



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



**Shark Resource Assessment
Group (SharkRAG)
Out of Session**



Meeting Record

Date: 22 May 2015

Attendance

Name	Membership (type i.e. chair etc.)
Brendan Kelaher	Chairperson
David Power	AFMA member
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Josh Cahill	Executive Officer
Jason Pettit	Industry member
David Stone	Industry member
Kyri Toumazos	Industry member
Robin Thomson	Scientific member
Malcolm Haddon	Invited participant – scientific
Miriana Sporic	Invited participant – scientific

Minutes

Item No.	Discussion	Action Items / Rec's
1. Preliminaries		
1.1. Welcome	RAG chair welcomed participants and opened the meeting at 14:00pm.	
1.2 Apologies	<p>The RAG noted apologies from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Simpfendorfer • Jeremy Prince • Nic Marton • Kyri Toumazos • Malcolm Haddon <p>In line with Fisheries Administration Paper 12 (FAP 12) the RAG did not have quorum based on the requirement of having two scientific members present.</p>	
1.3 Agenda	Agenda was adopted with items 3 and 4 being swapped around.	
1.4 Actions arising	Actions arising from SharkRAG 2 2014 were not discussed as this meeting was out of session.	
1.5 Declaration of interests	RAG followed the declaration of interest procedures as outlined in FAP 12 and in the tabled paper noting the standing list of declared conflicts of interest which were updated (Attachment 2). David Stone and Jason Pettit left the room while the Chair, Environment Member and AFMA members decided whether they should be present for both agenda items. It was agreed that the	

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	input from industry members would be valuable. Robin Thomson and Miriana Sporcic left the teleconference while the Chair, industry members, environment member and AFMA members discussed their conflicts as the scientists who run the assessments. It was agreed that input from CSIRO members was important for both agenda items.	
2. Updates		
2.1 Manager's update		
3. Biological data collection for shark species in the GHAT	<p>David Power presented a paper seeking SharkRAG advice on the collection of biological data for gummy and school shark through a port sampling program and e-monitoring.</p> <p>The RAG made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length measurements inform the Tier 1 model of mortality rate and cohort strength • The Tier 1 model requires approximately 2000 lengths per species annually, with 1000 lengths from hook caught fish and 1000 gillnet caught. The 1000 lengths for each method should be divided evenly across the three stocks (SA, Bass Strait and TAS). • CSIRO scientists not concerned if the split of male to female sharks is not even. • Sampling line caught fish will reduce CVs in the model further than gillnet caught fish • Port sampling events should be conducted at least quarterly to account for any temporal variation • Industry members expressed concerns that port samplers will not have access to fish caught from western South Australia as most landing areas are quiet remote. • The current Tier 1 model uses no vertebrae samples from standard commercial fishing operations, only from surveys undertaken • The existing holdings of school shark vertebrae are not be suitable for close kin analysis due to the way which they have been prepared and stored. • CSIRO scientists unable to make a recommendation at this meeting on the number of vertebrae which should be collected and analysed each year. AFMA to discuss this with CSIRO out of session then come back to the RAG with more detail. • The RAG was comfortable with methodology for biological data collection using e-monitoring systems providing the camera resolution was sufficient. 	Action Items: AFMA to send out a summary of Fish Aging Services total shark vertebrae holdings
4. Conducting a Tier 4 assessment	At the request of the Chair, this agenda item was discussed first. The Chair provided background details on the advice provided at SharkRAG 2, 2014 relating to elephantfish and sawshark. As	Recommendation: A Tier 4 assessment be

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<p>for saw shark and elephantfish in 2015</p>	<p>both species were moved from a BMEY to a BMSY target for 2014/15 season, SharkRAG did not support a MYTAC.</p> <p>The RAG noted the background information provided by the Chair and discussed the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present, trawl and gillnet data are standardised separately and provide two different RBC recommendations. • Sawshark standardised CPUE for the trawl sector is steady but gillnet CPUE is declining. • The RAG asked CSIRO to whether a single standardisation combining both trawl and gillnet data would provide a more accurate RBC. • The 2014 elephantfish assessment had a number of difficulties with discard data. The RBC was higher when discards included and lower without discards. • The RAG sought CSIRO to conduct further work on the use of discards for the 2015 elephantfish assessment • The RAG supported conducting a single standardisation for sawshark for the 2015 assessment • David Stone noted concerns about the cost of CSIRO undertaking additional work in conducting a combined standardisation • Miriana Sporcic noted that as the trawl and gillnet data would be standardised separately anyway, the additional cost of conducting an analysis using data from both methods would not be high. • The RAG supported CSIRO conducting a Tier 4 this year. The Chair sought RAG members to start considering MYTAC break out rules in preparation for the next meeting. <p>The RAG deferred any decision on whether sawshark and elephantfish will be placed on a MYTAC until later in 2015, after CSIRO has conducted the Tier 4 assessment.</p>	<p>conducted for sawshark and elephantfish during 2015.</p> <p>Recommendation: SharkRAG deferred making a decision on whether a MYTAC is appropriate for sawshark and elephantfish until CSIRO have finalised the 2015 Tier 4 assessment.</p>
<p>5. Other business</p>	<p>The Chair recommended that the Deepwater Shark I.D Guide being produced by the AFMA bycatch team be distributed to RAG members out of session via email for comment.</p> <p>Due to time constraints, the RAG was unable to have a phone conference as planned with PhD student Matt McMillan who will be undertaking research on school shark reproductive activity and movements in South Australia and Bass Strait. Another teleconference will be scheduled with Mr McMillan in June.</p>	<p>Action Items: AFMA to distribute Deepwater Shark I.D Guide via email for RAG comment.</p> <p>Action Item: AFMA to arrange teleconference with SharkRAG and Mr</p>

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		McMillan.
Meeting close	RAG chair closed the meeting at 15:05.	

Signed (Chairperson):

Date:

List of Attachments

- 1) Standing list of declared conflicts of interest
- 2) Actions arising from SharkRAG Out of Session May 2015

Attachment 2 - Standing list of declared conflicts of interest - as of 20 Nov 2014

Participant & Membership	Interest declared
Brendan Kelaher Chair	SESSFRAG member. No other interests declared.
Robin Thomson Scientific	Undertakes CSIRO stock assessments. No pecuniary interests. Declared interest in Close Kin Genetic project (research investigator).
Colin Simpfendorfer Scientific	Has a potential pecuniary interest in research noting research interests are unlikely in particular to this fishery. Conducts assessments of Australian Sharks and Rays with FRDC funding.
Jeremy Prince Scientific	No interests declared pecuniary or otherwise.
Anissa Lawrence Conservation	Managing Director TierraMar Consulting. Consultant for Sustainable Shark industry Alliance (SSIA), consultant for a number of NGOs in the fisheries context. Conservation member on SEMAC. No other declared interests pecuniary or otherwise.
David Stone Industry	Executive Officer for Sustainable Shark Fishing industry. Declared interests in representing hook and gillnet industry member interests and in pursuing research for dolphin acoustic mitigation technology. SESSFRAG observer. Declared interest in RBCs.
Jason Pettit Industry	SA shark hook operator, SESSF quota holder. Declared interest in RBCs.
Kyri Toumazos Industry	South Australia/Bass Strait, shark fisher, boats fishing with hooks and gillnets. SESSF quota holder. Southern Rock Lobster Board CEO, Declared interests in RBCs.
David Power AFMA member	AFMA manager no interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise.
Andrew Trappett AFMA, RAG EO	AFMA management officer and SharkRAG EO, no interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise.

RAG Invited participants and observers declarations of interest

Malcolm Haddon CSIRO	Potential scientific research interest. SESSFRAG member, Sub-Antarctic RAG member, NPF RAG member.
Miriana Sporcic CSIRO	No interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise.
Nic Marton ABARES	No interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise.
George Day AFMA	No interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise
Dairmid Mather AFMA	No interests declared, pecuniary or otherwise

Attachment 3 – Actions arising from SharkRAG OOS May 2015

	Action Item	Responsibility
SharkRAG OOS Action 1	AFMA to send out a summary of Fish Aging Services total shark vertebrae holdings	AFMA
SharkRAG OOS Action 2	A Tier 4 assessment be conducted for sawshark and elephantfish during 2015.	CSIRO
SharkRAG OOS Action 3	AFMA to distribute Deepwater Shark I.D Guide via email for RAG comment.	AFMA
SharkRAG OOS Action 4	AFMA to arrange teleconference with SharkRAG and Mr McMillan.	AFMA