



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC)

**MINUTES
SBTMAC 39
23 SEPTEMBER 2015
CANBERRA**



SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SBTMAC)

Introduction

The thirty-ninth meeting of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC 39) was held in Canberra on 23 September 2015.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to discuss:

- the outcomes from the 2015 Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) Scientific Committee meeting;
- monitoring arrangements in the SBT Fishery;
- the proposed 2015/16 observer program; and
- the status of the 2015/16 SBT Fishery budget.

Agenda Item 1: Preliminaries/matters arising

1.1: Opening Comments

1. The Chair, Mr Max Kitchell, opened the meeting at 11:40am and welcomed members and observers to the 39th meeting of SBTMAC.
2. Apologies were received from Mr Michael Thomas (industry member) and Mr Justin Nelligan (industry member).
3. Participants at SBTMAC 39 were:

Chair

Mr Max Kitchell

Members

Dr Ilona Stobutzki (ABARES)
Mr Trent Timmiss (AFMA)
Mr Andrew Wilkinson (farm industry sector)
Mr Rick Kolega (farm industry sector)
Mr Glenn Sant (conservation member)

Invited Participants

Mr Terry Romaro OAM (non-farm industry sector)
Prof Gavin Begg (State government)
Mr Brett Cleary (recreational sector)

Executive Officer

Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie (AFMA)

Observers

Mr Brian Jeffriess AO (industry)
Dr Ann Preece (CSIRO)
Dr Campbell Davies (CSIRO)
Mr Matt Daniel (AFMA)
Mr Tod Spencer (AFMA)¹
Ms Sophie Fisher (AFMA)
Ms Kate Jennings (Department of Agriculture)

¹ Present for Agenda Item 5 only.



Adoption of agenda

4. SBTMAC adopted the agenda with no changes noting that agenda item 6.6 – Carriage of fishing extract on board was a late paper distributed to members.

1.2: Pecuniary interest declarations

5. SBTMAC noted that the requirement to declare an interest at the beginning of each agenda item was only for members and not for permanent observers or invited participants. It was agreed that members would declare interests at the beginning of each main agenda item, that is, at the beginning of discussion on agenda items numbered 1 through 6.

6. Members acknowledged that AFMA has consultative groups such as Management Advisory Committees because of people's expertise in areas that are relevant to discussions.

Table 1: SBTMAC members, invited participants and permanent observers' declarations of interest

| Member | Declared interests |
|---|--|
| Mr Max Kitchell | Employed as the SBTMAC Chair. No pecuniary interest in the Fishery. |
| Mr Trent Timmiss | Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery |
| Dr Ilona Stobutzki | Employee of ABARES, no pecuniary interest in SBT fishery, noting that ABARES conducts research on a range of fisheries issues. |
| Mr Glenn Sant | Employee of Traffic Oceania, which has a collaboration agreement with the University of Wollongong, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. |
| Mr Andrew Wilkinson | SBT quota holder, General Manager of company that owns and operates a tuna farm/catching business. |
| Mr Rick Kolega | SBT quota holder and managing director of a tuna farm. |
| Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie | Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. |
| Permanent observer/invited participant | Declared interests |
| Mr Terry Romaro (Invited Participant) | Employee of a company that owns SBT SFR's and works with company that has a consultancy with Aus Asia fishing that may longline fish in SBT Fishery. |
| Prof Gavin Begg (Invited Participant) | Employee of PIRSA (SARDI), SA Government representative, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery; noting that SARDI conducts research on a range of fisheries issues. |
| Mr Brian Jeffriess (Industry observer) | CEO of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association |
| Mr Matt Daniel (Observer) | Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery |
| Dr Ann Preece (Observer) | Employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. Noting that CSIRO conducts research on range of fisheries issues. |
| Dr Campbell Davies | Employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. Noting that CSIRO conducts research on |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | range of fisheries issues. |
| Mr Brett Cleary (Observer) | President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia and Queensland Game Fishing Association and Director of Keep Australia Fishing. No pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. |

1.3: Acceptance of minutes from SBTMAC 38

7. SBTMAC adopted the provisional minutes as a true and accurate account of the discussions from SBTMAC 38 with minor edits to be provided from Dr Preece.

1.4: Actions arising from SBTMAC 38 and subsequent intercessional work

8. Members noted the status of the actions arising from SBTMAC 37 as outlined below:

| | Action arising | Status |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | ABARES and AFMA to discuss a way to calculate observer coverage so that at least 10% of longline effort is observed. | SBTMAC noted that AFMA and ABARES had preliminary discussion but then AFMA introduced electronic monitoring into the ETBF where 100% of fishing activity is monitored. Members noted that this action item is completed. |
| 2 | The AFMA member to provide SBTMAC with the 2013/14 acquittals as soon as they are available. | Members noted that this action item is completed with the acquittals provided under agenda item 6.2. |
| 3 | The Executive Officer to provide the TTMAC Environment Update to the next SBTMAC meeting. | SBTMAC noted that this action arising is completed with the TTMAC Environment update provided and noted by SBTMAC. |

Intersessional work

9. SBTMAC noted the status of the action items and the intersessional work, including the following correspondence received between meetings:

- a) 23 October 2014, AFMA circulated a letter from Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the minister for Agriculture regarding a public consultation process for a revised harvest strategy policy, bycatch policy and overarching fisheries policy;

- b) 11 December 2014, AFMA circulated a letter regarding consultation on the collection of prices of transferred or leased Statutory Fishing Rights for all Commonwealth managed fisheries;
- c) 19 February 2015, AFMA circulated a letter seeking comments on the expressions of interest received to address the fishery priorities identified for the SBT Fishery as part of the AFMA Research Committee research call;
- d) 31 March 2015, AFMA circulated an email seeking individual MAC member comment on the proposed regulator framework;
- e) 14 April 2015, AFMA circulated a letter from James Findlay, AFMA CEO regarding the draft 2015/16 budget;
- f) 27 April 2015, AFMA circulated an email regarding the 2015-17 national compliance risk assessment;
- g) 11 June 2015, AFMA circulated the draft minutes from SBTMAC 38 and sought comments;
- h) 17 June 2015, AFMA circulated for comment the 2015-16 SBT Fishery budget explanation;
- i) 29 June 2015, AFMA circulated the Australian research projects that have requested SBT research mortality allowance for the 2015/16 season; and
- j) 5 August 2015, AFMA circulated an email proposing a date for SBTMAC 39.

Agenda Item 2: State of the fishery

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

2.1: Informal industry report on the 2014/15 catching season, markets and outlook

10. Industry members informed SBTMAC that the purse seine sector commenced the season later than in the previous season and it also continued longer than expected due to unusual weather conditions. The weather was very cold and there was a 10 day period with no catch due to poor weather conditions. Members noted that the fish were predominately caught (90% of the catch) north of Port Lincoln with unusual fish behaviour around Kangaroo Island. Industry stated that two seismic surveys were recently conducted and industry members are unsure of their influence on fish behaviour. SBTMAC noted that the mortality rates were close to record lows (less than 1% for the whole industry). Industry members stated that there had been some interaction between recreational/charter boats and purse seine operations on the fishing grounds. The issue was subsequently resolved. Industry members noted that the primary issue was the safety of all fishers whether they were recreational or commercial.

11. SBTMAC noted that it had been a tough year financially with the Japanese market at the second lowest price in history. Members also noted that the cost of imported bait was expensive but industry have sourced local pilchards which will assist financially. SBTMAC

noted that the farm sector over-caught last season and the Japanese government had then banned fish from the east coast of Australia going to their markets.

12. Members noted that the longline sector had caught about 560 tonnes of SBT to date and that this was the largest catch since the 1997/98 season. It was noted that six operators had taken more than 50 tonnes and one operator had taken more than 100 tonnes. Members noted that the fish were mainly caught around Ulladulla and the majority of fish didn't move north of Sydney. At the time of the meeting some fish were still being caught off Eden.

13. The Conservation member raised concerns regarding the increase in long line catch and the implication for bycatch. An industry member explained he was proposing to introduce two new vessels to the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) in late 2015. He noted that there will be a no shark retention policy on these boats. AFMA stated that all information regarding bycatch would be provided in the TTMAC environment report.

2.2: Informal report from other stakeholders

14. The recreational member provided an update on the recent recreational catches of SBT and noted that it had been a good season although the fish did not move up into NSW as expected. Members noted that recreational fishers are catching larger fish and in greater numbers. The record for the largest recreational SBT caught was 127 kg for a decade but fish of this size are now regularly caught and up to 150 kg. Mr Cleary noted that the States were becoming more conscious of managing recreational catch of SBT including bag and boat limits. Members further noted that a project developing a code of practice for the recreational catch of SBT by Sean Tracey (IMAS, UTas) was designed to provide education on recreational catch of SBT. The report is currently with FRDC for clearance and then will be released to the public and distributed to all recreational fishers. Members noted that the project discusses concerns with interactions with seals. Industry members stated they also have concerns with tournaments where the aim is to catch the biggest fish and how this could lead to discarding through high-grading.

15. The conservation member re-iterated the environmental groups concerns regarding the recreational catch when looking at Australia's allocation of SBT.

16. The State government invited participant noted that the South Australian state recreational fishing survey was complete and the final report would be released shortly and that the Great Australian Bight Research Program is half way complete. Members also noted that Adelaide was nominated as the host city for an AustralianNew Zealand bid to host the World Fisheries Congress in 2020 and that they should know by early next year if successful. SBTMAC acknowledged that this would be a key opportunity to promote Australian and New Zealand fisheries.

Agenda Item 3: CCSBT

No conflicts of interest were declared under this agenda item.

3.1: Outcomes from the 2015 CCSBT Commission meeting

17. The Research member provided a summary of the outcomes from the 2015 CCSBT Scientific Committee (SC) meeting held in South Korea. Members noted that the outcomes were confidential until after the 2015 CCSBT Commission meeting. The focus of the

Scientific Committee meeting was driven by the decision last year not to fund the 2015 aerial survey. The Scientific Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission fund the 2016 aerial survey for the Management Procedure (MP). Members noted that the SC requested advice on different MPs and were looking at options for transition. Members noted that a gene tagging pilot study will be occurring in 2016. The SC investigated staying with the current MP but also discussed research options if transitioning. The preferred option was to do the aerial survey in 2016 and 2017 and start the gene tagging work in 2016.

18. SBTMAC noted that the close kin work remains a high priority and that the current samples collected will need to be processed.

19. The Commission also highlighted that it has budget constraints.

20. Members noted that there were limited discussions on unaccounted mortality but agreed that unaccounted mortality needs to be incorporated in a revised MP.

21. SBTMAC noted the TAC advice from the SC and noted that the SC endorsed the scientific observer standards, approved the Research Mortality Allowance and noted the performance review outcomes.

22. SBTMAC noted the report from the Research member on the outcomes from the 2015 CCSBT Scientific Committee meeting.

3.2: Upcoming 2015 CCSBT Commission meeting

23. SBTMAC noted that the Department of Agriculture is holding a stakeholders meeting on 24 September 2015 to discuss any issues for the upcoming 2015 CCSBT Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Research issues

Dr Stobutzki, as the MAC research member, Drs Preece and Davies and Prof Begg declared an interest under this agenda item. All exited the room and the remaining MAC members discussed their conflict. All remaining members agreed that Drs Stobutzki, Preece, Davies and Prof Begg's interest was not a significant one and they should be included in all discussions under this agenda item.

4.1: Report from the research sub-committee meeting 2015 (23 September 2015)

4.2: Research priorities for 2016/17 – 2018/19

24. The SBTMAC scientific member provided a summary of the outcomes of the research sub-committee (RSC) meeting held in Canberra earlier that day. Members noted that the RSC stated that the upcoming CCSBT Commission meeting may influence the research priorities.

25. SBTMAC noted that the research priorities identified as high last year still remain high priorities including;

- i) Gene tagging;

- ii) Close kin;
- iii) Inter-sessional work;
- iv) Aerial survey; and
- v) Archiving of hard parts.

26. Members noted that the discussion regarding funding should be held after the CCSBT meeting and agreed to hold an SBTMAC teleconference in November 2015 to discuss the outcomes of CCSBT (**Action arising 1**). Members noted that the close-kin project will be submitted to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation for funding.

27. AFMA proposed that given that the membership on the research sub-committee is similar to that of the MAC that the matters discussed in the sub-committee should be discussed in the SBTMAC meeting rather than in a separate meeting. Members agreed that there will be no research sub-committee in 2016.

Action arising 1: Executive Officer to organise a SBTMAC teleconference for November 2015 to discuss the research priorities.

28. Mr Andy Moore (ABARES) attended SBTMAC and presented on a project titled '*Development of methods for obtaining national estimates of the recreational catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT)*'. Members noted that the objective of the project is to develop and test methodologies to provide a national estimate of the recreational catch of SBT and design a cost-effective program to regularly collect, analyse and report on recreational SBT catches and associated fishing activities. SBTMAC noted that there are two survey designs: on-site surveys (creel surveys) and off-site surveys (phone based surveys and online surveys). SBTMAC noted that the project recommended doing off-site surveys for Western Australia, Tasmania and NSW and on-site surveys for South Australia and Victoria. Mr Moore noted that recreational catch of SBT is increasing with more activity and a longer recreational season.

29. The Recreational member highlighted the need for a regular survey given the variability in seasons (run over a 5 year period) noting that not one method works across all States.

30. Mr Moore explained that the research had been out for review to about 20 people and that comments had been received and incorporated and now FRDC was reviewing the final report. Once that review is complete the project research will then be publically released.

31. SBTMAC thanked Mr Moore for his presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Compliance issues

No conflicts of interest were declared under this agenda item.

5.1: Compliance update

30. The AFMA National Compliance Strategy Senior Manager, Tod Spencer, provided an update on recent compliance issues.

31. Mr Spencer reported that AFMA has released the National Compliance and Enforcement Program 2015-16 which is available on the AFMA website. Members noted that the key risks identified include Vessel Monitoring System and electronic monitoring compliance, quota evasion and normal deterrents.

32. Mr Spencer informed SBTMAC that in 2015 there had been a very high rate of compliance with 19 ETBF boats and 2 WTBF boats inspected with only minor low level breaches. Last season AFMA Compliance also conducted 11 Level 1 audits of the SBT farm sector. Mr Spencer stated that based on the results of the level 1 audit, compliance then makes a decision on how many level 2 audits will be conducted. Discrepancies, although only minor, were found on three farms. Members noted that the level 2 audits have not been conducted yet. Compliance also conducted a Level 1 audit of 17 fish receivers in the SBT farm sector and as a result 1 went to a level 2 audit and 1 receiver required some further instruction on how to fill in paper work.

33. Mr Spencer noted that there had been recent reports about recreational fish being sold in restaurants and at markets in the Canberra region. Members noted that AFMA had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the ACT Government to give AFMA more power to take action against these offences.

34. Industry members questioned whether e-monitoring units could be used instead of VMS. Mr Spencer stated that currently the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations do not recognise e-monitoring as a replacement to VMS units. The AFMA member noted that if the VMS unit breaks down AFMA has been allowing vessels to continue fishing using e-monitoring units.

35. SBTMAC noted the update from AFMA Compliance and the SBTMAC Chair thanked Mr Spencer for his time.

Agenda Item 6: Domestic management issues

Mr Wilkinson, Mr Kolega and Mr Romaro all declared their conflict of interest under Agenda Item 6. In line with the requirements Mr Wilkinson, Mr Kolega and Mr Romaro left the room.

The remaining members of SBTMAC considered each declaration individually and agreed that Mr Wilkinson, Mr Kolega and Mr Romaro should all be allowed to return for all items under Agenda item 6 as each of their expertise was important to discussions and most items were for noting.

6.1: Proposed 2015/16 observer program

36. Members noted that the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) scientific observer program requires 10% observer coverage for catch and effort monitoring. In the Australian purse seine fishery AFMA also aims to achieve 10% coverage for both purse seine sets and tows.

37. AFMA provided the MAC with an update on the observer program for the previous season (2014/15). Members noted that one Australian observer monitored 14 purse seine sets where fish were retained. From the observations an estimated 591 tonnes of SBT were caught during observed sets with a total of 7 mortalities (six sampled). Members noted that one tow

was observed with 21 SBT mortalities recorded and sampled. Members agreed that more tows need to be observed next season and AFMA will discuss this at pre-season briefs.

38. In the longline sector, catch of SBT by pelagic longline is also subject to a minimum 10% observer coverage and AFMA uses a real time spatial management strategy to implement higher observer coverage in the longline fleet in 'zones' where SBT are more likely to be caught. Members noted that in 2014/15 the observer coverage level was 2.9% during the migration (within the SBT management zones) but in the fishery as a whole 2.8% of hooks were observed. Members further noted that e-monitoring has now been implemented in the ETBF and all new boats must have it installed and it will replace observer coverage in the 2015/16.

39. Members noted that the number of observer days in the ranching sector has been reduced from 70 to 60 sea days for the 2015/16 financial year. The MAC noted the information provided on the previous season observer coverage and the upcoming season program.

6.2: SBT budget issues – Reconciliation of 2014/15 SBT budget and status of AFMA's 2015/16 SBT budget

40. The AFMA member provided the MAC with a summary of the budget for the SBT fishery noting that the 2015/16 budgets were developed on the basis of expected tasks and transactions related to the management of the fisheries. Members noted that the total cost recovered SBT budget for 2015-16 is \$1,231,904 which is a decrease of \$19,463 from the 2014-15 budget. Members noted that in 2014-15 the amount budgeted was \$1,251,367 but expenditure was only \$928,379. The difference was primarily due to the removal of \$220,494 from the levy base due to the cancellation of the SBT aerial survey in 2015.

41. The AFMA member stated that there was a decrease in the salary costs allocated in 2015/16 as well as log book costs but that most other budget items were similar to the 2014/15 budget.

42. Members raised concerns regarding the research costs and how they are allocated. The AFMA member noted that SBTMAC's role was to identify research priorities and participate in discussions regarding what industry should pay for. Members noted that the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) is currently being reviewed. The CRIS determines which functions of AFMA are paid for from Government funding and which costs are recovered through industry levies.

43. SBTMAC noted the final 2015/16 AFMA budget explanation and levy acquittal for the 2014/15 budget.

6.3: Cost Recovery Impact Statement Update

44. SBTMAC noted that AFMA has commenced a project to review the CRIS in line with the revised Australian Government Charging Framework which incorporates the Cost Recovery Guidelines. The Government introduced the Charging Framework to improve consistency of charging activities and help determine when it is appropriate to charge for a government activity.

45. Members noted that the project outline and its key principles have been discussed with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) Executive with an initial draft CRIS (with no financial data) provided for comment. Following this process the draft CRIS will be updated and populated with 2015/16 financial data and provided to the CFA, Management Advisory Committees (including SBTMAC), Resource Advisory Groups, Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation and the Environmental Non-Government Organisations for comment.

46. SBTMAC noted the process to update AFMA's CRIS.

6.4: Environment update

47. The AFMA SBT Fishery Manager noted that the SBT Fishery Approved Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) expires on 22 July 2016. The current WTO has been in place for 3 years and is subject to seven conditions and one recommendation. The recommendation is for the Department of Agriculture to work with the relevant State agencies to refine and implement the methodology for obtaining reliable estimates of recreational and charter fishing catch of SBT in Australian waters. AFMA will shortly begin work on a new WTO and have had preliminary discussions with the Department of Environment.

48. The MAC noted that there were no interactions with protected species in the 2014/15 fishing season.

49. SBTMAC noted that Prof. Colin Buxton and Mr Peter Cochrane are undertaking an Australian Government Marine Reserves review to restore confidence in the Commonwealth marine reserve planning process. Prof. Buxton and Mr Cochrane have now finished their consultation tour around the country, hearing a wide range of views on all the Commonwealth Marine Reserves and how they might be zoned and managed. Over the next month they will reconvene each of the five Bioregional Advisory Panels to work through all these inputs to consider the feasible options to address the issues raised.

50. Members noted that following the review, the Australian Government will deliver new management plans for the Commonwealth Marine Reserves. These new plans will replace the management plans that were scheduled to come into effect in July 2014, which have now been set aside.

51. Members noted that until the new management plans come into effect, there are no changes. Whatever rules were in place before November 2012, continue to apply.

52. The AFMA SBT Fishery Manager noted that AFMA is regularly contacted regarding proposed petroleum activities which may interact with fishing or have potential effects upon the fishing industry. Members noted that AFMA provides basic factual information and will request the applicant contact the appropriate industry body. An industry member noted that there are no seismic surveys scheduled for 2015/16.

53. SBTMAC noted that the Department of Agriculture completed its reports into the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and the Commonwealth Policy on Bycatch. The reports that were released on the 27 May 2013 by the former Minister are being considered by AFMA to design operational strategies which align with the findings from the reviews. The Conservation member expressed concerns that AFMA was acting on something that is not yet finalised and indicated his frustration with the process.

6.5: E-monitoring update

54. SBTMAC noted that from 1 July 2015 e-monitoring is compulsory on all full time vessels (those fishing more than 30 days in the previous or current season) in the ETBF and WTBF. Members noted that as part of the introduction of e-monitoring AFMA paid for the installation of e-monitoring equipment on all ETBF and WTBF boats that fished more than 30 days in 2014 and were still in the fishery in June 2015.

55. Members noted that each vessel is fitted with four cameras that operate whilst the boat is fishing (ie hydraulics operating). The cameras record the set and haul and are also connected to a satellite modem with time, date and GPS location. Every hour the modem reports where the boat is, what direction and if it is fishing. The AFMA member noted that the hard drives will be swapped every month and not every minute of footage would be watched with the aim of initially watching about 10%. Members noted that a report will be sent to AFMA and the boat informing them of any compliance concerns. The only issues referred to compliance will be non-reporting of TEPs and any other illegal activity.

56. Members were informed that about 10% of hard drives that are sent in are not reviewable with a number being damaged in the post. SBTMAC noted that the footage is considered commercial-in-confidence.

57. SBTMAC noted the current status of e-monitoring in AFMA's fisheries and welcomed the significant advance in monitoring the Fishery and acknowledged the increased reporting of bycatch species in logbook data between July 2014 and July 2015.

6.6: Carriage of fishing extract on board

58. Members noted that the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995 (SBT Plan) requires that holders of SFRs must carry a signed copy of the extract of the Register on board at all times. At the last meeting, members requested that this requirement be removed. AFMA agreed that with the advent of remote access to the internet and other technologies now available to Compliance Officers the production of a hard copy of the extract by an operator is no longer needed. Members noted that AFMA is currently seeking advice from the AFMA Commission on amending the SBT Plan to remove the requirement.

59. SBTMAC approved in principal the proposed change to the SBT Plan to remove the mandatory requirement to carry an extract of the Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) Register on board the boat and noted that formal advice on the proposal will be sought out of session later in the year.

Agenda Item 7: Next meeting

No conflicts of interest were declared under Agenda Item 6.

60. SBTMAC agreed to hold a teleconference on Monday 9th November at 11am to discuss the outcomes of the 2015 CCSBT meeting.

61. The MAC noted and agreed to schedule the next face-to-face MAC meeting for September 2016, with the exact date to be confirmed closer to the time.

Meeting closed at 3:30pm

Max Kitchell
SBTMAC Chair

Attachment A

**Meeting of the Southern Bluefin Tuna
Management Advisory Committee
(SBTMAC 39)**



11.30am – 4.00pm 23 September, 2015

AFMA Aquarium Room - 6th floor, Bank West House,
73 Northbourne Avenue Canberra

Final Agenda

- 1. Preliminaries/matters arising**
 - 1.1 Opening remarks/apologies/acceptance of agenda
 - 1.2 Pecuniary interest declaration
 - 1.3 Acceptance of draft minutes SBTMAC 38 September 2014
 - 1.4 Action arising SBTMAC 38 and intersessional work
- 2. State of the Fishery**
 - 2.1 Informal industry report on the 2014/15 catching season, markets and outlook
 - 2.2 Informal reports from other stakeholders
- 3. CCSBT**
 - 3.1 Outcomes from the 2015 CCSBT Scientific Committee meeting
 - 3.2 Upcoming 2015 CCSBT Commission meeting
- 4. Research issues**
 - 4.1 Report from the Research Sub-committee meeting 2015
 - 4.2 Research priorities for 2016/17 – 2018/19
- 4. Compliance issues**
 - 5.1 Compliance update
- 5. Domestic management issues**
 - 6.1 Proposed 2015/16 observer program
 - 6.2 SBT budget issues - Reconciliation of 2014/15 SBT budget and status of AFMA's 2015/16 SBT budget
 - 6.3 Cost Recovery Impact Statement Update
 - 6.4 Environment update
 - 6.5 E-monitoring update
 - 6.6 Carriage of fishing extract on board
- 7. Next meeting**