



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC)

**DRAFT MINUTES
TTMAC 7
20-21 NOVEMBER 2012
CANBERRA**



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TROPICAL TUNA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TTMAC)
20-21 November 2012
CANBERRA**

Agenda Item 1: Preliminaries/matters arising

1.1: Welcome and apologies

1. TTMAC Chair, Ms Catherine Barnett, opened the meeting at 9.30 am and welcomed members and observers to the 7th meeting of TTMAC. In particular, Ms Barnett welcomed the attendance of Mr Joe Basile as the new industry member, Dr Cathy Dichmont as the new research member, Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie as the new Executive Officer and Dr Veronica Silberschneider as the new State government invited participant. TTMAC agreed to send a thank you letter to Campbell Davies, Erica Starling and Geoff Binns for their longstanding contributions to TTMAC and ETMAC (Eastern Tuna MAC) and WTMAC (Western Tuna MAC) prior to that.

Action Item 1: Write to Campbell Davies, Erica Starling and Geoff Binns thanking them for their longstanding contributions to MACs

Apologies

2. Apologies were received from the recreational and charter sector invited participant, Grahame Williams, and the industry invited participant, Angelo Maiorana.

3. Participants at TTMAC 7 were:

Chair

Catherine Barnett

Members

Trent Timmiss (AFMA member)
Cathy Dichmont (research member)
Bill Edwards (recreational/charter member)
Peter Trott (Environment/Conservation member)
Gary Heilmann (industry member)
Terry Romaro (industry member)
Paul Williams (industry member)
Joseph Basile (industry member)

Invited Participants

Cathal Farrell (industry)
Brian Jeffriess (industry)
Veronica Silberschneider (State government)

Executive Officer

Sarah Kirkcaldie

Observers

AFMA
Steve Auld
Nigel Abery

David Power
Stephanie Johnson
Patrick Sachs
Will Hansen
Karen Dalli
Clayton McCloud
Matt Daniel

Industry

Brett Taylor¹
Adam Whan¹

Guests

AFMA
Beth Gibson²
DAFF
Erin Tomlinson³
Claire Van Der Geest³

1: attended agenda items 3.1 only

2: attended agenda item 5.2 only

3: attended agenda items 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 only

1.2: Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda was adopted with the addition of agenda item 5.2 Review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy policy and guidelines and the Commonwealth policy on Fisheries Bycatch and is annexed as Attachment A.

1.3: Pecuniary interest declarations

5. The AFMA member 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 and 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. The AFMA member stressed that the MAC must fully comply with these requirements in relation to conflicts of interests during the meeting.

6. The AFMA member further noted that, regardless of the MAC's decision on the member's involvement in the discussion, in each and every case the minutes of the meeting must:

- i) record the fact of the disclosure relating to a conflict;
- ii) record the determination of the Committee whether the member may or may not be present during discussion of the matter which is the subject of the conflict; and
- iii) produce minutes (not just a Chair's summary) for all MAC meetings, regardless of whether or not they are face- to- face.

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

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

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, Member of Agribusiness Council (SA) and member Forest Industry Development Board, no pecuniary interest in Tropical tuna fisheries
Trent Timmiss	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in Tropical

	Tuna Fisheries
Cathy Dichmont	CSIRO scientist, Stream leader managing project portfolio which includes many fisheries projects including Tropical Tuna, PI of risk-cost-catch FRDC project which is a cross-cutting project looking at cost-catch-risk trade-offs in Commonwealth fisheries, Independent Science member on South Australian Rock Lobster MAC, CSIRO member on Northern research hub, Steering committee member on International Fisheries WIKI and other international non-tuna projects and conferences, Chair TTRAG.
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. Works with company that has a consultancy with Aus Asia Group, Member of SPFRAG and invited participant SBTMAC.
Joseph Basile	Holder of ETBF boat SFR's , ETBF longline SFR's, minor line SFR
Paul Williams	ETBF boat SFR and ETBF longline SFR's, minor line SFR's and Commonwealth fish receiver permit, Member of TTRAG
Gary Heilmann	Director of company that is the holder of ETBF quota SFR's, ETBF boat SFR's, Fish receiver permit, Coral Sea Fishery permit and SESS boat SFR. Member of TTRAG.
Peter Trott	Employee of World Wildlife Fund, Member of Commonwealth Fisheries Research Advisory Board
Bill Edwards	Retired charter boat operator, Member of Moreton Bay Game Fishing club, Member of Broadwater Tower Body Corporate Committee and retired pharmacist.
Sarah Kirkcaldie	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in Tropical Tuna fisheries
Permanent observer/invited participant	Declared interests
Cathal Farrell	ETBF boat and minor line SFR holder. Manager of fish receiving business.

Brian Jeffriess	CEO of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association which includes Tropical Tuna fisheries entitlement holders, Director of Commonwealth Fisheries Association
Veronica Silberschneider	Fisheries Manager, Fisheries NSW, no pecuniary interest in Tropical Tuna fisheries
Steve Auld	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in the Tropical Tuna fisheries
Matt Daniel	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in the Tropical Tuna fisheries
David Power	Employee of AFMA, Co-investigator of research project in the ETBF, no pecuniary interest in the Tropical Tuna fisheries
Nigel Abery	Employee of AFMA, Principal Investigator of research project in the ETBF, no pecuniary interest in the Tropical Tuna fisheries
Brett Taylor	ETBF quota holder, owner of four long line vessels and export factory
Adam Whan	SFR holder/owner/skipper. Operates two longline vessels in the East Coast Tuna Fishery and Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

1.4: Acceptance of minutes from TTMAC 6

5. TTMAC adopted the provisional minutes as a true and accurate account of the discussions from TTMAC 6.

1.5: Status of actions arising from TTMAC 6

6. The AFMA member outlined progress on the 16 action items identified at TTMAC 6 (Table 2).

Table 2: Status of actions arising since TTMAC 6

#	ACTION ARISING	STATUS
1	AFMA to complete a report on conversion factors in the ETBF and provide the report to TTRAG for consideration.	On-going. Discussions and action required between Steve Hall and industry to get an adequate sample size (30 fish). Once this is complete a report from AFMA will be forwarded to TTRAG for consideration. Action Item 2
2	TTRAG Chair to provide TTMAC with the input and output control NPF harvest strategy.	On-going. The Executive Officer agreed to circulate the internet links to the Northern Prawn Fishery input and output control Harvest Strategy to members. Action Item 3.
3	Provide TTMAC with link to ETBF e-monitoring report.	Completed.
4	Inform ETBF fishers of the NSW review of baitfishing arrangements.	On-going. AFMA will inform members when the next working group meeting will be held. Action Item 4.
5	Provide TTMAC with best estimate of historical ETBF catch	Complete. Catch v's TAC posted weekly on AFMA website.
6	Make available ongoing catch updates for ETBF and WTBF quota species.	Completed. Updates available on the AFMA website (catch watch).
7	Examine implications of setting TACCs over a longer time-frame.	Ongoing. To be discussed at TTRAG workshop in February 2013. Action Item 5.
8	Implement revised interpretation of the 28 within-season reconciliation of overcatch.	Completed. Implemented from 1 December 2012
9	Forward TTMAC's views on the draft Quota Administration policy to AFMA.	Completed.
10	Distribute revised ERM report to TTMAC for out-of-session approval.	Completed.
11	Review draft 2012/13 budget.	Completed. TTMAC sub-committee met and provided comments.

#	ACTION ARISING	STATUS
12	Review whether to make the use of e-logs compulsory.	To be discussed under agenda item 3.9.
13	10% undercatch/overcatch provision and 2000kg determined weight be set for all WTBF quota species for 2012/13 season.	Completed.
14	That an 8.5% level of observer coverage be achieved in the ETBF during the 2012/13 season.	Ongoing. The observer program is on track to reach the target of 8.5% coverage in the ETBF during the 2012/13 season. Action Item 6
15	Freedom of Information issues to be included in the ETBF e-monitoring information package.	Ongoing. Information security is included as part of the tender process for E-Monitoring. The AFMA member informed TTMAC that to-date AFMA had not released e-monitoring footage but noted that this is reviewable by the Courts.
16	Implications of likely area closures in Coral Sea.	Members noted that TTRAG will be considering the harvest strategy/ TACC setting implications of the likely area closures in the Coral Sea.

1.6: Correspondence/intersessional work arising between TTMAC6 and TTMAC7

7. TTMAC noted that the following issues were addressed out-of-session since the previous meeting in March 2012:

- i. October 2012, AFMA sent an email to TTMAC seeking comments to include in AFMA's submission to the review of the Fisheries Management Act 1991 and the Fisheries Administration Act 1991;
- ii. September 2012, AFMA sent a letter to all MAC members regarding managing conflicts of interest during meetings;
- iii. September 2012, 28 day continuous quota reconciliation paper sent to TTMAC for noting;
- iv. August 2012, TTMAC Chair sent a letter to Tony Kingston thanking him for his services as TTMAC Executive Officer;
- v. August 2012, AFMA finance sent an explanation of AFMA's overheads at the request of TTMAC;
- vi. May 2012, AFMA's 2012/13 budget sent to TTMAC for comment;
- vii. March 2012, AFMA's half yearly budget sent to TTMAC for comment; and
- viii. March 2012, AFMA's draft quota policy sent to TTMAC for comment.

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 and DAFF were just providing information reports.

2.1: AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries

8. The AFMA member noted that in the ETBF as at 12 November 2012, 22% of Albacore, 41% of Bigeye, 45% Swordfish, 40% Striped Marlin and 39% of Yellowfin of the 2012 TACC had been caught. Members further noted that last year at the same time nearly 70% Yellowfin had been caught.

9. Members acknowledged that there has been no fishing in the Skipjack Fishery but that a new longliner had begun fishing in the WTBF. The longliner has freezer capacity and is fishing in tropical waters with an observer on board. Members noted that the vessel was only retaining quota species with the main catch consisting of Bigeye and Yellowfin. The AFMA member highlighted that the vessel was doing at least 40 day trips which would have an impact on the budget as only 20 observer days were budgeted.

10. TTMAC noted that the Australian Antarctic Division recently held a meeting to discuss the current Threat Abatement Plan for seabirds (TAP). The meeting spent time discussing how to improve the TAP for industry and AFMA in terms of efficiency. Members noted that the biggest issue for industry was offal discharge and there may be a proposal that there be no offal discharge during setting and hauling. A draft should be released before the end of 2012.

11. Members noted that a trial of 60g line weights is being conducted off New South Wales. The AFMA member noted that the weights also glow so may replace light sticks. Members further noted that 40g weights at the hook have already been adopted in the ETBF.

12. The AFMA member explained that 28 day continuous reconciliation had started in the ETBF and agreed to produce a one page handout to explain the new process of reconciliation. It was highlighted to members that it was the responsibility of members to know if they were over quota and a notification will need to be acknowledged when operators log onto Gofish.

2.2: Report from the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Scientific Committee 8th Session

13. Members welcomed the presentation by DAFF staff regarding the outcomes from the WCPFC Scientific Committee 8th Session. Members noted that the following stock assessments were discussed:

- Bigeye tuna assessment for 2011 was peer reviewed noting that the stock is overfished and subject to overfishing;
- Skipjack and yellowfin advice remained unchanged from previous session;
- Albacore is not overfished nor subject to overfishing but the scientific committee noted an increase in catch. Members noted that this species was a priority next year as current measure to stabilise catch was not agreed to by Pacific Island member;
- Striped Marlin is not subject to overfishing but the stock is overfished;
- Whitetip shark is subject to overfishing and is overfished;
- Silky shark is listed as uncertain due to a lack of data.

14. Seabird measures that were discussed included requirements to use at least two of the following measures: line weighting, night setting and tori lines.

15. Members also noted that there was also a proposal to ban wire trace and finning shark at sea.

16. TTMAC noted that this would have no impact on the domestic fleet as both the seabird and shark measures were already implemented in Australian.

17. The Conservation member agreed to provide a paper to members called Going, going, gone which is about Albacore in the Pacific.

Action Item 7: Conservation member to provide paper Going, going, gone to members
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2.3: Report from the WCPFC Technical Compliance Committee 8th Session

18. TTMAC noted that the analysis from the Scientific Committee flowed through to the Technical Compliance Committee. Members noted that the Chair released a paper on Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack Tunas. Compliance Committee members provided comments and the Chair provided an updated paper. In particular, members noted that the Pacific Islands are requesting that if there is a reduction in purse seine catch there needs to be a reduction in longline catch. Pacific Islands will also be seeking compensation if there is a FAD closure.

19. The Technical Compliance Committee agreed to also look at which countries are not being compliant and which conservation measures are not being met. For example, bycatch data and reporting of non-target species.

2.4: Forthcoming WCPFC meeting

20. TTMAC received an informal report from DAFF staff regarding the issues to be discussed at the WCPFC meeting to be held in Manila in late November/early December. TTMAC noted that the AFMA member would be attending the meeting. The meeting would be considering, among other matters, a revised Conservation and Management Measure for

skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tunas, and the rapid growth of the albacore longline fleet based in the Pacific Island countries.

21. DAFF also reminded TTMAC that it coordinates a separate consultative process for stakeholders interested in WCPFC matters and encouraged participants to liaise with DAFF in the future on any WCPFC matters of interest.

22. Members noted that any outcomes from meeting were unlikely to impact on Australian catch rates.

23. TTMAC thanked DAFF staff for attending the TTMAC meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration/Decision Items

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

Paul Williams: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 & 3.9

Terry Romaro: agenda item 3.1

Gary Heilmann: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4

Joe Basile: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7 & 3.9

Cathal Farrell: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4

Brian Jeffriess: agenda items 3.6 & 3.7

Peter Trott: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8 & 3.9

Cathy Dichmont: agenda items 3.5

Veronica Silberschneider: agenda items 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4

Brett Taylor: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8 & 3.9

Adam Whan: agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8 & 3.9

In line with the requirements as a MAC member who has declared an interest 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 member who has declared an interest 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 member who has declared an interest 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 a MAC 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 member who has declared an interest 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.

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

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

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

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

In line with the requirements of a MAC meeting, Mr Taylor declared an interest under an agenda item, and was asked to leave the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Taylor should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

In line with the requirements of a MAC meeting, Mr Whan declared an interest under an agenda item, and was asked to leave the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Whan should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 3.

3.1: Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the ETBF

24. TTMAC had a lengthy discussion regarding ETBF TACC levels for 2013. The TTRAG Chair provided a summary of the RAG's discussion and their advice which was provided to members. Based on that discussion, TTMAC recommended the following TACCs for the ETBF for 2013 (Table 1).

Table 1: TTMAC Recommendations for ETBF TACC levels for 2013

Quota species	2012 TACCs	Recommended 2013 TACCs
Yellowfin Tuna	2200t	2200t
Bigeye Tuna	1056t	1056t
Albacore Tuna	2500t	2500t
Broadbill Swordfish	1396t	1396t

Striped Marlin	370t	370t ¹
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More detailed advice in support of the recommended ETBF TACCs is annexed (Attachment B). TTMAC had lengthy discussions regarding the recommended TACCs for Striped Marlin. TTMAC supported the use of the Harvest Strategy to determine the TACC and agreed that a reduction was an outcome of the Strategy. However, industry members reiterated their long-held view that any required catch reductions in the Striped Marlin TACC should be borne by both the commercial and recreational sectors. Members expressed concern that under the current Harvest Strategy the commercial TACC will continue to decline and this will have a limited ability to achieve the objectives whilst the recreational mortality remains unmanaged. Therefore, the majority of TTMAC members recommended no change to the current TACC of 370t. However, the AFMA, Conservation and Research members abstained from the recommendation. TTMAC recommended that the AFMA CEO write to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to seek urgent action on resource sharing.

Action Item 8: AFMA CEO write to DAFF to raise the issue of resource sharing including Striped Marlin

3.2: Compulsory implementation of circle hooks in the ETBF

25. TTMAC discussed that the WCPFC had introduced a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) aimed at protecting sea turtles. Under the CMM, longline vessels that fish for swordfish in a shallow set manner must implement at least one of the following: use only large circle hooks; use only whole finfish for bait or use any other measure, mitigation plan or activity that has been approved by the Commission to be capable of reducing the interaction rate of turtles.

26. TTMAC noted that there is currently a Sea Turtle Management Plan in force in the ETBF. The ETBF has exceeded the trigger limit for leatherback turtles and green turtles two years in a row and now AFMA must initiate management action to ensure the ETBF is fully compliant with the requirements of the WCPFC.

27. TTMAC recommended revoking the Management Plan and introducing a Statutory Fishing Right condition that requires all Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery longliners that set less than eight hooks per bubble to use large circle hooks as per the requirements of the WCPFC measure.

28. Mr Farrell agreed to provide a report to the next TTMAC meeting on the number of vessels using J hooks to determine if there is any potential of going to compulsory circle hooks if there is a high percentage of industry that are already using J hooks.

29. The AFMA member noted that a paper was presented to the Forum Fisheries Agency that demonstrated that if there was a ban on wire traces on all longline fleets in the Western Central Pacific then the global shark catch would reduce by 1 million sharks.

Action Item 9: Mr Farrell to provide a report at TTMAC 8 on the use of J hooks in the ETBF

3.3: Shark trip limits in the ETBF

¹ Majority TTMAC recommendation – AFMA, Research and Conservation members abstained

30. The AFMA member noted that there has been isolated incidents of targeting of sharks in the ETBF with a small number of landings consisting of only shark at or near the 20 shark trip limit with no or only a small number of quota species.

31. Members noted that the shark trip limit was designed to deter targeting but allow the retention of incidentally caught shark.

32. In response to the above issue, TTMAC recommend that SFR conditions be amended so that the number of sharks landed must be equal to or less than the number of all tuna and billfish quota species landed for each trip up to a maximum of 20 sharks.

33. Members noted that catch disposal records would be used to determine the take of shark.

3.4: Oceanic white tip sharks

34. TTMAC noted that in April 2012 WCPFC passed a Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) that requires Australia (and all other members, cooperating non-members and participating territories) to prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing any Oceanic Whitetip shark, in whole or in part, in the fisheries covered by the Convention.

35. Members noted that there has been a steady decline in the catch of Oceanic Whitetip sharks in the ETBF in recent years. However, there has been targeting of Whitetip in parts of Pacific and the CMM was introduced to reduce this.

36. Members agreed to recommend amending ETBF SFR conditions to prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, storing on a fishing vessel, or landing of any Oceanic Whitetip Shark, in the ETBF.

3.5: 2013/14 Annual Research Statement

37. TTMAC noted the five year Strategic Research Plan for the Australian Tuna and Billfish Fisheries for 2012-16 which lists research areas that have been identified as a high priority.

38. TTMAC noted that the TTRAG use the Strategic Research Plan to develop an Annual Research statement each year.

39. TTMAC discussed and suggested changes to the 2013-2014 Annual Research Statement priorities. AFMA agreed to make the suggested changes and distribute to members for endorsement.

40. Members noted that these priorities are consistent with AFMA's corporate research goals and fishery management objectives, and should form the focus of research funding proposals.

<p>Action Item 10: AFMA to make suggested changes to the 2013-14 Annual Research Statement and distribute to TTMAC for endorsement.</p>
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3.6: Verification of Northern Bluefin Tuna

41. TTMAC discussed the current methods to identify Northern Bluefin Tuna (NBT) including the expensive process of genetic testing.

42. Members noted that only a few NBT were caught this year.

43. AFMA proposed to include an additional option of using the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Tsukiji) market documentation as evidence for NBT.

44. TTMAC agreed to amend the ETBF SFR conditions to state that if the SFR holder can provide the documentation from the Tsukiji market showing that the fish was sold as NBT then AFMA will deem the fish NBT.

45. The AFMA member highlighted that SFR holders take a risk of exporting a fish as NBT if it was then deemed SBT by Tsukiji market, then the proceeds of sale may be confiscated in Japan.

3.7: SBT zones

46. TTMAC noted that SBT zones were implemented in the ETBF nearly ten years ago and although there have been refinements there has been no formal review.

47. Members noted that following discussions at the Ulladulla port visits, AFMA made some changes to the SBT Zones in 2012 including a 1000 fathom inshore buffer zone and agreed to review the zones weekly.

48. TTMAC agreed to establish a working group to formally review arrangements for managing interactions with SBT. The purpose of the proposed review will be to assess the efficiency and cost effectiveness of existing SBT zone management arrangements and identify recommendations for implementation in the SBT season commencing off southern NSW in May or June 2013.

49. It was agreed that the working group should consist of Terry Romaro (industry), Joe Basile (industry), Cathal Farrell (industry), Jason Hartog (CSIRO), Steve Auld (AFMA) and Matt Daniel (AFMA). The working group should also contain a further two industry members who would preferably be skippers that fish in the zones.

Action Item 11: SBT zone working group to report to the next TTMAC meeting

3.8: FAD (Fish Aggregation Devices) Management Plan

50. TTMAC noted the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) requires members, cooperating non-members and participating territories of the IOTC, that are fishing using fish aggregation devices (FAD) or who plan to fish on FADs in future to submit FAD management plans to the IOTC Commission.

51. Members noted that Australia's skipjack tuna fisheries are currently inactive, however, if conditions change and the fishery becomes active, Australia intends to retain the option to use FADs.

52. TTMAC discussed the draft FAD Management Plan in Australia's Tropical Tuna Fisheries prepared by AFMA.

53. Industry members noted that there was an issue with drifting FADs in other countries. However, AFMA noted that the draft Management Plan states that in Australia FAD's must be constructed from biodegradable materials and must not be constructed of any materials that may entangle fish (i.e. netting)

54. AFMA agreed to incorporate the suggested changes and send the updated management plan out of session for endorsement.

Action Item 12: AFMA to make suggested changes to the FAD Management Plan and send out to TTMAC for endorsement.

3.9: Consideration of E-logs

55. TTMAC considered the option of AFMA implementing the compulsory use of E-logs as of 1 July 2013 for longline SFR concession holders in the ETBF and WTBF.
56. Members noted that AFMA is moving to fee for service model for logbooks which will involve operators being charged directly for the cost of logbooks based on their level of usage. TTMAC further noted that changes are required to existing daily fishing logbooks that would require a costly re-issue of existing paper logbooks.
57. The AFMA member acknowledged that the compulsory use of e-logs will result in administrative cost saving that can be passed on to industry.
58. TTMAC agreed to recommend that the e-logs be compulsory from 1 July 2013 for the ETBF and WTBF and also requested that AFMA investigate the possibility of electronic catch disposal records.
59. Members noted that the level of training and support for the implementation of electronic logbooks still needs to be discussed.

Action Item 13: E-logs to be introduced to the whole fishery from 1 July 2013.

Agenda Item 4: Other Information/Discussion Items

No conflicts of interest were declared under this agenda item. TTMAC noted that no recommendations were being made and that the papers were for information only.

4.1: Environment update

60. TTMAC noted that update provided by the AFMA environment section which included a strategic assessment update, protected species update and Marine Bioregional planning update.

4.2: Fishery levies and acquittals

61. Members noted the 2011/12 financial acquittal which showed an underspend in 2011/12;

62. TTMAC noted the final 2012/13 budget and that the levies for the 2012/13 financial year for the Tropical Tuna fisheries which are lower than last year due to the underspend in 2011/12 but were likely to increase again next financial year.

63. Members noted that in previous years fishing concession holders were issued one invoice with up to three instalment dates. For 2012/13 financial year, industry will receive three discrete invoices (payable 11 February 2013, 8 April 2013 and 3 June 2013).

64. In response to an industry question about the need for continued observer coverage, the AFMA member informed members that the observer program was working well but protected species were still not being reported when an observer is not on board a boat. AFMA is planning on more targeted information sessions for skippers.

65. Members noted that the logbook costs were high in the Skipjack Fishery although there was limited fishing. The AFMA member noted that this was mainly due to the costs associated with developing electronic logbooks which are split across all fisheries.

66. An industry member noted for information that a company may be interested in re-opening canning of locally caught skipjack.

4.3: Fishery catch data – 2012/13 season to date

67. TTMAC noted the updated catch estimates by species for the ETBF and WTBF sourced from both logbook and catch disposal record (CDRs) data contained in the agenda paper.

68. Members further noted the blue and black marlin catches in the ETBF as recorded in daily fishing logbooks and catch disposal records.

Agenda Item 5: Other Items

Cathy Dichmont, Peter Trott and Brian Jeffriess declared their interest under agenda item 5.2.

In line with the requirements as a MAC member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Dr Dichmont left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Dr Dichmont should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 5.2.

In line with the requirements as a MAC member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Trott left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Trott should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 5.2.

In line with the requirements as a MAC member who has declared an interest under an agenda item, Mr Jeffriess left the room. The remaining members of TTMAC agreed that Mr Jeffriess should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 5.2.

5.1: MAC self-assessment

69. TTMAC noted that Fisheries Management Paper number 1 outlines the requirement for each MAC to conduct a self-assessment of their performance at least every two years.

70. Members completed a MAC self-assessment in session with the compiled summary annexed (Attachment C). In general, members stated that TTMAC was functioning effectively.

71. Members noted that the outcome of the self-assessment will be reported to the AFMA Commission.

5.2: Review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines and Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch

72. Members welcomed the presentation by Beth Gibson, Senior Manager, Policy, Environment and Economics, on the current DAFF reviews of the Harvest Strategy and Bycatch policies.

73. TTMAC noted that the documents were out for comment until the 21st December, however, AFMA is requesting MAC comments by 14th December so that the responses can be consolidated.

74. Members noted that DAFF had established a steering committee (which is organisational based) and an advisory committee (which had representatives from the fishing industry and conservation groups).

75. Members agreed that some of the major issues for the Tropical Tuna fisheries in the Harvest Strategy review include international obligations and the recreational versus commercial catch.

76. Members noted that the reviews could result in significant cost and time implications to TTRAG and TTMAC. The MAC strongly recommended that a cost-benefit analysis was necessary on any policy options

77. Given the short time period to provide comments, AFMA member agreed to send members an email highlighting some of the key points for the Tropical Tuna fisheries.

78. The AFMA member also agreed to provide any relevant information/documentation to members as soon as it was available particularly regarding the impact of the proposed Coral Sea area closure.

79. Members indicated their concern regarding compensation and highlighted that industry may not know the full impact for over a year and could miss any compensation.

80. Members agreed to provide all TTMAC comments by the deadline specified.

<p>Action Item 14: AFMA to send members an email highlighting some key points of the reviews on the Commonwealth fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines and Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch.</p>
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5.2: Other business

81. Brian Jeffriess briefed TTMAC on the outcomes of the 2012 CCSBT meetings, including the CCSBT discussions on recreational fishing and discards. He noted that the CCSBT papers were now public (see www.ccsbt.org).

82. After requests from industry, AFMA had agreed to work with Western Australia fisheries to review current WTBF trip limits, given the introduction of vessels capable of longer trips.

83. AFMA agreed to provide a paper for the next TTMAC meeting. The paper should include what sharks are of concerns and the cost associated with administering new arrangements.

<p>Action Item 15: Update of WTBF trip limits to be considered at the next TTMAC.</p>
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Agenda Item 6: Next meeting

84. TTMAC agreed, subject to budget constraints, to next meet in late March/early April 2013.

Catherine Barnett
TTMAC Chair
January 2013



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Tropical Tuna Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC) 7

AFMA, Canberra

20-21 November 2012 (commencing at 9:30am)

FINAL 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 6
- 1.5. Actions Arising from TTMAC 6
- 1.6. Correspondence between TTMAC 6 and TTMAC 7

2. Background Information/Discussion Items

- 2.1. AFMA Management report on the ETBF and WTBF fisheries
- 2.2. Report from the WCPFC Scientific Committee 8th Session
- 2.3. Report from the WCPFC Technical Compliance Committee 8th Session
- 2.4. Forthcoming WCPFC Commission Meeting

3. Consideration/Decision Items

- 3.1 Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the ETBF
- 3.2 Compulsory implementation of circle hooks in the ETBF
- 3.3 Shark trip limits in the ETBF
- 3.4 Oceanic White Tip sharks
- 3.5 2013/14 Annual Research Statement
- 3.6 Verification of Northern Bluefin Tuna
- 3.7 SBT zones
- 3.8 FAD Management Plan
- 3.9 Consideration of E-logs

4. Other Information/Discussion Items

- 4.1. Environment update
- 4.2. Fishery levies and acquittals
- 4.3. Fishery Catch Data – 2012/13 Season to date

5. Other Items

- 5.1. MAC Self-assessment
- 5.2. Review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy policy and guidelines and the Commonwealth policy on Fisheries Bycatch

6. Date and venue for next meeting