



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC)

**MINUTES
TTMAC 10
2 MAY 2014
SYDNEY FISH MARKET**



**TENTH MEETING OF THE TROPICAL TUNA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TTMAC)
2 MAY 2014
SYDNEY FISH MARKET**

Agenda Item 1: Preliminaries/matters arising

1.1: Welcome and apologies

1. The TTMAC Chair, Ms Catherine Barnett, opened the meeting at 9.00am and welcomed members, invited participants and observers to the 10th meeting of TTMAC.

Apologies

2. Apologies were received from; the research member, Dr Cathy Dichmont and the State Government invited participant, Dr Veronica Silberschneider.

3. Participants at TTMAC 10 were:

Chair

Ms Catherine Barnett

Members

Mr Trent Timmiss (AFMA)
Mr Gary Heilmann (industry)
Mr Terry Romaro OAM (industry)
Mr Paul Williams (industry)
Mr Joe Basile (industry)
Mr Bill Edwards (recreational/charter fishing)
Mr Peter Trott (environment/conservation)

Invited Participants

Mr Cathal Farrell (industry)
Mr Angelo Maiorana (industry)
Mr Brian Jeffriess AM (industry)
Mr Grahame Williams OAM (recreational/charter fishing)

Executive Officer

Ms Stephanie Johnson

Observers

Mr Steve Auld (AFMA)
Mr Phil Bolton (NSW State Government)

Guests

Ms Kelly Buchanan (Department of Agriculture)¹
Mr Bill Holden (Marine Stewardship Council)²

¹ Attended for Agenda Items 2.2 and 2.3 only

² Attended for Agenda Item 4.6 only

1.2: Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda was adopted by TTMAC (Attachment A).

1.3: Pecuniary interest declarations

5. The Chair stated that as outlined in the *Fisheries Administrations Act 1991* and Fisheries Management Paper No. 1, all members of TTMAC must declare any pecuniary interest in the Fishery at the commencement of the meeting (Table 1) and also at the commencement of each agenda item. The Committee noted that if a member discloses an interest in an item, the member must absent themselves from the meeting before the item is considered. The MAC must make a decision as to whether the member can participate in the discussion and in the making of a recommendation, or remain absent from the meeting for the item.

6. TTMAC noted the requirement to declare an interest at the beginning of each agenda item. 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 5.

Table 1: TTMAC members/permanent observers' declarations of interest

Member	Declared interests
Catherine Barnett	Chair, South Australia Rock Lobster Advisory Council, Member Fisheries Council of SA, CEO Food SA and Member of Agribusiness Council (SA). No pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Trent Timmiss	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns ETBF boat SFR's, minor line SFR's, ETBF longline SFR's, WTBF boat SFR's, WTBF longline SFR's, Coral Sea Trawl permit, Western Skipjack purse seine permit, SPF purse seine, mid-water trawl SFR's, and SPF quota SFR's. Member of SPFRAG and invited participant of SBTMAC.
Paul Williams	Director of a company that holds an ETBF boat SFR and ETBF longline SFR's, minor line SFR's and a Commonwealth fish receiver permit. Member of TTRAG.
Gary Heilmann	Director of companies that hold; ETBF quota SFR's, ETBF boat SFR's, a fish receiver permit, a Coral Sea Fishery permit and a SESS boat SFR. Member of TTRAG.

Joe Basile	Manager of two longline vessels in the ETBF and holder of boat and quota SFRs.
Bill Edwards	Retired charter boat operator, member of Moreton Bay Game Fishing Club, member of Broadwater Tower Body Corporate Committee and retired pharmacist.
Peter Trott	Employee of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), no pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Stephanie Johnson	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in Tropical Tuna fisheries.
Invited participant	Declared interests
Steve Auld	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in the tropical tuna fisheries.
Cathal Farrell	Manager of fish receiving business and holder of an ETBF boat SFR.
Angelo Maiorana	Manager of a company that owns SFRs in the ETBF.
Brian Jeffriess AO	CEO of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association.
Grahame Williams OAM	Immediate Past President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia, no pecuniary interest in tropical tuna fisheries.
Phil Bolton	Employee of NSW Fisheries, no pecuniary interest in the tropical tuna fisheries.

1.4: Acceptance of minutes from TTMAC 9

7. The TTMAC Chair summarised the difficulties with the completion of the TTMAC 9 minutes that were encountered out of session and these were noted by TTMAC. The commitment was made to provide the Chair's summary to the MAC within 10 working days of the meeting and the minutes completed within a month of the meeting.

8. TTMAC adopted the provisional minutes as a true and accurate account of the discussions from TTMAC 9.

1.5: Status of actions arising from TTMAC 9

9. The AFMA member outlined progress on the 7 action items identified at TTMAC 9 (Table 2).

Table 2: Status of actions arising since TTMAC 9

#	ISSUE	ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
1	Levy information	The ETBF Manager to distribute 2013/14 levy information as soon as available.	AFMA	Completed.
2	MAC self-assessment	The TTMAC EO to distribute the MAC self-assessment form to members out of session.	AFMA	Completed at TTMAC 10.
3	Conversion factors in the ETBF.	Complete report on conversion factors in the ETBF and provide the report to TTRAG for consideration.	AFMA	Ongoing. AFMA is still working with industry operators to collect the necessary information. This issue needs to be resolved before the next quota season.
4	Review of NSW baitfishing arrangements.	Inform ETBF fishers of NSW review of baitfishing arrangements	AFMA	Ongoing. No meetings of the Baitfish Working Group have been held recently, but a paper has been drafted. Changes to arrangements are expected.
5	Multi-year TACCs	Examine implications of setting TACCs over a longer time-frame.	AFMA	Ongoing. This is to be discussed at the upcoming TTRAG meeting in June 2014.
6	TAP Review	TAP sub-committee to meet and consider the draft seabird TAP.	TTRAG	Completed. The draft Seabird TAP is currently with the Environment Minister awaiting approval.
7	NBT	Mr Farrell to distribute information on how to tell the difference between SBT and NBT	Mr Farrell	Completed. Mr Farrell advised that he would distribute the information to those who request it.

1.6: Correspondence/intersessional work arising between TTMAC 9 and TTMAC 10

10. TTMAC noted that the following issues were addressed out-of-session since the previous meeting in October 2013:

- a) November 2013, the letter from the AFMA Commission Chair regarding the WTBF TACCs and the changes to the ETBF harvest strategy was sent to all MAC members;
- b) November 2013, AFMA sent out the TTMAC 9 Chair's summary and after a number of comments received from various members, an updated version was distributed in December 2013;
- c) December 2013, AFMA distributed a paper to all MAC members on the outcomes of the 10th Annual Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting, including the implications for the 2014 ETBF TACCs;
- d) December 2013, AFMA advised members of the new sitting fees and expense arrangements for MAC members;

- e) January 2014, AFMA sought comments from MAC members on the research expressions of interest for the tropical tuna fisheries;
- f) January 2014, the minutes from TTMAC 9 were sent to all members and comments were received from Mr Gary Heilmann and Mr Bill Edwards;
- g) January 2014, the minutes from TTMAC 9 were adjusted to incorporate the comments received and redistributed;
- h) January 2014, AFMA distributed the letter sent from the AFMA Commission to the MAC Chair regarding the ETBF TACCs for the 2014-15 season.
- i) February 2014, Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) requested individual comments on the proposed variation to the seabird Threat Abatement Plan and the documents, for information, were distributed by AFMA;
- j) February 2014, AFMA notified MAC members that the market testing of the AFMA observers was to be undertaken;
- k) February 2014, AFMA distributed information to the MAC regarding the new Public Interest Disclosure Act (PID Act) that came into effect in 2013, and what the impacts were on the role of MAC members;
- l) March 2014, AFMA emailed the letter sent to the MAC Chair regarding the WTBF under and overcatch percentages and weights for the 2014 fishing season;
- m) April 2014, AFMA distributed further information about the PID Act to MAC members;
- n) April 2014, AFMA sent out the 2014-15 financial year budget explanations for the Tropical Tuna Fisheries and suggested a budget sub-committee teleconference to discuss the explanations;

Agenda Item 2: Background Information/Discussion Items

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

Ms Kelly Buchanan from the Department of Agriculture attended and provided information for Agenda Items 2.2 and 2.3.

2.1: AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries

11. The AFMA member provided the information for this agenda item. The MAC noted that the environmental accreditation for the ETBF expired at the end of February 2014. AFMA sought to obtain a further 5-year accreditation, however as the expiry date was reached before a decision had been made, the ETBF was given a 6-month extension until the end of August. This was to allow the Department of Environment to consider the extra documentation provided to them by AFMA and there were no conditions attached to this extension.

12. The delay in the decision by the Department of Environment was due to the considerations surrounding the length of the exemption and the conditions to be included. It is

likely that any conditions will be in regard to the standard reporting to the Department of Environment by AFMA and the Management Plan.

13. TTMAC noted that in the WTBF, there is no longer a large freezer vessel operating in the fishery. However, AFMA has been approached by other parties who are interested in bringing in similar vessels and there is the potential for significant development within the WTBF.

14. The AFMA member informed TTMAC that he attended an electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) workshop in Honiara, Solomon Islands in early April 2014. He stated that a number of other countries within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean are interested in e-monitoring and other electronic systems. All industrial tuna boats in Papua New Guinea will be using electronic logbooks (e-logs) and electronic Catch Documentation Records (e-CDRs) and they are very interested in the e-monitoring technology. Taiwan is also undertaking an e-monitoring trial and the Forum Fishing Agency (FFA) is looking into the technology.

15. It was also noted by TTMAC that the FFA are holding a meeting next week in Samoa to discuss management arrangements for South Pacific Albacore. A revised Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) on limiting the catch of South Pacific Albacore within all regions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), is expected to be agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Commission in December 2014. A CMM for South Pacific Albacore was discussed at the Commission meeting in 2013, however a consensus could not be reached. China agreed not to introduce any more boats into the fishery, however catches of Albacore occurring within the South Pacific are at a historical peak.

16. There was some discussion held regarding the new Free Trade Agreement with Japan and South Korea. It was noted that the duty on Swordfish imports is likely to be reduced marginally over time and the duty on Yellowfin Tuna will be removed. There is also likely to be small reductions in the tariff on Southern Bluefin Tuna over time. Industry members expressed some concern of the impacts the new agreement will have and questioned the likelihood of any real benefits.

17. The outcomes of the budget sub-committee meeting were summarised by the AFMA Tropical Tuna Manager. The main concerns of Industry were the increase in the logbook budget and the issues being encountered with the e-log software. A number of Industry members stated that several operators are having trouble with getting the e-log systems to work and because of this, they are continuing to use paper logbooks and paying the fee.

18. The AFMA member provided a flyer to members from the e-log provider "Olrac", who is offering support to operators having difficulties, at no cost until the software is working correctly.

19. TTMAC noted the interest of Industry in using e-logs and the potential for a budget cost-saving.

2.2: Forthcoming IOTC Commission meeting

20. Ms Kelly Buchanan, from the Department of Agriculture, provided information on the forthcoming Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting to be held on 1-5 June 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. A Coastal States meeting is to be held prior to the Commission meeting to discuss priorities and the main points of interest.

21. TTMAC noted that Australia is currently working with the European Union (EU) on developing a CMM for sharks and shark finning and are hoping to gain agreement this year.

22. An industry member queried Australia's discussions with the EU, and TTMAC noted that the EU is pushing for a number of measures to restrict the take of shark species within the IOTC, from the basis of sustainable fisheries.

23. The AFMA member explained to the MAC that the IOTC has divergent interests and it is much harder to progress issues through this Commission in comparison to the WCPFC. TTMAC noted that Australia has a national interest in maintaining positive relationships with other countries and needs to continue to collaborate internationally.

24. Ms Buchanan also informed TTMAC that the Department of Agriculture is holding a stakeholder meeting on 6 May and she extended an invitation to Industry. Ms Buchanan requested permission to have the contact details of MAC members, so information on future stakeholder meeting can be distributed to those people interested. All MAC members stated their consent.

2.3: WCPFC Annual Meeting 2013 outcomes

25. Ms Kelly Buchanan, from the Department of Agriculture, provided information on the 2013 Annual Meeting of the WCPFC, held in Cairns, in December 2013.

26. The major item discussed at this meeting was a new measure for Tropical Tuna, which was aimed at reducing the fishing mortality of Bigeye Tuna. The main concern regarding this measure was the potential disproportionate burden that would be placed on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are very dependent on Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) fishing, and this argument was used by the Forum Fishing Agency (FFA) to gain agreement on the inclusion of FAD limits and closures for the period of the measure. However, this Tropical Tuna measure was not as strict as Australia had hoped, due to opposition from the European Union (EU) and the United States.

27. An industry member voiced concerns about the priorities of the EU; their willingness to develop a measure on reducing shark mortality, while having a fleet targeting blue sharks, but their reluctance to do the same for the tropical tuna species.

28. Ms Buchanan agreed that there needs to be more of a focus on developing measures for the tuna species, and suggested that the introduction of a harvest strategy on some of the tuna species might be an option. However, no global allocation for the tuna species has yet been agreed, and Australia is considering its position and the priorities for going forward.

29. TTMAC noted that WCPFC members need to consider various impacts when developing CMMs and there often needs to be room for negotiation on some issues and there are trade-offs.

30. Industry members suggested that a global allocation should be agreed and then member countries should be allowed to determine how they manage their own allocation individually.

31. The AFMA member acknowledged this suggestion, but questioned how the allocation process would be done. An allocation process would be very difficult and Australia would need to consider its historical and more recent catch history.

32. Ms Buchanan indicated that new stock assessments are currently underway and are due to be presented to the WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2014. The stock assessments for Yellowfin Tuna and Skipjack Tuna are updates, but a major structural review is being completed for Bigeye Tuna.

33. The AFMA member also informed TTMAC that a measure for Albacore Tuna was tabled, but support was not given by China or Taiwan. It is also likely that a shark finning ban will be agreed at this year's WCPFC Annual Meeting.

34. Industry members stated that the prices for shark fins have largely declined. Blue shark fins previously got \$45 per kg, this has dropped to \$15 per kg.

35. For the WCPFC this year, Ms Buchanan stated that the main items to be priorities for Australia will be the tropical tuna measure, Albacore Tuna measure and the compliance monitoring scheme. The latter is in regard to the assessment of member country's compliance with the implementation of agreed measures.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration/Decision Items

The following members declared their interest under Consideration/Decision items:

Mr Paul Williams: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Mr Terry Romaro OAM: agenda item 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Mr Gary Heilmann: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Mr Joe Basile: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Mr Angelo Maiorana: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

Mr Cathal Farrell: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Heilmann left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Basile left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Basile should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Maiorana left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Maiorana should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Farrell left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Farrell should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

3.1: Silky Shark non-retention

36. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager presented the information on Silky Shark non-retention. A ban on the take of Silky Sharks within the WCPFC convention area was agreed at WCPFC 10 in December 2013. All member countries are required to implement the ban within their own tropical tuna industries. AFMA requested that the MAC recommend the ban on the take of Silky Sharks be included in the boat Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) conditions for the ETBF.

37. As there are often issues with the mis-identification of Silky Sharks, AFMA also requested that the MAC consider the appropriateness of the current management arrangements for other shark species of similar appearance, namely Dusky Sharks and Bronze Whalers, and also Thresher Sharks and Hammerhead Sharks, which have recently been listed in CITES Appendix II.

38. TTMAC noted that the catch of Silky Sharks and the other proposed shark species is very low, and that they hold negligible value within the ETBF.

39. Industry members stated that they were not opposed to the ban on Silky Sharks, but suggested that the wording for the SFR conditions be altered to include that “all reasonable efforts must be taken to return sharks to the sea in an alive and vigorous state”.

40. TTMAC accepted the revised wording and agreed to recommend that the ban on the take of Silky Sharks in the ETBF be included in the boat SFR conditions.

41. In regard to the appropriateness of the current management arrangements for other sharks of similar appearance to Silky Sharks and Thresher and Hammerhead Sharks, the Industry and recreational fishing members did not support any alterations. Industry members stated that as they do not target sharks so there is no need to introduce any other changes to the management arrangements. The industry and recreational fishing members also stated that there is currently no scientific evidence that demonstrates any major sustainability concerns for these shark species within the Australian Fishing Zone off the east coast of Australia.

42. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager indicated that it is important to consider the longer term trends within the fishery and attempt to be proactive in managing issues that are likely become a more prominent concern, particularly in an international sense.

43. Industry members voiced further concern that the suggestion of any changes to include other shark species is being influenced by the past actions of other countries and the status of these shark species internationally. Industry stated that they rarely catch any of the suggested species and therefore, did not think that there is a need to consider them now.

44. The environment/conservation member indicated that the ETBF is a tuna fishery, not a shark fishery and that there is increasing pressure from environmental Non-Government Organisations (eNGOs) and the community to restrict the catch of other shark species, particularly Silky Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks, Thresher Sharks and Mako Sharks, due to sustainability concerns. To avoid negative public perceptions, he stated that it would be advisable to be proactive with the management of shark bycatch in the tuna fisheries.

45. The environment/conservation member was strongly in favour of proactive management of Hammerhead and Thresher Sharks, as well as those sharks of similar

appearance to Silky Sharks, through a prohibition on the take of these species within the ETBF.

46. The AFMA member informed MAC members that there is increasing pressure on AFMA and Australia to prove that the take of shark species through commercial fishing is sustainable. Members were also reminded that with increased pressure, management increases and this comes with a cost. There may be a point where the cost of management outweighs the value of a particular species.

47. TTMAC acknowledged the suggestion and information provided, but did not agree to alter the current management arrangements for sharks of similar appearance to Silky Sharks, and Thresher Sharks and Hammerhead Sharks.

3.2 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2014-16

48. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager provided the MAC with a summary of the current progress on the 2014-16 Australian Tuna and Billfish Fisheries Bycatch and Discarding Workplan. Three new action items have been included in the workplan:

1. A handling guide for sharks and rays;
2. Online skipper and crew education courses; and
3. The investigation of other seabird mitigation devices, e.g. hook pods.

49. TTMAC members endorsed the Bycatch and Discarding Workplan and accepted the included actions.

3.3: E-monitoring implementation

50. The AFMA member provided the update to TTMAC on the pending implementation of electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) in the ETBF and WTBF. He apologised for the delay in presenting the information as contract negotiations are continuing with the e-monitoring chosen provider, Archipelago Marine Research (AMR).

51. AMR is a Canadian-based company, and are currently in the process of setting up an Australian based company. It is likely that this will be located in either Canberra or Sydney.

52. TTMAC noted that e-monitoring systems are expected to be installed on boats in both fisheries during the current fishing season. For the first three years, all installations will be funded from the levy base, while the initial setup costs will be covered with Government revenue.

53. Industry members queried the ownership of the e-monitoring equipment and were informed that this is still under discussion. It is likely that AFMA will own the peripheral equipment such as cameras and cable, but will lease the system boxes from AMR. Operators will be required to clean and maintain their systems, however the regular maintenance checks conducted by AMR will be covered by AFMA.

54. TTMAC members noted that AFMA is supporting the e-monitoring setup and maintenance costs for the first three years. After this time, it is possible that the responsibility for e-monitoring could be shifted to industry and this may create the potential for further cost savings and efficiencies.

55. An industry member voiced the concern that government is directing the use of e-monitoring on boats, with no input from industry on the choice of provider. If industry is paying the majority for the e-monitoring systems, then they should have been allowed to choose their provider.

56. Another concern expressed by industry was that while the initial coverage rate is 10%, there is the potential for AFMA to increase this to 20% or higher.
57. The AFMA member stated that the intention and purpose of e-monitoring is to verify logbooks and improve the accuracy of reporting. It has been shown in other countries that 10% coverage is sufficient for this to be achieved.
58. Industry members questioned whether physical observers would still be required on boats with e-monitoring. It was stated by the AFMA member that if the logbook data improves to a very high standard, there will not be a future need for physical observers.
59. It was further noted by TTMAC that the footage recorded on e-monitoring hard drives will be retained for 6 months unless it has been requested as evidence in a prosecution. After 6 months the footage will be permanently erased and the hard drives reused.
60. The industry members expressed their concern regarding the use of e-monitoring for compliance purposes and stated that this is another reason for e-monitoring to be funded entirely by Government. The AFMA member noted that compliance data collection is currently wholly funded by industry.
61. The major concern expressed by industry members was the cost of e-monitoring. While a cost saving has been achieved in relation to physical observers, industry members stated that an individual saving of approximately \$3,000 per boat per year was not significant enough. There was disappointment expressed by industry members that previous estimations of e-monitoring costs had forecasted greater savings.
62. The AFMA member explained that the costs now included capital costs of equipment and installation and maintenance. Under previous cost estimates, these costs were excluded from the AFMA costs and assumed to be borne by boat owners. The AFMA member also stated that there will be one full time staff member responsible who will be located in the Canberra office. He also clarified to members that the costs provided in the table in the e-monitoring paper are estimated as a “worst case scenario” and they are capped costs. The AFMA member also clarified that overheads were attracted by the current human observer program and the overheads outlined in the cost estimates were not in addition to those already paid by the fishery.
63. Over time, it is expected that efficiencies will be made and the cost savings for industry will become larger. The AFMA member agreed that the total cost-saving of approximately \$100,000 is not as large as previously estimated, but stated that a saving of this amount is still significant to industry as a whole. He also stated that there are an additional \$70,000 savings in fee for service observer costs for Southern Bluefin Tuna management zones.
64. In terms of the Southern Bluefin Tuna management zones, Industry appreciated the savings that e-monitoring will incur, as it removes the need for additional physical observer coverage during the SBT season.
65. TTMAC noted that only the full time boats (those setting more than 50 shots per year) will be required to have e-monitoring systems and any new boats entering the fishery will have the same initial setup costs covered by AFMA.
66. Industry members were concerned that footage may be viewed by the general public, which may create increased negative perceptions of the tuna fishing industry. The AFMA member stated that e-monitoring footage would be treated as confidential, but subject to Freedom of Information (FOI) laws. Under similar requests in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery, no video footage has been released to date despite several requests.
67. The AFMA member outlined the general installation schedule for e-monitoring and requested that boats are made available during the scheduled times. AFMA will determine

what angles/camera shots are required to gain accurate catch information, however the configuration of the cameras will depend on each boat and what works best for them individually.

68. If any difficulties arise or equipment is lost or damaged due to the non-cooperation of crew members, the operator will be required to pay the costs associated.

69. TTMAC accepted the information provided on the e-monitoring implementation and noted that there are likely to be issues and minor changes in the first few months. The AFMA member also acknowledged this concern and assured members that this would be taken into consideration.

Agenda Item 4: Other Information/Discussion Items

The following members declared their interest under Consideration/Decision items:

Mr Paul Williams: agenda items 4.1

Mr Terry Romaro OAM: agenda item 4.1

Mr Gary Heilmann: agenda items 4.1

Mr Joe Basile: agenda items 4.1

Mr Angelo Maiorana: agenda items 4.1

Mr Cathal Farrell: agenda items 4.1

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Williams left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Williams should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Romaro left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Romaro should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

In line with the requirements as a MAC industry member who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Heilmann left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Heilmann should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

In line with the requirements as the MAC industry member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Basile left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Basile should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Maiorana left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Maiorana should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

In line with the requirements as a MAC invited participant who has declared interests under an agenda item, Mr Farrell left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Farrell should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 4.1.

4.1: 2014/15 Draft budget

70. The AFMA Tropical Tuna Fisheries Manager summarised the draft 2014/15 budget and the main comments provided by the TTMAC budget sub-committee. A teleconference was held for the budget sub-committee on 30 April 2014 and a record of the meeting minutes is at Attachment B.

71. The tropical tuna fisheries budget for 2014/15 increased. This increase was largely due to the inclusion of an additional research project by Dr Robert Campbell (CSIRO), on Swordfish growth relevant to the south west pacific stock. A proportion of AFMA's Bycatch Program is also now being funded from the levy base.

72. A suggestion from industry was made that if a research project is undertaken for a specific species, then the cost should be more greatly apportioned towards those quota SFRs for that species. The AFMA member stated that this could be done, ensuring that it is fair, equitable and consistent. A paper containing the estimations of revised costs in relation to this suggestion was distributed to members for consideration (Attachment C).

73. TTMAC noted that there was also an increase in logbook costs was and that this was a concern to industry members. However, members recognised that there has been a lower uptake rate of electronic logbook (e-log) systems than originally expected. This has been largely due to a number of technical difficulties with the software being encountered by operators when attempting to use the e-log programs. A flyer was distributed to members from Olrac (one of the e-log program providers) offering free technical support to anyone having difficulties with their software.

74. TTMAC accepted the 2014/15 draft budget explanation and the budget sub-committee comments provided.

<p>Action item 1: The budget sub-committee comments on the draft 2014/15 budget to be incorporated into a letter from the TTMAC Chair to the AFMA Finance section.</p>

4.2: Environment update

75. The AFMA member provided the MAC with the environment update. Members were reminded that Mako Sharks are a listed marine species and therefore, a protected species. In the e-monitoring trial in 2010, interactions with protected species were highly reported. However where there was no e-monitoring or observers present, no interactions with protected species were reported.

76. It was noted by members that there has been no progress of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Bycatch Policy reviews and no new information was presented on this.

77. Industry members queried the conditions around seismic drilling. This can impact on fishing operators, but those likely to be impacted are contacted by the relevant company undertaking the drilling. The boats involved in the seismic drilling are required to carry independent observers.

78. TTMAC noted the environment information provided.

4.3: Compliance Activity Report

79. The AFMA member informed the MAC that quota evasion is the biggest compliance risk across most fisheries. There are currently three processes underway to assess the different types of quota evasion. The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is the key management tool being used for the quota evasion operations.

80. TTMAC noted the information provided on compliance activity.

4.4: Fishery Catch Data – 2013 Season

81. TTMAC noted the current ETBF and WTBF catch data information. No additional comments were provided from members.

4.5: TAP Review

82. TTMAC noted that a revised Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) for seabirds had been distributed for comment, but most changes affected other fisheries. The new TAP is currently with the new Environment Minister for decision.

4.6: MSC presentation

83. Mr Bill Holden from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) gave the MAC a presentation on the progress of MSC assessment in the ETBF. One operator in the ETBF is currently undergoing MSC assessment for Albacore Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Broadbill Swordfish and Mahi Mahi. This assessment will encompass the catches in the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone and the adjacent high seas.

84. TTMAC noted that while the current tuna assessment has only been undertaken by a single operator, it is possible for other operators to either join the assessment or apply for assessment separately. However, those operators interested in undertaking a separate assessment will be required to cover the full cost of an MSC assessment. The approximate cost of a full assessment for an Australian fishery is \$50,000-\$100,000 and the certification is valid for 5 years. For a certification to be renewed, another full assessment is required.

85. Mr Holden informed members that a pre-assessment is always undertaken to determine whether a fishery is likely to achieve certification. This is done before the full payment is required.

86. It was further noted by the MAC that there is an increasing demand from consumers for MSC certified products, particularly in European markets.

87. The AFMA member expressed concern that a result of the MSC certification of Walker Seafoods could be that there are conditions placed on the certification which could lead to pressure for additional management measures. This could come at a cost to the fishery as a whole and could mean that all operators will be contributing, even though they are not undertaking the assessment. This needs to be taken into consideration by the MSC and AFMA.

88. Members acknowledged that the MSC assessment of Walker Seafoods actually assesses the whole ETBF, and the results of this assessment will potentially provide valuable information for the future progress of the ETBF. It was also noted that MSC assessment is for the biological sustainability of species within a fishery, not the economic sustainability.

89. TTMAC noted the information provided on MSC certification in the tuna fisheries.

4.7: MAC Self-assessment

90. A MAC self-assessment form was distributed to members, and these were completed during the meeting. A summary of the results of the assessment are at Attachment D.

Agenda Item 5: Date and venue for next meeting

91. TTMAC agreed to next meet in October 2014, subject to confirming member's availability.

Catherine Barnett

TTMAC Chair, May 2014

ATTACHMENT A

**Tropical Tuna Fisheries Management Advisory
Committee (TTMAC) 10**

Sydney Fish Markets, Pyrmont

2 May 2014 (commencing at 9:00am)

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Preliminaries/Matters Arising

- 1.1. Welcome and apologies
- 1.2. Adoption of agenda
- 1.3. Declaration of interest
- 1.4. Acceptance of Minutes from TTMAC 9
- 1.5. Actions Arising from TTMAC 9
- 1.6. Inter-sessional correspondence between TTMAC 9 and TTMAC 10

2. Background Information/Discussion Items

- 2.1. AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries
- 2.2. Forthcoming IOTC Commission Meeting
- 2.3. WCPFC Annual Meeting 2013 outcomes

3. Consideration/Decision Items

- 3.1 Silky Shark non-retention
- 3.2 Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2014–2016
- 3.3 E-monitoring implementation

4. Other Information/Discussion Items

- 4.1. 2014/15 Draft Budget
- 4.2. Environment update
- 4.3. Compliance Activity Report
- 4.4. Fishery Catch Data – 2013 Season
- 4.5. TAP Review
- 4.6. MSC presentation
- 4.7. MAC Self-assessment

5. Date and venue for next meeting