



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery - Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG)



GABRAG 31 OCTOBER 2013
PORT LINCOLN

MINUTES

The first Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group (GABRAG) meeting for 2013 was held in Port Lincoln on 31 October 2013.

Attendees

Members

Mr Lance Lloyd, Chair
Dr Marcus Finn, AFMA Member
Ms Marcia Valente, Industry Member
Mr Jeff Moore, Industry Member, GABIA
Dr Neil Klaer, Scientific Member, CSIRO
Mr Andy Moore, Scientific Member, ABARES
Dr Ian Knuckey, Scientific Member, Fishwell Consulting
Mr John Tisdell, Scientific Member (Economist), University Tasmania
Ms Karen Dalli, Executive Officer GABRAG, AFMA

Observers

Mr Jim Raptis, Industry
Mr George Day, AFMA
Mr Mark Chambers, ABARES
Dr Gary Jackson, WA Fisheries

The meeting opened at 8:55 am.

Agenda Item 1 - Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Lance Lloyd (the Chair) opened the meeting at 8:55 am and welcomed members and observers. The Chair noted that in keeping with normal practice, the meeting would be recorded to assist with preparation of the minutes.

1.2 Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked the RAG members to declare any interests and acquire the agreement of the meeting that no individual's personal interest is being served by participation.

Participant	Interest Declared
Mr Lance Lloyd, Chair	Principal Ecologist at Lloyd Environmental, no pecuniary interest
Dr Marcus Finn, AFMA Manager	Employed by AFMA, no pecuniary interest
Ms Karen Dalli, AFMA, GABRAG EO	Employed by AFMA, no pecuniary interest
Dr Ian Knuckey, Scientific Member	Director Fishwell Consulting, interest in sources of funding for research purposes, research work for GABIA and a purveyor of electronic logbook systems, scientific advice and dealings to GABIA on an ad hoc basis
Dr Neil Klaer, Scientific Member	Employed by CSIRO – Interest in sources of funding for research purposes
Ms Marcia Valente, Industry Member	GAB boat and quota SFR holder
Mr Jeff Moore, Industry Member	Great Australian Bight Industry Association (GABIA) EO, board member of Commonwealth Fisheries Association and industry liaison officer for Commonwealth Marine Reserves
Dr Andy Moore, Scientific Member	Employed by ABARES - Interest in sources of funding for research purposes
Prof John Tisdell, Scientific Member (Economist)	Employed by University of Tasmania, no pecuniary interest
Mr Jim Raptis, Invited participant	GAB boat and quota SFR holder
Dr Gary Jackson, Invited participant	Employed by WA Fisheries, principle research scientist, no pecuniary interest
Mr Mark Chambers, Observer	Employed by CSIRO, interested in funding for research projects
Mr George Day, Observer	Employed AMA, no pecuniary interest



1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Members adopted the draft agenda with the addition of the following amendments.

- Agenda item 2 to include Ian Knuckey's presentation on length frequency information.
- Agenda Item 2.4 to include Mark Chambers discussing the Tier 1 assessment
- Agenda item 5.1 to read 'outcomes of GABRAG meetings'
- Agenda item 6 to include a discussion on the impacts on the fishery and economics of the seismic surveys

1.4 Actions arising from previous RAG meetings

GABRAG 2 – 3 December 2012 - Action Items

1. EO to produce rolling calendar for RAG Chair and members. **Status: Ongoing**
2. Chair to lodge a letter to Nick Rayns, AFMA Executive Manager Fisheries from members on the impracticality on the declaration of interest. **Status: Redundant** (This issue is being addressed by AFMA for all RAGs)
3. AFMA Manager to organise a teleconference with GABRAG members, SESSFRAG members, Simon Boag, Sandy Morison, AFMA data team, AFMA observer team including Mike Yates and Industry members. **Status: Complete** (in the GABTF)

Action item 1: AFMA Manager

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.

4. AFMA Manager to forward on bycatch data and observer report from the observer coverage on the GABTF Danish Seine vessel. **Status: Complete** (12 day trip out of Ceduna)

Action item 2: Neil Klaer

Provide a data summary on the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF and forward logbook and observer data to Ian Knuckey.

Action item 3: Ian Knuckey

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.

Action item 4: AFMA Manager

Organise observers on the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF one trip a year.

Action item 5: Industry

Liaise with Tony Muollo the owner of the Danish seine vessel to obtain crew length frequency samples for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish.



5. Andy Moore to provide clarification on Gemfish biology and if there is a central spawning area or two different stocks. **Status: Ongoing**
6. Neil Klaer to provide fishery effort breakdown in the GABTF by fishery/operations/year. **Status: Complete**
7. Neil Klaer to provide a progress report on the cost/risk/catch project in February 2013, noting Jeff Moore's request to have industry and AFMA involvement in the project. **Status: Complete**
8. Ian Knuckey to write to FRDC on behalf of the RAG for more information on the seismic survey project. **Status: Incomplete**
9. EO to update and finalise GABRAG 1 – November 2012 minutes. **Status: Complete**
10. AFMA Manager and Jeff Moore to provide protocols for the GABTF ISMP data collection. **Status: Complete**
11. AFMA Manager to investigate whether there are more than 148 Bight Redfish age samples for 2010/11 in the most recent Bight Redfish stock assessment. **Status: Complete** (432 samples collected 2010/11. 283 of these from FIS)
12. AFMA Manager to investigate high discard rates of Western Gemfish. Status: **Complete** (ISMP discard rate based on observed data)

Action item 6: EO

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.

13. Ian Knuckey to add skates and rays as a discard species group to the Olfish program. **Status: Incomplete** (delayed until the new system is in place)
14. Ian Knuckey and Neil Klaer to present RAG members a summary of discards and retained catch for GABTF quota and non-quota species based on observer data. **Status: In progress**
15. The Chair and Jeff Moore to contact out of session and discuss whether there should be a separate GABRAG submission for the Review of the Harvest Strategy Policy. **Status: Complete** (decided that there wasn't a need to submit one from GABRAG)
16. GABIA to provide comment on the GAB Harvest Strategy Decision Rules standalone section. **Status: Incomplete**
17. AFMA Manager and GABIA to 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). **Status: In progress**
18. Brad Milic to update documents and provide further context on T-90 in the workplan documents and that T-90 is mandatory. **Status: Superseded** (Action Item 7)

Action item 7: Jeff Moore and Jim Raptis

Provide further context on T-90 in the GABTF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan – Final Report and the new 2013-15 Workplan.



19. Jeff Moore to forward to RAG gear type and configuration time line to Neil Klaer.
Status: Incomplete
20. AFMA Manager to provide clarification to the Cuttlefish justification explanation in the ERA and it needs to be more reflective of the GAB limits. **Status: Complete** (Cuttlefish remain High Risk in the ERA due to missing data. There is currently too much missing information to reduce the risk from High – but the reason for risk rating is considered in ERM/Bycatch plans. Graduate going through revised ERA for the SESSF).

Industry is concerned that the Ecological Risk Assessment is managed conservatively, resulting in species being labelled as high risk due to minimal information of biology.

Action item 8: Jeff Moore

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.

Action item 9: Ian Knuckey

Examine the FIS and ISMP data for information on cuttlefish and catches recorded.

21. AFMA Manager to 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. **Status: Pending** (Closure reviews are being conducted for SET and GHT, a similar review can be completed for GAB if required).

GABRAG Research Workshop - 3 December 2012 - Action Items

22. GABIA to investigate labeling and marketing for Bight Products. **Status: Ongoing**
23. GABIA to 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. **Status: In complete**
24. AFMA Manager to check if the new vessel operating in the GAB is using e-logs. **Status: Complete** (The vessel is not using e-logs, the system has recently been set up for utilisation by Danish seine vessel).

Action 10: GABIA

Encourage the Danish seine vessel to utilise e-logs.

1.5 AFMA Managers Report

Marcus Finn provided the RAG with an update on:

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



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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am and resumed at 10:35 am

Agenda Item 2 - Stock Assessments

2.1 GABIA industry collected frequency data

Ian Knuckey presented a PowerPoint on work that Fishwell Consulting did for GABIA industry collected length frequency data.

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

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

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

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

There is a possibility that e-logs may allow for data checking in the future.

The RAG members agreed that there is valuable information collected from industry in the GABTF and the crew are working well.

Action item 11: Ian Knuckey

Install a provision on the new version of Olfish to record discards and length frequencies.

Action item 12: Industry



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.



Action item 13: AFMA Manager

Regularly check GABTF data sheets submitted to ensure accuracy and report back monthly individual vessel performance to Jeff Moore.

2.2 Deepwater Flathead stock assessment

Neil Klaer went through the draft Deepwater Flathead base case 2013 document outlining the following information:

- The new information presented this year is catch by the financial year, July 2012 to June 2013.
- Catches in the GABTF were previously standardised by Neil Klaer using generalised additive models and a log-linear model. Commencing this year, Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead have been added to the list of SESSF species processed in a standard manner using a general linear model by Malcolm Haddon from CSIRO.

Action item 14: Neil Klaer

Investigate the ISMP onboard observer data which is collected every financial year and why it isn't suitable to include in the Deepwater Flathead assessment.

Action item 15: Neil Klaer

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 went through the Data Summary for October 2013 and the following points were discussed:

- TAC and landings – the TAC has been about 50 per cent caught in the current year.
- Discards – is taken from observer coverage and then rescaled up to the total catch and states that three per cent of flathead were discarded in 2012, even though it is a small percentage it is the largest it has been. The GAB inshore discards on average 1.28 kg per shot and the GAB mid shore (250 to 850 m) discarded 7.6 tonnes. This high amount in the GAB mid shore is due to the limited observer coverage, there were only two shots in this stratum which recorded 100 kg indicating that the discard weight was scaled up.

Industry stated that there is no quota nor market incentive to discard Deepwater Flathead and believes that an operator wouldn't have thrown out three bins of fish due to the high value of this species.

Action item 16: AFMA manager

Investigate the average discard of 100 kg in the GAB mid shore that has been recorded for two shots in the 2012 calendar year.

The RAG **agreed** on the general rule that in future GABRAG won't accept recent recruitment estimates with variance estimates greater than those that we believe were estimated well historically.

The RAG **agreed** to keep the 2008 recruitment in the base case, but also look at the sensitivities without it.



Action Item 17: Neil Klaer

Undergo the base case assessment without the addition of the 2008 recruitment and setting the final estimate recruitment value to 2007.

Industry believes that fish showed a behavioural response to the seismic surveys undertaken in 2011 and are starting to return to the fishery in recent times. There is another seismic survey 24,000 square km in size which will run over a two year period from 2014-15 which is a concern to industry members.

GABRAG **recommends** accepting the base case model for Deepwater Flathead, noting the additional samples have added value to the assessment, and noting that the RAG would need to set an RBC at their next meeting when the full 2012 dataset is confirmed to be in the CPUE standardisation.

2.3 Bight Redfish discussion

The purpose of this discussion was to look at indicators/data and decide whether to continue with the model for a Multi-Year TAC (MYTAC).

The information from the data summary indicated that catch and CPUE are fluctuating at the same time; fish are being caught when the biomass is around, and the biomass is not being influenced by fishing activity. The RAG has some concerns for Bight Redfish as it shares the same genus and some of the same indicator trends as the east coast redfish which appears to be in rapid decline.

Industry informed the RAG that this is due to availability; Bight Redfish are currently not presenting themselves in the GABTF and operators are not permitted to fish inshore unlike in the East where you can fish up to the coast. There is evidence that Bight Redfish are currently being located in large areas in a variety of sizes within the inshore zone, however it is difficult to obtain abundances when the inshore is closed to the GABTF. The recreational fishermen report this species as nannygai which creates confusion when discussing this species.

Action item 18: Andy Moore

Provide the RAG members catches of Bight Redfish by month for the last five years.

There is an option to collect data from State inshore gillnet catches, gaining information for Bight Redfish, red snapper and nannygai.

The RAG noticed that the information provided in the draft SESSF Catch Rate Standardization 1986-2012 document did not include e-log catches. Therefore the RAG could not assess/examine standardised CPUE for Bight Redfish at this meeting as there is data missing for 2011/12.

Action Item 19: Neil Klaer

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.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 and resumed at 1:20 pm

2.4 Bight Redfish stock structure update



Gary Jackson thanked both AFMA and industry for the opportunity to present at the RAG meeting to pursue collaboration with the Commonwealth and WA Fisheries in a research project being undertaken in Western Australia (funded solely by WA at no cost to the GABTF or AFMA) looking at stock structure of Bight Redfish.

Bight Redfish is growing for the recreational fishers in WA, as there are bigger boats entering the sector fishing offshore in waters that were historically only utilised by commercial operators.

The questions being addressed in this research include:

- Are the fish caught in the lower west coast of WA part of the same population as the GABTF?
- What are the sources of recruits?
- Is there a common source of recruits?
- Are there multiple sources of recruits including nursery areas?
- Is there a variation between years?

The range of techniques being utilised to address some of these questions include but are not limited to otolith chemistry, genetics, otolith shape analysis and comparing life history characteristics.

Gary Jackson informed the RAG that he would like WA Fisheries and the Commonwealth to collaborate in this project which will result in a report on Bight Redfish stock structure. The information needed from the Commonwealth includes:

- access to the age data for the fishery which will identify strong year classes,
- approximately 25 Bight Redfish otoliths that have already been aged from each location for each year class from standout year classes yet to be identified, possibly 100 otoliths in total from the GABTF collection. It should be noted that if these otoliths are given to WA fisheries they will be sacrificed for the state isotope and trace element work, and
- observers to collect fin clips from the vessel and place them in ethanol to be built into genetic study.

The project will be conducted over two years with analysis to be undertaken next year; therefore it would be advantageous gain access to data and receive otoliths prior to the end of the year if support is granted.

Gary Jackson left the room for members to discuss participation in this study and was invited back when the discussion concluded

GABRAG support the study and encourage collaborative research with WA Fisheries and the Commonwealth.

Gary Jackson is to liaise with Kyne Krusic Golub from Fish Ageing Services for otoliths, Jeff Moore for fin clips and Neil Klaer for annual frequencies by age.

WA fisheries are to provide the raw data obtained from the research undertaken on the otoliths collected from the Commonwealth GABTF to AFMA and attend a GABRAG meeting to provide members with a presentation on the results upon completion.



2.5 Western Gemfish discussion - stock structure project

Andy Moore presented the RAG with a PowerPoint on the Western Gemfish stock structure project that is being funded by FRDC. The research plans to test the spawning locations and biological differentiation of Western Gemfish using samples for molecular work, length frequency data and gonads from across the distribution where people are fishing.

Previous studies have found that Western Gemfish from east coast Australia and New Zealand are the same stock, and the GAB and Western Australia are the same stock. There appears to be a significant difference between these two populations; the east stock spawns in winter, and the west stock spawns in summer. This study would like to establish whether there are multiple spawning stocks in the different spawning locations by collecting data in these areas.

The samples for this project will be coordinated with industry; tubs of fish will be collected in sampling areas with one person nominated to collect Western Gemfish otoliths, fin clips, length measurements and gonad samples.

Action Item 20: Andy Moore

Coordinate with industry samples of Western Gemfish including otoliths, fin clips, length measurements and gonads to be utilised in the stock structure project.

Gary Jackson left the meeting at 2:20 pm

2.6 Western Gemfish discussion - Tier 1 Assessment

Neil Klaer stated that the missing e-logs information from 2012 potentially affects the data presented in the draft SESSF Catch Rate Standardization 1986-2012 document; so the RAG could only consider a preliminary version of the assessment at this meeting.

The Tier 4 Western Gemfish assessment relates solely to zones 40 and 50 and does not include the GAB zones.

Industry questioned the logbook trawl catches of Western Gemfish in zones 40 and 50 fishery at 120 m depth.

Action item 21: Neil Klaer

Investigate and report back to the RAG what sectors/areas of the SESSF are catching Western Gemfish at depths of 120 m.

Mark Chambers presented the updated Western Gemfish Tier 1 assessment and the process involved in developing the 2013 base case which included:

- Replacing the logbook catch data with total catch based on CDRs.
- Updating CPUE series as well as length frequency, age-length, discards and CDR based catch data from 2011 and 2012.
- Setting years where recruitment deviations are estimated. In 2011 recruitment deviations were estimated from 1994 to 2008. For the 2013 assessment, this is adjusted to estimate deviations from 1994 to 2009.
- Tuning the assumed coefficient of variation (CV) of the stock recruitment relationship to agree with model fitted estimates. For the 2011 assessment this was 0.35, for the 2013 assessment this was changed to 0.383.



The data for 2012 shows inconsistency between the GAB logbook data and the CDR data which may be due to the missing e-log data.

The RAG **noted** that the discrepancy in the draft report that indicates industry is under reporting their catch is in fact an error in the data.

Action item 22: Mark Chambers

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.

Action item 23: Mark Chambers

Include line catch by zone to the Western Gemfish assessment.

The RAG was concerned that the data prior to 1995 may be affected and industry considers the catch of Western Gemfish may have been misreported prior to 1992.

Action item 24: Mark Chambers and Andy Moore

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.

The RAG **agreed** to leave the assessment and run the sensitivity from 1992.

New data since 2010 has resulted in a rescale of the spawning stock biomass, in terms of depletion it hasn't changed significantly. The RAG needs to understand what model inputs from 2012 to 2013 resulted in the spawning stock biomass estimated by the SS3 model reducing from 6000t to 2000t.

Action item 25: Ian Knuckey and Neil Klaer

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.

Action Item 26: Mark Chambers

Include the additional 2011 length data for Western Gemfish in the assessment.

Action item 27: Mark Chambers

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.

The RAG was concerned that the model appeared highly sensitive to additional inputs of data and the assessment seemed unstable.

Action item 28: Jim Raptis

Ask crew member observers to collect Western Gemfish length frequency samples for additional input into the assessments to increase its strength.

Noting the concerns about model sensitivity and limited data feeding into the assessment, which added to uncertainty, the RAG **agreed** to try and use the base case assessment, to be considered at the next RAG meeting.

The RAG also agreed that the results of the Tier 4 assessment should be considered and reported at the next GABRAG meeting.



Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm, Mark Chambers departed and the meeting resumed at 4:40 pm. Agenda Item 3 – Harvest Strategy

3.1 TACs, harvest strategy, research catch allowance and decision rules

The future research and assessment priorities plan was agreed to at the research workshop held in December 2012. Members noted it was subsequently changed at the RAG teleconference in April 2013. The key changes were the Deepwater Flathead assessment being brought forward one year (from 2014 to 2013). The RAG also discussed the FIS, which hasn't been conducted since 2011, being delayed. The RAG previously agreed that a one year delay wouldn't put any additional risk to the stock. Industry advised it is uncertain as to when the FIS should be conducted, and reiterated it does not believe there would be a risk to the stocks, even if the FIS was delayed in future years. Industry advised that given the low returns in the fishery over recent years, the FIS has not been possible and should only be conducted after applying the risk/catch/cost framework to the GABTF.

Ian Knuckey declared his conflict of interest and members recommended that he should remain present to discuss the FIS and assessments

The RAG discussed the impact of not undertaking the FIS in 2014, noting the stocks are in reasonably good condition, recognising that delaying a FIS may reduce its ability to clearly reference abundance patterns and taking into consideration financial constraints.

Ian Knuckey left the room for members to decide on the FIS and was invited back once a decision was finalised

The RAG **agreed** that completing a FIS in 2015 would be a sensible approach, and that in doing so, the Bight redfish assessment should be delayed a year and carried out in late 2015, for the 2016/17 fishing year TAC-seeting cycle. The RAG considered the risk of delaying the Bight Redfish assessment until late 2015 was low.

The RAG agreed that if oil and gas funding could be sourced, a FIS conducted in 2014 and 2015 could be a good measure of potential impacts from the seismic survey planned in the GAB.

3.2 Decision rules and economic indicators that could trigger a review of the MEY

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Action item 29: John Tisdell

Review and present the Tom Kompas report for a more fulsome MEY discussion at the next RAG meeting
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3.3 GAB HSP into the SESSF

This item was provided to members for information. The SESSF Harvest Strategy with the GAB standalone section is currently being updated and the GAB section will remain unchanged. This document will be provided to GABMAC at their meeting on the 1 November 2013 for comment and approval.



Agenda Item 4 – Data/monitoring

4.1 Bycatch/discarding Workplan

AFMA has drafted the final report for the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2010-12 and updated Bycatch and Discarding Workplan for 2013-15, both have been provided to GABIA and the RAG for comment. This item planned to gain feedback on the final report and information on action items in the future workplan. This item will be pursued out of session; however an action item for the future workplan mentioned is to gain further information on cuttlefish.

Action Item 30: EO

Add 'obtain further information on cuttlefish' as an action item in the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan for 2013-15.

4.2 Numbers of observer days for the financial year

AFMA Integrated Scientific Monitoring Program (ISMP) observers are planned for approximately 70 days per biennial calendar year in the GABTAF, which equates to 35 ISMP observer days every financial year. Table 1 outlines the targeted and achieved days since 2010/11. There were no AFMA ISMP observer days planned in the 2013 calendar year, and the next target of 35 days will be pursued in the first half of the 2014 calendar year.

Table 1. AFMA ISMP Observer Sea Days

2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
25	24	24	30	35	37	35	

Agenda Item 4 – Research

5.1 Outcomes of RAG meetings

Jeff Moore attended SESSFRAG in July/August and informed members of the outcomes that were relevant to this RAG.

- Access to State fisheries data for assessment purposes was discussed
- A Tier 5 project has achieved funding
- ERAs have been updated and ERMs are currently being prepared by AFMA and drafts for comment will be circulated
- The only TEP interaction in the GAB was one observed interaction with a shearwater in 2012
- In regards to TAP targets, the RAG should talk about what is sustainable not what is emotional or socially acceptable and where zero is appropriate. GABRAG noted the issue and agreed that the RAG should focus on scientific and biological issues and the MAC is the right forum to discuss emotional/social acceptability.
- The FIS are important and contribute to a broader range of information for a fishery than the single stock assessment.
- SESSF Strategic Review of monitoring and assessment project



Action item 31: Neil Klaer

Provide the RAG with a paper on the Tier 5 project at the next GABRAG meeting.

5.2 GABTF future research and assessment priorities plan update

This item was discussed in item 3.1.

5.3 Research Priorities for the upcoming ComFrab/ARC

Last year, the RAG agreed on the following research priorities to present to the ARC:

1. Fishery Independent Survey
2. Western Gemfish stock boundaries and spawning behaviour project (if Andy Moore's project is not approved by FRDC)
3. Evaluation of the FIS (risk/catch/cost)
4. Research on improving the economic efficiency of the GAB trawl fishery

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

The RAG **agreed** that it is important to hold a research workshop annually and decided that this item will be discussed at GABMAC, the next RAG and research workshop.

Action item 32: EO

Include a research workshop on the 26 November 2013, following the RAG meeting on the 25 November 2013.

Agenda Item 6 - Other Business

The addition of this agenda item to discuss the impacts of seismic surveys on the fishery and economics was discussed at agenda items 2.3 and 3.1.

Agenda Item 7 - Next meeting

Action item 33: EO

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.

Next meeting to be held at A. Raptis & Sons Pty Ltd office located in Adelaide on the 25 November 2013.

The meeting closed at 6:15 pm



Attachment A

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	
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	25 November	
3. Provide comment on the GAB Harvest Strategy Decision Rules standalone section.	GABIA	Out of Session	
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	25 November	
<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	
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	25 November	
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	Ian Knuckey	25 November	



Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
vessels catch or does it differ.			
4. Organise observers on the Danish seine vessel operating in the GABTF one trip a year.	AFMA Manager	Out of session	
5. Liaise with Tony Muollo the owner of the Danish seine vessel to obtain crew length frequency samples for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish.	Industry	Out of session	
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	
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	
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	
9. Examine the FIS and ISMP data for information on cuttlefish and catches recorded.	Ian Knuckey	Out of Session	
10. Encourage the Danish seine vessel to utilise e-logs	GABIA	Out of Session	
11. Install a provision on the new version of Olfish to record discards and length frequencies.	Ian Knuckey	Out of Session	
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	
13. Regularly check GABTF data sheets submitted to ensure accuracy and report back monthly individual vessel performance to Jeff Moore.	AFMA Manager	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	25 November	
15. Amend the data offset in the Deepwater	Neil Klaer	25 November	



Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
Flathead assessment from financial year to calendar year as lengths are collected per calendar year not financial year.			
16. Investigate the average discard of 100 kg in the GAB mid shore that has been recorded for two shots in the 2012 calendar year.	AFMA Manager	25 November	
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	
18. Provide the RAG members catches of Bight Redfish by month for the last five years.	Andy Moore	25 November	
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	
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	
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	
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	
23. Include line catch by zone to the Western Gemfish assessment.	Mark Chambers	25 November	
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	
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	



Action Item	Action Person	Timeframe	Progress
26. Include the additional 2011 length data for Western Gemfish in the assessment.	Mark Chambers	25 November	
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	
28. Ask crew member observers to collect Western Gemfish length frequency samples for additional input into the assessments to increase its strength.	Jim Raptis	Out of session	
29. Review the Tom Kompas report for a more fulsome MEY discussion at the next RAG meeting	John Tisdell	25 November	
30. Add 'obtain further information on cuttlefish' as an action item in the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan for 2013-15.	EO	Out of session	
31. Provide the RAG with a paper on the Tier 5 project at the next meeting	Neil Klaer	25 November	
32. Include a research workshop on the 26 November, following the RAG meeting on the 25 November.	EO	25 November	
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	

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

