



Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 8 December 2016

Venue: Stamford Grand Adelaide

Attendance

Name	Membership (type i.e. chair etc.)
Mr Barry Windle	Chair
Mr Lance Lloyd	Scientific Member
Dr Malcolm Haddon	Scientific member
Dr Brigid Kerrigan	AFMA member
Mr Jim Raptis	Industry member
Ms Marcia Valente	Industry member
Mr Christian Pyke	Industry member
Mr Jeff Moore	Invited participant
Mr Dan Corrie	Executive Officer

Minutes

1. Preliminary

Introduction and apologies

- 1 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and other participants at 08:30, Thursday 8 December 2016.
- 2 The MAC noted an apology from Mr Peter Trott.

Declaration of interests

- 3 The Chair reminded MAC members of their requirement to declare their interests as described in Fisheries Administration Paper 12 (FAP 12). The MAC agreed that declarations of interest from the previous day's GABRAG meeting stood and there were no further declarations to be made. A list of the full conflict of interest declarations made by GABMAC members and other participants is provided at Attachment 1.

Adoption of agenda

- 4 The Chair proposed adding the following to 'other business':
 - Reviewing the structure and timing of this GABMAC meeting, noting that the majority of the agenda items for today were discussed by the same people in the room in their capacity as GABRAG members.
 - Update the status of the co-management agreement. Noted by industry that currently funding is through GABIA membership fees, which is not sufficient to effectively deliver co-



management services. AFMA referenced the co-management funding model that is being considered with SETFIA: which includes a SET Co-management Head Contract under which sit Service Level Agreements. Noted that in South Australia the Primary Industry Funding Schemes Act was developed to allow PIRSA to collect co-management levy from industry.

- 5 The MAC adopted the agenda as read at Attachment 2.

Actions arising from previous meetings

- 6 The Chair provided an overview of the minutes from the November 2015 GABMAC meeting.
- 7 Progress against actions arising from previous meetings are detailed at Attachment 3.
- 8 Industry noted that GABIA funds the co-management arrangements which puts an unfair burden on those who are paying members. GABIA believes that co-management should be charged through license holders. GABIA has provided AFMA with a document outlining how PIRSA collects co-management fees in a similar way.
- 9 Dr Kerrigan noted there are constraints as to what responsibilities the CEO can divulge under the *Public Governance Performance Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013*. AFMA is developing a 'head agreement' with SETFIA under which service level contracts give effect to projects such as the Fishery Independent Survey.
- 10 GABIA will add this item to their next meeting agenda and provide an update to AFMA.

Action Item 1 – GABIA – Next GABIA meeting

GABIA to discuss mechanisms for funding co-management agreements and provide feedback to AFMA

2. Status of the fishery

Managers update

- 11 Dr Kerrigan provided the managers update, noting the following:
 - Overall there was a slight increase in total catch in 2015-16 compared to 2014-15, with deepwater flathead and ocean jacket the main contributors. Industry noted there had been quite a bit of movement of boats in and out of the fishery over the past 12 months, and so it would be worth comparing catches relative to effort.
 - Overall effort declined in 2015-16 with 2,928 shots compared to 4,450 shots in 2014-15. Industry suggested this is primarily due to a single vessel (refit/repairs).
 - No species catch triggers have been met.
 - There have been two TEP interactions since the last GABMAC meeting: one dead seahorse/pipefish and one dead shy albatross.
 - The final vessel in the GABT now has electronic logbooks (e-logs) on board and should begin using them soon.



- 12 Ms Valente noted that the license fee for using e-logs is around \$1000 per year, and suggested increasing the fees for processing paper logs as an incentive for other operators to start using e-logs.
- 13 Dr Kerrigan recognised the significant amount of work completed in regards to seabird mitigation, with the compulsory rollout of specified mitigation devices by the start of the 2017-18 fishing season.

Industry update

- 14 Mr Pyke provided the industry update. The MAC noted the following:
 - There are currently four boats operating in the GABT, including one Danish seiner.
 - The Silver Phoenix was not fishing during October 2016 due to water damage, which will likely show up in the data.
 - Demand for deepwater flathead has been consistent with prices remaining stable at around \$8-9 per kilogram.
 - Markets in China developing for leatherjacket and Angel shark...other species??.....
 - Industry is reporting an improvement in catches which may suggest rebuilding from when the 10 licenses were activated in the late 2000's.
 - The Gail Jeanette 3 (Danish seiner) is typically completing 30 shots per trip. The trawlers are completing about 38-40 shots per trip.
 - Dr Haddon noted the decrease in tiger flathead RBC which will likely effect market process and provide an opportunity for the GABT.
 - All vessels are currently unloading in Port Lincoln.
 - Mr Pyke has made an effort to emphasize the importance of crew collected data, which industry have been quite receptive to. This information is critical as an input to the stock assessment, particularly for determining selectivity. GABIA might consider rewarding the best boat with the best data.
 - The FV Explorer S have had bafflers fabricated.
 - FRDC bycatch utilization project - Mr Pyke has provided plans to the boat for brining the fish into a paste for utilization as a fertilizer or livestock feed.
 - The New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) provided recommendations for improvements to the GABT Fishery Independent Survey. There is an action item from GABRAG to meet and implement those changes, and provide costs to AFMA for inclusion in the budget.
 - GABIA recognized and congratulated Jeff Moore on his contributions as the Executive Officer.

3. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) recommendations for 2017-18

Deepwater Flathead

- 15 The MAC discussed the RBC for deepwater flathead, noting the following:
 - Discards and State catches are not included in the TAC calculations.



- GABRAG noted that the age structure (spread of ages) in the fishery is improving after having been reduced due to high levels of fishing, which is indicative of an improving stock.
- The Tier 1 assessment for deepwater flathead produced the following RBCs:

Table 1 Forecast RBCs for the 20:35:43 and 20:35:48 harvest control rules

RBC	20:43	20:48
2017/18	1155 t	939 t
17/18 – 19/20	1128 t	938 t
17/18 – 22/23	1115 t	945 t
Long term yield	1093 t	1029 t

- MYTACS have not been formally tested, and so a five year RBC is inherently more risky than three years.
 - This species was previously on a three year MYTAC.
- 16 GABIA supported a three year RBC.
- 17 GABMAC recommended a three year MYTAC of 1128 t.

Western Gemfish

- 18 The MAC recognised the complexities of managing western gemfish across the GABT and CTS, and resolved to recommend an RBC for the CTS.
- 19 Discards continue to be an issue when assessing this stock. GABMAC noted that total catch (landed + discards) in the CTS have remained below the TAC, even where discards have been higher than landed catch.
- 20 There was an action item from GABRAG to address the issue of high discard rates of western gemfish.
- 21 GABRAG recommended an RBC of 200 t for the CTS having considered the outcomes of the Tier 1 and Tier 4 assessments and catch history in a weight of evidence approach.
- 22 Industry members noted that the Tier 1 assessment for the GABT component of the fishery produced an RBC of 38 t. GABRAG recognised that the assessment is highly uncertain, and so the outcome of the Tier 1 (for entire western gemfish stock) was only considered in a weight of evidence approach.
- 23 The MAC reviewed the species summary document for western gemfish, which had been drafted during the GABRAG meeting, and accepted it as final.
- 24 Recommendation three from the AFMA paper for this agenda item reads as follows:
 “Recommend single-year and multi-year TACs and any under/overcatch provisions for western gemfish for the consideration of GABIA when providing TAC advice to the AFMA Commission.”
- 25 The MAC agreed to remove this recommendation from the paper because western gemfish are a quota species in the CTS. This MAC considers the advice from GABRAG who have responsibility for assessing the stock, however the final recommendation is made by SEMAC in January 2017 meeting.



- 26 Industry talked about the difficulties of managing a shared resource with another sector, pointing out that GABIA would like to see a project with an objective to managing western gemfish as two separate spawning stocks.
- 27 Members of the MAC recalled discussions from GABRAG noting the potential for extra work on length frequency distributions to establish if there are in fact two spawning stocks, in addition to the genetics work that has been completed.
- 28 Mr Moore noted the difference between managing as separate stocks as opposed to separate management units. It is more precautionary to manage as two separate management units.
- 29 The Chair brought the agenda item to an end, noting the recommendations from GABRAG, and suggested maintaining management arrangements for what is a relatively low risk species.

4. Western gemfish stock structure and preliminary discussion on implications for management

- 30 The MAC agreed that the previous agenda item dealt with this issue, and recommended a practical and appropriate risk-based, solution to the management of a relatively low risk species.

5. TAC recommendations for 2017-18

Bight Redfish

- 31 The MAC considered the TAC recommendations for Bight redfish, noting the following:
 - Bight redfish are on the second year of a five year MYTAC.
 - Breakout rules for bight redfish have not been triggered.
 - The TAC for the 2015-16 season was only 7 per cent caught
- 32 The MAC recommends rolling over the 797 t RBC for Bight redfish.
- 33 GABIA will provide AFMA with TAC recommendations for Bight redfish for information as part of the co-management arrangement.

Orange Roughy

- 34 The MAC considered the TAC recommendation for orange roughy (Albany and Esperence), noting the following:
 - There was no orange roughy caught in 2015-16.
 - AFMA provided scientific permits and a 200 t research catch allowance for orange roughy research purposes in 2016. Those permits were not utilised.
 - GABRAG recommended maintaining the 200 t orange roughy research catch allowance, as well as the 50 t incidental catch allowance for the GABT.
 - This is a precautionary and long standing arrangement and the MAC recommended maintaining the research and incidental catch allowance.



- Mr Moore asked if AFMA could provide advice on how orange roughy could be removed from the conservation dependent species list. The MAC agreed that GABIA should initiate that process and put forward a case for reopening the fishery.

6. Bight redfish South Australian Offshore Constitutional Settlement

Preliminary discussion of options for future management

35 Dr Kerrigan provided an update on AFMA's progress regarding OCS arrangements with South Australia:

- AFMA intends to pursue changes to a range of OCS arrangements with South Australia, in particular for Bight redfish.
- South Australia have indicated in preliminary discussion their will to maintain current levels of catch and access to the fishery. AFMA has asked for further information regarding catch of bight redfish in State waters. That information is pending.
- The Commonwealth has responsibility for fish outside 3nm, however management rights can effectively be transferred to other jurisdictions.

36 Industry members noted that South Australian scalefish operators are being subjected to further restrictions on catches of key species such as snapper which is likely to redirect effort towards Bight redfish. Industry has no objection to an incidental catch limit being imposed on Bight redfish at current levels and believes the South Australian allocation should be capped at current catch levels.

37 The Bight redfish data has become sufficient enough now to provide a reliable biomass estimate to demonstrate that a decrease in RBC was appropriate as the stock has been fished over time.

38 The Chair summarised:

AFMA will be provided with catch data for South Australia, with the mind to develop appropriate catch and/or trip limits for Bight redfish. AFMA can negotiate with PIRSA on how that catch is managed.

7. Data and research

GABT 2017-18 annual research plan and update on the ComFRAB and ARC process

39 Mr Corrie recalled the action item from GABRAG for AFMA to provide the new annual research plan template to GABIA with items carried over from the 2017/18 research plan. GABIA will then organize a subsequent teleconference to finalize the draft research plan in time for ARC consideration in August 2017.

Data collection (ISMP, industry collection)

40 The MAC noted there will be changes made to the annual targets within the ISMP annual plan as a result of the discussion on western gemfish data requirements.



- 41 One of the likely recommendations from the SESSF Strategic Monitoring and Assessment Project (SMARP) will be to standardize crew-data collection protocols to ensure data is received in a consistent and useable format. The MAC suggested GABIA manage an accreditation process.

Resolving the DRAFT co-management arrangement document

- 42 AFMA instigated a review of the co-management document in 2014, and provided draft comments to GABIA. The current iteration of that document has not been finalised, and still has the DRAFT watermark.
- 43 Dr Kerrigan proposed that AFMA and GABIA make the final amendments to the document in early 2017.

Action item 2 – AFMA and GABIA – February 2017

Finalize the draft GABT co-management agreement in early 2017.

- 44 With regards to the contents and function of the co-management agreement, Dr Kerrigan suggested GABIA deal with the finer detail of projects (e.g. buying nets) in a service level agreement with service providers. The costs associated with those details should be provided to AFMA for inclusion in the budget, however the logistical components will remain GABIA's responsibility.

Action item 3 – AFMA – As soon as possible

AFMA to provide GABIA with a template of the contract between AFMA and SETFIA for conducting the Fishery Independent Survey.

8. Other business and close of the meeting

- 45 The MAC reviewed the timing of GAB MAC and GAB RAG meetings and agreed that the current timing is working well. During the GAB MAC meeting, several matters were resolved that were not in the GAB RAG meeting which demonstrated the value of the wider view taken by the MAC.
- 46 The MAC formally thanked Jeff Moore and recognized his time and commitment to GABIA and the MAC over the years.
- 47 Jeff extended his thanks to the Chair for his significant contribution and advice over the years to GABIA.
- 48 The Chair formally closed the meeting at 12:03pm.



Attachment 1 – GABMAC declared interests

Name	Declared interest
Mr Barry Windle, Chair	No interests pecuniary or otherwise
Mr Lance Lloyd, Scientific Member	Research fellow Federation University Australia. Director of Lloyd Environmental, SESSFRAG and GABMAC member, no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Dr Malcolm Haddon, Scientific Member	Employed by CSIRO – Interest in sources of funding for research purposes however, salary does not depend on this membership, involved in the SESSF Monitoring and Assessment Review, member of SouthMAC, Southern Antarctic RAG and Northern Prawn RAG.
Dr Brigid Kerrigan, AFMA Manager	Employed by AFMA, also a member of SERAG and GABMAC. No interests pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Jim Raptis, Industry Member	GAB boat and quota SFR holder.
Ms Marcia Valente, Industry Member	Consultant for Silver Phoenix Holdings who hold two GAB SFRs
Mr Christian Pyke, Industry Member	EO of GABIA. Vessel and quota brokerage services.
Mr Jeff Moore, Invited participant	Interest in fisheries management and sustainability. Former GABIA Executive Officer
Mr Dan Corrie	Executive Officer, Employed by AFMA. No interests pecuniary or otherwise.



Attachment 2 – GABMAC December 8 2016 Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Decision	Presenter
08:30	1. Preliminaries		
	1.1 Welcome and Introductions / Apologies 1.2 Declarations of interest 1.3 Adoption of agenda 1.4 Actions arising from previous meetings		Barry Windle All members Barry Windle Brigid Kerrigan
09:15	2. Status of Fishery Update		
	2.1 AFMA Managers Report (verbal)	For information	Brigid Kerrigan
	2.2 Industry/GABIA update	For information	Christian Pyke
10:15 <i>Morning tea</i>			
10:30	3. TAC recommendations for 2017/18		
[1 hr 30 min]	3.1 Deepwater flathead 3.2 Western gemfish Tier 1 (pending outcome of GABRAG) 3.2 Western gemfish Tier 4 (CTS)	TAC recommendation TAC recommendation TAC recommendation	Lance Lloyd/ Malcolm Haddon/ Brigid Kerrigan
12:00 <i>Lunch</i>			
12:30 [30 min]	4. Stock structure Gemfish and preliminary discussion on implications for management	For information only (note: as of 29/11/16 report not released)	Lance Lloyd/Brigid Kerrigan
13:00	5. TAC recommendation for 2017/18		
[20 min]	5.1 Bight redfish	Re-confirm MYTAC	Brigid Kerrigan
13:20	6. Orange Roughy		
[25 min]	6.1 Research catch allowance and bycatch TAC (Albany & Esperance) quota zone.	TAC recommendation	Brigid Kerrigan
13:45	7. Bight Redfish SA OCS		
	7.1 Preliminary discussion of options for future management	For information	Brigid Kerrigan/GABIA
14:15	8. Data and research		All members
	8.1 GAB 2017/2018 Annual Research Plan and Update on the ComFRAB and ARC process 8.2 Data collection (ISMP, industry collection)	For information	GABIA EO
15:00	9. Other business and close of meeting		Barry Windle



Attachment 3 – Action items from previous meetings

Action Item	Description	Responsible Person	Status
GABMAC –2015			
1	AFMA to invite a SA state representative to the next GABMAC meeting.	AFMA	The AFMA CEO has met with PIRSA regarding all OCS arrangements. An update will be provided at this meeting.
2	Mr Moore to organize a meeting with industry representatives from SA and WA to discuss the management of bight redfish.	Jeff Moore	As above.
3	AFMA to circulate the specifications for the new approved seabird mitigation devices.	AFMA	Complete.
4	Dr Finn to check whether WTO accreditation can be granted for 10 years and whether MSC accreditation could replace the WTO accreditation.	AFMA	Dr Kerrigan to follow up, specifically the relationship between MCS and WTO.
5	Mr Moore to contact Mr Rob Curtotti at ABARES to discuss how GVP for the fishery is calculated.	Jeff Moore	Mr Pyke to follow up.
6	AFMA to keep the MAC informed on the bycatch utilization project.	AFMA	An update will be provided at agenda item 2.2
GABMAC - 2014			
8	Provide co-management arrangement review to GABMAC for comment when complete.	AFMA/GABIA	No longer required. Co-management is in place and will be discussed under 'other business'.
GABMAC – 2013			
10	Develop a paper on future management arrangements with historical timeline for Western Gemfish.	AFMA	Not seen as necessary given the recent discussion around western gemfish assessments.
11	Amend the GABIA Orange Roughy annual research plan to a five year plan.	Jeff Moore	No longer required. Managed under GABIA co-management agreement.
14	Update the boat operating procedures manual	GABIA/AFMA	Complete.



Attachment 4 – Action arising, GABMAC December 8 2016

Action Item	Description	Person/Agency Responsible	Timeframe
<u>1</u> Agenda item 1 – Actions arising from previous meetings.	GABIA to discuss mechanisms for funding co-management agreements and provide feedback to AFMA	GABIA	Next GABIA meeting
<u>2</u> Agenda item 7 - Resolving the DRAFT co-management arrangement document.	Finalize the draft GABT co-management agreement in early 2017.	AFMA - GABIA	February 2017
<u>3</u> Agenda item 7 - Resolving the DRAFT co-management arrangement document.	AFMA to provide GABIA with a template of the contract between AFMA and SETFIA for conducting the Fishery Independent Survey.	AFMA	As soon as possible

