



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2017-18 to 2021-22

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop  
Fishery

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## Strategic Research Plan 2017-18 to 2021-22

This Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) Strategic Research Plan was developed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), in consultation with fishery stakeholders at the BSCZSF research workshop held on the 30 March 2017 which identified areas of high priority research for the BSCZSF for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22.

The BSCZSF Strategic Research Plan aims to address AFMA's strategic research objectives in AFMA's Strategic Research Plan for 2017 to 2021, outlined in the boxes below.

**Goal 1: Prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms**

*Strategy: Decrease the number of species identified as high risk by ERA/ERM after mitigation measures are applied*

**Goal 2: Increase the number of sustainably harvested stocks and maximise the economic return to Australia**

*Strategy: Focus on understanding the size and condition of fish stocks and their ecosystems, prioritised by ecological risk, to underpin fishery management actions*

**Goal 3: Continuously improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of fisheries management and administration**

*Strategy: Invest in business processes and technologies that match the core needs of AFMA and its stakeholders*

Attachment 1 includes a summary of high priority research projects that will be undertaken. The Resource Assessment Group (ScallopRAG) recognises that it will require significant resources and funding to complete items on the Strategic Research Plan and it is unlikely that all of the projects will be completed within the five-year timeframe of the Strategic Research Plan.

Each year the ScallopRAG reviews the research needs and develops an annual set of research priorities and work plan for consideration and adoption by the Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC). Research priorities are developed based on consideration of:

- discussions between researchers, industry and management on issues and gaps in the knowledge for the BSCZSF
- current research projects and recent research results
- the previous year's research priorities
- developments in the BSCZSF.

## BSCZSF STRATEGIC RESEARCH PRIORITIES 2017-18 to 2021-22 (updated June 2017)

**KEY:**

 Indicates the time frame the project should be completed in

**\$** Indicates that the project has been funded

**TABLE 1. HIGH PRIORITY RESEARCH PROJECTS**

AFMA STRATEGIC RESEARCH GOAL	PROJECT	PURPOSE & BENEFITS	TIMEFRAME / FUNDING				
			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
<b>Goal 2:</b>	Maximising spawning efficiency and fecundity	To understanding how scallop density has an effect on spawning efficiency and fecundity.					
	Aging of scallops	Be able to link age to size of scallop					
<b>Goal 1:</b> ecosystems and organisms	Modelling of Bass Strait ocean current	The purpose of modelling Bass strait currents to determine the spatial distribution of spawning events and larvae, including settling of spat.					

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Goal 2:	Annual biomass survey	<p>Under the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy there are two potential options to open the fishery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>open the season with a default TAC of 150 tonnes and then decide if a biomass survey should be conducted (noting that the TAC cannot increase above 150 tonnes unless a biomass survey is done), or</li> <li>keep the fishery closed (TAC set at zero tonnes) until a biomass survey is undertaken and biomass estimates are determined.</li> </ol>					
Goal 2:							
							

TABLE 2. ASPIRATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

PROJECT
Modelling of Bass Strait ocean current, The purpose of modelling Bass strait currents to determine the spatial distribution of spawning events and larvae, including settling of spat.