



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC)

MINUTES
TTMAC 14
27 APRIL 2016
SYDNEY FISH MARKETS



**TWELTH MEETING OF THE TROPICAL TUNA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TTMAC)**

27 April 2016

SYDNEY FISH MARKETS

Agenda Item 1: Preliminaries/matters arising

1.1: Welcome and apologies

1. The TTMAC Chair, Ms Catherine Sayer, opened the meeting at 8:30am and welcomed members, invited participants and observers to the 14th meeting of TTMAC.

Apologies

2. Apologies were received from; Mr Pavo Walker, industry member, Mr Peter Trott, environment member, and the State Government invited participant, Mr Phil Bolton.

3. Participants at TTMAC 14 were:

Chair

Ms Catherine Sayer

Members

Mr Trent Timmiss (AFMA)

Mr Terry Romaro OAM (industry)

Mr Paul Lavalle (industry)

Mr Cathal Farrell (industry)

Dr Robert Campbell (scientific)

Mr Grahame Williams OAM (recreational/charter fishing)

Invited Participants

Mr Gary Heilmann (industry)

Mr Paul Williams (industry)

Mr Ian Bladin (recreational/charter fishing)

Mr Brian Jeffriess AM (industry)

Executive Officer

Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie

Observers

Ms Stephanie Martin (AFMA)

Dr Don Bromhead (AFMA)

Mr David Ellis (industry)

Mr Hans Jusseit (industry)

1.2: Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda was adopted by TTMAC (Attachment A) with the addition of Yellowfin under agenda item 4.1.



1.3: Pecuniary interest declarations

5. The Chair stated that as outlined in the *Fisheries Administrations Act 1991* and Fisheries Management Paper No. 1, all members of TTMAC must declare any pecuniary interest in the Fishery at the commencement of the meeting (Table 1) and also at the commencement of each agenda item. The Committee noted that if a member discloses an interest in an item, the member must absent themselves from the meeting before the item is considered. The MAC must make a decision as to whether the member can participate in the discussion and in the making of a recommendation, or remain absent from the meeting for the item.

6. TTMAC noted the requirement to declare an interest at the beginning of each agenda item. It was agreed that members would declare interests at the beginning of each main agenda item, that is, at the beginning of discussion on agenda items numbered 1 through 5.

Table 1: TTMAC members/invited participants' declarations of interest

Member	Declared interests
Catherine Sayer	CEO Food SA, Chair, Gulf St Vincent management Plan steering committee. No pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Trent Timmiss	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns ETBF boat SFR's, minor line SFR's, ETBF longline SFR's, WTBF boat SFR's, WTBF longline SFR's, Coral Sea Trawl permit, Western Skipjack purse seine permit, SPF purse seine, mid-water trawl SFR's, and SPF quota SFR's. Shareholder of a company that owns shares in a proposal to fish with foreign long liners in the WTBF. Invited participant on SBTMAC and industry representative at the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.
Paul Lavalley	Director of a company that owns ETBF boat SFR's, minor line SFR's and ETBF quota SFR's for all five species. Director and member of fish receiving co-operative.
Cathal Farrell	Manager of fish receiving business and holder of an ETBF boat SFR. Director of fishing company that holds boat and quota SFRs.
Grahame Williams OAM	Past President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, Treasurer & Records Officer, NSW Game Fishing Association and Game Fishing Association Australia Executive Officer (NSW). No pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Robert Campbell	employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in Australian tropical tuna fisheries. Is actively engaged in research on the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish Fisheries. PI of the following research projects: " <i>Data management, provision of fishery indicators and implementation of the harvest strategies for Australia's tropical tuna fisheries</i> ", and " <i>Developing innovative approaches to improve CPUE standardisation for Australia's multi-species pelagic longline fisheries</i> ".

Sarah Kirkcaldie	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in Tropical Tuna fisheries.
Invited participant	Declared interests
Paul Williams	Director of a company that holds an ETBF boat SFR and ETBF longline SFR's, minor line SFR's and a Commonwealth fish receiver permit. Member of TTRAG.
Gary Heilmann	Director of companies that hold; ETBF quota SFR's, ETBF boat SFR's, a fish receiver permit and a Coral Sea Fishery permit. Member of TTRAG.
Ian Bladin	Game Fishing Association of Australia executive, Queensland game fishing Association and charter boat owner, no pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Mr Brian Jeffriess	CEO of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association.

1.4: Acceptance of minutes from TTMAC 13

7. TTMAC adopted the minutes as a true and accurate account of the discussions from TTMAC 13.

1.5: Status of actions arising from TTMAC 13

8. The AFMA member outlined progress on the 12 action items identified at TTMAC 13 (Table 2).

Table 2: Status of actions arising since TTMAC 13

#	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	Letters of appreciation	The Chair to write letters of appreciation to Dr Cathy Dichmont, Mr Joe Basile, Mr Brian Jeffriess AM, Mr Bill Edwards and Mr Angelo Maiorana	AFMA	Members noted this action was completed and letters were sent in November 2015.
2	Review of NSW baitfishing arrangements.	Inform ETBF fishers of NSW review of baitfishing arrangements	State government member	Members noted that this issue is ongoing. Members were informed at TTMAC 13 that the draft paper on the review has been through the relevant advisory committees in NSW fisheries and should be distributed for comment. This action was discussed under agenda item 2.1 (Action arising 1).

#	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
3	Licensing system	TTMAC recommended that the Commission request that the AFMA licensing system is reviewed.	AFMA	Members noted that this issue was included in AFMA's submission to the Productivity Commission review. Members noted that the aim was to simplify AFMA's licensing system similar to New Zealand.
4	Striped Marlin resource sharing	AFMA to contact the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and encourage the development of a resource sharing policy	AFMA	TTMAC noted that this action was completed with AFMA contacting the Department in late 2015. The Department informed AFMA that they were working on the policy.
5	Yellowfin Tuna	AFMA to draft a revised out-of-session TACC paper for Yellowfin Tuna	AFMA	Members noted that this item was completed with a revised paper circulated on 26 November 2015.
6	Fishery rule simplification	AFMA , with the help of industry, to present a paper at the next TTMAC meeting on rules that could be simplified now that e-monitoring has been implemented	AFMA and industry	Members noted that Fishery rule simplification would be discussed under agenda item 3.4
7	28 day reconciliation	AFMA agreed to discuss with compliance the 28 day reconciliation and 10% overcatch allowance	AFMA	This item was discussed under agenda item 3.4.
8	Catch disposal records (CDRs)	AFMA member to discuss with AFMA licensing section to see if it would be possible for industry to use their own excel spreadsheet as an alternative option to paper CDR's.	AFMA	TTMAC noted that during 2016 AFMA will be consulting on a proposal for all AFMA fisheries to utilise electronic CDRs. Members noted that the Lakes Entrance co-op currently use an electronic system but that this is very unique to them. It is anticipated that electronic CDR's will be available in 12-18 months.

#	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
9	Mako shark review	AFMA to ask the Department of Environment about the progress of the Mako shark review.	AFMA	TTMAC noted that Mako sharks have been listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Appendix 2 and are therefore automatically listed as a migratory species and protected under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). Members noted that the implication for the ETBF operators is that if Mako shark are caught and dead they may be retained but if they are still alive they must be returned to the sea. All Mako shark captures must be reported. There has been a recommendation to review the EPBC Act to remove the requirement to automatically list and allow the Environment Minister to make a decision whether to list or not.
10	Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS)	AFMA to circulate the new proposed CRIS as soon as it is available	AFMA	Members noted that the proposed CRIS was circulated to members on 25 November 2015.
11	Budget	AFMA to send Mr Moore a copy of the current ETBF and WTBF budgets	AFMA	TTMAC noted that the current proposed budgets were forwarded to Mr Moore and Mr David Ellis.
12	Industry meeting	AFMA, industry and Mr Moore to set a date for an industry meeting to be held before the end of 2015.	AFMA	TTMAC noted that industry meetings were held on 19 November 2015 and 26 April 2016 with another one planned for October or November.

1.6: Correspondence/intersessional work arising between TTMAC 13 and TTMAC 14

9. TTMAC noted that the following issues were addressed out-of-session since the previous meeting in November 2015:

- a) 18 November 2015 – an email seeking applications for Chairpersons of various Management advisory Committees and Resource Assessment Groups;
- b) 25 November 2015 - the TTMAC EO distributed for individual comment the budget implications of the draft 2016 Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS);
- c) 26 November 2015 - an out of session paper seeking comments on a proposal to increase the Total Allowable Commercial Catch limit for Yellowfin Tuna;
- d) 1 December 2015 – the TTMAC EO circulated an email extending the consultation period for the draft 2016 CRIS
- e) 2 December 2015 - the TTMAC EO circulated the TTMAC 13 draft minutes for comment;
- f) 22 December 2015 - AFMA distributed additional information regarding the 2016 CRIS;
- g) 12 January 2016; the TTMAC EO distributed the AFMA Commission agreed TACCs for the ETBF; and
- h) 14 January 2016; an email from AFMA’s Bycatch and Discards Program seeking members for the Commonwealth Fisheries Marine Mammal Group.

Agenda Item 2: Background Information/Discussion Items

No conflicts of interest were declared under this agenda item. TTMAC noted that no recommendations were being made and that members/observers were just providing information reports.

2.1: AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries

10. The AFMA member informed TTMAC that AFMA had in principle support from the NSW Government that ETBF boats will be issued with a section 37 permit and these are expected to be issued by mid-2017. Members noted that the acting AFMA Executive Manager of Fisheries would be shortly meeting with NSW Fisheries and the baitfish review would be added to the agenda as a matter of concern and priority for ETBF operators. TTMAC agreed that this review needs to be progressed faster and offered support to assist in any way.

11. TTMAC welcomed Dr Don Bromhead as the new manager of the ETBF, WTBF and skipjack Fishery. Members noted that Dr Bromhead would be starting in the position in July 2016 and Ms Stephanie Martin would continue to act in the position until then.

12. Industry asked how long AFMA stores the e-monitoring data. The AFMA member explained that once AFMA receives the hard drive from an operator they copy it to a server (this is the forensic copy that is kept as a backup for 6 months) and the hard drive is then sent to Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP) and they do the analysis of the shot footage. Once the analysis is done the hard drive is forensically wiped (AAP have it about 21 days before it is wiped). Members noted that AFMA has agreement with the Archives department that they only have to store the data for 6 months (normally 7 years) as they only have the capacity to

store that volume of data for a maximum of 8 months. TTMAC noted that AFMA had recently ordered 50 more hard drives that will be distributed to operators shortly.

2.2: WCPFC update

13. AFMA provided an update to TTMAC on the outcomes from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) annual meeting held in Bali in December 2015.

14. The AFMA member provided the WCPFC status of the following species:

- Bigeye currently overfished with the stock below B_{20} and is likely to remain that way under current conditions;
- Yellowfin Tuna is exploited as much as possible with the western equatorial of the Pacific over exploited and unsustainable. The AFMA member mentioned that Australia may be protected as there is some evidence of spatial structure to the Yellowfin tuna stock.
- Skipjack Tuna is fully exploited and may be below the target level with a reduction in fishing pressure required. The Pacific Islands tried to change the major management measure to reduce pressure and remove loopholes but it was blocked by Korea, Taiwan, China, USA and the EU.
- The Albacore revised stock assessment is very pessimistic compared to previous assessments. The AFMA member further noted that allocation of the reduced catch limits will be an issue for Australia in future years. The AFMA member noted that Australia's position is that an allocation of <2,500 tonnes for Australia will not be accepted.
- Stock assessments are planned for swordfish in 2017 and Striped Marlin in 2018.

15. TTMAC noted that no measure has ever gone to a vote at WCPFC. Members noted that there are two chambers within the Commission and a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority is required in both chambers for anything to pass and to go to vote all reasonable attempts must have been made to reach consensus. TTMAC noted that the new Chair Ms Moss-Christian wanted to put the tropical tuna measure to a vote at the meeting but it didn't happen.

16. TTMAC noted that all countries are now providing catch and effort data that will be used for stock assessments. Other measures introduced at the last meeting include a shark finning ban that had been opposed for a long time. There was also a measure introduced for high seas including the requirement to be registered with WCPFC and meet all WCPFC obligations including VMS.

17. Members noted that there were no compliance issues raised at the meeting that affect Australia but the accountability of other countries has been strengthened by the compliance monitoring scheme.

18. The AFMA member informed TTMAC that five high seas operations had been conducted including boarding inspections on foreign flagged boats. Some vessels were found not following VMS rules but only one of these wasn't due to technical issues. That one vessel has been referred to its flag state for investigation. An unlicensed vessel was also found for the first time in a number of years.

19. TTMAC members noted that Australia's harvest strategy workplan had received agreement at WCPFC but noted that the first task was not completed in 2015. This will be an ongoing priority for 2016. Terms of References for all species need to be established and a management strategy evaluation workshop will be held at the end of June with scientist Dr Andre Punt attending from Australia.

2.3: Upcoming IOTC meeting

20. The AFMA member provided an update to TTMAC on the upcoming Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting which will be held in Le Reunion, in May 2016.

21. TTMAC noted there is limited management in the IOTC with no VMS, no observers, limited record of vessels, ¼ of the longline fishing is done by Taiwan which is not recognised by IOTC, no coordination of coastal states and only 25% of fishing in zones. Members noted that there would be a push for compulsory centralised Vessel Monitoring Systems like in the Pacific.

22. TTMAC noted that Ausaid have funded a coastal states meeting to get coordination and a united negotiating position and that Australia will be co-ordinating this meeting.

23. Members noted that Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification had been granted to some pole and line fleets but this was overturned on appeal. Countries were informed that harvest control rules for skipjack would be required to get MSC back.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration/Decision Items

The following members declared their interest under Consideration/Decision items:

Mr Terry Romaro OAM: agenda item 3.1-3.6

Mr Paul Lavalley: agenda items 3.1-3.6

Mr Cathal Farrell: agenda items 3.1-3.6

Mr Gary Heilmann: agenda items 3.1-3.6

Mr Paul Williams: agenda items 3.1-3.6

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Lavalley left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Lavalley should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Farrell left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Farrell should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Heilmann left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

3.1: WTBF over/undercatch Determination

24. TTMAC noted that even though WTBF Total allowable Catches (TACs) are set for 3 years the *Western Tuna and Billfish Management Plan 2005* requires that AFMA must determine for each of the quota species the overcatch % and or determined weight and the undercatch % provisions each season. These provisions need to be determined for Yellowfin Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Striped Marlin and Broadbill Swordfish during the season.

25. TTMAC recommended an overcatch and undercatch of 10% for these species and a determined weight of 2,000kg for all quota species in the WTBF for the 2016/17 season.

3.2: Review of conversion factors

26. The AFMA member explained that conversion rates are used by AFMA to calculate various processed forms of Albacore Tuna, Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Broadbill Swordfish and Striped Marlin into whole weights for the deduction of quota. This data is collected from Catch Disposal Records (CDRs).

27. TTMAC noted that the current conversion rates for the ETBF and WTBF are as follows:

	Whole	Gilled and Guttled	Headed and Guttled	Trunked	Damaged	Filletted	Guttled
Albacore Tuna	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-
Bigeye Tuna	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-
Yellowfin Tuna	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-
Broadbill Swordfish	1	1.1	1.25	1.25	-	1.75	-
Striped Marlin	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	-	-	1.1

28. Data currently collected by CDRs indicates that the majority of each species is reported in the following ways:

- Albacore Tuna – Whole Weight;
- Bigeye Tuna – Gilled & Guttled;
- Yellowfin Tuna – Gilled & Guttled;
- Broadbill Swordfish – Headed & Guttled;

- Striped Marlin – Headed & Guttled.

29. TTMAC noted that AFMA is currently obtaining various whole and processed weights of fish from different ports across the ETBF. This preliminary investigation indicates that a Headed and Guttled conversion factor of 1.2 for Albacore, Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna may be more accurate than the current 1.5.

30. Members noted that AFMA does not intend to review the conversion factors for Broadbill Swordfish or Striped Marlin at this stage. Historical data for Striped Marlin is in head and gutted form using the conversion factor of 1.5 and altering this factor now may impact the historical estimates of catch. TTMAC recommended that TTRAG request Dr Campbell to look at historical Striped Marlin data to determine the potential level of impact an adjustment may make.

31. TTMAC agreed that TTRAG should review the information from the different ports and make recommendations to the AFMA Commission regarding conversion factors.

3.3: Review of levy allocation

32. TTMAC noted that currently there is a two tiered system for the payment of levies in the ETBF. Tier 1 represents the fixed costs of managing the fishery. These costs are divided between Longline Boat SFRs and Minor Line Boat SFRs, with two thirds of the Tier 1 levy recovered equally amongst Longline Boat SFR holders and the remaining one third recovered equally from Minor Line Boat SFR holders. Tier 2 represents the costs which are variable depending on the level of fishing effort, such as compliance data collection, logbooks and observers/ e-monitoring. These costs are divided between each Quota SFR based on the relative market value of each quota species.

33. Members noted that this system had been in place for a number of years and was consistent with the southern fisheries. Members expressed concern that the Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR levy was too high but agreed that this arrangement was currently the best method.

34. TTMAC members agreed that the current ETBF levy apportionment is still appropriate for the fishery. Members suggested that an explanation of levy allocation in the management arrangements may be beneficial (**Action arising 2**).

3.4: Fishery rule simplification options with e-monitoring

35. TTMAC discussed options for simplifying fishery rules now that e-monitoring has been introduced.

Loining Marlin at sea

36. Members noted that this rule was in place due to concerns about species identification but with identification now available through e-monitoring this prohibition can be removed. AFMA indicated that the change needed to be drafted by the Australian Government Solicitors and then signed off by the Governor General.

37. Members noted that AFMA has commenced drafting the necessary changes but these are unlikely to be finalised before the upcoming Federal election.

28 day reconciliation

38. Industry requested flexibility with the 28 day reconciliation period. AFMA noted that this is a condition that applies to all Commonwealth fisheries and means you can't fish if you

are over quota after 28 days from completion of a fishing trip. Industry noted that they agreed to the change from quarterly reconciliation to 28 days but had assumed that they would be given a 10% overcatch allowance every 28 days rather than the overcatch allowance just applying in the last month of the season.

39. TTMAC noted that AFMA has released a discussion paper on undercatch and overcatch for public comment. No fishery specific changes will be considered until this broader policy consultation process is finalised.

Shark limits in the WTBF

40. Members noted that the WTBF industry had requested that shark limits be changed to a per day limit rather than a trip limit as with the new boats coming in to the Fishery there will be longer trips. Industry highlighted that they were not requesting higher limits than had been previously agreed. AFMA indicated that previously Compliance had refused per day limits as they could not tell how long the vessel had been at sea but VMS allows officers to have access to this information. AFMA agreed to discuss this with the Western Australian Government as shark trip limits are included in the memorandum of understanding with state governments (**Actions arising 3**).

41. The AFMA member stated that AFMA has largely progressed the issue of changing Mahi Mahi trip limits in the WTBF and are waiting for the WA fisheries Minister to sign off and then a Statutory Fishing Right condition change can be made. TTMAC noted that the shark limits are on hold until this process is complete.

Transshipping/winchng gear/dual jurisdiction trips/zonal TACs:

42. Industry members requested that AFMA re-visit transshipping rules on the condition that the fish are unloaded separately and also asked if a boat could winch another vessels gear. Members noted that transshipping is considered on a case by case basis in the event of gear or refrigeration failure and that industry should contact the duty officer if they want to tranship.

SBT zones:

43. Members noted that to address the risk of SBT being taken in the ETBF without quota, AFMA has previously instituted restricted access areas (Core and Buffer Zones) in the ETBF annually. These arrangements required ETBF operators to have minimum SBT quota holdings in order to operate in designated areas of the ETBF where SBT are likely to interact with longline fishing gear.

44. As E-monitoring is now mandatory on all full-time boats within the ETBF, observer coverage will not apply in the fishery for 2016 and the SBT arrangements for this season have been changed. Accordingly, only a single SBT zone will be implemented with no core and buffer zones and operators will only be required to hold uncaught SBT quota, carry at least 50 SBT tags on-board and have the appropriate CDS logbooks to fish in the SBT zone.

Tori lines at night

45. TTMAC noted that the AFMA member had raised the issue of removing the requirement to use tori lines at night informally with the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) team and would be formally raising the issue at the TAP meeting at the end of May (**Action arising 4**).

46. In line with Government policy, AFMA is investigating areas where efficiencies can be made. The AFMA member requested that TTMAC continue to investigate areas where management arrangements can be changed to improve the performance of the fishery.

3.5: 2016/17 budget

47. Members noted that AFMA has drafted the 2016/17 cost recovered budget based on the 2010 cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) arrangements but had not yet released the budget for comment. The budget was expected to be released within the next week.

48. TTMAC noted that the current 2016/17 draft cost recovered budget currently includes:

- Slightly lower FTEs than in the 2015/16 budget (ETBF 1.38, WTBF 0.66, STF 0.23);
- two port visits for two AFMA officers to Mooloolaba, Coffs Harbour and/or Ulladulla;
- other expenses such as printing management arrangement booklets and legal requirements;
- two industry meetings per year;
- observer costs which relate to the ongoing e-monitoring program.

49. Members noted that the main changes in the ETBF budget are:

- an increase in the e-monitoring budget due to the inclusion of previously unbudgeted programme management costs, namely satellite monitoring and contractor travel costs; and
- a decrease in research projects and an associated decrease in research administration costs.

50. TTMAC noted that the draft WTBF budget was currently down about \$13,000. Members noted that the 2015/16 budget initially included higher observer costs due to the expected increase in the number of vessels fishing but these costs were removed before the budget was finalised. However, the AFMA member explained that there were still some costs involved as a significant amount of work was done in anticipation of the vessels being introduced.

51. TTMAC agreed to form a TTMAC budget sub-committee and recommended that Mr Terry Romaro, Mr Gary Heilmann, Mr David Ellis and Mr Trent Timmiss be appointed as members.

3.6: Quota zones for swordfish

52. The AFMA member explained that AFMA had received a proposal from several industry members to consider splitting Swordfish quota from a single management zone into two zones in the ETBF. The proposal requested that there be an inshore quota zone and an offshore quota zone, each with separate Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACC).

53. Industry explained that the reason for the proposal is to reduce the incentive for all of the current TACC to be taken from the traditional inshore grounds and to introduce a mechanism to provide incentives for some of the larger boats to fish further offshore. By spreading effort in this way, it may be possible to increase the total catch available to the ETBF fleet. There was also a concern expressed that the well managed ETBF fleet is currently at a competitive disadvantage to other fleets on the High Seas that are subject to less regulation.

54. Members discussed implementing quota zones but noted any change to introduce two quota zones would involve amending the ETBF Management Plan. This is a relatively extensive process that involves consideration by the AFMA Commission, statutory consultation periods and tabling in Parliament. Depending on the level of complexity of the proposed model, the AFMA Manager suggested this process would likely cost over \$200,000.

55. TTMAC noted that another suggestion to give industry an incentive to spread their effort could be to decrement quota at a lower rate if it is caught offshore.

56. Members noted that currently boats are fishing around 160°E but not out past 164°E. Industry raised concerns regarding economics versus the science of fishing out wider. Members also discussed the possibility of a tagging system so that a boat could fish both inshore and offshore in one trip.

57. TTMAC proposed to refer this issue to TTRAG to investigate the sustainability issues involved in having two quota zones. The AFMA member agreed to discuss the issue with the AFMA senior executive as well as the Commission (**Action arising 5**).

Agenda Item 4: Other Information/Discussion Items

The following members declared their interest under Consideration/Decision items:

Mr Terry Romaro OAM: agenda item 4.1- 4.2

Mr Paul Lavalley: agenda items 4.1- 4.2

Mr Cathal Farrell: agenda items 4.1- 4.2

Mr Gary Heilmann: agenda items 4.1- 4.2

Mr Paul Williams: agenda items 4.1- 4.2

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Lavalley left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Lavalley should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Farrell left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Farrell should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Heilmann left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.

4.1: Overcatch/undercatch arrangements

58. TTMAC noted that AFMA is currently reviewing its policy on managing undercatch and overcatch of quota. The review stems from the Quota Administration Policy approved by the AFMA Commission in 2012.

59. Members noted that currently in the ETBF and WTBF, the determined percentage of undercatch and overcatch is 10%.

60. Earlier this year, MAC members were asked to provide initial comments on a draft discussion paper about undercatch and overcatch. These comments have been considered and the final discussion paper was released for public comment.

61. The review proposes three overarching options for overcatch and undercatch arrangements:

- keep the undercatch and overcatch provisions as they are;
- change the current undercatch and overcatch provisions, including aligning current provisions to one uniform approach; or
- completely remove the undercatch, overcatch percentage and/or overcatch weight determination.

62. TTMAC supported continuing the current 10% undercatch and overcatch but requested that the 10% overcatch is allowed to be used at any time within a season. This would mean that at the end of a 28 day reconciliation period the quota holder could have caught 110% of their quota. This would give industry greater flexibility particularly for those species that are abundant mid-season. Industry also raised concerns about not being able to lease or trade undercatch in the following season.

63. The AFMA member encouraged industry members to make submissions on the final discussion paper.

Yellowfin

64. TTMAC noted that TTRAG was requested to provide advice about the implications of increasing the Yellowfin Tuna TACC by 200 tonnes. TTRAG recommended that a TACC up to 2651 tonnes for Yellowfin should be sustainable and not have negative impacts on the stock status. TTRAG also referred to its previous advice on the status of Yellowfin in the wider WCPFC area and its current status of not been overfished and not subject to overfishing.

65. TTMAC noted that recent genetic studies have shown that there are genetic differences between Yellowfin Tuna from Mooloolaba and those in the Central and Eastern Pacific. This combined with other evidence increase the likelihood that the Yellowfin Tuna in the ETBF are part of a more localised stock within Region 5. Members noted that in recent years, catches of Yellowfin Tuna by other countries within Region 5 have been declining although this appears to be a result of changes in fishing effort rather than changes in Yellowfin abundance. TTRAG noted in the advice that within the ETBF, the availability of Yellowfin Tuna is highly variable and therefore standardised catch rates are also variable.

66. Industry members stated that everyone is going to be overcaught on Yellowfin this year and there will be no quota left by September which could result in discarding. Industry noted that AFMA had stated that the TACC could not be changed mid-season and industry requested to increase the overcatch from 10% to 20% for this season only.

67. TTMAC agreed that if by the end of August more than 40% of Yellowfin is caught then a recommendation will be put to the Commission to increase the overcatch to 20%. The recreational member supported a one off increase in overcatch but noted that recreational catches of Yellowfin Tuna were actually down in the inshore.

68. Members noted that the state government representative, Mr Bolton had sent information from Dr Julian Pepperell suggesting that research should be conducted to investigate the apparent differences in availability of Yellowfin Tuna on and off the shelf in the past and again more recently. It was agreed that a proposal should be submitted to conduct this research (**Action arising 6**).

4.2: Discards

69. TTMAC noted that AFMA's Quota Administration Policy states that "AFMA will monitor opportunities to introduce individual accountability where it is cost-effective to do so, for example where increased at-sea monitoring is being introduced as part of ongoing management".

70. E-monitoring has now been fully implemented in the ETBF, WTBF & Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery (GHaTF). This presents the opportunity to evaluate if it is feasible and cost-effective to individually account for discards of quota species in these fisheries.

71. The AFMA member explained that AFMA is proposing to run trials of individual accountability for quota discards in the shark Fishery. Members noted that quota would not actually be deducted for discards during the trial. However, any procedures and data collection requirements will be implemented during the trial. The trial will run in the 2017/18 shark quota season and AFMA will review the outcomes in 2018. Some industry members raised concerns regarding making any changes to the current discard policy.

4.3: E-monitoring Update

72. TTMAC noted that all vessels in the ETBF now have electronic monitoring and noted the information provided by the AFMA member on E-monitoring in the ETBF and WTBF. Members noted that there had been some teething issues with some of the systems but they had been resolved. Members noted that since the introduction of e-monitoring the reporting

of discards had doubled and Threatened Endangered and Protected species had increased by 6-10 times.

73. The AFMA member noted that e-monitoring was cheaper than observer coverage and there were checks on the analysts to ensure accurate figures were being recorded, including double readers, quality control systems and internal training. TTMAC noted that AFMA had paid for the installation of 37 systems and that if a boat was selling out of the Fishery AFMA would try to get the system to give to a new boat coming into the Fishery but that the new owners would have to pay for the installation.

4.4: Environment update

74. TTMAC noted the environment update provided by AFMA.

75. Members noted that the ETBF and WTBF were both granted a List of Exempt Native Specimens exemption, which allows the export of product from the fishery for a period of five years until 2019.

76. Industry raised concerns regarding Shortfin mako reported interactions table was not the same figure that was reported in the e-monitoring paper. AFMA agreed to investigate why the reported numbers were different.

4.5: CRIS update

77. TTMAC noted that Fishery budgets are developed in accordance with AFMA's Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) and the Government policy requires AFMA to review and update its cost recovery arrangements at least every five years.

78. AFMA consulted on the draft 2016 CRIS in November 2015 and post consultation made adjustments to the proposed 2016 CRIS. Using the 2015/16 budget, AFMA would have recovered approximately \$1million more using the proposed 2016 CRIS compared to the 2010 CRIS.

79. Members noted that AFMA is currently seeking approval from both the Assistant Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources before applying the 2016 CRIS. As it has not been approved in time for the 2016/17 cost recovered budget AFMA will be using the existing 2010 CRIS for the 2016/17 cost recovered budget.

4.6: Fishery Catch Data – 2016/17 Season

80. TTMAC noted the 2016/17 season catch of the quota species and Blue and Black marlin in the ETBF and WTBF to date, as recorded in daily fishing logbooks and catch disposal records.

4.7: Productivity Commission review

81. Members noted that the Government has asked the Productivity Commission to inquire into Australian wild capture fisheries and aquaculture, with the focus on wild capture fisheries. The Inquiry has outlined specific terms of reference (Attachment B) on which it will report including simplification, streamlining and consistency of arrangements across multiple jurisdictions.

82. TTMAC noted that public submissions were due in late March, but the Productivity Commission is accepting late submissions. AFMA is finalising its submission and

understands that the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) will also be making a submission. The AFMA member agreed to provide AFMA's submission as soon as it can be made public (**Action arising 7**). TTMAC noted that members can make formal submissions or provide comments via the Productivity Commission website.

83. The AFMA member noted that a preliminary report is scheduled for August 2016, with the Inquiry ending in December 2016 when final recommendations are due.

4.8: Smart Tuna Hook presentation

84. TTMAC noted the Smart Tuna Hook presentation given by Mr Hans Jusseit, Director, Ocean Smart. Mr Jusseit explained that the Smart Tuna Hook will enable industry to increase catch efficiency of target species while preventing the catch of seabirds and turtles.

85. Members noted that the system comprises a shield that attaches to a modified tuna long line hook. The shield effectively prevents seabirds and turtles from becoming hooked during the setting process and it also acts as weight directly at the hook increasing the mean sink rate to 0.54 mtrs/sec. Mr Jusseit explained that the shield removes the need to use lead swivels in the branch line thereby increasing onboard crew safety during the gear retrieval process. The added advantage is a reduction in a large lead pollution due to gear loss into the marine environment.

86. Members noted that independent testing of the Smart Tuna Hook, in South Africa, showed a reduction in seabird catch rates of 90% compared to conventional tuna long-line methods with no detrimental impact on target species catch rates.

87. TTMAC noted that the shields cost 32 cents each and are single use only (the pin connecting them to the hook dissolving in about 15-20 minutes). The AFMA member noted that the smart hooks could be used now but lead weights would still need to be used.

88. TTMAC agreed that the AFMA member would discuss the device with Mr Jonathon Barrington (Australian Antarctic Division) to see if it can be used as an alternative to lead weights. TTMAC noted that AFMA would consider providing information in the management arrangements booklet and amending the statutory Fishing Right conditions to allow the smart tuna hook to be used as an alternative.

89. TTMAC thanked Mr Jusseit for his presentation on the Smart Tuna Hook.

Agenda Item 5: Other business

5. Other Business

90. A MAC self-assessment form was distributed to members, and these were completed at the end of the meeting. A summary of the results of the assessment are at Attachment C.

Agenda Item 6: Date and venue for next meeting

91. TTMAC agreed that the next meeting should be held in October or November 2016 subject to the appointment and availability of MAC members.

Catherine Sayer

TTMAC Chair, May 2016



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

ATTACHMENT A

Tropical Tuna Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC) 14

27 April 2016 (commencing at 8:30am – 4pm)

Sydney Fish Market

FINAL AGENDA

1. Preliminaries/Matters Arising

- 1.1. Welcome and apologies
- 1.2. Adoption of agenda
- 1.3. Declaration of interest
- 1.4. Acceptance of Minutes from TTMAC 13
- 1.5. Actions Arising from TTMAC 13
- 1.6. Intersessional correspondence between TTMAC 13 and TTMAC 14

2. Background Information/Discussion Items

- 2.1. AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries
- 2.2. WCPFC update
- 2.3. Upcoming IOTC meeting

3. Consideration/Decision Items

- 3.1 WTBF over/undercatch Determination
- 3.2 Review of conversion factors
- 3.3 Review of levy allocation
- 3.4 Fishery rule simplification options with e-monitoring
- 3.5 2016/17 budget
- 3.6 Quota zones for swordfish

4. Other Information/Discussion Items

- 4.1. Overcatch/undercatch arrangements
 - Yellowfin
- 4.2. Discards
- 4.3. E-monitoring Update
- 4.4. Environment update
- 4.5. CRIS update
- 4.6. Fishery Catch Data – 2016/17 Season to date
- 4.7. Productivity Commission Review
- 4.8. Smart Tuna Hook presentation

5. Other Business

6. Date and venue for next meeting