standalone services are defined AFMA can engage GABIA under contract to deliver those services. If GABIA develop a data collection program this could be one of those contracted services.
- Item 16 (routine management issues) was removed as covered under item 17.
- The Orange Roughy Research Plan (Item 17) was changed to a joint responsibility.
- Item 18 (deepwater closure changes) was removed as is a duplication of item 15.
- Item 23 re-worded for clarity to highlight advocacy role of GABIA in mitigating compliance risks.
- E-log program (item 23) was changed to a joint responsibility. This was previously an AFMA responsibility.
- Strategic research (item 24) was changed to a joint responsibility. Was previously a GABIA responsibility.
- Item 28 was added to the document – Boat Operational Procedures Manual. This item has some costs associated with it (printing) and so updates may be issued electronically. This was listed as a GABIA responsibility.
- Item 29 was added to the document – GABRAG and GABMAC EO services. This was listed as an AFMA responsibility.
- Item 30 was added to the document – Coordination of FIS. This was listed as a GABIA responsibility. GABIA can undertake the contracting of the research provider and handling of funds. AFMA will continue to collect the industry contribution to the FIS through the cost recovery process. This arrangement would not commence until after the next FIS which has already been budgeted.

The MAC supported the proposed changes and note the progress in developing the agreement. The MAC support the continuation of the agreement into the future.

ACTION ITEM 5: AFMA/GABIA

A final version of the co-management agreement with the agreed changes will be circulated to the MAC out of session for noting.

6 Orange Roughy Research Plan

The RAG reviewed the research plan in their meeting on 21 November 2017. The MAC noted the RAG recommendations:

- To implement the AFMA proposal of deadline of 1 April each year for submission of scientific permits to AFMA, with the research catch allowance to be distributed evenly amongst applicants.
- Observer requirements were not changed. Each holder must carry an observer on at least one trip conducted under the scientific permit after 1 July.
- The cost of orange roughy research should be distributed across all SFR holders within the fishery.

The MAC noted that there is currently no mechanism for distributing the cost of research across industry.

ACTION ITEM 6: AFMA/GABIA

AFMA and GABIA to work together on developing a mechanism for distributing orange roughy scientific research costs across all SFR holders.

The MAC supported the proposed updates to the Orange Roughy Research Plan.

ACTION ITEM 7: GABIA

GABIA to update the Orange Roughy Research Plan with proposed changes from the RAG and distribute to the MAC.

7 South Australian OCS Arrangements

Dr Kerrigan provided an update on AFMA's progress regarding OCS arrangements with South Australia noting:

- PIRSA advised that they support negotiation on a package of changes to the OCS rather than on individual issues.
- There has been mutual agreement that the negotiations need to be progressed.
- The primary issue has been that under the OCS Bight redfish falls under SA management. This was an error and there has been executive level agreement to amend this so that it is managed under the Commonwealth outside 3nm. Inside 3nm the Commonwealth are proposing that there is a cap on catches commensurate with current State catches. The current volume of state catches and whether or not there should be a cap is currently under negotiation. There is a potential role for industry to aid in maintaining momentum for this project.

Industry relayed concerns from SFR holders regarding potential substantial changes to the current OCS arrangements. The AFMA member clarified that the issue relates to correcting an error with Bight redfish only, and that the consultation only relates to the capping of catch of Bight redfish within 3nm and that the negotiations do not extend any further. Industry concerns have been expressed to AFMA in a letter to the executive and will be addressed accordingly.

8 Budget Expenditure

GABIA submitted a letter to AMFA with a number of questions relating to the 2017-18 and 2018-19 budgets. The AFMA member presented a response to the questions noting:

- A significantly revised Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) in 2017 which makes it more difficult to identify specific costs.
- Itemisation of costs apportioned to the GABTF under the CSIRO budget for the project Stock Assessment for the SESSF 2016-18 was provided as per the below table. GAB incur 100% of the Tier 1 Deepwater Flathead assessment. Standardisation and Data services make up the remainder of the costs.

Itemisation of costs apportioned to the GABTF under the CSIRO budget for the project: *Stock Assessment for the SESSF 2016-18*. *Approximate cost only.

YEAR	ITEM	TOTAL COST	GAB SPLIT	GAB COST*
2016-17	Tier 1 Deepwater Flathead	\$73,000	100%	\$73,000
	Standardisation (SESSF)	\$75,000	8%	\$6,000
	Data services (SESSF)	\$148,149	18%	\$26,666
2017-18	Standardisation (SESSF)	\$75,000	8%	\$6,000
	Data services (SESSF)	\$148,149	1%	\$1,481

- Other projects included in the 2017-18 research budget include the GAB FIS, ISMP Data analysis services (apportioned based on proportion of the catch of quota species) and fish aging services (contract agreed with the SESSF).

Other projects included in 2017-18 research budget:

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FISHERY SPLIT
GAB FIS	\$213,470	100% GAB
ISMP Data analysis services	\$118,234	10% GAB: 25% GHAT: 65% SET
Fish Aging Services	\$240,000	10% GAB: 25% GHAT: 65% SET

ACTION ITEM 8: AFMA

AFMA to access Fish Aging Services' latest report and provide it to the MAC for information on what aging services are being provided for the GABTF specifically.

- Costs provided are approximate only.
- Services delivered by the AFMA Bycatch and Discards Program have been updated to reflect the decisions made at the Great Australian Bight Resource Advisory Group (GABRAG) meeting 1 in 2017. Work required under updates to the Bycatch and Discard Workplan fall within the existing staff budget, however this may be subject to change in 2018 with progression of the Ecological Risk Assessment project.
- The AFMA port sampling budget was provided and for a total of 20 land days in 2017 the conservative cost per day, excluding overheads, was calculated at \$350. This results in a total cumulative cost up to 13 November 2017 of \$7,000.
- It is intended that the cost of overheads for the port sampling program will be made available as soon as practicable so that GABIA may consider opportunities for cost reduction in the program via increased program efficiencies or potential program outsourcing.
- A breakdown of services provided by the AFMA policy section was provided in broad terms. These include:
 - Economics working group and economic policy advice
 - Legal services and advice
 - Preparation of budget and related reporting documents
 - Operational policies, FMP's
- The AMFA policy section costs are a new component of the budget. The budget for the AFMA policy section is not a fully cost recovered service, and the budget is split between cost recovered and government funding.
- The licensing team is charged at 15 minute increments based on previous years' workload (data punching, industry phone enquiries etc).
- There was a 300,000 one off cost relating to system upgrades included in the 2017-18 licencing budget which is the reason for the spike in costs. That cost was allocated based on the complexity and the number of licences within the fishery.

ACTION ITEM 9: AFMA

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.

9 Other business and Close of Meeting

9.1 Kangaroo Island 700 m Closure

For information for the MAC, arising from the GABRAG meeting on 21 November 2017.

The MAC were notified of the action items arising from the GABRAG meeting regarding a proposed revision of the Kangaroo Island 700 m closure put forward by GABIA and were notified that out of session consultation is likely to occur. This will relate to approving an

amendment to the closure direction pending a paper to be produced by GABIA outlining research showing that the proposed area to be opened is not an important dogfish habitat.

9.2 Ecological Risk Management (continued).

The MAC was provided with the current ERM definitions for primary, secondary, byproduct and bycatch species.

- Key commercial species (primary species) – defined in the HSP Guidelines (2007) as a species that is, or has been, specifically targeted and is, or has been, a significant component of a fishery (including discards).
- Secondary commercial species – commercial species that, while not specifically targeted, are commonly caught and generally retained, and comprise a significant component of a fishery's catch and economic return. These can include quota species.
- Byproduct species – species that are sometimes or always retained for sale but comprise a minor component of the fishery catch and economic return. Byproduct are considered to be commercial species under the CPF (2000).
- Bycatch species – species that are never retained (ie: are discarded, and includes catch that does not reach the deck of the vessel but which nonetheless is killed (or effected) as a result of the interaction with the fishing gear) and as such make no contribution to the value of the fishery.

Based on these definitions the MAC reviewed the species groupings put forward by the RAG.

The MAC supported the RAG recommendation that Deepwater flathead and Bight redfish should be classified as primary species.

The MAC did not include secondary species in the species groupings given the pending revised Harvest Strategy Policy. Ocean jacket was the only species that was identified as being a potential secondary species. In addition, ocean jacket despite having reasonable levels of catch are of low economic value and so it was agreed that this species should be assigned to the byproduct category, given the ERM document definitions.

The MAC agreed that any retained species should be assigned to the byproduct category. Any species that were not recorded as retained in logbooks were assigned to the bycatch category grouping.

Next meeting

Next meeting will be an out of session to resolve Kangaroo Island closure and Ecological Risk Management agenda items.

The meeting was closed at 13:05 pm.

Signed (Chairperson):



Date: 19 December 2017

Attachments

Attachment A: GABMAC annotated agenda

Attachment B: GABMAC declared conflicts of interest

Attachment C: Action item status (please update Attachment C to reflect the amended and included Action items)

Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC) Agenda – Meeting 2 2017

Agenda

Date	22 November 2017
Time	09:00 am – 12:45 pm
Location	Adelaide – Stamford - Glenelg
Chair	Barry Windle

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Indicative Time</i>
1. Preliminaries		09:00
1.1. Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair	15 minutes
1.1. Declarations of interest	All members	
1.2. Adoption of agenda	Chair	
1.3. Actions arising from previous meeting(s)	AFMA	
2. Management		09:15
2.1 Manager's update	Brigid Kerrigan	5 minutes
2.2 Industry update	Christian Pyke	5 minutes
2.3 Environment update	Brigid Kerrigan	5 minutes
3. Orange Roughy Bycatch Limits		09:30
3.1 TAC recommendation	Lance Lloyd/ Brigid Kerrigan	15 minutes
3.2 Research catch allowance and bycatch TAC (Albany & Esperance) quota zone.		
4. TAC Recommendations for 2018/19		09:45
4.1 Deepwater flathead	Lance Lloyd/ Brigid Kerrigan	15 minutes
4.2 Bight Redfish		
4.3 Western Gemfish CTS		
5. Co-Management Agreement		10:00
5.1 Finalise agreement	Christian Pyke	30 minutes
<i>Morning Tea</i>		10:30
6. Orange roughy research plan		10:45
6.1 Consider RAG recommendations	Brigid Kerrigan	30 minutes
7. South Australia OCS arrangements		11:15
7.1 Update on project progress	Brigid Kerrigan	15 minutes

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Indicative Time</i>
8. Budget Expenditure		11:30
8.1 Assessment of GAB budget	Brigid Kerrigan/Christian Pyke	60 minutes
9. Other Items		12:30
9.1 Any other outstanding items	Chair	10 minutes
10. Close of Meeting		12:40
10.1 Discussion of next meeting and close	Chair	5 minutes

ATTACHMENT B: DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Member	Declared Interest
Mr Barry Windle	No pecuniary interest or otherwise.
Mr Lance Lloyd	GABRAG Chair. Member of GABMAC and SESSFRAG. Director; Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd. Research Fellow; Federation University Australia.
Dr Malcolm Haddon	CSIRO stock assessment scientist. Member of GABRAG, Northern Prawn RAG, sub-Antarctic RAG and sub-Antarctic MAC.
Mr Christian Pyke	Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) Executive Officer; Industry member on GABRAG & GABMAC; GABIA receives funding from various bodies to complete projects; Provision of independent consultancy service to Australian seafood industry; Managing Director of Fisheries Asset Brokers; No pecuniary interest.
Mr Jim Raptis	GABRAG Industry Member Operates two boats in the GABTF fishery and owns four GAB SFRs as well as quota in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.
Mr Peter Trott	Independent consultant. No pecuniary interest. Working in markets, supply chains and MSC certification. On the MSC board of trustees.
Dr Brigid Kerrigan	AFMA, Trawl Manager, Coral Sea Fishery Manager. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Dr Giverny Rodgers	AFMA, A/Executive Officer GABRAG and GABMAC. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Invited Participant	Declared Interest
Ms Marcia Valente	Consultant for Silver Phoenix Holdings who hold two GAB SFRs

ATTACHMENT C: GABRAG ACTION ITEMS

• Complete/Redundant

• Underway/Not yet complete

• Need GAB RAG advice

No.	Agenda Item/ Meeting Date	Description	Responsible Person	Timeframe	Status as of Nov meeting 2017
September Teleconference 2017					
4	3.1 / Sept 2017	AFMA and GABIA to discuss distribution of costs at the quarterly budget discussion separately to GABMAC.	AFMA/GABIA		Planned for November 2017 following finalisation of acquittals for the quarter.
November Meeting 2017					
1	1.4/Nov 2017	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.	
2	1.4/Nov 2017	Economics section at AFMA to provided background information on how ABARES calculate GVP information.	AFMA	As soon as practicable.	
3	2.3/Nov 2017	AFMA to provide greater clarity around the definitions for ERA groupings in terms of bycatch, byproduct etc.	AFMA	As soon as practicable.	AFMA circulated a copy of the Guide to AFMA's Ecological Risk Management containing the definitions of primary, secondary, byproduct and bycatch species to the MAC on 22 November 2017.
4	5/Nov 2017	GABIA to review the port sampling program and put forward an alternative proposal	GABIA	Next 12-18 months.	

5	5/Nov 2017	A final version of the AFMA/GABIA co-management agreement with the agreed changes will be circulated to the MAC out of session for noting.	AFMA/GABIA	As soon as practicable.	
6	6/Nov 2017	AFMA and GABIA to work together on developing a mechanism for distributing orange roughy scientific research costs across all SFR holders.	AFMA/GABIA	As soon as practicable.	
7	6/Nov 2017	GABIA to update the Orange Roughy Research Plan with proposed changes from the RAG and distribute to the MAC.	GABIA	As soon as practicable.	
8	8/Nov 2017	AFMA to access Fish Aging Services' latest report and provide it to the MAC for information on what aging services are being provided for the GABTF specifically.	AFMA	As soon as practicable.	
9	8/Nov 2017	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.	