



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



**SESS Fishery Shelf Resource
Assessment Group (ShelfRAG)
Meeting December 2014**

Meeting Minutes

**Date: 15 December 2014
Venue: Teleconference**

Attendance

Name	Membership (type i.e. chair etc.)
Mr Sandy Morison	Chair
Dr Marcus Finn	AFMA member
Dr Ian Knuckey	Scientific member
Dr Geoff Tuck	Scientific member, CSIRO
Mr Ross Bromley	Executive Officer - AFMA
Mr Robert Curtotti	Economics member
Dr Matt Flood	Invited participant, ABARES
Mr George Day	Invited participant, AFMA
Dr Malcolm Haddon	Invited participant, CSIRO
Mr David Power	Invited participant, AFMA
Mr Dan Corrie	Observer, AFMA
Ms Michelle Wilson	Observer, AFMA
Mr Ryan Keightley	Observer, AFMA
Dr Miriana Sporcic	Observer, CSIRO

Minutes

1. Introduction and apologies

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and other participants at 10:25, 15 December 2014.
2. The RAG noted there were no apologies.
3. The RAG adopted the agenda (**Attachment 1**).
4. The RAG followed the conflict of interest declarations as outlined in the revised Fisheries Administration Paper 12 (FAP12). A list of the full conflicts of interest declarations made by SlopeRAG for the meeting is provided in **Attachment 2**.

2. Redfish – Tier 1 supplementary

5. The Redfish (*Centroberyx affinis*) assessment was presented to the RAG at its October 2014 meeting. At the October meeting the RAG accepted the Base Case 3 assessment (BC3), and noting that the stock status was below the limit reference point provided advice that consistent with the harvest strategy the RBC was zero.
6. Subsequently it was noticed that NSW catches in 2005 – 2013 were omitted from the catch time series.

7. Dr Tuck updated the assessment incorporating the NSW data (Base Case 4, BC4) and the RAG noted the results and a comparison of outcomes from BC3 and BC4. See **Table 1**.

Table 1. Comparison of results: BC3 to BC4

Metric	BC3	BC4
Estimated B_0 (t)	14,615	14,558
Estimated 2015 stock status, percentage of virgin female spawning biomass	11.7%	10.8%
RBC (t)	0	0

8. The RAG noted that there was very little difference in the stock status estimates from BC3 compared with BC4. The RAG also noted that a rerun of the fixed catch projections made little difference in the trajectory to recovery of the stock.
9. Noting these outcomes the:
- **RAG accepted** the revised assessment (BC4) and the
 - **RAG agreed** not to amend its previous RBC advice of 0 t and an incidental TAC of 100 t.

Species	Assessment	RBC (t)	Incidental TAC (t)	Discount factor	Under/over catch
Redfish	Tier 1	0	100	NA	NA

3. Advice on Tier 3 assessment for Mirror Dory

10. Dr Finn presented the AFMA paper requesting the RAG to review the final Tier 3 Mirror Dory assessment and provide advice on RBC. Dr Finn noted that at the recent ShelfRAG meeting in October 2014, the RBC advice for Mirror Dory was 684 tonnes based on a Tier 4 assessment with a B_{48} proxy target.
11. Mirror Dory was assessed as a Tier 3 species in 2012 and 2013. At its meetings in September and October 2014 ShelfRAG was not comfortable using the Tier 3 assessment to provide RBC advice because the assessments had no new age data, and recent length and age data appeared to be unrepresentative.
12. Fish Ageing Services (FAS) have supplied CSIRO with additional ageing data and the Tier 3 assessment of Mirror Dory has been updated.
13. The RAG reviewed the eastern area data and noted:
- recent port length frequencies showed two distinct modes and could be showing signs of recruitment
 - retained catch shows small fish are being discarded
 - there are only four years of age frequency data but they indicate there has been good recruitment in the last few years
 - length data are only available to 2013
 - the sample from 2013 is reasonably well spread out through the year however 2014 sample came from June and July only.

14. The RAG reviewed data from the western area and noted:
- there was little ageing data gathered from the western area
 - there was no western Bass Strait data
 - the fishing mortality arising from the Tier 3 completed on data taken from the west appears to be below F_{TARG}
 - lack of representative sampling is an issue for this species and is especially data poor from the western area.
15. The RAG discussed the Tier 3 and 4 assessments for Mirror Dory and **confirmed** its previous RBC advice to use a Tier 4 assessment which produced an RBC of 684 t. The RAG's concerns with the Tier 3 assessment were that:
- years of strong recruitment (like those appearing in the Mirror Dory data) seem to make the catch curve steeper, suggesting an increase in fishing mortality that may not be occurring
 - of the four years of age data used in the Tier 3, two years appear to have strong recruitment (resulting in a lot of juveniles)
 - over a short period of time the RBC recommendations arising from the Tier 3 have gone from several thousand tonnes to zero; and that this is reflective of the data rather than stock declines
 - sampling of Mirror Dory is a real issue that is affecting the ability to run an adequate Tier 3 assessment
 - there is unrepresentative sampling of catches/size compositions
 - the size and age data we have indicate there is little cause for concern however when these data are fed into the Tier 3 assessment the outcome does not reflect this
 - the strongly cyclical nature of catches.
16. The RAG is confident that the Tier 4 assessment gives a more realistic estimate of stock status.
17. The RAG thanked Kyne Krusic-Golub (FAS) for the ageing work and Robin Thomson (CSIRO) for updating the Mirror Dory Tier 3 assessment.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:10

Signed (Chairperson):

Date:

List of Attachments

- 1) ShelfRAG December 2014 Agenda
- 2) ShelfRAG December2014 Declared Conflicts of Interest

Attachment 1. Agenda**Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Shelf Resource Assessment Group (Shelf RAG) Agenda**

Venue: Teleconference

Monday 15 December 2014

Time: 10:15 – 11:10

Chair: Mr Sandy Morison

Time	Item	Presenter
10:15	1. Preliminaries 1.1 Welcome and introductions/apologies 1.2 Declarations of interest 1.3 Adoption of agenda	Sandy Morison
10:30	2. Redfish – Tier 1 supplementary 2.1 review results of the supplementary Redfish assessment and provide advice/reconfirm RBC	Geoff Tuck
10:40	3. Mirror Dory 3.1 review results of revised Mirror Dory Tier 3 assessment and provide advice/reconfirm RBC	Marcus Finn
11:10	<i>Meeting close</i>	

Attachment 2 Declarations of interest

Name	Interest Declared
Mr Sandy Morison	SlopeRAG and ShelfRAG Chair, member of SEMAC and SESSFRAG. Consultant with an interest in funding for research purposes. Conducts fisheries related work consultancies for industry, companies and other Government departments. Had been recently engaged by an environment non-government organization to review an MSC pre-assessment of Orange Roughy in New Zealand.
Dr Geoff Tuck	CSIRO. Involved in Stock Assessments. Interest in obtaining funding for future research. Principle investigator on the SESSF stock assessment project and marine closures project.
Dr Marcus Finn	AFMA. Manager of Commonwealth and GAB Trawl Fisheries section. No conflicts of interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Robert Curtotti	ABARES, no pecuniary interest
Dr Ian Knuckey	Director Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd Chair – Australian Seafood Co-products Agent – Olrac Australia electronic logbooks Scientific Member – Great Australian Bight Resource Assessment Group Principal Investigator – SESSF and GAB Fishery Independent Survey Project Member – Review of Monitoring and Assessment in the SESSF Project Member – Bird mitigation in the SESSF trawl sector Scientific Advisor – GABIA, SETFIA, SSIA
Dr Malcolm Haddon	CSIRO stock assessment scientist. Member of SESSFRAG, Northern Prawn RAG and sub-Antarctic RAG. No pecuniary interest.
Mr Ross Bromley	AFMA. Demersal and Midwater Trawl Fisheries section. No pecuniary interest or otherwise.
Mr David Power	AFMA. Manager Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fisheries section. No pecuniary interest.
Mr George Day	AFMA, Senior manager, no pecuniary interest
Dr Matt Flood	ABARES, no pecuniary interest

|