



			update.
3	AFMA to supply working group with summary statistics of Electronic Monitoring footage analysed from the Australian Sea Lion management area including levels of observer coverage and proportions of footage reviewed. AFMA to present Working Group with an example of EM footage obtained from systems at the next meeting.	AFMA	Complete. AFMA provided details at meeting.
4	AFMA to inform the Working Group of the details of the dolphin interactions reported as released alive.	AFMA	Completed under agenda item 3.1
5	Final FRDC report <i>Trials of longlines to target Gummy Shark in SESSF waters off South Australia</i> to be distributed to Working Group. Fishwell Consulting to provide Working Group information of age at sexual maturity for Gummy Shark.	Fishwell Consulting and AFMA	Complete. FRDC report published on AFMA website in April 2014.
6	AFMA to establish sub-group of the Working Group to define best practice mitigation measures and identify appropriate candidate pingers.	AFMA	Complete. See agenda item 4.1
7	Members to provide comment to on Sustainable Shark Fishing Incorporated Risk Assessment paper to David Stone. This work will support the sub-committee reviewing mitigation measures.	All	Complete David Stone provided verbal update.

The industry member queried the retention protocols for seabirds which have been caught on vessels which do not have freezer facilities to carry seabird carcasses for analysis. Currently seabirds are sent to Hobart for analysis where possible. The group discussed the use of photos if seabirds are unable to be retained.

**Action item 1:** AFMA to develop protocols for identifying and retaining seabirds on shark hook vessels.

Cath Kemper suggested using seabird experts at the South Australian Museum for any seabird mortalities which occurred in waters adjacent to South Australia rather than freighting birds to Tasmania for identification and analysis. Cath informed the working group that she would discuss this with her colleagues and inform the working group of the outcome.

**Action item 2:** Cath Kemper to investigate identification of seabirds at the South Australian Museum.

Simon Goldsworthy provided working group members with an update on the pup counts at Cap Island and Rocky South Island. 38 pups were counted on Cap Island in November 2011, and 12 pups on Rocky South Island also during November 2011.

AFMA provided the working group with details of e-monitoring footage analysis which has been undertaken for gillnet fishing activity up to approximately April 2014. It was noted that discrepancies had been detected with dolphin mortalities being missed by e-monitoring footage analysts as well as some instances of dolphin mortalities which had not been



reported in logbooks. The working group questioned the ability for e-monitoring to detect drop outs, AFMA informed members that there are multiple camera angles for all fishing activity and drop outs have been detected during analysis. AFMA also discussed the implementation of a new externally run e-monitoring program which will provide high definition cameras and random footage re-audits for increased quality control. AFMA presented an example of e-monitoring footage shot in a Halibut fishery in North America to demonstrate the increase in quality. A clip of a seabird interaction on an ETBF vessel was also shown. Working group members appreciated the increase in footage quality and asked for AFMA to supply an example of footage of gillnet fishing in the SESSF at the next meeting.

**Action item 3:** AFMA to show an example of e-monitoring footage of gillnet fishing at the next MMWG meeting.

Members also queried whether there was a protocol for retaining e-monitoring footage for TEP events. The working group recommended that such footage should be kept for future reference of TEP interactions for the purposes of determining the species, size of the animal and the nature of the interaction.

**Action item 4:** AFMA to update the MMWG on protocols both internally and with the e-monitoring service provider for the retention of TEP interactions.

AFMA members discussed non-fatal dolphin interactions in the GHAT gillnet sector. It was noted that there has only been one recorded non-fatal interaction in the last four years and the vessel did not have e-monitoring. This interaction occurred in the months leading up to the 2013 MMWG meeting. Industry members expressed disappointment that AFMA did not follow up this interaction more closely with the skipper of the vessel at the time and that AFMA should follow-up when there are interactions.

The FRDC report *Trials of longlines to target Gummy Shark in SESSF waters off South Australia* was discussed. AFMA noted the issues with seabird bycatch during the trial and the increased mitigation measures which have been implemented for the two temporary auto longline permits which have been issued to target gummy sharks in South Australia.

Details of the Marine Mammal Working Group Dolphin Mitigation Sub-Committee meeting were discussed in Action Item 4.1.

David Stone noted that there have been no comments received on the SSFI risk assessment which was provided to working group members at the last meeting.

### **Update on Marine Mammal Interactions**

AFMA members presented details of marine mammal interactions since the last MMWG meeting in September 2013. It was noted that the last ASL mortality was in May 2013 and all triggers for the seven management zones had been reset. Three dolphin interactions had been reported since the last meeting with one in Victoria and two in South Australia. David Stone questioned how many of the interactions in Bass Strait were observed.

**Action item 5:** AFMA to provide David Stone with a summary of dolphin interactions between Bass Strait and South Australia including observer presence or absence.



Statistics presented by AFMA demonstrated a reduction in gillnet effort in South Australia from previous years. AFMA also discussed an increase in hook effort in South Australia, with effort almost doubling over the last two years. It was discussed that this is most likely due to a shift in fishing practices to reduce the risk of triggering an ASL closure.

Cath Kemper noted that the Museum had received eight Shy Albatross from south east of Adelaide, one with a large hook embedded and the others with injuries consistent with being hooked. She queried whether it would be possible for AFMA to identify the origin of the hooks. AFMA members noted that this would be difficult if the hooks were not on snoods or tied to a leader as Commonwealth, State and recreational fishing sectors all use hooks in the waters described.

### **GHAT Dolphin Management**

Alexia Wellbelove attempted to join the meeting via Skype, although due to the meeting room lacking suitable audio equipment the call was cut short.

The working group reviewed comments on the Dolphin Strategy received by AFMA during public consultation. The key comments on the strategy included:

- the aim should be to eliminate not minimise dolphin bycatch
- fishery wide cumulative triggers as well as individual vessel triggers
- ‘dolphin bycatch’ should be refined to specify whether the dolphin is dead or alive and should be consistent with AFMA logbook requirements
- the boat inspection should be done by someone who is an experienced gillnet fisher and respected by industry
- at what point will a fisher be excluded from the whole fishery not just the Coorong region
- the individual vessel dolphin mitigation plan should be an active document so it is constantly evolving.

The working group discussed fishery wide triggers to ensure that any effort increase does not lead to the total dolphin bycatch exceeding the level experienced prior to the Coorong being closed. To maintain the individual responsibility component of the strategy, it was agreed that if at any time cumulative bycatch in the Coorong Dolphin Zone approaches that experienced in 2011, AFMA will consult with the MMWG.

The reporting requirements for a dolphin mortality under the strategy was discussed, with agreement being reached that all dolphin mortalities should be reported as soon as reasonably possible, acknowledging that telecommunication reception is limited in some areas. It was agreed that 24 hours after landing was to be the cut off for reporting a mortality via phone, with the dolphin interaction report being submitted electronically or via post within 48 hours of landing.

The working group questioned what AFMA will be assessing when a vessel is ordered to return to port and undertake a review of mitigation. AFMA noted that the review will be comparing the vessel’s fishing gear, fishing practices and mitigation report to other vessels in the fishery which are not having issues with dolphin interactions. It was also noted that if the



operator requested, an industry expert or industry association member could also be involved in the review to provide practical operational advice.

AFMA discussed the details of individual vessel mitigation plans and advised the working group that mitigation plans will not be approved or rejected provided they addressed each of the criteria. They are designed to be a dynamic document containing information relating to fishing practices and any mitigation measures being undertaken on the vessel. The industry member expressed concern that AFMA appears to be encouraging the use of pingers without providing relevant information on suitability. AFMA members noted that the use of pingers will not be a requirement to fish in the Coorong.

### **Audit rate and fee for service**

It was noted that currently under the ASL Strategy and proposed under the Dolphin Strategy 100% of gillnet e-monitoring footage from South Australia is analysed. Historically, this analysis has been funded from the levy base which is paid by fishers across the entire fishery. AFMA noted that fishers using gillnets in South Australia would be required to be charged \$75 per fishing day so the cost of e-monitoring is recovered from the users of the area. It was recognised that for a typical fishing year of 200 days, this could add an additional \$15,000 annually per vessel to the cost of operating in South Australia making fishing economically difficult for a number of vessels.

AFMA noted that e-monitoring was primarily a tool used for the validation of logbook data by increasing the accuracy of reporting. A recommendation was sought from the working group on the level of analysis required for e-monitoring footage.

The MMWG recommended AFMA to undertake an analysis of the level of coverage required to obtain different levels of certainty for interactions with ASL and dolphins and an assessment of audit rates to ensure sufficiently accurate logbook reporting. It was noted that the certainty levels for ASL interactions would likely need to be higher than dolphins because of their conservation status. Alice Mackay offered to assist with an analysis to indicate how many or what rate of observations are required to ensure we have statistical confidence in picking up rare events and provide the results to AFMA.

Due to the level of cost associated with 100% review of e-monitoring footage, the MMWG suggested AFMA investigate auditing 100% footage on some boats (random or stratified). This approach was thought to promote accurate reporting whilst reducing cost for industry.

<p><b>Action item 6:</b> AFMA to investigate cost structure/model for auditing 100% of e-monitoring footage at random intervals for different vessels.</p>
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### **5.1 Update on SARDI research**

Simon Goldsworthy from the South Australian Research and Development Institute presented details of projects currently being undertaken relevant to marine mammals.

Projects discussed included:

- a state wide census of ASL population status
- fur seal impacts on the seafood industry
- great Australian Bight iconic species and apex predators survey work
- IUCN reassessment for conservation status of ASL



- ASL foraging analysis using micro chipping techniques

## 5.2 Update on monitoring plan for ASL recovery

Kerry Cameron from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment presented an update on progress of actions underway under the ASL recovery plan. Key points included:

- In April 2014, a technical workshop was held to develop an agreed monitoring framework to measure the recovery of ASLs across all relevant State and Commonwealth jurisdictions
- two ASL colonies from each of the seven management zones were selected for monitoring
- a baseline is being developed to assess changes over time in population
- modelling to determine the suitability of the draft monitoring framework to detect changes in ASL populations is currently underway
- a workshop to test and finalise the monitoring framework is planned for August/September 2014.

## 5.3 Update on dolphin research

No additional information was presented at the meeting on dolphin research. AFMA members noted that Kirstin Bilgmann had provided a paper discussing management units for Common Dolphins during recent communication prior to the MMWG meeting. The working group suggested that the paper be made available for all members.

**Action item 7:** AFMA to circulate Kirstin Bilgmann's paper on Common Dolphin management units in South Eastern Australia to MMWG members.

## 6 Other business

No additional items were discussed.

### Summary of actions arising from the meeting

	Action Required	Responsibility
1	AFMA to develop protocols for identifying and retaining seabirds on shark hook vessels.	AFMA
2	Cath Kemper to investigate identification of seabirds at the South Australian Museum.	Cath Kemper
3	AFMA to present e-monitoring footage of gillnet fishing at the next MMWG meeting.	AFMA
4	AFMA to develop protocols both internally and with the e-monitoring service provider for the retention of TEP interactions.	AFMA
5	AFMA to provide David Stone with a summary of dolphin interactions between Bass Strait and South Australia including observer presence or absence.	AFMA
6	AFMA to investigate cost structure/model for auditing 100% of e-monitoring footage at random intervals for different vessels.	AFMA
7	AFMA to circulate Kirstin Bilgmann's paper on Common Dolphin	AFMA





## Marine Mammal Working Group

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SCALEFISH AND SHARK FISHERY

24 JULY 2014

South Australia Sea Rescue Squadron  
Barcoo Rd, West Beach, 5024

**Meeting commences 10:00 am and concludes 4.30 pm**

### **1. Preliminaries Chair (30 minutes)**

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Apologies
- 1.3 Adoption of agenda
- 1.4 Progress on action items

### **2. Reporting on ASL Strategy (15 minutes)**

- 2.1 Update on activities since last meeting AFMA Management

### **3. Update on interactions (30 minutes)**

- 3.1 Marine mammal interactions AFMA Management

### **4. GHAT Dolphin Management (2 hours)**

- 4.1 Dolphin Sub-Committee meeting outcomes AFMA Management
- 4.2 Dolphin Strategy AFMA Management
- 4.3 Public Comments AFMA Management

### **5. Update on marine mammal research (1 hour 30minutes)**

- 5.1 Update on SARDI research and project proposals Simon Goldsworthy
- 5.2 Monitoring plan for ASL recovery Department of Environment
- 5.3 Update on dolphin research

### **6. Other business/next meeting**

