



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Great Australian Bight
Resource Assessment Group
(GABRAG)
Meeting 1 2017**

Meeting Minutes

**29 August 2017
Teleconference**

Attendees

Members	
<i>Mr Lance Lloyd</i>	<i>GABRAG Chair</i>
<i>Dr Malcolm Haddon</i>	<i>Scientific member, CSIRO</i>
<i>Mr Andy Moore</i>	<i>Scientific member, ABARES</i>
<i>Professor John Tisdell</i>	<i>Economics member</i>
<i>Mr Christian Pyke</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Mr Jim Raptis</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Dr Brigid Kerrigan</i>	<i>AFMA member</i>
<i>Miss Georgia Langdon</i>	<i>GABRAG Executive Officer, AFMA</i>
Invited Participants	
<i>Ms Marcia Valente</i>	<i>Industry member</i>
<i>Dr Ian Knuckey</i>	<i>Fishwell Consulting</i>
<i>Mr Nick Mammides</i>	<i>Assistant Observer Coordinator, AFMA</i>

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome & Apologies

1. The meeting commenced at 10:07am.
2. Mr Lance Lloyd (GABRAG Chair) welcomed members, invited participants and observers to the meeting. The Chair noted that no apologies had been received. Each of the participants introduced themselves to the rest of the group.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

3. Members and observers provided declarations of conflicts of interest as prescribed in Fisheries Administration Paper 12 and incorporated updates from the previous meeting if required ([Attachment 1](#)). Participants with specific conflicts of interest were asked to leave the room individually so that the RAG could discuss their participation under specific agenda items.
4. The attendance of all members, invited participants and observers was supported for each of the discussions under each of the agenda items.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

5. Three additional items were requested to be included under agenda item 6 – Other Items, including the draft Harvest Strategy Policy, the Australia/China Free Trade Agreement fish species approval list, as well as research project cost apportionments in the SESSF.
6. The RAG adopted the agenda ([Attachment 2](#)).

1.4 Action Items

7. Due to time constraints, the RAG review only some of the outstanding action items by exception. A summary of status of the actions from previous meetings as detailed in [Attachment 3](#).
8. A list of new action items established at this meeting are listed in [Attachment 4](#).

2 Management

2.1 AFMA Management update

9. The AFMA GAB trawl manager, Dr Brigid Kerrigan provided a brief update on management of the GAB trawl fishery since the last RAG meeting.
10. Dr Kerrigan informed the RAG that a company by the name of Pi-Seas has recently approached AFMA to promote a newly developing stock assessment platform that allows fisheries stakeholders to interrogate fisheries data, and manipulate elements of data that feeds into stock assessments. RAG members are invited to a presentation that Pi-Seas will be giving at the Canberra AFMA office in coming months. It is intended that AFMA will provide Pi-Seas with some data to test run their product. Mr Raptis requested that AFMA produce a full proposal paper regarding the use of industry data for industry to consider.
11. Some members of the RAG noted that the proposed work appears to overlap with the work of Mezzo Consulting, and the automation work already being undertaken elsewhere and any new work should refer to this work.
12. Further, Dr Kerrigan noted that the trawl fisheries in the SESSF are turning their attention to seal related bycatch issues. AFMA is undertaking a small desktop review of data and interaction rate information from ISMP data, as well as reviewing mitigation strategies and previous research. The internal review of information is intended to provide industry associations and AFMA management with a more focused way to move forward on this bycatch issue. Although GABIA members highlighted that seals are not an issue for the GAB, AFMA insisted that for completeness, the GAB will be included in this review as it would demonstrate the low risk faced by the GAB Fisheries from seal interaction.
13. Industry and scientific members commented that it was a waste of scarce resource's available to the GABTF if the GABTF is included in the review. It was recommended that very little effort is applied to the GABTF in relation to seal related bycatch issues as there is already well-documented evidence that seal bycatch in the GABTF is non-existent and not an issue in the fishery.

2.2 Industry Management update

14. The Executive Officer of the Great Australian Bight Industry Association, Mr Christian Pyke provided a brief update on the latest developments of the fishery.
15. He noted that the full implementation of bird bafflers by 1 May 2017 was a significant achievement. The uptake by industry was very successful, as was the collaboration with SETFIA and the AFMA bycatch team.
16. Mr Pyke added that the fishery has been performing well since November for the key target species in the GAB and that the port visit earlier in the year by AFMA was also a great success.
17. Mr Raptis added that there are new developments on the *Silver Phoenix* and the *Noble Pearl*, with the first ever electronic underwater trawl door monitoring system being trialled. This new system is designed to visually detect unwanted species in the net, allowing for reduced discards and the ability to move on from an area to avoid further catches of unwanted species before hauling.
18. Mr Raptis noted that industry is trying to reduce the reporting of 'other' and 'miscellaneous' species in e-logs, by avoiding discards. He added that after five or six trips, industry will be in a good position to provide a report on the results, and that the skipper of the trial vessel is confident the equipment may reduce bycatch by more than 25 per cent.

3 Research

3.1 Annual Research Statement 2018-19

19. The RAG examined each research items listed within the draft GAB Annual Research Statement 2018-19 (**Attachment 5**).
20. Each of the current research projects requiring AFMA Research Council (ARC) funding were considered as essential priorities, except the upcoming Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) which is deemed a medium priority. The RAG noted that the budget for the ERA was not included in the 2017-18 budget and will be considered as an overspend for this year.
21. The RAG acknowledged that the next stock assessment for deepwater flathead in 2019 will need to be incorporated in the 2019-20 Annual Research Statement.
22. The RAG noted that the Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) expenditure is part of the current 2017-18 research budget, however this does not include an additional \$17,000 for the construction of a new trawl net. This will also be an overspend to the 2017-18 budget. As a result, the RAG agreed to remove

the research line item for the FIS as it does not require 2018-19 funding.

23. The RAG acknowledged that GABIA has recently undertaken some significant initiatives to reduce discards in the fishery and that it would be useful to quantify the success of the bycatch and discard reduction. As such, a new research priority was identified by Mr Raptis to undertake a desktop study to compare historic versus recent discard rates in the GABTS to be included in the draft Annual Research Statement 2018-19. Mr Pyke offered to provide a draft proposal with a scope and project objectives to summarise this research.

ACTION ITEM #1 – Mr Pyke to draft up a proposal for the discards desktop study with a project scope and objectives to be circulated to the other scientific members of the RAG for comment before submission to the AFMA Research section.

24. Dr Knuckey noted that in undertaking the study, it would be useful to ensure skippers have been completing electronic logs correctly. If there had been any major changes in the data collection, this may influence the dataset.

ACTION ITEM #2 – Dr Knuckey to review the logbook data for consistency in discard reporting since the implementation of e-logs and discard grouping changes.

25. The RAG agreed to maintain the already approved FRDC project on examining factors that impact on the profitability of the GABTS, noting that this is a follow on project from the previous bycatch utilisation project.

ACTION ITEM #3 – AFMA to provide an update on the costs associated with the ISMP to the GAB industry. This advice is to focus on the cost of the Port Sampling Program and the at-sea observer program.

3.2 2018 FIS Update

26. Mr Pyke provided an update on the ongoing discussions between GABIA and the seismic testing company regarding the timing of the upcoming 2D seismic surveys planned for early 2018.
27. The GAB FIS dates are scheduled for March 2018, due to the optimal moon phase conditions. At the time of the meeting, the timing of the seismic survey was still not confirmed but was likely to occur around January or February 2018, ahead of the planned FIS dates. The RAG was concerned that this would significantly impact the results of the FIS and industry was averse to progressing the FIS if this the results were not meaningful. The RAG noted that not undertaking the FIS would result in a significant loss of data however the costs of undertaking a FIS that is impacted by seismic activity was considered as being a significant waste of industry collected levies.
28. GABIA presented a map to the RAG that indicated the planned zones for the FIS versus the planned area of the seismic survey. The closest point between the two areas is a distance of 86km. Dr Knuckey suggested, based

on a previous study (not referenced), that seismic survey impacts can have an influence on the behavioural characteristics of fish species at approximately 80-100km. Further details will be discussed at the GABRAG meeting scheduled for November 2017.

29. Mr Moore noted that it appears the seismic survey will be occurring largely on the continental slope, while a large part of the FIS trawl shots occur on the continental shelf, potentially reducing the anticipated impacts even further. He also noted that the vast majority of the FIS survey area was in excess of 200km from the planned seismic survey.
30. Dr Haddon offered to undertake an analysis of the commercial and FIS catch data trends in response to the 2015 3D seismic surveys. The RAG agreed that this analysis would be extremely useful and that the results should be presented to the November RAG meeting.
31. Industry members provide strong advice that they are reluctant to support the FIS if there is risk the seismic work scheduled for the GAB has any impact / influence on the proposed 2018 FIS.

ACTION ITEM #4 – Dr Malcolm Haddon to undertake an analysis of commercial and FIS data trends in response to the 2015 3D seismic surveys to examine the potential impacts the seismic testing has on fish stocks in the GAB, to be presented at the 2017 November RAG meeting.

32. The RAG agreed that GABIA need to continue to progress discussions with the oil companies and the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) to negotiate favourable dates (after the FIS; April 2017) for the seismic surveys, noting that the results from Dr Haddon's analysis may provide additional evidence to use in those discussions.
33. GABIA noted that the *FV Silver Phoenix* will be the vessel undertaking the FIS and requested that an additional \$10,000 be added to the FIS budget to account for the construction of new trawl boards to ensure consistency of the equipment used in the FIS. Dr Knuckey added that this is critical to the efficacy of the FIS.

ACTION ITEM #5 – Mr Pyke to provide AFMA with a written request for an additional \$10,000 to be added to the FIS budget to cover the cost for the purchase of standardised trawl boards before the FIS contract is drafted to avoid a contract variation.

3.3 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan

34. AFMA presented the draft 2017-19 GAB Bycatch and Discarding Workplan, summarising the proposal to include only those action items from the 2014-16 Workplan that were considered incomplete or ongoing at the time of the final report. This is because an updated ERA is scheduled to take place in early 2018, the results of which will inform a new suite of possible action

items to be incorporated into a revised 2017-19 workplan.

35. The RAG reviewed the four carry over action items in the 2017-19 draft workplan and noted the following points on each item:

Action Items 1 and 2

36. The RAG considered that action item 1 is no longer required specific port visits by AFMA to undertake a skipper education program. Dr Knuckey suggested that OLRAC could provide some instructional screengrabs from the e-log system to skippers to help them fill out the e-logs correctly.
37. Given that action item 2 is in relation to the developing CTS discard reporting strategy, the RAG agreed that the modified action item 1 above be incorporated into a revised action item 2 and that this action item is the only one needing to be carried over to the interim workplan.

ACTION ITEM #6 – OLRAC to provide some instructional screengrabs to provide GAB skippers on how to complete e-logs with the new discard report changes.

Action Items 3 and 4

38. The RAG noted that action item 4 on bycatch utilisation was now complete and that the results of the project will be presented by Fishwell Consulting at the November RAG meeting. Dr Knuckey added that action item 3 on zero-discards was incorporated in to the bycatch utilisation project.
39. The RAG agreed that both action items can be removed from the table, and do not need to be carried over to the draft 2017-19 workplan. AFMA agreed to update the 2014-16 workplan final report to reflect this update, as well as amending the title of the report to include Danish seine.

ACTION ITEM #7 – AFMA to update the Final Report of the 2014-16 GAB Bycatch and Discarding Workplan to reflect the updated outcomes of some actions items, and to amend the title to include Danish seine vessels as well as otter board trawl.

4 Review of 2016 Data

4.1 MYTAC analysis update

40. AFMA provided a summary on the latest developments in the new draft approach to monitoring multi-year total allowable catch (MYTAC) species in the SESSF in the years between stock assessments.
41. The RAG noted that using the updated decision tree, the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SESSFRAG) determined that neither bight redfish nor deepwater flathead required a review of fishery indicators this year (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary results of the MYTAC analysis decision tree on GAB quota species for the 2016-17 season.

Decision Tree Rationale	Bight Redfish	Deepwater Flathead
MYTAC stage	2 nd of 5 year MYTAC	1 st of 3 year MYTAC
Assessment Tier	1	1
Most recent assessment	2015	2016
Next scheduled assessment	2020	2019
Assessed in 2017?	No	No
≤ MYTAC Period	Yes	Yes
2016-17 Catch levels relative to TAC <50%	28%	54%
Due to operational reasons?	Yes	n/a
Long lived species?	No	No
Under a rebuilding strategy?	No	No
Biomass > TRP?	Yes Biomass 63% / TRP 41%	Yes Biomass 45% / TRP 43%
Review of fishery indicators required?	No	No

42. AFMA noted that the decision tree is still in draft form and was seeking endorsement from the AFMA Commission at their next meeting to utilise this approach as an interim methodology until Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) testing can be undertaken on multi-year TACs.
43. Mr Moore noted that in theory if a species is well managed it will hover around the target and spend half the time below target, therefore the proposed rules may well trigger a review half the time. Some members of the RAG suggested that an additional decision rule be incorporated to the biomass/TRP indicator to consider how the biomass is tracking (up or down). However, other members of the RAG noted that the decision rule for biomass to be simply 'above' the TRP is already set at a precautionary level and that in the event a species biomass is indicated as being below the TRP, this would only provide some further evidence for investigation into the relevant data for that species. Any additional action would then be discussed by the RAG.
44. Dr Knuckey added that the previous breakout rules were becoming too prescriptive and difficult to measure. The new approach is providing more guidance for the RAGs to make informed and streamlined decisions.

45. Industry Members suggested the RAG that decisions in relation to key target species in the GABTF should be made by GABRAG and that decisions in relation to these species are deferred by SESSFRAG in the future.

5 Data Collection Update

5.1 SESSF Data Plan

46. AFMA provided a brief update on the development of the draft SESSF Data Plan. The data plan is intended to document relevant information regarding each SESSF quota species with regards to data needs, sources, collection and gaps to support reliable stock assessments.
47. Previously, SESSFRAG agreed that the information listed in the appendices would be updated by the relevant RAG following an updated stock assessment for that species.
48. The RAG reviewed the appendices for each of the relevant GAB species and provided advice on the data requirements and ISMP collection targets for each.
49. Some members of the RAG expressed concern about the apparent low sampling of length frequency data collection in non-observed years. However, the scientific members of the RAG added that the length frequency data is a separate dataset to that of individually measured lengths of fish that have been aged. AFMA added that the two length datasets (frequency and biologicals) need to be sampled on different animals.
50. GABIA expressed some concern that the temporal spread of data collection was not occurring through the port sampled data.
51. AFMA informed the industry members that while the crew collected data is of a very high standard, there are some minor data gaps still appearing in the data.

ACTION ITEM #8 – AFMA Observer section to provide regular information and updates to GABIA regarding any issues with crew collected data gaps.

Deepwater flathead

52. GABIA stated that the length and biological targets for Bight redfish and deepwater flathead should be the same. There has been no advice tabled to change the targets at this stage

ACTION ITEM #9 – AFMA Observer section to clarify if the targets for bight redfish and deepwater flathead have previously been identical each year and AFMA management to update the Data Plan accordingly.

Western Gemfish

53. Dr Haddon informed the RAG that he had been experimenting with using Tier 5 assessment methodology on western gemfish. The RAG agreed this information would be useful to discuss at the November RAG meeting.

ACTION ITEM #10 – Dr Haddon to provide preliminary results of both a Tier 4 and Tier 5 assessment on western gemfish at the November RAG meeting.

Orange Roughy

54. The RAG suggested that the GABIA Orange Roughy Research Plan 2016-20 be included as a current collection method in the data plan for the Albany and Esperance zones.
55. GABIA noted that the industry association is intending to review the Orange Roughy Research Plan 2016-20 and provide some comments back to AFMA.

ACTION ITEM #11 – GABIA to provide comments to AFMA on the Orange Roughy Research Plan 2016-20 out of session following a preliminary review of the plan by industry.

56. Mr Raptis queried that given a significant amount of data has been collected on orange roughy in the GAB from the research zones, if there would be any consideration given to opening up orange roughy closures. He noted that the southern and western zones are currently being considered with very little data and questioned if the GAB zones will also be considered. AFMA noted that this would be dependent on the RAG considering the data available for conducting an assessment and providing advice on the issue.
57. AFMA also noted that a workshop on western orange roughy was held in early 2017 and that the outcomes of that workshop were going to be addressed at the upcoming South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) in September.

ACTION ITEM #12 – Dr Kerrigan to circulate a copy of the western orange roughy outcomes from the March 2017 workshop and the additional outcomes on western orange roughy from the next SERAG meeting to the members of GABRAG for information to be further discussed by GABRAG at the November meeting.

5.2 2016 ISMP Summary Report

58. AFMA Assistant Observer Coordinator Nick Mammides provided a brief update on the ISMP port sampled and crew-based sample collections and targets in the GAB to date for 2017.
59. The RAG noted the following points:

- Observers are deployed on boats bi annually in the GAB. 2017 is a year in which observers are not deployed at sea and are supplemented with port sampling and crew based data collection.
- Observer collected lengths have not been a priority this year due to the ample supply of crew collected length data. Bight redfish length data is at 81 per cent of the target, and deepwater flathead length data is at 116 per cent, and blue grenadier biologicals is at 56 per cent noting it is a difficult species to encounter and will be subject to opportunistic sampling noting this does not include a large amount of un-entered data from crew based sampling.

60. GABIA questioned if the flathead biological data collection could be reduced if the target has already been reached, however AFMA advised to maintain the current collection plan to ensure the adequate temporal coverage is achieved. Dr Knuckey added that monthly sampling would be adequate, noting the concerns of GABIA on the cost of providing fortnightly data collection.

ACTION ITEM #13 – AFMA Observer section to examine the current vessel sampling plan for the GABTS and provide advice on an efficient way forward to potentially reduce the frequency of biological data collection without compromising the temporal spread of the data and ensuring the data is collected evenly across different vessels.

61. Dr Haddon and AFMA reminded the RAG that data collection from the Danish seiner *FV Gail Jeanette 3* should be prioritised to capture the selectivity of the vessel with regards to the deepwater flathead stock assessment.

6 Other Items

6.1 Market Access into China

62. Mr Raptis requested the assistance of AFMA with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to investigate the Free Trade Agreement to allow market access of trawl caught species from the GAB into China. Currently, there are several species not included on the list which could be marketed. Mr Raptis will provide the list of species, both approved and non-approved, to AFMA.

ACTION ITEM #14 – Mr Raptis to provide the current list of approved species into the Chinese market through the Australia/China Free Trade Agreement to Dr Kerrigan.

ACTION ITEM #15 – Dr Kerrigan to discuss with Dr Nick Rayns, Executive Manager of FMB and DFAT regarding the market access of GABT species to be included in the Australia/China Free Trade Agreement.

6.2 Draft Harvest Strategy Policy

63. Due to time restraints, the RAG agreed that the requested discussion on the new draft Harvest Strategy Policy be deferred to the November RAG meeting. AFMA highlighted that it is a very important discussion to be had, that would benefit from a face to face discussion.
64. GABIA noted that their greatest concern is that the final outcomes of the policy may have a significant impact on the day to day management and financial viability of the fishery. This includes the categorisation of secondary commercial species and an objective to manage species in this category to an MSY target level. GABIA advised the RAG the potential increase in management costs of those species, which comprise a very small proportion of the gross value production (GVP) for the GABTS. GABIA advised the RAG that the current DRAFT of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy will create a significant cost burden for no material gain in pursuit of the ESD Objective under the FMA 1991.
65. Dr Haddon added that CSIRO has also cautioned against the management of secondary species as it is not appropriate for all fisheries, especially low-value multi-species fisheries

6.3 Cost apportionment of research projects

66. GABIA expressed serious concerns regarding the apportionment of costs to the GAB in certain SESSF research projects. The document referred to was Information Paper 3 – Active Research projects in the SESSF – tabled at SESSFrag 7 -8 AUG 2017.
67. GABIA requested that the 18 per cent share of the \$983,436 total research budget apportioned to the GABTF, under the Stock Assessment for the SESSF 2016-18 be quantified.
68. Mr Raptis requested from AFMA an itemisation of costs for the research budget.

ACTION ITEM #16 – Dr Brigid Kerrigan to provide information on budgets for research in the GAB to GABRAG with an itemisation of costs apportioned to the GABTF under the CSIRO budget for the project titled; Stock Assessment for the SESSF 2016-18

7 Next meeting and Close

69. The RAG agreed that the week of the 20 – 24 November 2017 be blocked out for both the next RAG and MAC meetings.
70. AFMA agreed to send out an online Doodle Poll for participants to indicate their preferred availability that week for a one day RAG meeting and one day MAC meeting.
71. The RAG agreed that these meetings should be held in Adelaide CBD.

ACTION ITEM #17 – AFMA to send out an online Doodle Poll for all RAG and MAC participants to indicated their preferred availability for 2 consecutive days for a RAG and MAC meeting in the week of 20-24 November.

The chair closed the meeting at 01.10pm.

Attachments

- 1) List of declared conflicts of interest
- 2) Adopted agenda
- 3) Status of previous action items
- 4) New action items as of end of meeting
- 5) GAB Annual Research Statement 2018-19

Declared Conflicts of Interest

Member	Declared Interest
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 and sub-Antarctic RAG and MAC.
Mr Andy Moore	GABRAG Scientific Member. Employed by ABARES - Interest in sources of funding for research purposes, involved in the Gemfish stock structure project and the Western gemfish Tier 1 assessment, no personal pecuniary interest. Senior Fellow at University of Queensland.
Mr Jim Raptis	GABRAG Industry Member GAB boat and quota SFR holder.
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.
Professor John Tisdell	Economics member of GABRAG.
Dr Brigid Kerrigan	AFMA, Trawl Manager, Coral Sea Fishery Manager. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Miss Georgia Langdon	AFMA, Executive Officer of SESSF RAG. No interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Invited Participants	Declared Interest
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry member
Dr Ian Knuckey	Director Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd; Involved in –Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) SESSF and GAB; Range of research interests in relation to South East fisheries including the GABTF, SESSF and auto-longline sector. Agent for Olfish Electronic Logbooks; NPF RAG Chair, Scientific member on NORMAC Member on Scallop MAC and SquidMAC; Provides research advice to various industry associations: SETFIA, GABIA and SSIA; PI of GABTS profitability project.
Observers	
Mr Nick Mammides	Assistant observer coordinator at AFMA, no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.

Adopted Agenda

Date	29 August 2017	Location	Teleconference	
Time	10:00 am Canberra time	Chair	Lance Lloyd	
Agenda item		Speaker	Indicative Time	
1. Preliminaries				
1.1. Welcome, introductions and apologies 1.2. Declarations of interest 1.3. Adoption of agenda 1.4. Actions arising from previous meeting(s) (paper) <i>The Executive Officer will briefly present on the status of outstanding action items arising from previous meetings by exception.</i>		Chair All members Chair AFMA	15 minutes	
2. Management				
2.1 Manager's update <i>Brigid Kerrigan to provide the meeting with a verbal update on the GAB management arrangements and fishery since the last GABRAG meeting.</i>		Brigid Kerrigan	5 minutes	
2.2 Industry update <i>Christian Pyke as Executive Officer of GABIA will provide an update on the GAB fishery.</i>		Christian Pyke	5 minutes	
3. Research				
3.1 Annual Research Statement 2018-19 (paper) <i>The RAG is invited to ask questions and provide comment on the draft GAB Annual Research Statement with regards to research priorities.</i>		AFMA/GABIA	30 minutes	
3.2 2018 FIS update <i>AFMA and GABIA will provide a brief update on the status and progress of the 2018 FIS.</i>		GABIA/AFMA	10 minutes	
3.3 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan (paper) <i>The RAG is invited to provide comment on the draft GAB Bycatch and Discarding Workplan for 2017-19.</i>		AFMA	10 minutes	
4. Review of 2016 Data				
4.1 MYTAC Analysis (breakout rules) update (paper) <i>AFMA will provide an update on the new approach to monitoring MYTAC species.</i>		AFMA	10 minutes	
5. Data collection/requirements updates				
5.1 SESSF Data Plan – GAB only 5.2 2016 ISMP Summary Report – GAB only <i>AFMA will provide a brief update on the SESSF Data Plan and 2016 ISMP Summary Report (GAB only)</i>		AFMA	10 minutes	
6. Other Items				
6.1 Draft Harvest Strategy Policy 6.2 China/Australia free trade agreement 6.3 Budget apportionment in research projects		Chair	10 minutes	
7. Close of Meeting				

Date

29 August 2017

Location

Teleconference

7.1 Discussion of next meeting and close

The RAG will agree to dates for the next GABRAG meeting, scheduled for November 2017

Chair

2 minutes

DRAFT

Status of Previous Action Items

ACTION ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM OCTOBER MEETING 2015

Prev No.	Agenda Item/Meeting Date	Action Item	Agency/ Person	Timeframe	Progress as of Dec Meeting 2016	Progress as of Aug Teleconference 2017
1	2.2 / Dec 2015	Dr Knuckey to send Mr Raptis some literature on plate counts.	Dr Ian Knuckey	Not defined	Not complete. AFMA to follow up with Dr Knuckey.	Complete.

ACTION ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM NOVEMBER MEETING 2015

3	Nov 2015	Andy Moore and Malcolm Haddon to assist Jeff Moore in applying for FRDC funding to run a FIS in 2016	Andy Moore, Malcolm Haddon, Jeff Moore	Not defined	Ongoing because FIS did not proceed in 2016	Complete. FIS is to go ahead in 2018.
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ACTION ITEMS EMERGING FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING 2016

No.	Agenda Item/Meeting Date	Action Item	Agency/ Person	Timeframe	Progress as of Dec RAG Meeting 2016	Progress as of Aug Teleconference 2017
1	1.4 / Nov 2016	AFMA and Dr Knuckey to transfer of orange roughly otoliths from 2006 onwards from Fishwell to Fish Ageing Services.	AFMA and Dr Knuckey		Underway. GABIA have contacted Kyne Krusic-Golub from FAS.	Related to SESSFRAG – need costings from Kyne
2	2.1 / Nov 2016	Recognising the quantity and quality of crew collected data, the RAG recommended the Chair write	AFMA and GABRAG Chair	No defined.	Not yet complete.	Complete – mid December 2016.

		to vessel skippers to congratulate skippers on the program and encourage their continued participation.				Lance Lloyd has provided a copy of the letter that was issued.
3	2.1 / Nov 2016	AFMA to review crew collected data annually and present findings to GABRAG	AFMA Management		No comment	Will be presented/discussed at the November RAG
4	2.1 / Nov 2016	AFMA to provide quarterly reports to skippers on data collected under the crew collection program.	AFMA observers		No comment	Suggested that GABIA undertake this responsibility using data provided by AFMA from action item above (3)
10	4 / Nov 2016	Dr Haddon, assisted by industry where necessary, to investigate why 2014-15 crew collected data includes smaller deepwater flathead and provide advice to GABRAG at the next meeting. If Dr Haddon, is unable to resolve the reasons for the atypical distribution then these data are not be included in the assessment. In any case, these data to be used in sensitivity analysis.	Dr Malcolm Haddon / AFMA		Underway. Possibly due to incorrect measurements. Dr Haddon will explore.	Legit fish or due to data entry errors ?
11	4 / Nov 2016	AFMA to investigate whether there are any data entry or recording errors for the 2014-15 crew collected data for deepwater flathead.	AFMA		Underway.	Errors have been corrected – need to understand what happens to this data once entered – transferred to CSIRO?

ACTION ITEMS EMERGING FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING 2016

No.	Agenda Item/ Meeting Date	Action Item	Agency/Person	Timeframe	Progress as of Aug Teleconference 2017
1	2 / Dec 2016	Provide AFMA and CSIRO information on the locality of the seismic surveys during the 2014/15 Fishery Independent Survey to assess the possible impact on FIS CPUE.	Christian Pyke	As soon as possible	Matt Koopman of Fishwell Consulting has completed this analysis upon the request of GABIA which has been provided to both AFMA and CSIRO. (ask for Map to be included in meeting record)
2	2 / Dec 2016	Investigate whether the annual variability seen between commercial and FIS deepwater flathead CPUE estimates are also seen during the months in which the FIS is conducted.	Dr Haddon	As soon as possible	Complete.
3	4 / Dec 2016	CSIRO to ensure that eastern and western gemfish ISMP data are correctly identified and separated in the data summary, including zones within the west.	CSIRO, Dr Haddon	Before drafting the 2017 data summary	East and West have been separated but Zones in the west For Western Gemfish catches restricted to log-book data.
4	4 / Dec 2016	Investigate the proportion of western gemfish discarded as whole shots to inform the CPUE standardization.	AFMA/CSIRO	Before 2017 CPUE standardization	Still being considered; it may be biased as it is difficult to separate out changed behaviour when observers on board.
5	4 / Dec 2016	AFMA to engage with industry to address the issue of high discard rates of western gemfish.	AFMA	As soon as possible	Need to start
6	4 / Dec 2016	AFMA and GABIA to review GABTF development strategy species triggers for western gemfish in the SESSF Harvest Strategy Framework.	AFMA/GABIA	Prior to 2017/18 season	To be examined over the course of the 2017-18 season
7	4 / Dec 2016	AFMA to form a sub-committee to establish data requirements for	ABARES, GABIA SETFIA, AFMA.	As soon as possible	This information will be captured in the SESSF Data Plan.

		improving the western gemfish assessments in the CTS and GABT.			
8	5.2 / Dec 2016	GABIA, and Fishwell to meet and discuss proposed efficiency gains in the GAB FIS in early 2017. Outcomes and costs to be provided to AFMA by March.	GABIA, AFMA, FISHWELL	Jan 2017	Complete.
9	5.4 / Dec 2016	AFMA to provide the new annual research plan template to GABIA with items carried over from the 2017/18 research plan. GABIA to organize a subsequent teleconference to finalise the draft research plan in time for ARC consideration in August 2017.	AFMA & GABIA	June 2017	Complete. Will be addressed at the teleconference meeting in August.

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New Action Items as of end of meeting

No.	Agenda Item	Action Item	Agency/Person responsible	Timeframe
1	3.1	Mr Pyke to draft up a proposal for the discards desktop study with a project scope and objectives to be circulated to the other scientific members of the RAG for comment before submission to the AFMA Research section.	Christian Pyke	15 September in time for the Annual Research Statement to be submitted to the ARC
2	3.1	Dr Knuckey to review the logbook data for consistency in discard reporting since the implementation of e-logs and discard grouping changes.	Ian Knuckey (Fishwell Consulting)	As soon as practicable
3	3.1	AFMA to provide an update on the costs associated with the ISMP to the GAB industry. This advice is to focus on the cost of the Port Sampling Program and the at-sea observer program.	Brigid Kerrigan AFMA trawl team	As soon as practicable
4	3.2	Dr Malcolm Haddon to undertake an analysis of commercial and FIS data trends in response to the 2015 3D seismic surveys to examine the potential impacts the seismic testing has on fish stocks in the GAB, to be presented at the 2017 November RAG meeting.	Malcolm Haddon CSIRO	By the November GABRAG meeting
5	3.2	Mr Pyke to provide AFMA with a written request for an additional \$10000 to be added to the FIS budget to cover the cost of new standardised trawl boards before the FIS contract is drafted to avoid a contract variation.	Chrisitan Pyke	Immediately after this meeting

6	3.3	OLRAC to provide some instructional screengrabs to provide GAB skippers on how to complete e-logs with the new discard report changes.	Ian Knuckey (OLRAC)	As soon as practicable
7	3.3	AFMA to update the Final Report of the 2014-16 GAB Bycatch and Discarding Workplan to reflect the updated outcomes of some actions items, and to amend the title to include Danish seine vessels as well as otter board trawl.	AFMA Trawl Team	As soon as practicable
8	5.1	AFMA Observer section to provide regular information and updates to GABIA regarding any issues with crew collected data gaps.	Nick Mammides AFMA Observer section	As soon as practicable
9	5.1	AFMA Observer section to clarify if the targets for bight redfish and deepwater flathead should be identical each year.	Nick Mammides AFMA Observer section	As soon as practicable
10	5.1	Dr Haddon to provide preliminary results of both a Tier 4 and Tier 5 assessment on western gemfish at the November RAG meeting.	Malcolm Haddon CSIRO	By the November GABRAG meeting
11	5.1	GABIA to provide comments to AFMA on the Orange Roughy Research Plan 2016-20 out of session following a preliminary review of the plan by industry.	Christian Pyke with GABIA	By the November GABRAG meeting
12	5.1	Dr Kerrigan to circulate a copy of the western orange roughy outcomes from the March 2017 workshop and the additional outcomes on western orange roughy from the next SERAG meeting to the members of GABRAG for information to be further discussed by GABRAG at the November meeting.	Brigid Kerrigan AFMA AFMA Trawl Team	March workshop: as soon as practicable SERAG meeting: as soon as available
13	5.2	AFMA Observer section to examine the current vessel sampling plan for the GABTS and provide advice on an efficient way forward to potentially reduce the frequency of biological data collection without compromising the temporal spread of the data and ensuring the data is collected evenly across different vessels.	Nick Mammides AFMA Observer section	As soon as practicable

14	6.1	Mr Raptis to provide the current list of approved species into the Chinese market through the Australia/China Free Trade Agreement to Dr Kerrigan.	Jim Raptis Brigid Kerrigan AFMA	As soon as practicable
15	6.1	Dr Kerrigan to discuss with Dr Nick Rayns, Executive Manager of FMB and DFAT regarding the market access of GABT species to be included in the Australia/China Free Trade Agreement.	Brigid Kerrigan AFMA	As soon as practicable
16	6.3	Dr Brigid Kerrigan to provide information on budgets for research in the GAB to GABRAG with an itemisation of costs apportioned to the GABTF under the CSIRO budget for the project titled; Stock Assessment for the SESSF 2016-18	Brigid Kerrigan AFMA	As soon as practicable
17	7	AFMA to send out an online Doodle Poll for all RAG and MAC participants to indicated their preferred availability for 2 consecutive days for a RAG and MAC meeting in the week of 20-24 November.	Georgia Langdon AFMA	Immediately after this meeting

DRAFT Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector Annual Research Statement for 2018-19

The Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (GABTS) Annual Research Plan is developed by AFMA, in consultation with the Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG). In developing the Plan consideration is given to the broader Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Five Year Strategic Research Plan (SESSF Research Plan 2015-2020).

AFMA funding in 2018-19 (AFMA Research Committee; ARC)

Title	Objectives and component tasks	Evaluation		
		Total cost (\$) (approx. only)	Priority/ rank	Feasibility
CURRENT				
Assessment of target species	Conduct CPUE standardisation for Deepwater flathead	Low	Essential	High
	Conduct CPUE standardisation for Bight redfish	Low	Essential	High
ISMP data services contract	Conduct analysis and reporting of ISMP data and industry based sampling data	Low	Essential	High
Integrated Scientific Monitoring Program	2018 At-sea Observer Program & Logbooks	Med	Essential	High
Fish Ageing and length frequency	Undertake fish ageing and length frequency analysis	Low	Essential	High
Ecological Risk Assessment	Undertake ERA for GABTF (proposed for early 2018) – this cost will need to be included in the 2018/19 budget	Med	Med	Med
NEW				

Title	Objectives and component tasks	Evaluation		
		Total cost (\$) (approx. only)	Priority/ rank	Feasibility
Quantifying reductions of bycatch and discards in the GABTS	Undertake a desktop study comparing using logbook and observer data to compare historic discard rates versus recent discard rates following significant reductions of discards in the GABTS.	Med	High	High

FRDC funding in 2018-19 (Commonwealth Research Advisory Committee; ComRAC)

Title	Objectives and component tasks	Evaluation		
		Total cost (approx. only)	Priority/ rank	Feasibility
Examining factors which impact on the profitability of the GAB	Future proofing the GABTS – investigation of business models that maximise fishery economic returns to the Australian community	High	ComFRAB and FRDC approved	High

Cost

- High: >\$200,000
- Medium: \$100,000 - \$200,000
- Low: <\$100,000

Management priority categories

- Essential

- High
- Medium
- Low

Feasibility categories

- High
- Medium
- Low

