



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SPFRAG) 17

Minutes

Date: 11 – 12 March 2014

Venue: AFMA Canberra Office

Attendance

Name	Representation
Dr Kirsten Davies	Chair
A/Prof Tim Ward	Scientific Member
Dr Jeremy Lyle	Scientific Member
Dr Andrew Penny (in place of Andy Moore)	Scientific Member
Mr Denis Brown	Industry Member
Mr Terry Romaro	Industry Member
Mr Gerry Geen	Industry Member
Mr Jon Bryan	Environment/Conservation Member
Mr Graham Pike	Recreational Member
Mr Grant Pullen	Tasmanian Permanent Observer
Dr John Stewart	NSW Permanent Observer
Mr Steve Shanks	AFMA Member
Ms Kylie Tonon	Executive Officer
Mr Lee Georgeson	Observer (ABARES)
Ms Renee Kinnersly	Observer (AFMA)

Minutes

Item No.	Discussion	Action Items / Recommendations
1 Acknowledgement of Country	The RAG noted the Acknowledgement of country.	
2 Introduction and apologies	The RAG noted apologies from Michael Thomas, (industry member) and noted that Andrew Penny from ABARES was standing in for Andy Moore (Scientific Member).	
3 Declaration of interests	The RAG noted the conflicts as recorded in meeting papers. The Chair reminded members they could add to any declarations during the	



Item No.	Discussion	Action Items / Recommendations
	meeting if required.	
4 Correspondence	The RAG noted the correspondence sent and received since the last meeting.	
5 SPF Research Update	<p>A/Prof Ward explained the current research projects in the fishery which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new daily egg production method (DEPM) surveys are being undertaken for Jack Mackerel and Australian Sardine, • a new management strategy evaluation (MSE) of the Harvest Strategy and species exploitation rates being undertaken by Dr Tony Smith and • there is a possible project under consideration concerned with improving estimates from DEPM surveys, which may include a four day technical workshop with international experts in DEPM methodology. <p>SPF industry members mentioned that they were keen to discuss the MSE methodology with the student from British Columbia that is working with Dr Tony Smith.</p> <p>One member suggested that acoustic surveys may be better tools for estimating biomass of small pelagic species. It was agreed that this should be discussed as part of the research priority discussions at the next SPFRAG meeting.</p>	<p>Action item 1 SARDI to organise a teleconference between SPF industry members and the student from British Columbia to discuss the MSE methodology by 25 March.</p> <p>Action item 2 ABARES to prepare a paper on the benefits of acoustic surveys as part of research priorities discussion at the next SPFRAG meeting.</p>
6 2014-15 RBC recommendations (presentation)	<p>The RAG noted A/Prof Ward's presentation on the findings of the Annual Assessment Report, explaining that this is the RAG's opportunity to provide input before the report is finalised. Members suggested that where available the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estimates of recreational catch fishing data in the analysis; • current (2013-14) catch information; • estimates of both the spawning stock biomass (SSB) determined by a DEPM and the estimate that the RAG used to set the Recommended Biological Catch (RBC) if these values differ (e.g. for Blue Mackerel West); • the percentage of catch vs RBC; • an explanation of impediments to fishing; and • a review of a decline of Jack Mackerel surface schools off east Tasmania in the 1990's. <p>The RAG noted that NSW DPI use catch weighted data and present the data differently in their assessments. The RAG recommended that SARDI and the state jurisdictions meet as soon as possible to discuss any issues/inconsistencies surrounding</p>	<p>Recommendation The 2013 Annual SPF Status Report is updated to include RAG comments.</p> <p>Action item 3 SARDI and NSW DPI, Tas DPIPWE and Vic DPI to meet as soon as possible to discuss data collection, weighting, presentation and in particular representation.</p> <p>Action item 4 NSW and SARDI re-examine the data for YTS and assess what data can be included in the 2013 assessment report.</p>



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	<p>data collection, weighting and presentation.</p> <p>The following notes were made in relation to individual species:</p> <p>Jack Mackerel (JMK) - JMK is avoided by Commercial operators in NSW as it has no commercial value and when trying to target JMK off Tasmania, there is a large bycatch of Sardines that they must discard. It was also noted that since Seafish Tasmania sold their small boat there has been no significant fishing for JMK in the SPF. It was also suggested that evidence of a decline of surface schools of JMK off Tasmania in the 1990's be included in the report.</p> <p>Yellowtail Scad (YTS) - some irregularities in the NSW data existed and the RAG recommended that SARDI work with NSW to re-examine the YTS data and possibly help to analyse catch data and otoliths for inclusion in the 2013 assessment report. The RAG noted that YTS is an important bait species for Commonwealth east coast tuna operators and that AFMA should be investigating ways for tuna operators to contribute to surveys.</p> <p>Redbait (RBT) - the RAG recommended that historical catch information be included for 2012-13 in the assessment report.</p> <p>Australian Sardine (Sardine) - since 2010 Commonwealth catches have decreased due to a factory fire in Eden and the loss of a large vessel in the fishery. It was also noted that Sardine moved from inshore waters, where they could be purse seined, to off shore waters where they are being caught in trawl nets.</p>	
<p>6(a) Blue Mackerel East</p>	<p>Catches have remained relatively low since 2006-07. In March 2008 SPFRAG agreed to use the mid-range best estimate of 40,000 tonnes spawning biomass, after a sensitivity analysis was completed. Tier 2 formula based on average spawning biomass based on DEPM Surveys conducted between 2002 and 2005 = 40,000t x 7.5% = 3,000t</p> <p>One member opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. This member recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 3,000 tonnes</p>
<p>6(a) Blue Mackerel West</p>	<p>After a peak of 2,000 tonnes in 2008-09, catches declined dramatically. Best estimate of the spawning biomass from DEPM surveys conducted between 2001-2006 is 56,000 tonnes Tier 2 formula based on average spawning biomass = 56,000 x 7.5% = 4,200 tonnes. In February 2012, SPFRAG set the RBC at the Tier 2 maximum of</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 6,500 tonnes</p>



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	<p>6,500 tonnes due to evidence of spawning outside the survey area. The RAG agreed to set the RBC at 6,500 tonnes for 2014-15.</p> <p>One member opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. This member recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	
<p>6(b) Redbait East</p>	<p>The Tier 2 formula based on average spawning biomass from DEPMs conducted in October 2005 and October 2006 = 68,886t x 7.5% = 5,166 tonnes.</p> <p>Two members opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the absence of current DEPM data, uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. This member recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 5,200 tonnes</p>
<p>6(b) Redbait West</p>	<p>While there is no biomass estimate available for Redbait West, there has been no catch or effort recorded since 2009-10. The Tier 2 maximum RBC of 5,000 tonnes was recommended.</p> <p>Two members opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the paucity of the data available, uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. These members recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 5,000 tonnes</p>
<p>6(c) Jack Mackerel East</p>	<p>After peaking at 40,000t in 1988-89, catches decreased and in 2012-13 the lowest catches on record were recorded.</p> <p>A DEPM conducted in 2011 (using eggs from 2003-04) estimated a spawning biomass of approximately 141,000 tonnes. Ecosystem modelling completed in February 2013 indicates that spawning biomasses of 96,400-190,000 tonnes are plausible. There are no other data available. The RAG noted that a DEPM survey was recently undertaken for this species and that the results will be available for the 2015-16 RBC setting process.</p> <p>Tier 2 formula based on average spawning biomass = 141,000t x 7.5% = 10,575 tonnes.</p> <p>Two members opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the paucity of the data available, uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. One of these members recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 10,600 tonnes</p>
<p>6(c) Jack Mackerel</p>	<p>Although there is no DEPM survey there is some catch history data and the Tier 2 maximum RBC of</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 5,000 tonnes</p>



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West	<p>5,000 tonnes was previously agreed by SPFRAG.</p> <p>Two members opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the paucity of the data available (especially in relation to DEPM data), uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion. These members recommended the Tier 3 maximum RBC of 500 tonnes.</p>	
<p>6(d) Australian Sardine</p>	<p>Catches have declined from a peak of 4,800 tonnes in 2008-09 to 1,097 tonnes in 2012-13.</p> <p>The Tier 2 formula based on SPFRAG best estimate of average spawning biomass from the July 2004 DEPM estimate of 28,809 did not cover the entire spawning area = 40,000t x 7.5% = 3,000 tonnes.</p> <p>The RAG noted that a DEPM survey has recently been conducted for this species. The RAG also noted that discussions with other jurisdictions about resource sharing remains a high priority and recommended that SEMAC not set the TAC for Australian Sardines below 500 tonnes.</p> <p>Two members opposed the recommendation of this RBC given the paucity of the data available, uncertainty of stock movements and the possibility of localised depletion, not just from Commonwealth operators.</p>	<p>Recommendation RBC = 3,000 tonnes</p>
<p>7 Localised depletion (LD) definition</p>	<p>The RAG considered the comments received in relation to the definition of localised depletion and agreed on the following draft definition of localised depletion:</p> <p>For the purposes of the management of the Small Pelagic Fishery, localised depletion is a persistent reduction in fish abundance in a limited area, caused by fishing activity, over spatial and temporal scales that negatively impact on predatory species and/or other fisheries.</p> <p><u>Explanatory notes:</u></p> <p><i>Risk of localised depletion is highest for target species with low mobility (e.g. abalone) and lowest for highly mobile species (e.g. pelagic fish). Predatory species with limited foraging areas, especially central place foragers, are most likely to be impacted by localised depletion. Localised depletion is less relevant to highly migratory species or species with large foraging areas. Geographical barriers (headlands, straits) can increase the likelihood of localised depletion by limiting movement rates.</i></p> <p><i>Localised depletion is not a reduction in the overall range of a target species due to fishing down or</i></p>	<p>Action item 5 AFMA to refine the explanatory notes and modify as appropriate without changing the content of the information provided.</p>



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	<p><i>over-fishing the stock. Localised depletion is not a reduction in abundance due to natural movement or population size of target species. User conflict issues that do not arise from localised depletion should be considered and resolved separately from any issues involving localised depletion alone.</i></p> <p><i>In the context of the Small Pelagic Fishery, this definition identifies what we are managing for (i.e. potential impacts on predators and catches of SPF species in other fisheries).</i></p> <p><i>NB: Broader ecological implications of the Small Pelagic Fishery can be managed by applying low exploitation rates.</i></p> <p>AFMA advised that the advice from SPFRAG will go to SEMAC and the AFMA Commission for consideration. Further, AFMA management will reserve providing advice on the definition.</p>	
<p>8 LD management options</p>	<p>The RAG briefly discussed management options for minimising the risk of localised depletion including zoning areas and move on rules to limit catches within areas and closures to protect predatory species. Some members suggested that in order to determine which option (or combination of options) would operationally work best in the SPF, the details of the application for each option were required. The RAG recommended that A/Prof Ward undertake this work and suggest a hierarchy for implementing different options.</p> <p>One industry member stated that he was opposed to developing more zones, besides those required to protect seal colonies. He would be supportive of limiting fishing in a move-on/heat map arrangement. Another industry member questioned the allocation of SFRs if zoning arrangements were implemented. AFMA proposed that they will include a paragraph on how management arrangements could potentially change under each of the options in the paper that will be prepared for out of session RAG discussion.</p>	<p>Action item 6 SARDI to write a paper detailing options for minimising the risk of localised depletion in the SPF. AFMA to include information on how SFRs potentially change under different options. SARDI to distribute this paper to the SPFRAG by 31 March 2014.</p>
<p>9 SPF Management Plan Review</p>	<p>The RAG provided comments in relation to the measures taken to achieve each performance criteria and suggested further measures where appropriate as outlined below:</p> <p>Regarding the performance criteria related to cost efficiency and maximising economic returns, (a, i, j and k), the RAG commented that cost effectiveness is ambiguous and difficult to assess in the SPF due to the low catch level in recent years.</p>	<p>Action item 7 AFMA to provide a table to SPF RAG in regard to management costs as a percentage of GVP and relative percentages of the RBC of species harvested in other jurisdictions.</p>



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	<p>The RAG commented that the SPF is unique in that there is a strong ecosystem focus in the management plan due to the low trophic level of the species. Other sectors benefit from SPF ecosystem based management but they do not contribute to the costs and for this reason the current SPF cost recovery model is ineffective. The RAG recommended that SEMAC review the application of AFMA's current Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) in the SPF in relation to cost recovering from beneficiaries and achieving the economic efficiency objective under the SPF Management Plan. This should also extend to funding research that benefits multiple sectors.</p> <p>To further inform the discussion around management costs comparative to fishing activity or catches, the RAG requested that AFMA provide information on management costs as a percentage of GVP.</p> <p>The RAG noted that the main impediment to maximising net economic returns in The Fishery is the lack of processing facilities close to the resource to produce high quality product, in the form of either onshore facilities or the ability for offshore processing.</p> <p>A suggestion for more cost efficient management was for SARDI to collect fishery data for a Tier 2 assessment, but only assess fishery data (and therefore operate) at a Tier 3 level unless industry requests The Fishery to operate at Tier 2 the following season. Any money saved from doing the assessment (Approx \$60,000/year) would be dedicated towards other high priority SPF projects. Industry supported this approach. Members reinforced the need to continue to collect Tier 2 data, despite limited fishing activity, to ensure the continuity of longitudinal mapping of species.</p> <p>In regard to performance criteria concerned with performing risk assessments, (b, c and d), the RAG recognised that the SPF Ecological Risk Assessments conducted by CSIRO in 2007 did not cover broader ecosystem risks and that these should be included in any future ERAs.</p> <p>The RAG noted that the risk to the viability of non-quota species (i.e. YTS and Maray) had not been assessed in great detail and should be part of future risk assessment frameworks.</p>	<p>Recommendation Any future SPF ERAs include an assessment of risks on broader ecosystem components, including risks to non-quota species such as Yellowtail Scad and Maray.</p> <p>Action Item 8 SPFRAG write to SEMAC to ask them to provide advice concerning the application of the CRIS to the SPF, noting the range of beneficiaries of research in the SPF.</p> <p>Action 9 SPFRAG to write to AFMA Management to request (a) recent annual management costs as a percentage of GVP and (b) advice on the ability of The Fishery to choose the Tier level to operate at (and associated data requirements) before commencement of the following season.</p>



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<p>Item not numbered- late inclusion in papers Undercatch and overcatch</p>	<p>The RAG discussed an additional agenda item in relation to setting undercatch, overcatch and the determined weight for SPF species. The RAG recommended that AFMA set undercatch of 10%, overcatch of 10%, determined weight of 2,000kg for each SPF quota species for 2014-15.</p> <p>AFMA agreed to investigate the legislative requirements for setting over and under catch and provide advice to the RAG as to whether provision exists to set over and under catch for more than one season.</p>	<p>Recommendation For each SPF quota species, AFMA set undercatch of 10%, overcatch of 10%, determined weight of 2,000kg for 2014-15.</p> <p>Action Item 10 AFMA to investigate the ability to set undercatch, overcatch and determined weights on a longer term basis.</p>
<p>10 Catch sharing for Australian Sardine</p>	<p>The RAG expressed ongoing concern about the lack of catch and cost sharing arrangements for Australian Sardine.</p> <p>The RAG noted that NSW provides funding for Sardine assessments and DEPM surveys. In the absence of formal catch sharing arrangements the RAG discussed recommending that the Commonwealth Sardine TAC be set no less than 500t. This is the minimum catch level for industry that can be economically viable and encourages other jurisdictions to come to the table to negotiate. In general the RAG supported this recommendation but recognised there is a risk of overshooting the RBC.</p> <p>It was recommended that the Australian Fisheries Management Forum (AFMF) would be an appropriate forum to discuss catch sharing arrangements and that AFMA should take the lead in raising Australian Sardine catch sharing negotiations.</p>	<p>Recommendation That AFMA do not set the Australian Sardine TAC at less than 500 tonnes and provide advice to SEMAC to reflect this position concerning lack of consensus across jurisdictions.</p> <p>Action Item 11 AFMA to take the lead in placing Australian Sardine catch sharing arrangements across jurisdictions on the agenda at AFMF.</p>
<p>11 AFMA Management Update</p>	<p>The RAG noted that catches in the SPF have remained low this season and that there had been no fishing in the SPF since October 2013. The RAG discussed a study by Kaartveldt et.al. regarding mesopelagic species' ability to avoid trawl nets. One scientific member explained that the fishing mortality rate for mesopelagics, including those interacting with the net, is expected to be very low. The RAG agreed that if the mortality rate of mesopelagics is an issue for the SPF, that research on the mortality rates be incorporated in the research priorities for 2015-16.</p> <p>The RAG also noted that the Public Information Disclosure Act 2013 came into effect on 15 January 2014 and that AFMA will be running a process to</p>	<p>Recommendation SPFRAG to review the need for research on mesopelagic fishing mortality with midwater trawl nets when setting research priorities for 2015-16.</p>



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	renew the membership shortly.	
<p>12 Recreational and Commercial Sector updates</p>	<p>Recreational: The recreational fishing sector is currently very interested in the definition of localised depletion being developed for the SPF by the RAG and is also monitoring developments in the large freezer/trawler issue in the SPF, noting the Prime Minister's recent commitment to continue the ban on such vessels and the Federal Court's February decision to uphold the Government's decision to ban a freezer/trawler from operating in the SPF late last year. The recreational fishing sector is also concerned that the topic of social license to operate (SLTO) in fisheries management was not acted upon following discussion by SEMAC after the issue was referred to it by the SPFRAG last year. The recreational member noted, however, that SLTO was used in a SPF research proposal, currently before the RAG, as one of the main justifications for funding and undertaking the research.</p> <p>Commercial: Low catch figures indicate that the fishery is not economically viable. Reasons for this include a limited domestic market, lack of on-shore processing capacity and small boats can only have seasonal success in The Fishery.</p> <p>There were large numbers of JMK spotted by skiffs off the coast of Tasmania and large aggregations of small sardines off South coast NSW, but generally Sardines have moved further offshore until recently.</p> <p>In Western Australia there is a reasonable amount of Mackerel off the South coast and operators are not catching sardines.</p> <p>The RAG also noted that the recent judicial review of the EPBC Act found that the EPBC Act was not administered unlawfully in the case of preventing the operations of large freezer ships in Australian waters.</p> <p>NSW – NSW DPI hold annual assessment workshops and the latest assessments identified Australian Sardines and JMK as 'uncertain' due to a lack of data, and BMK as moderately fished. The RAG suggested that NSW DPI provide summaries of these assessments to the SPFRAG.</p> <p>Tasmania – the RAG noted that the Tasmanian Minister for Fisheries had not yet signed off on developing a Sardine Fishery nor described how a fishery would be developed if it was to go ahead. This situation is due to the government being in caretaker mode with the elections occurring on the</p>	<p>Action Item 12 NSW DPI to send summaries of their assessment reports for small pelagic species to the SPFRAG.</p>

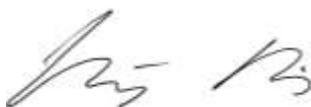


Item No.	Discussion	Action Items / Recommendations
	weekend following this meeting. The Tasmanian representative indicated that Tasmania will work with the other jurisdictions on the development of a fishery if the newly elected government resolved to proceed.	
13 Action Items from SPFRAG 16	Action Item No 3 – the coordination of a sampling program had been completed to the best level possible based on fishing effort, and therefore this item should be marked as complete.	Completed
	Action Item No. 11 – Although marked in the meeting documentation as complete, the RAG questioned the information that was provided on predator species abundance. It was noted that further information should be provided by AFMA and ABARES in relation to SPF predator species abundance indicators. ABARES and AFMA indicated they would need to investigate the costs associated with compiling this information and reporting back to the RAG. It was suggested that SARDI and CSIRO may already have some of this information available.	Action item 13 AFMA and ABARES to report to the RAG on existing literature gaps, and resources required to produce a report on the abundance of SPF predator species, including their geographical location, by 31 March 2014.
	Action Item No. 13 – SARDI noted that this item is complete as they had informed AFMA and the States of the sampling requirements for SPF species. The RAG discussed the best way for SARDI to obtain catch sampling data from each of the States. It was suggested that it would be preferable for the SPF to “piggyback” off the NSW catch sampling program and obtain industry samples directly from the operator in Lakes Entrance (Michelson family) who had previously provided samples to government agencies.	Action item 14 AFMA to write to the Michelson’s about collecting and transporting SPF catch samples to SARDI for analysis and inclusion of the data in the Annual SPF Assessment Report.
	Action Item 18 – The RAG noted that more work has been done on YTS biomass using the original eggs from the surveys off NSW and Victoria. This research has demonstrated that although the original biomass estimate for YTS is low, the revised results indicated that it was fairly accurate. Therefore this item was marked as complete. It was highlighted that there may be a possibility for a YTS DEPM survey to be included in possible DEPM surveys for RBT, BMK and Australian Sardine.	Completed
14 Peering into PEER	The RAG noted Ms Kinnersly’s (AFMA) presentation on the roles of the Policy, Environment, Economics and Research (PEER) team in AFMA. The PEER team’s work includes developing and providing input into AFMA’s information disclosure policy, Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy, the Ecological Risk	Action Item 15 AFMA to provide SPFRAG with advice concerning the disclosure of fine scale catch and effort



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	Assessment Framework, and facilitating the research process. PEER encouraged RAG members to talk with them directly regarding aspects that could be changed across the agency. One member questioned the data disclosure arrangements that would apply to a large vessel if it was to operate in the SPF. AFMA agreed to investigate the ability to disclose fine scale information for a single vessel.	information requirements should a large factory freezer vessel operate in the fishery in the future.
15 Other Items	It was suggested that a feedback loop with SEMAC be established through a standing "SEMAC update" agenda item for future SPFRAG meetings. The RAG agreed with this suggestion as a similar process is followed in other fisheries.	Action Item 16 AFMA to add a standing SPFRAG agenda item for SEMAC feedback
16 Meeting closure and next meeting	SPFRAG agreed to tentatively set the next meeting dates for 26-27 August 2014 subject to members' availability (noting that the SPFRAG membership expires on 30 June 2014). The RAG noted that they may need to hold teleconferences before this time.	

Signed (Chairperson):



Date:

26 March 2014

List of Attachments

- 1) SPFRAG 17 Agenda
- 2) SPFRAG 17 Record of Conflicts of Interest





Small Pelagic Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SPFRAG) 17

Agenda

Date: 11 – 12 March 2014

Venue: AFMA Canberra Office
73 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra, ACT

Commencing at 10.00 am

Preliminaries

1. Acknowledgement of Country - *Chair*
2. Introduction and apologies – *Chair*
3. Declaration of interests – *Chair*
4. Correspondence - *Chair*

Management Issues for Discussion and Advice

5. SPF Research Update – *Tim Ward*
6. Assessment and RBC Recommendations for 2014-15 – *Chair / Tim Ward*
 - a. Blue Mackerel – east and west
 - b. Redbait – east and west
 - c. Jack Mackerel – east and west
 - d. Australian Sardine
7. Localised depletion definition – *AFMA lead*
 - a. Advice from consulted groups
 - b. Consideration of definition
8. Management Options to address localised depletion – *AFMA lead*
 - a. Zoning
 - b. Spatial and/or temporal closures
 - c. Move on rules
9. SPF Management Plan Review - *AFMA*

Management Issues for Information

10. Catch sharing for Australian Sardine – *AFMA*
11. AFMA Management Update – *AFMA*
12. Recreational and Commercial Sector updates – *Chair*
13. Action Items from SPFRAG 16 – *Chair*
14. Peering into PEER - *AFMA*

Other Items

15. Other Business – *Chair*
16. Meeting closure (inc. next meeting date) - *Chair*



SPFRAG 17 Declared Conflicts of Interest

Participant	Interest declared
Kirsten Davies	No financial interest in fishery.
Tim Ward	Role of science leader for the fisheries science program in SARDI. Conducts research for State fisheries and leads the Pelagic fisheries research team. Member of South Australia Sardine Fishery Industry research / management committee.
Jeremy Lyle	Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. Has led several research projects relevant to the SPF and is involved in the assessment of Tasmania's scalefish fishery. No pecuniary interest.
Andrew Penny	Employed by ABARES which has done, and may do in future, research under contract on small pelagic fish species. No pecuniary interest.
Lee Georgeson	Employed by ABARES. No pecuniary interest.
Graham Pike	No direct or indirect financial interest. Interested in the conservation and health of the natural resources on which the recreational and charter fishing industries depend
Jon Bryan	No direct or indirect pecuniary interest.
Denis Brown	Holder of SPF SFRs for Redbait, Blue Mackerel and Jack Mackerel in the Eastern and Western Zones, and Australian Sardine in the Eastern Zone. Director of corporate entities with holdings of SPF SFRs for Redbait, Blue Mackerel and Jack Mackerel in the Eastern and Western Zones, and Australian Sardine in the Eastern Zone; and Pelagic Fish Processors plant at Eden. Peripheral involvement with research on small pelagic fisheries. Member of NSW Research Advisory Working Group and the NSW Ocean Haul Management Advisory Committee. Peripheral interest of financial benefits of activities in the SPF through quota holdings.
Gerry Geen	Director of Seafish Tasmania Pty Ltd that holds SPF SFRs for Jack Mackerel, Redbait and Blue Mackerel in the Eastern and Western Zones. Holds four Tasmanian purse-seine Jack Mackerel Permits; and four zone A purse seine permits. Director of Seafish Tasmania Pelagic Pty Ltd.
Terry Romaro	Director of a corporate entity with holdings of SPF SFRs for Redbait, Blue Mackerel and Jack Mackerel in the Eastern and Western Zone. Permit holder in the Western Australian Purse Seine Pilchard Fishery and the Coral Sea Trawl Fishery. Contracted services to AusAsia. Member of TTMAC and participant in SBTMAC.
Grant Pullen	Manager of the wild fisheries management area at DPIPW. No financial interest.
John Stewart	Research scientist at NSW DPI. No pecuniary interests in the fishery.
Steve Shanks	Works for AFMA, no financial interest
Kylie Tonon	Works for AFMA, no financial interest
Renee Kinnerly	Works for AFMA, no financial interest
Declared interests from RAG members that were not at SPFRAG 17	
Michael Thomas	Director of corporate entity with holdings of SPF SFRs for Redbait, Blue Mackerel and Jack Mackerel in the Eastern and Western Zones
Andy Moore	Employed by ABARES which has done, and may do in future, research under contract on small pelagic fish species. No pecuniary interest

