



Minutes

Attendance

| Members | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mr Barry Windle (Chair) | Mr Lance Lloyd (scientific member) |
| Dr Marcus Finn (AFMA member) | Mr Peter Trott (conservation member) |
| Mr Jim Raptis (industry member) | Dr Ian Knuckey (scientific invited participant) |
| Mrs Marcia Valente (industry member) | Ms Karen Dalli (executive officer) |
| Mr Jeff Moore (industry member) | |
| Observers | |
| Mr George Day (AFMA) | |

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome

Barry Windle (MAC Chair) opened the meeting at 8.45 am and welcomed members and observers to the 2013 GABMAC meeting. The Chair requested that participants introduce themselves as this is the first GABMAC meeting with the new 2013 membership.

1.2 Apologies

No apologies were received.

1.3 Declaration of interests

The MAC declared any pecuniary interest in the GABTF.

Table 1: Members and observers declared interests as at the 1 November 2013.

| Member | Declared Interest |
|--------------------|---|
| Mr Barry Windle | No pecuniary interest |
| Dr Marcus Finn | AFMA Manager Trawl Fisheries. No pecuniary interest. |
| Mr Jim Raptis | Boat and quota SFR holder |
| Mrs Marcia Valente | Boat and quota SFR holder |
| Mr Jeff Moore | Executive Officer Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association (GABIA) Board Member Commonwealth Fisheries Association Industry Liaison Officer Commonwealth Marine Reserves |
| Mr Lance Lloyd | Director of Lloyd environmental, Chair of GABRAG. No pecuniary interest. |
| Mr Peter Trott | Employed by WWF, conservation member ComFRAB. No pecuniary interest. |
| Dr Ian Knuckey | Director of Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd and Australian Seafood Co-products Principle investigator SESSF Fishery Independent Survey (FIS), Empowering Industry Project (FRDC) and GAB Shelf FIS Industry Liaison Officer SEMAC Association Consultant GABIA Australian Agent Olfish electronic logbook |
| Ms Karen Dalli | AFMA, Executive Officer for GABMAC and GABRAG. No pecuniary interest. |
| Observers | |
| Mr George Day | AFMA Senior Manager Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No pecuniary interest. |

1.4 Adoption of agenda

The MAC adopted the draft agenda with the addition of Ian Knuckey's presentation on data collection in the industry update, and the Western Gemfish discussion noted as a priority. A copy of the final agenda is provided as Attachment 1.

MAC members noted that this meeting is not going to be as effective as the RAG meeting held the day prior did not address all agenda items due to time constraints, and therefore not covering the strategic issues which would've been presented to the MAC.

1.5 Adoption of minutes from GABMAC Meeting No. 1 - 2012

The MAC supported the minutes of GABMAC Meeting No. 1 held in Adelaide on the 20 July 2012 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

1.6 Action arising from GABMAC Meeting No. 1 - 2012

The MAC considered the action items and recommendations from GABMAC Meeting No. 1 – 2012. Action items four and six were not completed and are assigned action one and two respectively below. Action item eight was seen as ongoing and therefore moved to the watch list as action three, this item also resulted in action items three and four below.

Action 1 – Jeff Moore

Update the GABTF Vision document with suggested changes and send to MAC members for comment.

Action 2 – AFMA/GABIA

Further refine the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan, stipulating timelines for progress, who is responsible, the costs and where the money will come from.

Action 3 – Jim Raptis

Meet with Professor Mehdi Doroudi, Executive Director PIRSA to discuss the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) and Bight Redfish ID.

Action 4 – AFMA

Clarify the OCS arrangements in place for Bight Redfish and South Australia.

The Chair recommended creating a watch list that includes all the ongoing items and recommendations. A copy of the updated action items and watch list is provided at Attachment 2.

1.7 Correspondence

The MAC noted three items of incoming correspondence, one item to the MAC for a recommendation on TACs for 2013/14 fishing season, and three items copied to the MAC for information. The items for information included a GABIA paper regarding budgets, AFMA Borthwick review and changes to the MAC reporting requirements.

2 State of the fishery

2.1 AFMA Managers Report

The AFMA Member provided the MAC with an update on:

- Catches of Deepwater Flathead, Bight Redfish and Western Gemfish.
- Effort from logbook data showed 2012 and 2013 were relatively consistent.
- Co-management - the co-management trial which ended in 2009 was successful; there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place that AFMA and GABIA informally operate under and it appears to function well. GABIA and AFMA should revisit the agreement to ensure responsibilities and the overall framework remains relevant and clearly expressed.

- Discards - the AFMA environment section reports there have been no interactions with TEPS in 2013 and the GABTF records discards well.
- Budget - AFMA continues to focus on delivering effective fisheries management in a cost-effective fashion. As for previous years, AFMA will work closely with GABIA on draft budgets to find cost savings where appropriate.

The committee recommended the RAG provide the MAC with an explanation accompanying the catch levels in the GABTF to inform MAC members the reasons behind the levels.

2.2 Industry reports

Jeff Moore informed the Committee that in April 2013 GABIA members committed to the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification program. GABIA is currently in the process of finding part funding and understanding the myriad of high workload issues that accompany MSC certification and how best to utilise the certification when it is received.

GABIA held a meeting on 30 October 2013 which discussed the difficulties the GABTF has faced over the past 12 months in terms of profitability. The president's report from the GABIA Annual General Meeting in April 2013 was provided to the MAC which outlined the work that GABIA has undertaken over the past 12 months.

Industry reported the market demand and prices for fish has continued to increase due to rough weather resulting in less fish flooding the market and operators continuing to improve product quality. The cold chain has assisted in improving the product quality as fish are not being sorted on the deck as well as the wharf.

GABIA believes that the seismic surveys that have been undertaken in the GAB had an impact on the GABTF, resulting in an unexpected drop in CPUE in 2012. GABIA members are concerned with the seismic surveys being conducted, the next one proposed in the GAB is running from January to May 2014 and October 2014 to May 2015 and will cover 24,000 square km. GABIA is pursuing funding from the oil and gas sector to undertake a FIS prior and post the surveys to examine the impact they have on profitability of operations, relative abundance index, and therefore TAC.

Jim Raptis advised the committee that BP representatives informed GABRAG that seismic surveys have no impact on fish stocks and catches; however industry has observed fish dispersal and catches decreasing by approximately 16 per cent. Industry has researched seismic surveys and in Norway seismic surveys are not permitted when cod are spawning as it disrupts the process which results in a recruitment failure for that year. Stocks are currently starting to pick up from the previous seismic survey, indicating the fish do recover but it takes a couple of years.

The MAC Chair asked AFMA and the conservation member where they stand in regards to the seismic surveys being undertaken in the GAB.

George Day informed the committee that there are research projects being conducted, however AFMA doesn't have a direct involvement in research or response to seismic surveys.

Peter Trott stated that this is quite a significant issue not just for the GABTF but potentially state and tuna fisheries. It could also impact on the economic return to the public and the supply chain for Coles and Woolworths. Mr Trott informed committee members that there could be an opportunity through FRDC or a TRF application to obtain funds for a FIS. It is about the impact on the fishery and there is a good argument that would gain potential support from other parties.

Action 5 – GABIA

Take the lead with GABMAC support in exploring possible avenues for funding from FRDC and/or oil and gas companies to undergo a survey in the GABTF to provide information on the impacts of the seismic work on the marine environment.

3 GABTF Management issues

3.1 Future Co-management arrangements (incl. review of dual advisory model)

Marcus Finn provided the committee with a background and update on the co-management arrangement between AFMA and GABIA. A co-management arrangement was developed between GABIA and AFMA during a co-management trial in the form of a MoU. A key component of the MoU was the 'GAB – Dual Advisory Model' that specifies which organisation or committee (AFMA, GABIA, MAC or RAG) had primary responsibility for components of the management model.

While the trial period has ceased the co-management arrangements between AFMA and GABIA continue to operate on an informal basis. In 2012 David Borthwick was appointed to review the Commonwealth fisheries management system in light of an evolution of industry and public expectations. The report has been publically released and makes a recommendation that specifically deals with co-management. Below is an excerpt from the Borthwick report.

The Review is attracted to co-management but, if it is to be pursued to its fullest extent, it needs to be done against a clear framework which is: risk-based, differentiating between fisheries and fishers according to their capacities and performance, and subject to performance reporting and audit.

How the recommendations of the review will be enacted in public policy is at the moment, unknown. However, it is useful for AFMA, GABIA and GABMAC to consider the review's recommendation on co-management to discuss any potential implications.

Jeff Moore agreed that there is currently a hiatus period due to the change in government however the MAC is still able to scrutinise the dual advisory model agreed under Fisheries Management Paper 1. There are some inconsistencies/issues that results in the decision making process not as clear as it could be.

Action 6 – AFMA

Clarify whether the separate policy on industry bodies and the dual advisory model, referred to on page 3 of FMP 1, has been developed.

Action 7 – AFMA/GABIA

Update the GABTF dual advisory model documenting principles that are risk based and clearer on the reporting process. Then report back to MAC on an updated table which is subject to performance reporting.

3.2 SESSF/GAB Harvest Strategy/decision rules

Committee members were informed that the inclusion of the GABTS decision rules in the Harvest Strategy Framework for the SESSF was agreed to by the MAC in July 2012. AFMA has drafted the framework with the inclusion of the GAB section. This has been provided to South East MAC where members noted inconsistencies and provided comments on the policy.

The MAC noted that the document needs defining in sections and the current heading at point 6.4.6 does not differentiate the GAB well. Committee members were asked to review the draft framework and provide comments to AFMA for a further draft.

Action 8 – Ian Knuckey and Jeff Moore

Provide AFMA with a copy of the SESSF Harvest Strategy Framework with tracked changes incorporating recommended amendments.

Jeff Moore provided the MAC with an update on the GABTF future research assessment priorities plan, table stating that the current proposal is for the FIS to be conducted in 2014/15, and the Bight Redfish assessment to be delayed by a year to 2015/16. The MAC was informed that for the past seven years the GAB has paid 10% per year under the current stock assessment contract, even though there has been two/three year gaps between assessments. GABIA's position for the past four/five budget

submissions is to change the current contract to a user pays principle understanding that the budget will fluctuate.

George Day commented that AFMA has had meetings with industry associations and there is some agreement with a user pays approach with the potential to have cost difference for years. This may come into effect for the SESSF in 2015 with the possibility of starting in the GAB in 2014.

The MAC noted that the RAG will update the GABTF future research assessment priorities plan table in more detail at the next meeting and will come to the MAC for approval, and the assessment contract will be discussed out of session.

3.3 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan

The recommendation for the MAC to approve the bycatch and discarding workplan 2013-15 is redundant as the RAG did not get the opportunity to look at the workplan at the meeting yesterday. This document will go to the RAG at the next meeting and to the MAC out of session for approval.

The final report for the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2010-12 was presented to the RAG in December 2012, and as there were no comments received from the RAG, AFMA sought approval from the MAC to finalise the report. The MAC commented that the final report uses a variety of tenses and it needs to be reviewed and reworded to use the past tense, and report on the previous year as well as show evidence of a reduction in bycatch and discarding in the background section. It has to be specific and include a breakdown of costs, responsibilities and timelines/milestones.

The conservation member commented that the bycatch and discarding workplans have been a great initiative however they need to progress and develop. They require further substantial information as it affects the fishery from a public point of view if it appears that no work is being conducted. Publicising the trials/research undertaken in the fishery is an important message that currently lacks substance and needs some work to make it a positive story.

Jim Raptis stated that the T-90 mesh codends and extensions have been used for some time and the improved quality of fish is noticeable. The fish are landed alive and bycatch is reduced with no disadvantage to operations as the water flow is greater and the sand flows through removing build-up in the net.

Action 9 – Ian Knuckey and GABIA

Update the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan - 2012 Final Report to include further information on the action items and provide information to Marcus Finn.

3.4 Western Gemfish discussion

The Western Gemfish paper was provided to the MAC for information. The issue with Western Gemfish is that it is a quota managed species in the CTS but is on a trigger limit in the GAB. The assessments are undertaken in the GAB and therefore the GAB sets an RBC for the SESSF. The MAC was informed that the RAG discussed the Tier 1 assessment, the base case was accepted but there was concern about the sensitivity of Tier 1 assessment results when additional data was added to the model. The assessment will be updated by ABARES after some further work is completed and reviewed again at the next RAG.

Industry is concerned that there is no formal resource sharing arrangement between the two fisheries, there is insufficient data available and the largest part of the stock is in the GAB where boats aren't currently targeting this species. There is research being undertaken by ABARES on whether this is a single stock or separate stocks. If it is a single stock there needs to be a resource sharing agreement in place. In addition, the information being used in the model is currently limited and industry members are not confident the data being input into the assessment.

Industry highlighted their perspective that the AFMA Commission should announce an investment warning to state that if this species goes to allocation between the two sectors, only catch history from the January 2010 (when the AFMA paper that first went to the MAC) will be used in any decision of

allocation between the two sectors. Industry is concerned that there is an interim period in management arrangements which could result in higher catches of Western Gemfish in the SESSF, which may result in lower TAC allocations in the GAB in the future.

George Day informed the MAC that there will be a meeting in the future asking for RAG and MAC advice on future management arrangements. There will be results from the ABARES research within the year on whether it is a single or split stock, and AFMA will be working closely with industry associations to come up with a plan forward and an agreement on resource sharing arrangements. This issue has been evident since 2010. AFMA has delayed this issue until ABARES informs AFMA of the stock status, however it may be advantageous to develop an action plan with a timeline to distribute to both MACs on this issue for comments noting industry discussions.

Ian Knuckey commented that even if it is a single stock it doesn't mean that it has to be managed singly or separately. If you manage a single stock as two you don't have the chance of fishing down the species, therefore there is less risk to manage the species as two rather than one.

The issues identified at the MAC include;

- are there one or two stocks
- what management tools are likely to be used
- equity of distribution of quota
- insufficient data available (this is going to be collected by industry as identified by the RAG)

Action 10 – AFMA

Develop a paper on future management arrangements with historical timeline for Western Gemfish.

4 Data and Research

4.1 FIS – priority and broader public good component?

Marcus Finn provided the MAC with an update on the progress of discussions relating to the public benefit component of FIS and how much can be funded by the Commonwealth as opposed to cost recovered. Up to 20% of a FIS can be funded by the Commonwealth where there is a clear demonstration that there is a public good benefit. However, the publically funded component of the research depends heavily on a clear demonstration of public good being made, and availability of research funding. The AFMA research section expects the guidelines and criteria for determining public good benefit should be available in the near future clarifying information for MACs and RAGs to consider and the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) will be updated next year.

Jeff Moore read out the following points to ensure that the MAC is aware at a fishery level that AFMA expects benefits to be identified through the strategic planning process and that there are funding constraints:

individual fisheries recommending, within the constraints of AFMA's research budget, projects considered eligible for a government funding contribution, including FISs, as part of their strategic planning process in identifying their research needs for future AFMA funding;

the AFMA Research Committee recommending the appropriate funding source for research proposals based on RAG/MAC recommendations; and

the AFMA CEO providing final approval of the recommended allocation of government contributions.

Industry's challenge is to better sell the wide range of benefits in conducting a FIS and the information it provides, that it is greater utility than just informing stock assessments.

4.2 Outcomes from RAG meetings

Jeff Moore and George Day attended SESSFRAG in July/August 2013 and informed members of the outcomes that were relevant to the MAC.

- ERAs have been updated and ERMs are currently being prepared by AFMA and drafts for comment will be circulated
- the only TEP interaction in the GAB was one observed interaction with a Shearwater in 2012
- there is a review of the TAP
- the FIS' are important and contribute to a broader range of information for a fishery than the single stock assessment
- the SESSF Strategic Review two year project is likely to commence in the near future (subject to funding approval) on adopting a plan focussed on a monitoring and assessment approach. It will focus on the collection of data, how assessments and their methodologies fit together with FIS' and considering assessment methods and models from around the world. The project will result in a clear plan similar to the GAB which outlines when assessments are going to be conducted and how often a FIS needs to be planned.

The December 2012 RAG research workshop was valuable; it acknowledged the need to maintain the sustainability and monitoring and improve operations and reduce overall bycatch in the GABTF, and identified the MEY component and profitability issues for the fishery.

4.3 Orange Roughy Conservation Program

AFMA is currently updating the Orange Roughy research program (ORCP) and a draft will be provided to RAGs and MACs for review/comments in 2014. There is an opportunity for the MAC to comment on how well it has served the GAB and to ensure that AFMA is aware of GAB issues that need to be considered in the review.

Ian Knuckey pointed out that with extensive closures in place it is very unlikely to be a standard stock assessment process that assesses this species. The ongoing strategy should broaden the suite of assessment tools considered. There is a range of samples on gonads, length and otoliths that were collected in the hope they can be used to open the Orange Roughy commercial fishery in the future. As a priority, there needs to be a clear plan forward and consideration of the implications if the stock jumps above B_{20} . Does it mean Orange Roughy should open up to commercial fishing, and when is delisting of the species as Conservation Dependant considered? We don't want to get to the stage that the stocks are at a very healthy a fishable level and there is a lengthy process to get through prior to commercial fishing commencing.

Peter Trott informed the MAC that he believes there is a future for Orange Roughy commercially; however 20% as a limit is too low for long lived species. The future for Orange Roughy as a commercial species depends on the success of the conservation and rebuilding plans in place. It is important for Orange Roughy to remain on the agenda at discussions with all stakeholders to minimise social scrutiny because stakeholders feel they have not been properly informed.

The MAC suggested to AFMA that in reviewing the ORCP start to envisage the process by which the fishery might open to commercial fishing.

Action 11 – Jeff Moore

Amend the GABIA Orange Roughy annual research plan to a five year plan.

4.4 Strategic Research

The recommendation to the RAG is that members discuss research priorities for the upcoming ComFRAB/ARC and the summary was GABRAG research subgroup has not had the opportunity to meet to discuss research priorities for consideration. In 2012 the research group agreed to the following priorities:

- FIS as an ongoing high priority
- Western Gemfish stock boundaries and spawning behaviour project (ABARES project)
- Evaluation of the FIS (risk/catch/cost)
- Research on improving the economic efficiency of the GABTF

In 2013 GABIA submitted an application for Caring for Country funding, looking at bycatch reduction methods.

There is an avenue for an industry member to become part of the Seafood CRC to discuss funding, GABIA currently is not involved and this avenue may result in a positive outcome. There is an opportunity for GABTF to sustainably utilise their bycatch species including latchets and leatherjackets.

Action 12 – Jim Raptis

Attend Seafood CRC meeting on the 13 November 2013 to investigate how the GABTF interests interrelate.

5 Policy

5.1 DAFF reports on Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and the Commonwealth Policy on Bycatch

AFMA provided the MAC with an update on the reports released by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (now the Department of Agriculture) in May 2013 and encouraged members to review the reports and discuss any potential implication, noting that it is unclear at this stage the direction of the new government on this issue.

The review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy suggests that the harvest strategy is widely seen as having been very successful, and as a strong foundation for fisheries management. The review also found that the current policy meets or exceeds international standards and obligations and continues to represent best practice.

While the review of the Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch found that substantial effort had gone into meeting the high-level objectives of the original (2000) bycatch policy, performance against objectives was difficult to measure without clear performance indicators. The review proposes that the bycatch policy should be updated to strengthen current objectives and use quantitative approaches including trigger limits and decision rules to allow better implementation at the fishery level.

5.2 Borthwick Review, government response and implications from the GABTF

AFMA provided the MAC with an update on the Borthwick review which was a government led review on fisheries management in Australia, noting that it is unclear at this stage the direction of the new government on this issue.

The review found that fisheries management in Australia was 'in good shape' and that the structural separation offered by Departmental/AFMA independence provided a sound fisheries governance framework.

AFMA has taken on board comments taken from the Borthwick review and is actively consulting with environmental non-government organisations and the public via the AFMA website via a comments section to ensure that concerns are addressed and to also aid in education.

6 For information

6.1 AFMA Environment Report

AFMA provided the MAC with an update from the AFMA environment section. The GABTF has boat specific seabird management plans in place, and there was one interaction with a protected species (Shearwater) in 2012 that was released.

Jeff Moore informed the MAC that there was one occurrence of an interaction with a deceased decomposing seal via logbook recorded in 2012 and in 10 years of ISMP there has never been any interaction with seals reported.

The MAC informed AFMA that the environment report is a good overview however a MAC agreed fishery specific document could evolve that would be of greater value.

The conservation member noted that the only information provided in the environment report on the Wildlife Trade Operation is that it is subject to six conditions and four recommendations, and doesn't report on how AFMA is progressing/addressing the conditions and recommendations.

Action 13 – AFMA

Incorporate WTO conditions and requirements, as well as interaction reports into environment reports for future MAC meeting environment updates.

6.2 Budget 2013/14

AFMA informed the Committee that the budgets have been finalised and the GAB budget decreased by over \$22,000 this financial year. The 2012/13 budget for GAB was \$339,943, while the 2013/14 budget is \$317,510. GABMAC costs decreased due to the decision to have a single meeting in 2013, while management costs have increased due to higher staffing costs.

Jeff Moore provided further context on the current decrease in budget stating that management costs were reduced by 31%, research costs by 80%, RAG costs reduced by 26% (due to streamlining travel and meeting costs and remuneration), totalling a 52% reduction from the draft levy base from \$660,000 to \$318,000. The costs have been delayed for future years as a FIS needs to be undertaken.

The work that GABIA is going to undertake is streamlining the FIS cost, look internally with the charter fee cost, work with CSIRO and AFMA on the stock assessment costs to ensure that it is more aligned with user pays system, liaising with BP to achieve part funding, sitting on the AFMA/CFA cost efficiency working group regarding the FIS and public funding issues and continuing co-management. Noting that the CFA/AFMA cost efficiency working group achieved a good outcome and AFMA made some really pragmatic decisions on what can be done, and it was the best example of risk/catch/cost being applied successfully.

AFMA commented that working alongside industry on identifying areas where savings could be made was a useful process to undergo and worked really well.

6.3 Data Collection

Jeff Moore provided the MAC with an update on data collection. Industry slope species sampling continued through 2012 with a total of 1652 length frequencies and 1483 otoliths collected for Blue Grenadier, Gemfish, Ribaldo and Pink Ling.

There was an increase in effectiveness of the AFMA ISMP observer data collected in the GABTF with information on additional species being recorded as per the RAGs request. The ISMP results for 2012 included a total of 7414 length frequencies collected for Bight Redfish, Deepwater Flathead, Jackass Morwong, Ocean Jacket and Gemfish and a total of 1634 otoliths collected for Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead. Otoliths were only collected for two species as the ISMP trips did not include deep water trips.

Ian Knuckey presented work commissioned by GABIA on industry collected length frequency data. A summary is presented as follows.

Since 2009 there has been almost 100,000 industry length frequency collected data following methods outlined in the boat operating procedures manual. Approximately 60,000 collected for Deepwater Flathead and 37,500 for Bight Redfish entered into data sheets. However, not all of these measurements have been able to be utilised due to issues with the data sheets submitted. This is a

concern as industry took the time to collect the data and not all of it is able to be utilised in the assessments.

To address this issue Fishwell Consulting matched samples and logbooks and used a number of other methods to allow as much data as possible to be used. The result of this work was very positive with a threefold increase in length being accepted into the data processing system. Unfortunately there was a large number from 2010/11 that remained unusable as there couldn't be matches in the data.

The following recommendations were presented to ensure that the data sheets received in the future are completed correctly:

- Strongly encourage complete recording
- Use one version of data sheet with
 - Shot number and time (to match logbook)
 - Pre-filled fields – grade, retained, gear type
- Update boat operating procedures manual to reflect changes
- Make formal arrangements for data entry and transfer to CSIRO
- Feedback to GABIA on data quality
- Ongoing feedback and crew incentives

6.4 Compliance risk assessment/activity

AFMA provided the MAC a copy of the National Compliance Enforcement Program 2013-14 for information, and although it is not fishery specific, encouraged members to read to gain an indication on how the compliance program operates.

6.5 e-logs/e-monitoring

Ian Knuckey declared a conflict of interest due to being a purveyor in e-logs. MAC members decided that Ian Knuckey can remain present for this agenda item as there are no decisions being made and the information provided is for noting.

AFMA informed the MAC that electronic logbooks (e-logs) and electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) are being implemented by AFMA as an alternative, cost effective, method of data collection in Commonwealth fisheries.

The AFMA e-monitoring team is currently assessing program delivery for e-monitoring for all AFMA-managed fisheries as a cost-effective alternative to observer monitoring, and is intending to undertake a staged roll-out of the technology on and as needed basis. While e-monitoring technology can meet a range of fisheries data collection requirements, each unit needs to be configured to meet specific tasks and objectives. Therefore it is beneficial for operators to liaise with AFMA prior to utilising e-monitoring to ensure it meets the data requirements the fishery is trying to achieve.

E-logs are currently used in the GABTF and there has been a combination of AFMA, provider and user issues that have been identified in using the software. AFMA understands there are some issues with the current e-mail notification for the submission of e-logs, and is working to rectify the situation in the near future and updates are also currently being made to the AFMA e-logs webpage to ensure the information is current and user-friendly. AFMA can provide information on reporting and software requirements, and rectify any issues that are occurring with AFMA systems however, software specific issues need to be rectified by the supplying companies. AFMA welcomes any questions regarding e-logs, and will move quickly to rectify those issues that can be dealt with by AFMA.

The new fee-for-service and levy arrangements in place mean that the cost of paper logbooks are no longer entirely collected from the levy base, and are now collected from concession holders based on the number of days they are used. The fee-for-service collection allows operators to choose the catch recording method that best meets their business needs.

6.6 Boat operating procedures manual

GABIA informed the MAC that there are a number of cards in the manual that require updating and AFMA/GABIA are in the process of finalising these changes.

Action 14 – GABIA/AFMA

Update the boat operating procedures manual to reflect recommendation made by Fishwell Consulting to improve data sheets, update Western Gemfish specifications on card 5C, include a page on e-logs, and provide members with an electronic copy.

7 Other business

Jim Raptis informed the MAC that as the fishery heading towards co-management the work load that GABIA takes on is more extensive. In the past when there was no co-management AFMA management fees were higher. GABIA has done a lot of work to reducing the budget by roughly \$30,000 per SFR, and this work has been funded by industry association members, however not all operators are members and they currently receive the same benefits.

8 Next meeting

The MAC noted that there needs to be a period of time between RAG and MAC meetings in future and that a proposed time for the annual MAC meetings should be around February. However if a MAC meeting is held in February 2014 it is not in the current budget.

The MAC Chair then thanked members, invited participants and observers for their interest and input and closed the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Barry Windle
Chair – GAB MAC
15 November 2013

Attachments

- 1 GABMAC Action Items and Watch List
- 2 Final agenda GAB MAC 1 – 2013



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Action Arising

| Action | Responsible |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>GABMAC 1 – 20 July 2012</i> | |
| 1. Update the GABTF Vision document with suggested changes and send to MAC members for comment. | Jeff Moore |
| 2. Further refine the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan, stipulating timelines for progress, who is responsible, the costs and where the money will come from. | AFMA/GABIA |
| <i>GABMAC 1 – 1 November 2013</i> | |
| 3. Meet with Professor Mehdi Doroudi, Executive Director PIRSA to discuss the OCS and Bight fish ID. | Jim Raptis |
| 4. Clarify the OCS arrangements in place for Bight Redfish and South Australia. | AFMA |
| 5. Take the lead with GABMAC support in exploring possible avenues for funding from FRDC and/or oil and gas companies to undergo a survey in the GABTF to provide information on the impacts of the seismic work on the marine environment. | GABIA |
| 6. Clarify whether the separate policy on industry bodies and the dual advisory model, referred to on page 3 of FMP 1, has been developed. | AFMA |
| 7. Update the GABTF dual advisory model documenting principles that are risk based and clearer on the reporting process. Then report back to MAC on an updated table which is subject to performance reporting. | AFMA/GABIA |
| 8. Provide AFMA with a copy of the SESSF Harvest Strategy Framework with tracked changes incorporating recommended amendments. | Ian Knuckey/ Jeff Moore |
| 9. Update the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan - 2012 Final Report to include further information on the action items and provide information to Marcus Finn. | Ian Knuckey/ GABIA |
| 10. Develop a paper on future management arrangements with historical timeline for Western Gemfish. | AFMA |
| 11. Amend the GABIA Orange Roughy annual research plan to a five year plan. | Jeff Moore |
| 12. Attend Seafood CRC meeting on the 13 November 2013 to investigate how the GABTF interests interrelate. | Jim Raptis |
| 13. Incorporate WTO conditions and requirements, as well as interaction reports into environment reports for future MAC meeting environment updates. | AFMA |
| 14. Update the boat operating procedures manual to reflect the recommendations made by Fishwell consulting to improve data sheets, update Western Gemfish specifications on card 5C, include a page on e-logs, and provide members with an electronic copy. | GABIA/AFMA |

GABMAC Watch List

| Action | Responsibility | Status |
|--|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. That the agenda for future GABMAC meetings be developed at an appropriately strategic level, so as to encapsulate GABTF co-management arrangements and AFMA's dual advisory model | GABIA/AFMA/Chair | Ongoing |
| 2. Jointly review the GABTF deepwater closures, with a paper to be provided for the MAC, prior to the SW marine reserves coming into effect. | GABIA/AFMA | Pending |
| 3. Progress the Bight Redfish management and OCS issues outside the MAC process | AFMA, PIRSA and GABIA | Ongoing |
| 4. That, as part of the Conservation Plan review, AFMA clarify the limit reference point for Orange Roughy and whether fishing can occur at sustainable levels once the limit reference point is reached | AFMA | Ongoing |
| 5. That the positive, collaborative nature of GABTF budget development continue, both for finalising the 2012/13 budget and as part of continual improvement for future years | AFMA/All | Ongoing |
| 6. That GABRAG consider WA and SA catches of GABTF species as part of the annual process to ensure sustainability of the fishery | GABRAG | Ongoing |
| 7. AFMA, Olfish and GABIA to investigate E-CDR capability in the GABTF, once the e-log system is running satisfactorily in the fishery | AFMA <i>et al</i> | Pending |



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Great Australian Bight Trawl Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC) 1-2013

Draft Agenda

8:30 am Friday 1 November 2013

Lincoln Marine Science Centre, Port Lincoln

| Agenda Item | Responsibility |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Preliminaries (30 minutes) | |
| 1.1 Welcome | Chair |
| 1.2 Apologies | EO |
| 1.3 Declarations of interest | All members |
| 1.4 Adoption of Agenda | Chair |
| 1.5 Adoption of draft minutes GABMAC 1-2012 | EO |
| 1.6 Actions arising from GABMAC 1-2012 | EO |
| 1.7 Correspondence | EO |
| 2. Status of Fishery Update (1 hour) | |
| 2.1 AFMA Managers Report (verbal) | AFMA |
| 2.2 Industry/GABIA Report (verbal) | GABIA |
| 3. GABTF Management issues (1.5 hours) | |
| 3.1 Future Co-management arrangements (incl. review of dual advisory model) | AFMA/GABIA |
| 3.2 SESSF/GAB Harvest Strategy/Decision Rules | AFMA/GABIA |
| 3.3 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan | AFMA/EO |
| 3.4 Western Gemfish discussion | AFMA |
| 4. Data and Research (1 hour) | |
| 4.1 FIS – priority and broader public good component? | AFMA/GABIA |
| 4.2 Outcomes from GABRAG research workshop | AFMA/GABIA |
| 4.3 Orange Roughy conservation program review | AFMA/GABIA |
| 4.4 Strategic Research (incl. SESSF review project) verbal | AFMA |
| 5. Policy (30 minutes) | |
| 5.1 DAFF report on Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and the Commonwealth Policy on Bycatch | AFMA |
| 5.2 Borthwick review, government response and implications from the GABTF | AFMA |
| 6. For Information (30 minutes) | |
| 6.1 AFMA Environment Update | AFMA |
| 6.2 Budget 2013/14 | AFMA |
| 6.3 Data collection stuff (ISMP, industry recording etc.) | AFMA/GABIA |
| 6.4 Compliance risk assessment/activity | AFMA/GABIA |
| 6.5 e-logs/e-monitoring | AFMA/GABIA |
| 6.6 Boat manual | AFMA/GABIA |
| 7. Other Business | |
| 8. Next meeting and Close | |