

## **AFMA Economic Working Group: Terms of Reference**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper presents the role, membership and other terms of reference of the Economic Working Group (EWG). Initially, the EWG was established as an informal group to bring together the economist members of AFMA's Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) and other fisheries economists. The legislative requirement and growing importance of addressing economic issues in Commonwealth fisheries is best served through establishing the EWG as a formal structure in support of AFMA's fisheries management.

### **ROLE OF EWG**

1. The AFMA Commission and Management, Management Advisory Committees (MACs), and Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) will use the EWG as a source of expert advice on major fishery and cross fishery economic issues affecting Commonwealth fisheries to support AFMA meet its objectives and other legislative requirements.
2. The EWG advice will promote a coordinated approach across fisheries to such issues as maximum economic yield targets, and reporting, monitoring and identification of the important economic issues facing individual fisheries. To support increased efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries management, a key element of EWG's work will also be considering and understanding the impacts of AFMA decision-making on the economics of fisheries.
3. In providing this economic advice, EWG members will need to take into account AFMA's legislative objectives under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, in particular, maximising the net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries.
4. The EWG will develop and agree on an annual work program, together with supporting research/analysis needs to identify priorities for consideration and advice.
5. To support its work, the EWG will identify research needs as part of improving the analysis of fisheries economic issues, including providing comment on relevant research proposals for potential AFMA and/or Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funding.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

6. AFMA CEO will appoint the Chair of the EWG. Other members will be appointed by the AFMA CEO, in consultation with the EWG Chair. The EWG will consist of the following:
  - a) Chair
  - b) Economic members of RAGs and Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) Scientific Panel
  - c) One economist from ABARES (if not already a RAG member)
  - d) One economist with expertise in the Commonwealth commercial fishing industry
  - e) One economist with expertise in recreational fishing
7. An AFMA Senior Manager will be the AFMA member at the EWG.
8. Non-RAG members' appointments will be for a term of three years.
9. RAG economist members' appointment terms will be the same as their terms on the respective RAGs.
10. Where a vacancy for a EWG Chair and/or member arises, the position may be advertised publicly for expression of interest and/or targeted from nominees considered to have relevant expertise and attributes by AFMA Management.

## **MEMBER ROLES**

11. The EWG Chair will ensure thorough and effective discussion on major fishery and cross fishery economic issues. The Chair will also provide a communication link between the EWG and the AFMA Commission.
12. RAG and Scientific Panel economist members will contribute to EWG deliberations and communicate to and from their respective RAGs, Scientific Panel and associated MACs.
13. The AFMA member will communicate the outcomes of the EWG meetings to RAGs and MACs that do not have an economic RAG member or where no EWG member is in attendance.
14. The economic member with expertise in commercial fishing is to contribute to EWG deliberations by providing knowledge and experience relevant to the economic issues of the Commonwealth fisheries not covered by RAG economic members and relevant to interactions with non-Commonwealth fisheries (e.g., State and International).
15. The economic member with expertise in recreational fishing is to contribute to EWG deliberations by providing knowledge and experience relevant to the economic issues of recreational fishing and their interactions with Commonwealth Fisheries.
16. Supplementary internal and/or external participants at any EWG meeting may be invited by the Chair on an as-needed basis, including any need to consider any Indigenous fishery economic issues.
17. The EWG flow of advice chart is provided in Attachment A.
18. Secretariat services will be provided by the Policy, Environment, Economics and Research section and will be responsible for the timely provision of information to the EWG.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

19. EWG members and supplementary participants will declare all conflicts of interests (actual or perceived) in the matter being considered, not limited to pecuniary gain, and even if in doubt as to the relevance of an interest. These declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
20. Declarations of conflict of interest are to be made at the commencement of each meeting and prior to the commencement of discussions on a particular agenda item during the course of the meeting.
21. Members and supplementary participants with a conflict of interest in a particular agenda item may remain in the room and may contribute information to the discussion but must refrain from discussions while recommendations are formulated.
22. The EWG Chair may request members and supplementary participants with a conflict of interest to leave the room when considered necessary.
23. EWG members and supplementary participants will keep all discussions, deliberations and information provided to them, in or out of session, confidential unless otherwise agreed with the Chair. EWG members and participants must receive written agreement from the Chair prior to releasing confidential material.
24. Management of conflict of interest, confidentiality and non-disclosure and public comment will be dealt with as per the relevant subclauses of the clause 4.1 of Fisheries Administration Paper 12.

## **MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE**

25. AFMA will monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the EWG against its terms of reference and work programs.

26. AFMA will review the impacts of research priorities and economic advice delivered by the EWG in achieving any improvements to net economic returns for the Australian community.
27. AFMA will review the impacts and effectiveness of the EWG at least every three years.

## **MEETINGS**

28. It is expected that the EWG will meet at least once in session each year, with the possibility of a second meeting through teleconference. Furthermore, the EWG may also provide out of session advice to AFMA on fisheries economics issues.
29. A quorum of the EWG is the Chair, the AFMA member plus half the number of the appointed EWG members.

## **MINUTES**

30. Minutes of all EWG meetings must be kept accurately. Recordings (audio and video) of meetings or teleconferences may be made only by AFMA for the purposes of finalising the minutes.
31. Final minutes will be made public on AFMA's website after being approved by the Chair. This would normally be within three weeks of meetings being held.

## **OTHER PROCESS MATTERS**

32. The following matters will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant clauses of the Fisheries Administration Paper 12.
  - a) Leave of absence (Clause 4.3)
  - b) Resignation of membership (Clause 4.4)
  - c) Cancellation of membership (Clause 4.5)
  - d) Invited participants and observers (Clause 4.6 and Clause 4.7)
  - e) Remuneration and travelling allowances (Clause 5.1, Clause 5.2 and Clause 5.3)
  - f) Insurance cover for members (Clause 5.5)

**EWG flow of advice chart**

