



## Meeting Minutes

### Agenda Item 1 – Preliminaries

#### 1.1 Welcome and Introductions/Apologies

Chair welcomed all members and invited participants - Mark Chambers (ABARES), Ben Maas (Skipper, FV Celtic Rose) and George Day (AFMA).

Chair noted that John Tisdell, George Day, Mark Chambers would have to leave early on day one (~3:00pm) and that Marcia Valente would be an apology for day two.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Interest

RAG members declared whether they had any potential conflicts of interest that may affect the RAG proceedings and agreed that there were no changes to be made to the standing declaration of interests (table below) and there were no issues with the industry members being present for the RBC deliberations. It is noted that each of the people noting conflicts of interests left the room while the RAG discussed if there were any issues if these members being present during the RBC discussions.

#### **GABRAG**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
Mr Lance Lloyd	GABRAG Chair – Principal Ecologist & Director of Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd, member of GABMAC and SESSFRAG
Dr Marcus Finn	AFMA - No pecuniary interest
Mr Anthony Moore	ABARES - Interest in sources of funding for research purposes, no personal pecuniary interest
Dr Ian Knuckey	Director Fishwell Consulting – Interest in sources of funding for research purposes, research for GABIA and a purveyor of electronic logbook systems
Ms Marcia Valente	GAB boat and quota SFR holder
Mr Jim Raptis	GAB boat and quota SFR holder
Mr Jeff Moore	GABIA EO - No pecuniary interest
Dr Neil Klaer	Employed by CSIRO - Interest in sources of funding for research purposes
Prof John Tisdell	Employed by the University of Tasmania
Mr Andrew Trappett	AFMA – GABRAG EO, No pecuniary interest

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### 1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Agenda was adopted with agreement to add an extra item in the afternoon session – discussion by Tim Ward from SARDI on seismic surveys and agreement to move John Tisdell's presentation on economics to the early afternoon.

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### 1.4 Actions arising from previous GABRAG meetings

The RAG reviewed the actions arising from previous meetings and updates given (**Attachment A**).

Regarding Action 12 (GABRAG 1/2013) "Trial the new provisions in Olfish for a period of time and report back to the RAG whether it is feasible for the crew to input this data into Olfish", the RAG noted difficulties in recording discards i.e. mixed species vs. individual species. The RAG noted the need to find out what the key discard species are that need to be accurately recorded to species level.

Regarding Action 14 (GABRAG 1/2013) "investigate the ISMP onboard data which is collected every financial year and why it isn't suitable to include in the Deepwater Flathead Assessment", the RAG noted that observer data appeared to be missing of the last four financial years with only two calendar years being available. The RAG agreed that Neil Klaer was to work with the AFMA Manager out of session to investigate what data is missing.

Regarding Action 28 (GABRAG 1/2013) "Ask crew member observers to collect Western Gemfish length frequency samples for additional input into the assessments to increase its strength", RAG noted that it would be ideal to update the relevant section of the vessel operations manual. GABIA is developing a flier on procedures with Andy Moore.

It was agreed that at this present RAG meeting:

- a list of key discards species which are to be identified in e-logs (rather than reported in mixed species in log books) and protocols for measuring are to be developed; and
- the GABIA Vessel Operations Manual is to be updated on how to measure length frequencies (section five).

<p><b>Action item 1 (2/2013):</b> AFMA Manager and Neil Klaer are to examine data and the ongoing issue of apparent missing data for last four financial years.</p>
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## Agenda Item 2 – Stock Assessments

### 2.1 Western Gemfish

The chair welcomed Ben Maas (skipper of CTS vessel Celtic Rose) in person and Sandy Morison (SlopeRAG) and Stuart Bell (GABTF skipper) to the Western Gemfish discussion via teleconference. An apology was noted from Simon Boag who was unable to dial in.

The RAG noted the "*Update of the Western Gemfish Tier 1 Assessment*" presentation had been further updated by Mark Chambers (Sun 24/11/13) and so the meeting would be the first time members had seen the final version.

Mark updated the RAG on action items that had been addressed since the last assessment:

- Line catches had now been included into the base case
- Additional work had been done to explore the estimation of catches based on the ratio of CDR:logbooks up to 2005,
- Mark had spoken to CTS operators about catches prior to 1992 (to investigate the chance that eastern gemfish catches had been reported as western gemfish during that period)
- New data was added into the base case model in a step-wise fashion.
- The most substantial change to the biomass estimates resulted from a length frequency sample size in 1997 that had not been down-weighted correctly. This oversight was corrected in the base case.
- The RAG showed some concerns over the model's sensitivity to a single year (1997) of length frequency samples that were not down-weighted.
- A number of years of western gemfish data from the GAB seemed to show a bimodal LF distribution. After discussions with skippers available to the meeting on their experiences in the fishery it appears possible that there could be spawning and non-spawning fish being taken at different times of the year.
- The RAG noted that the model did not fit early CPUE data from Zone 50 particularly well. Mark's discussions with Alan Campbell suggested that the high CPUE in the 80s and early 90s occurred because some skippers in the zone were targeting WG and had sufficient knowledge to ensure high catches during that period. Industry members suggested that commercial incentives to target western gemfish had largely been removed, and some key knowledge on how to effectively target aggregations had also gone from the fishery, affecting CPUE.
- Sandy Morrison noted that for many years SlopeRAG had noted differences between East and West Gemfish in diff in targeting spawning aggregation. Had considered that no targeting of West Gemfish spawning aggregations.

The RAG noted information from skippers of boats with experience fishing for western gemfish, including their information that there appeared to be two spawning aggregations in separate areas of the western gemfish stock.

The skippers noted that western gemfish seemed to aggregate to spawn through the summery (Nov-Feb) and again through the winter (Late May-July) in both the western (GAB) part of the fishery and the eastern (CTS) part of the fishery.

The skippers suggested that the western gemfish would aggregate on features approximately 200-250m deep to spawn, and then after they were spent would redistribute themselves broadly across the fishery (non-aggregated). Ben Maas (CTS) noted that the aggregations he targeted tended to be deeper than those discussed by Stewart, and that he found them on the bottom at about 500m through the day and sometimes 300-350m during the evening. He noted that they could not be targeted at night as they left the bottom and could not be taken by bottom trawl.

Both skippers noted that larger fish were taken when they were aggregated. Ben noted that he believed the stocks were very healthy, and that catches were low because there was little commercial incentive to target large catches and that many skippers no longer knew where and how to find aggregations.

When asked by the RAG how a spawning aggregation might be defined in the existing data, Ben suggested that it was very unlikely to have a shot of more than 500kg of western gemfish unless a boat was fishing an aggregation.

The RAG thanked both skippers for their valuable contributions to the discussion.

**RAG noted:**

- the difficulties in examining effects of non-spawning/ spawning aggregations given the amount of data available. Scientific members raised concerns about biology of species and that it might not physically be able to spawn twice in a year;
- the strong need to get samples from the winter spawning gemfish and submit any photos and details of fish caught in roe;
- that the FRDC biological project will aid data collection on this species – can try to examine when fish are aggregating,
- industry suggestion that there may be a spawning site in southern Tasmania

**Action item 2 (2/2013):** GABIA/ GABTF skipper

Skippers to provide whole western gemfish from any catches on winter spawning stock - any fish seen to be running ripe.

**Action item 3 (2/2013):** Mark Chambers

Mark Chambers to provide the actual output estimates of Western Gemfish model to Neil Klaer for examination.

The RAG noted the information provided by the skippers and the apparent bimodal distribution of many of the years of length frequency data, and expressed a need to examine the effect of stock structural issues on the model.

The crux of the concerns expressed by the RAG was whether a potential spawning/non-spawning component to the fishery affected CPUE indices (particularly if active targeting of aggregations in the early part of the fishery had largely ceased), and how the potential difference in size of fish taken from spawning and non-spawning fisheries would affect model outputs.

The RAG was comfortable that the Tier 1 assessment appeared to be functioning correctly based on the stock assumptions that were incorporated into the model, but noted that these assumptions did not currently account for a spawning and non-spawning fishery.

The RAG listed the work they thought would inform the model in future.

- CPUE– how does new data/understanding (based on skipper reports) of potential targeting fish for spawning vs incidental catch influence the model.
- Concerns over sensitivity to LF data weighting in 1997.

**Outcomes:**

The RAG noted that the Tier 1 assessment appeared to be functioning correctly given the stock assumptions used. The RAG also noted that given additional reports on location of spawning stocks refinement of the stock structure assumptions implicit in the model would be preferred before it is used to recommend an RBC (e.g. 1000kg qualifier for spawning stock catches, sensitivities of portions of the data).

The Tier 1 output gave an RBC of 676t for 2014.

The RAG discussed the suggestion that it could recommend a lower and more conservative RBC using the Tier 1 output (perhaps using an estimated value combination of Tier 4). However, the RAG agreed to use the Tier 4 RBC output as a basis for their recommendation because:

- While the Tier 4 was subject to the effect of the same stock structure assumptions to CPUE indices as the Tier 1, the relative simplicity of the Tier 4 made the issues more transparent;
- The operation of the Tier 4 did not rely on an estimation of biomass;

- The Tier 4 simply gave a current estimation of CPUE using the same assumptions as those applied to the reference period, and set catches that aimed to move the fishery back to that reference period;
- the reference period simply reflected an historical period in the fishery to use as a management target.

The RAG also noted other information available to them that illustrated the current status of the stock, including size and age compositions and that fact that catches are not approaching TAC – the species is well under caught due to market factors.

The RAG agreed to use the Tier 4 to set an RBC for the CTS area of the fishery.

The RAG agreed that there was little benefit in running the Tier 1 again until there was additional information available with which to update the stock structure assumptions.

**Table 66** RBC calculations for Western Gemfish.  $C_{\text{targ}}$  and  $CPUE_{\text{targ}}$  relate to the period 1992-2001,  $CPUE_{\text{Lim}}$  is 40% of the target, and  $CPUE$  is the average catch rate over the last four years. The RBC calculation does not account for predicted discards of predicted State catches. Only catches from zones 40 and 50 included.  $Wt\_Discard$  is the weighted average discards from the last four years, as with Equ (7).

Ref_Year	1992-2001
CE_Targ	0.8269
CE_Lim	0.3308
CE_Recent	1.0251
Wt_Discard	64.493
Scaling	1.3995
Last Year's TAC	94
$C_{\text{targ}}$	246.848

Using the RBC calculations the Tier 4 assessment would output an RBC of 345.468t

MYTAC: the RAG recommended using a consistent approach to setting a MYTAC to that used by other RAGs this year. For stocks that are above the catch target, that target should be used as the MYTAC. If MYTAC set ( $C_{\text{targ}}$  multiplied by a scaling factor of 1, minus discards) would be around 180t ( $246 \times 1 - 64.493$ ), making the RBC recommendation 246.868 t.

Ben Maas raised some concerns that increased dumping would occur based on a lower, more conservative MYTAC. Industry members were not comfortable giving advice on a MYTAC based on uncertainty and also on giving advice on what is a quota fishery in another fishery.

The AFMA member also raised the issue of setting a MYTAC at  $C_{\text{targ}}$  for western gemfish; noting that if  $C_{\text{targ}}$  was applied, the higher the CPUE multiplier for the stock (and so presumably, the higher the biomass), the larger the discount that would apply. The AFMA member noted that applying this rule to western gemfish would result in a multi-year RBC recommendation below the current TAC, even though the CPUE indices suggested that the stock was very healthy.

RAG recommended undercatch and overcatch provisions of 10 per cent.

RAG recommended that a research catch of 5 tonnes would be needed for the collection of samples.

## 2.3 Deepwater Flathead Stock Assessment (and 2.6 Danish Seine Information)

Neil Klaer presented the revised Tier 1 stock assessment (November 2013) to the RAG. The RAG noted:

- new version of data summary was used with the data now offset from calendar to financial year;
- a large number of onboard length frequencies was now used in model;
- biggest difference was the addition of new age and length data for most recent assessed year 2012/13;
- seems that AFMA observer section is not randomly sampling for age length data (needs to be randomly sampled);
- looking at most recent age-data, it seems that for some months too many otoliths are provided and for others months not enough otoliths (relative to catches);
- need to examine the representativeness of samples taken from zones 81, 82, 83 & 84 (probably not many fish taken from zones 81 and 84, mainly 82 and 83).
- the model estimates the catch for the current season is the same as 2012/13 (around ~1000t) with a standing biomass of 45 per cent – just above the target reference point.
- one difference – re-did standardisation of the CPUE to make a new index – found an extra 400t of catch due to eLogs in 2012/13
- 10/12, 11/12, 12/13 (action 14 GABRAG 1/2013 is still outstanding) have ISMP onboard sampling that appears to have gone missing?
- few changes were made to the model parameters from the previous assessment - except  $M$  value now used is .37.
- lengths used – maximum sample size set to 200.
- Sensitivities: steepness + or – 0.25,  $M$  0.19 to 0.27, age compositions weightings, length composition weighting, est. Recruitment 2007/08 (rather than 08/09, having no FIS at all
- Same selectivity is assumed for all fishing methods.

### Danish Seine vessel data:

The RAG had previously identified that the vessel now using the danish seine fishing method in the GAB fishery may provide extra data to inform the assessment. Neil advised that only one year of on-board data were available, and superficially appears similar to trawl data.

### Results:

GABRAG noted;

- potential change in availability of fish in some kind of a cycle (looking at model fit to CPUE);
- conflict between CPUE signals and most recent FIS in 2010/11 (FIS seems to be trying to 'pull' biomass down in recent years) something appears to be inconsistent in that one year. (page 22/36 of assessment);
- an apparent biomass 'dip' in the mid 2000's;
- the range of the error in spawning depletion (given data richness) (+/- 15%);
- the high recruitment values in recent years 2004 and 2006;
- that the model suggests that the 2008/09 recruitment event appeared to be lower in intensity than the rest (but still valid on recruitment deviation variance check).
  
- Base case estimates (based on female spawning biomass)  $SSB_0$  9,321t,  $SSB_{2014}$  4,200t,  $SSB_{2014}/SSB_0$  0.45, **RBC 1,146t**, RBC long term 1,016t

### MYTAC:

GABRAG reiterated comments made at previous RAG meetings on the suitability of Deepwater Flathead for MYTAC management arrangements.

Industry members were supportive of the three year MYTAC period but were cautious given that the upcoming seismic survey may have effects on Deepwater Flathead catches.

Projections under current assessment are:

2014/15 - 1,146t

2015/16 - 1,122t

2016/17 - 1,112t

RAG noted that the assessment has been significantly improved by thousands of additional length frequency data.

RAG reiterated that it has no concerns about the sustainability of the Deepwater Flathead stock.

Break out rules for MYTAC – if CPUE (or the FIS if conducted) increases outside the 95 % CI, it will trigger an examination and potential reassessment. RAG agrees to not implement the 10 % change limiting rule due to the implementation of the breakout rule and in the interests of cost efficiency.

RAG recommends overcatch and undercatch provisions of 10 per cent for the 2014-15 season. RAG recommends research catch allowance 20t when FIS goes ahead for Feb/March of 2015.

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## 2.4 Bight Redfish Stock Assessment

GABRAG noted that it had provided commentary at GABRAG 1/2013 on Bight Redfish, noting that it was on a MYTAC management arrangement. RAG stands by assessment of indicators from last meeting and the RBC recommendation made then.

Andy Moore showed the RAG catches of Bight Redfish by month for the last 5 years. Industry noted catches could be dependent on timing of full moon within each monthly period.

RAG noted issues of uncertainty with the assessment and also with the apparent catchability of Bight Redfish (only 11 per cent of TAC taken last season).

<b>Action item 4 2/2013:</b> RAG EO
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Minutes on Bight Redfish from GABRAG 1/2013 (31 Oct 2013) to be circulated out of session for more comments on Bight Redfish stock assessment update.
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## 2.5 Summary of Discards and Retained Catch for the GABTF

As an outcome from GABRAG 1/2013, Neil Klaer presented a summary of retained and discarded catch from observers for 2011/12 and 2012/13 (2012/13 was an incomplete data-set).

RAG noted that a number of species had with more than one tonne discarded for the 2011/12 fishing season: Barracuda, Deepwater Burrfish, Dogfishes, Gemfish, holothurians, Knifejaws, Latchet (9.5 t), Ocean Jacket (10t), piked spurdog (nearly 3t), skates 6t, fiddler (4t), sponge 2t, squid 2t, Stingarees & Giant stingaree (10t) etc.

Industry members noted that Jackass Morwong was discarded early in a trip as the quality was not so good at some times for cold storage.

RAG noted that in the current year 2012/13 a number of species also had discards in excess of 1t for the season: Latchet 14 t, Ocean Jackets 1t, Ornate Angelshark, Piked Spurdog, Southern Fiddler Ray, sponges 6t, squid 2t, wide stingaree 4t etc.

RAG considered that exact species identification (vs. basket identification) by observers might be an issue. Ian Knuckey noted that sponge discards appeared to be lower than expected.

**Action item 5 (2/2013):** Ian Knuckey

Ian Knuckey to graph discards from Neil Klaer's '*discards & retained catch analysis*' and compare to industry logbook data.

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**Agenda Item 3 – Non-quota species**

**3.1 Review of management arrangements for non-quota 'trigger' species (and 2.2 Western Gemfish Trigger Limits)**

RAG noted that both agenda items 2.2 and 3.1 would be combined for this discussion. The AFMA member queried whether the RAG had additional information at present to review triggers or enough new information to come up with different numbers.

GABIA informed the RAG that is was currently working with Andy to put together a new flier for GABTF crews on how to collect Western Gemfish data such as length frequency.

RAG noted that trigger limits were set in 2007 and that intention was to set 'flags' that would trigger data collection, as fishing develops.

Ian Knuckey notified the RAG that SEMAC have questioned justification of the triggers in their meetings. GABIA member Jeff Moore informed the RAG that the triggers were based on historic catches from the slope and based on these catches a reasonable trigger for the GABTF was developed.

RAG noted the two tonne cease-fishing limit for Gulper Sharks was very old and needs revisiting given new management measures and trip limits for deepwater gulpers are now in place.

RAG agreed to defer this review until further information was available and that GABIA would be best placed to investigate.

**Action item 6 (2/2013):** GABIA and RAG

GABIA to gather data on species with set trigger levels (such as distribution, range, area of fishery, how much is taken in area of SESSF); GABIA to supply to RAG out of session so the RAG may determine if the RAG needs to re-visit any of the current trigger levels.

## Agenda Item 4 – Economics

### 4.1 Presentation on "Transition to MEY Goals for the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery"

John gave an overview of the "Transition to MEY Goals for the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery" paper, outlined the economic dimensions of the model and suggestions on how the model developed by Tom Kompas could be improved in future.

The RAG noted:

- John's discussion that the inputs to the model were relatively simplistic;
- the inherent limitations on the extraction of biomass (a large biomass is available to the GABTF);
- the model could ideally build a time series and fuel costs and fish prices, and note changes in exchange rates.

Due to limited time, it was agreed that the RAG EO would circulate John's presentation out of session and that RAG members could give John their suggestions on how the model could be improved.

**Action item 7 (2/2013):** RAG EO to circulate presentation and John to take comments on how model could be improved to be more useful in future

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## Agenda Item 5 – Other business

### 5.1 Revised Policy – Fisheries Administration Paper No. 12 – RAGs

The AFMA member introduced the FAP 12 paper, noting that there were not significant changes, mainly refinements to the manner in which AFMA acquires information from its RAGs. The RAG agreed that some comments would be taken from members who had already read the document, and that others who had yet to consider it would make comment to AFMA out of session.

Comments from scientific member, Ian Knuckey:

- Recommending RBCs is not mentioned as one of the main roles of the RAG.
- UNCLOS duties – RAG members not well informed on UNCLOS responsibilities e.g. harvest control rules, dealing with data etc. this needs to be included in the document.
- need linkage (arrow on graph) from RAG to ARC (as do make prioritisation of research needs) on overview figure.

**Action item 8 (2/2013):** AFMA manager to email comments on FAP 12 taken from members at the meeting to the relevant AFMA section and note further comments from Neil Klaer will be submitted individually.

## **5.2 Options for Tier 5 approaches in the SESSF and identification of when data support for harvest strategies are inappropriate.**

GABRAG noted paper (taken as read) prepared by Neil Klaer on the current Tier 5 project to be finished mid 2014. Neil provided a brief update that many stocks currently have issues at the Tier 4 level with the unreliability of CPUE and lack of further options. A potential Tier 5 would be based mainly on catch. The review is examining worldwide fisheries (NZ, USA) that just use catch and biology of species (growth) for assessment purposes. Tier 5 still requires a period in the history of fishery where catches are considered stable. Another project in future will consider discount factors relative to this approach.

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## **5.3 Additional Agenda item: Tim Ward from SARDI to update RAG on seismic survey project with BP.**

Prior to the discussion with Tim Ward the RAG considered the following points to be of interest regarding the upcoming seismic survey work in the Bight and the work to be conducted by SARDI:

1. How can the GAB Fishery Independent Survey be of use to the research around the seismic survey?
2. Is there any funding in the seismic survey project to investigate the impacts (or lack of) of seismic survey on fish stocks?
3. Are there any extra functions that could easily be added to the FIS to be of more value during/after the seismic survey project?

Tim Ward updated the RAG, as leader of the GAB Research Program (a co-operative program between SARDI, Adelaide & Flinders Universities and BP) that SARDI was conducting an internal literature review (paid by SARDI) of what information was available on seismic survey effects. Tim clarified that SARDI was not engaged in any active work on seismic surveys. The scope of the GAB Research Program is wide ranging, mainly focused on Bight Ecology, Tim noted that Chevron have expressed interest in getting involved in the Bight ecological research program. Tim advised that the project objectives were to obtain a baseline understanding of community structure, abundance, distribution and that additional spatio-temporal data would be useful.

GABIA member noted that the behavioural impacts on fish had been hard to prove based on previous seismic testing. GABIA member noted that the GAB FIS would be occurring in the middle of the upcoming Chevron seismic surveys and queried what can be added to the design of the FIS that might value add to seismic survey (net monitors)?

Tim informed the RAG that a large amount of research funding had already been allocated and that the GAB survey data and water temperature depth profiles would be very useful in BP work and would be dependent on issues such as species identification, quantification etc. Ian Knuckey advised Tim and the RAG that the FIS was able to identify ~98% of GAB species to individual species level. Tim suggested that collaboration may be an option (need to know data and constraints) with potential for in-kind salaries, access to data and opportunities to assist in writing up. Tim further suggested that the national research vessel RV Explorer might be used and collaboration between this, commercial fishing boats and charter vessels may be beneficial.

GABIA member queried about a past instance where BP had fitted noise loggers to GABTF nets at various depths fished and that GABIA had so far been unable to access the data. Tim responded that this was likely to be a confidentiality issue. Some RAG members agreed to send Tim any papers to assist the SARDI literature review (to be released early 2014).

RAG were concerned (if a collaboration went ahead) about the provision of FIS data to SARDI and data ownership. Tim advised that more information is available by Google searching "GAB MESA".

**Action item 9 2/2013:** AFMA Member

AFMA Manager to check issues regarding FIS data collection and confidentiality issues and feasibility of the use of this data to inform SARDI seismic survey review.

The RAG agreed subject to issues related to FIS data collection and confidentiality to collaborate with SARDI to analyse and jointly publish the FIS data.

**DAY ONE - meeting closed at 6:00pm**

**Great Australian Bight Resource  
Assessment Group (GABRAG) 2  
25-26 November 2013  
Day 2  
Adelaide**

**Day two - meeting opened at 8:45 hrs**

**Introduction to day two – research workshop**

RAG chair welcomed members and noted the day's focus would be discussion on research priorities, strategic research directions and bycatch and discard work plan for the fishery.

Chair noted that Marcia Valente and John Tisdell were apologies for day two of the meeting. Day two attendees – Neil Klaer, Andy Moore, Ian Knuckey, Jim Raptis, Jeff Moore, Marcus Fin, Lance Lloyd, Andrew Trappett.

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**Bycatch and Discard Final Report**

GABIA and the AFMA member introduced the draft final GABTF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan Final Report – November 2012, and advised that comments would be taken at the meeting and it would be circulated out of session to be then finalised and published on the AFMA website in December. The RAG provided comment against each of the Actions (strategies) listed in the workplan as follows:

**Introduction:** RAG considered there was extra background info with relevant facts and figures in the actual work plan that should be carried over to the final report.

**Action item 10 (2/2013):** AFMA Member

AFMA to expand the background of the B&D final report with info from B&D work plan, particularly facts and figures.

**Action 1:** *Analysis of ISMP and industry recorded bycatch and discard rates*

Ian Knuckey advised the RAG the fishery would need to address increased concern from CITES around bycatch of chondrichthyans and would be well served by improving exact species identification of skates and rays.

RAG wanted to recommend to AFMA that based on the CSIRO report "Informing the B&D review" and feedback received by individual members from DAFF & SEWPaC, that there was an apparent lack of consistency in the observer data available e.g. difficulties in constructing a five year time series of seabird interaction rates. RAG recommended to AFMA and the AFMA Observer Program the need to improve consistency in 1) recording of species to individual species level, 2) the recording of wildlife interactions i.e. what constitutes an interaction/frequency and 3) how interactions with gear are recorded.

**Action item 11 (2/2013):** Ian Knuckey  
Ian to provide updated graphs for B&D final report based on ISMP data

**Action 2:** *Trials of Tyberon No.15 boards*

RAG considered the report on this action to be adequate.

**Action 3:** *Net configuration trials*

**Action item 12 (2/2013):** AFMA  
AFMA to include some figures from the the Fishwell T-90 mesh configuration paper in the Bycatch and Discard Final Report.

**Action 4:** *Analysis of combined ISMP and industry recorded bycatch and discard data on Sharks, Stingaree, Rays & Skates to understand the spatial and temporal catches.*

RAG scientific members considered that the current data available are not sufficient to allow a detailed spatio-temporal investigation of bycatch of these species.

**Action item 13 (2/2013):** Ian Knuckey  
Ian to provide some reporting on skates and rays from ISMP data for RAG consideration.

**Action item 14 (2/2013):** CSIRO  
RAG recommends that CSIRO perform an analysis of industry and ISMP recorded catches of shark and rays in the GABTF.

The RAG discussed bycatch utilisation, and in particular, the feasibility of the GABTF moving to become a no-discards fishery through the utilisation of on-board fish meal processing of bycatch species. RAG noted issues with the potential 'mincing' of quota species and the difficulties in decrementing these catches.

**Action item 15 (2/2013):** Ian Knuckey  
Ian to investigate the feasibility of submitting a tactical research fund application to assess the possibility of GABTF moving to a zero discard fishery (desktop study).

**Action 5:** *Commission a study to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the biology and population dynamics of latchet and ocean jackets*

**Action item 16 (2/2013):** Andy Moore  
Andy Moore to obtain an update from PhD student currently studying ocean jackets/latchet and provide to RAG.

**Action 6: Develop projects to better utilise major byproduct species in the fishery**

Industry and scientific members noted the need for 'seed' funding to develop a market for byproduct species and to address the issues in accessing markets.

Industry member Jim Raptis, updated the RAG on his efforts and investigations into market development for byproduct species such as Latchet and improving quality through one small cold-chain study to better chill fish more quickly Jim also updated the RAG on his self-imposed vessel trip limits for byproduct species based on his markets e.g. Latchet two tonne trip limit. Jim also expressed his desire to set up a training course for skippers and crew to build their knowledge and capacity.

RAG considered the idea that species such as Latchet might be marketed for surimi or sashimi but would need an extensive, well focused marketing plan to gain ground in existing markets and reach all sectors.

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**Priorities for new bycatch and discard work plan (2014-16)**

GABRAG discussed the key projects to be included in the next Bycatch & Discards work plan. The RAG identified the following five B&D issues to be addressed:

1. Improve skipper consistency in reporting bycatch and discards species and TEP interactions
2. Improve teleost and chondrichthyan reporting to species level
3. Ensure an agreed and consistent framework is in place to record species interactions
4. Sustainable utilisation of bycatch and by-product species
5. Minimise seabird interactions in the GABTF.

GABRAG completed a table of priorities for the new work plan (to be completed by AFMA with RAG input) tabled at **ATTACHMENT B**.

**Action item 17 (2/2013):** AFMA, GABIA, RAG

AFMA to complete draft of 2014-16 Bycatch and Discard Workplan with GABIA input and circulate to RAG for comment.

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**Additional agenda item: Identification of priority discards species for GABIA Operational Procedures Manual**

GABRAG considered what species should be included on the GABIA Vessel Operational Procedures manual (section four of the manual which is in need of review) as high priority species. The RAG also wanted some extra information on what would be the most appropriate species to add to the e-logs software to improve accuracy of reporting catch and discards.

**Action item 18 (2/2013):** Ian Knuckey

Ian Knuckey to provide GABRAG with a brief analysis of main species caught, spp discarded, quota species caught, sharks & rays, stingarees and sponges based on ISMP data, to inform which species should be detailed in section four of the GABIA Operational Procedures Manual and for e-log reporting of discards.

## **GABTF future research and assessment priorities plan**

GABRAG considered future research priorities and potential projects. RAG discussed previous priorities for research and considered progress against them:

- 1) Conducting the FIS (completed)
- 2) Western Gemfish (completed – FRDC project in process and contingent on getting samples from industry)
- 3) Evaluation of the FIS (in progress)
- 4) Researching economic efficiency (maximise returns to Australian Community)

Industry member Jim Raptis provided the RAG with an update on his considerations on how the fishery can best move towards MEY including;

- Maximising the efficiency of vessel, plant and equipment
- Improved net design – reduced weight and reduced drag - offers fuel savings and reduced carbon emissions
- Improved product quality – washing catch to remove bacteria, stainless steel receptacle for catch on back deck
- Changing the industry standard size fish bins to 25 or 20kg bins to improve how quickly the centre of the fish bin can be chilled.
- Shelter over deck to improve conditions for catch and crew.

Consideration was given by the RAG to potentially conducting a supply chain analysis.

Scientific member, Ian Knuckey, considered that priority for the GAB industry should be investigating marketing based on MSC certification for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish

RAG discussed the perceived lack of image / media attention that the fishery receives and the lack of knowledge of Bight trawlers among Adelaide community. Industry members considered that the Australian seafood industry as a whole needs to raise profile, build image and improve perception of Australian seafood.

### **Action item 19 (2/2013):** Whole of RAG

Based on Dec 2012 report and RAG discussions at GABRAG 2/2013, develop a statement of short term research priorities to go to CommFRAB's May meeting that will hopefully lead to calls for interest. The statement is to address these priorities: 1) Bycatch & Discards – improving utilisation of bycatch species, 2) positioning the fishery to take advantage of MSC certification (marketing). 3) develop improved quality of product 4) conduct a supply chain study 5) invest in improving people 6) invest in improved OH&S

RAG further updated the table of strategic research priorities (**ATTACHMENT C**)

- RAG noted potential benefits of looking at biological data collected on Orange Roughy, pending the conservation review.
- RAG considered that the research sub-committee (ABARES, AFMA, Industry, Ian) should be run every year before the RAG meeting to consider research issues.

### **Action item 20 (2/2013):** RAG EO

RAG to produce a two page table with future strategic priorities and B&D work plan projects combined.

The RAG noted ongoing concern amongst industry on the impacts of seismic survey on fish catches and Great Australian Bight ecology in general. The RAG expressed the need to explore opportunities for research projects that could clarify potential impacts.

GABRAG recommended that a review needed to made of ISMP data after 2014 survey has been completed and after refinements have been made (seabird observations, recording to species level etc.) in line with RAG comments to AFMA.

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## Research catch allowances

### Meeting outcome:

- **RAG advised AFMA** that in its TAC setting process that research catch allowance is required for Bight Redfish, Deepwater Flathead and any other quota spp caught in the GAB FIS (particularly shark species)
  - **RAG recommended** that the GAB Orange Roughy research catch allowance be rolled over for the 2014/15 fishing season as part of the approved GAB Orange Rough research program.
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## Meeting close and final points

GABRAG noted:

- that the research workshop component of the meeting had been productive – RAG agreed to hold one every year;
- that Andy Moore will send any Western Gemfish project updates to the RAG out of session;
- extra work on Western Gemfish assessment (by Neil Klaer) is to be sent to RAG for approval out of session;

### **Action item 21 (2/2013):** Neil Klaer

Neil is to send extra work on Western Gemfish Tier 1 assessment to be sent to GABRAG for approval and comment out of session.

- next meeting planned for ~October 2014 (TBA);
- a list of actions arising from this meeting is tabled at **Attachment D**.

**Meeting closed 1:45pm.**

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## Attachment A – Update on actions arising following GABRAG 2/2013

Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
<i>GABRAG 2 – 3 December 2012</i>			
1. Write to FRDC on behalf of the RAG for more information on the seismic survey project.	Ian Knuckey	Out of Session	Complete.
2. Present RAG members a summary of discards and retained catch for GABTF quota and non-quota species based on observer data.	Ian Knuckey and Neil Klaer	Ongoing	Complete
3. Provide comment on the GAB Harvest Strategy Decision Rules standalone section.	GABIA	Out of Session	Complete
4. Update GABTF Operation Manual, Slope Species Sampling and amend 5b sampling size from 100 samples from a 50 kg catch to 100 sample from a roughly 300 kg catch (its ok for Gemfish and Blue Grenadier but it's not ok for the other species).	AFMA Manager and GABIA	Out of Session	In progress
5. Forward gear type and configuration time line to Neil Klaer.	Jeff Moore	Out of Session	?
<i>GABRAG Research Workshop – 3 December 2012</i>			
1. Prepare a short paper for the next RAG meeting summarising the MEY study and suggest some of the potential break out rules e.g. prices of fish and steepness.	GABIA	Out of session	In progress. Had intended to discuss at 2/2013.
<i>GABRAG 1 – 31 October 2013</i>			
1. Ensure that crew data is being submitted to CSIRO in a suitable database for input into the stock assessments. As a one off project paid by GABIA, the GABTF crew data was sent to Matt Koopman from Fishwell to enter into a database suitable for CSIRO. A similar process needs to be put in place for all of the SESSF.	AFMA Manager	Out of Session	Ongoing – long term.
2. Provide a data summary on the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF and forward logbook and observer data to Ian Knuckey.	Neil Klaer	Out of Session	In progress
3. Examine logbook and observer data to obtain catch composition, length frequencies and trip summary of the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF, to investigate if this vessels catch is representative of a trawl vessels catch or does it differ.	Ian Knuckey	Out of session	In progress
4. Organise observers on the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF one trip a	AFMA Manager	Out of session	In progress

Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
year.			
5. Liaise with Tony Muollo the owner of the Danish seine vessel to obtain crew length frequency samples for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish.	GABIA	Out of session	In progress (Jeff spoke to skipper and happy to do so).
6. Include an agenda item on Western Gemfish triggers at the next RAG meeting for members to discuss whether they remain suitable with the additional information received over the past few years.	EO	25 November	Ongoing. (RAG considered need more info to consider triggers)
7. Provide further context on T-90 in the GABTF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan – Final Report and the new 2013-15 Workplan.	Jeff Moore and Jim Raptis	Out of Session	Complete
8. Ask Professor Bronwyn Gillanders from University of Adelaide for any information on cuttlefish and forward information to the RAG and AFMA. This is due to cuttlefish remaining High Risk in ERA due to limited data.	Jeff Moore	Out of Session	Not complete.
9. Examine the FIS and ISMP data for information on cuttlefish and catches recorded.	Ian Knuckey	Out of Session	Partially complete – FIS examined and not much info.
10. Encourage the Danish seine vessel to utilise e-logs	GABIA	Out of Session	Complete
11. Install a provision on the new version of Olfish to record discards and length frequencies.	Ian Knuckey	Early 2014	In progress. Waiting on AFMA docs.
12. Trial the new provisions in Olfish for a period of time and report back to the RAG whether it is feasible for the crew to input this data into Olfish.	Industry	Out of Session	Ongoing.
13. Regularly check GABTF data sheets submitted to ensure accuracy and report back monthly individual vessel performance to Jeff Moore.	AFMA Manager	Ongoing	Ongoing.
14. Investigate the ISMP onboard data which is collected every financial year and why it isn't suitable to include in the Deepwater Flathead assessment.	Neil Klaer and AFMA Manager	25 November	Ongoing
15. Amend the data offset in the Deepwater Flathead assessment from financial year to calendar year as lengths are collected per calendar year not financial year.	Neil Klaer	25 November	Complete.
16. Investigate the average discard of 100 kg in the GAB mid shore that has been recorded	AFMA Manager	25 November	In progress.

Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
for two shots in the 2012 calendar year.			
17. Undergo the base case assessment without the addition of the 2008 recruitment and setting the final estimate recruitment value to 2007.	Neil Klaer	25 November	Complete.
18. Provide the RAG members catches of Bight Redfish by month for the last five years.	Andy Moore	25 November	Complete.
19. Liaise with Malcolm Haddon to check if the data in the draft SESSF Catch Rate Standardization 1986-2012 document is correct and consider the outcome at the next meeting.	Neil Klaer	25 November	Complete.
20. Coordinate with industry samples of Western Gemfish including otoliths, fin clips, length measurements and gonads to be utilised in the stock structure project.	Andy Moore	Out of session	In progress. Some fin clips received.
21. Investigate and report back to the RAG what sectors/areas of the SESSF are catching Western Gemfish at depths of 120 m.	Neil Klaer	25 November	Complete.
22. Include as a sensitivity the annual ratio of CDR to logbook up until and including 2005 and apply it to those years that don't have CDR data and report back to the RAG if there is a trend.	Mark Chambers	25 November	Complete
23. Include line catch by zone to the Western Gemfish assessment.	Mark Chambers	25 November	Complete.
24. Liaise with CTS operators in Portland that were catching Western Gemfish prior to 1992 and match the anecdotal evidence with the logbooks. If identified through liaison that the catches are consistent then the assessment will included catches prior to 1992, if the catches are inconsistent then the assessment will remove the catches prior to 1992.	Mark Chambers and Andy Moore	25 November	In progress. Some operators contacted – reported that they felt catches weren't elevated.
25. Ian Knuckey to send Neil Klaer additional data on Western Gemfish length frequency samples for 2011. Neil Klaer to forward on the data to Mark Chambers.	Ian Knuckey and Neil Klaer	15 November	Complete. Some issues with getting all of the data.
26. Include the additional 2011 length data for Western Gemfish in the assessment.	Mark Chambers	25 November	Complete.
27. Include in a step wise way; length frequency, catch rate and age data by year for the last two years to the Western Gemfish assessment.	Mark Chambers	25 November	Complete.
28. Ask crew member observers to collect	Jim Raptis	Out of session	Complete.

Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
Western Gemfish length frequency samples for additional input into the assessments to increase its strength.			Need clarification on LF process in vessel ops manual.
29. Review the Tom Kompas report for a more fulsome MEY discussion at the next RAG meeting	John Tisdell	25 November	Complete
30. Add 'obtain further information on cuttlefish' as an action item in the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan for 2013-15.	EO	Out of session	Ongoing.
31. Provide the RAG with a paper on the Tier 5 project at the next meeting	Neil Klaer	25 November	Complete.
32. Include a research workshop on the 26 November, following the RAG meeting on the 25 November.	EO	25 November	Complete
33. Invite Sandy Morrison and Simon Boag, as representatives from the CTS, to the next RAG meeting via phone link to discuss Western Gemfish, the CTS has allocated Western Gemfish quota.	EO	25 November	Complete

<b>GABRAG Watch List</b>			
1. Provide clarification on Gemfish biology and if there is a central spawning area or two different stocks.	Andy Moore	Out of Session	Ongoing
2. Include skates and rays as a discard species group to the Olfish program.	Ian Knuckey	Out of Session	Delayed until the new system is in place.
3. Organise a meeting to discuss Jeff Moore's information on the purpose served by the fisheries closures being superseded by the Commonwealth Marine Parks, as it should be considered as part of the habitat and communities project.	AFMA Manager	Out of Session	Pending, closure reviews are being conducted for SET and GHT. A similar review can be completed for GAB if required.
4. Investigate labeling and marketing for Bight Products.	GABIA	Out of Session	
5. Liaise with Kyne Krusic Golub from Fish Ageing Services for otoliths, Jeff Moore for fin clips and Neil Klaer for annual frequencies by age.	Gary Jackson from WA Fisheries	Prior to the end of 2013	
6. Provide the raw data obtained from the research undertaken in WA of Bight Redfish on the otoliths collected from the	Gary Jackson from WA Fisheries	Out of Session	

Commonwealth GABTF to AFMA.			
7. Attend a GABRAG meeting to provide members with a presentation on the results upon completion.	Gary Jackson from WA Fisheries	Out of Session	

**Missing items: (RAG agreed - all addressed at GABRAG 1/2013 or 2/2013)**

*Action Item 16* – Neil Klaer to undergo the base case assessment for Deepwater Flathead without the addition of the 2008 recruitment and setting the final estimate recruitment value to 2007.

*Action Item 18* - Neil Klaer to speak to Malcolm Haddon to check if the data in the draft SESSF Catch Rate Standardization 1986-2012 document is correct and consider the outcome at the next meeting.

*Action item 20:* Mark Chambers to include as a sensitivity the annual ratio of CDR to logbook up until and including 2005 and apply it to those years that don't have CDR data and report back to the RAG if there is a trend.

## ATTACHMENT B - Strategies for GABTF 2014-16 Bycatch and Discard Workplan

Work to be completed in next 12 months	Risk/issue to be addressed	Timeframe	Performance indicators	Milestones
<p>Skipper training</p> <p>Develop a series of youtube videos to show skippers and crew how to record B&amp;D and wildlife interactions on e-logs</p> <p>Investigate capacity of e-logs to meet req for TEP reporting</p>	<p>Improve skipper consistency in reporting bycatch and discards species and TEP interactions</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> round - June/July</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> round - 4<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>Audit of crew collected data against ISMP (1<sup>st</sup> year) (compare 2<sup>nd</sup> year)</p>	<p>Workshops run for all GABTF crews Silver Phoenix (Pt Lincoln), Adelaide (3 vessels)</p>
<p>ISMP refinement</p>	<p>Improve teleosts and chondrichthyans reporting to spp level</p> <p>Agreed and consistent framework for spp interactions</p>	<p>Early 2014</p>	<p>T and C reported to spp level where possible</p> <p>Enabling time series reporting of spp. interactions</p>	<p>Advice to AFMA</p>
<p>Investigate the feasibility of a zero discards fishery</p>	<p>Sustainable utilisation of bycatch and by-product spp</p>	<p>End 2014 for funding application</p> <p>End 2015 (funding dependent)</p>	<p>Funding application submitted</p> <p>Feasibility study completed</p>	<p>TRF application</p> <p>Desktop study</p>
<p>Developing a market for under-utilised spp (such as latchet)</p>	<p>Sustainable utilisation of bycatch and by-product spp</p>	<p>End 2015</p>	<p>Proportion of latchet retained has increased</p>	<p>ID current projects on bycatch util. Establish links</p>
<p>Ensure seabird management plans and mitigation measures are properly implemented</p>	<p>Seabird interactions</p>	<p>End 2015 (ongoing)</p>	<p>SMP are implemented</p>	<p>Report on observer observations of SMP</p>

ATTACHMENT C – GABTF future research and assessment priorities plan (Nov 2013 update)

		2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<b>Bight Redfish*</b>	TAC	2,000t	1,653t	1,556	2,334t	2,358t	2,358t	TBC			
	Assessment	✓	x	✓	x	x	X	✓	x	X	
<b>Deepwater Flathead*</b>	TAC	1,300t	1,100t	1,500t	1,560t	1150	1150	MYTAC	MYTAC	TBC	
	Assessment	x (update)	✓	x	✓	✓	x	X	✓	x	
<b>Western Gemfish</b>	Assessment				✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	
<b>Western Gemfish</b>	Stock structure project					✓	✓				
<b>Orange Roughy</b>	Assessment				x	x	Review data	x	x	x	
<b>FIS</b>		x	✓	x	x	x	✓	?	?	?	?
<b>Research Workshop/sub-group</b>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>MEY Study</b>		Developed				Review sensitivity	Examine breakouts				
<b>MSE/FIS Review</b>					x	✓**	✓***	✓			
<b>GABIA Length Measurements</b>	Industry onboard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>ISMP (onboard)<sup>1</sup></b>		x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
(onshore quota otoliths)		✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x
<b>Slope Species Monitoring</b> (onshore non quota LF & otoliths)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Byproduct Monitoring</b>						Latchet?	Ocean Jacket?	Ornate Angel?	Stingaree?		
<b>BYCATCH</b>	Seabird Management Plans	Developed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>LOGBOOK (e-logs &amp; paper)</b>	(discards recording)	Monitoring ✓	Audit ✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>RAG (meetings)</b>		2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	
<b>MAC (meetings)</b>		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

<sup>1</sup> Calendar year, not financial year    \*\*SARDI evaluation of GAB FIS    \*\*\*SESSF strategic review

**ATTACHMENT D – Actions arising from current meeting (GABRAG 2/2013)**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Action Person</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<i>GABRAG 2 / 2013 (25-26 November)</i>			
1. AFMA Manager and Neil Klaer are to examine data and the ongoing issue of apparent missing data for last four financial years.	Neil Klaer, AFMA Manager	Ongoing	
2. Skippers to provide whole western gemfish from any catches on winter spawning stock - any fish seen to be running ripe.	GABIA, GABTF skippers	Ongoing	
3. Mark Chambers to provide the actual output estimates of Western Gemfish model to Neil Klaer for examination.	Mark Chambers	ASAP	
4. Minutes on Bight Redfish from GABRAG 1/2013 (31 Oct 2013) to be circulated out of session for more comments on Bight Redfish stock assessment update.	RAG EO	ASAP	
5. Ian Knuckey to graph discards from Neil Klaer's 'discards & retained catch analysis' and compare to industry logbook data.	Ian Knuckey	Out of session	
6. GABIA to gather data on species with set trigger levels (such as distribution, range, area of fishery, how much is taken in area of SESSF); GABIA to supply to RAG out of session so the RAG may determine if the RAG needs to re-visit any of the current trigger levels.	GABIA & RAG	Out of session	
7. RAG EO to circulate presentation and John to take comments on how model could be improved to be more useful in future	John Tisdell & EO	Out of session	
8. AFMA manager to email comments on FAP 12 taken from members at the meeting to the relevant AFMA section and note further comments from Neil Klaer will be submitted individually.	AFMA Manager & RAG members	ASAP (Comments close 1 <sup>st</sup> week December)	
9. AFMA manager to check issues regarding FIS data collection and confidentiality issues and feasibility of the use of this data to inform SARDI seismic survey review The RAG agreed subject to issues related to FIS data collection and confidentiality to collaborate with SARDI to analyse and jointly publish the FIS data.	AFMA Manager	December 2013-January 2014	
10. AFMA to expand the background and the Bycatch and Discard Final Report with info from the B&D workplan (facts and figures)	AFMA Member	December 2013	

Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
11. Ian to provide updated graphs for Bycatch and Discard final report	Ian Knuckey	December 2013	
12. AFMA to include some figures from the Fishwell T-90 mesh configuration paper in the Bycatch and Discard final report.	AFMA Member	December 2013	
13. Ian to provide some reporting on skates and rays from ISMP data for RAG consideration	Ian Knuckey	Out of session	
14. RAG to recommend that CSIRO perform and analysis of industry and ISMP recorded catches of sharks and rays in the GABTF	Chair & CSIRO	Out of session	
15. Ian Knuckey to investigate the feasibility of submitting a tactical research fund application to assess the possibility of GABTF moving to a zero discard fishery	Ian Knuckey	Out of session	
16. Andy Moore to obtain an update from PhD student on study of Ocean Jackets & Latchet ecology and provide to RAG	Andy Moore	Out of session	
17. AFMA to complete draft of 2014-16 Bycatch and Discard Workplan with GABIA input and circulate to RAG for comment	AFMA (& GABIA & RAG)	December 2013	
18. Ian Knuckey to provide GABRAG with an analysis of main GABTF species caught, spp discarded, sharks & rays, stingarees and sponges based on ISMP data, to inform which species should be detailed in section four of the GABIA Operational Procedures Manual and for e-log reporting of discards.	Ian Knuckey	Out of session	
19. Based on Dec 2012 report and RAG discussions at GABRAG 2/2013, develop a statement of short term research priorities to go to CommFRAB's May meeting that will hopefully lead to calls for interest. The statement is to address these priorities: 1) Bycatch & Discards – improving utilisation of bycatch species, 2) positioning the fishery to take advantage of MSC certification (marketing). 3) develop improved quality of product 4) conduct a supply chain study 5) invest in improving people 6) invest in improved OH&S	Whole of RAG	Out of session	
20. RAG to produce a two page table with future strategic priorities and B&D work plan projects combined.	RAG EO	Out of session	
21. Neil is to send extra work on Western Gemfish Tier 1 assessment to be sent to GABRAG for approval and comment out of session.	Neil Klaer	ASAP	

