



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting 52**

### **Meeting minutes**

**6-7 February 2024**

**Melbourne/MS Teams**

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# South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC)

## Meeting 52 – 6-7 February 2024

The Chair opened the meeting at 09:15 hr AEST.

### Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

#### 1.1 Welcome and apologise

1. Dr David McGlennon, the Chair for SEMAC, welcomed members to the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country paying his respects to this country's First People and Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Australia.
2. The SEMAC members noted the Acknowledgement of Country, that the meeting was being recorded and commenced proceedings.
3. Participants and apologies:

#### Membership

DR DAVID MCGLENNON	CHAIR
DR SARAH JENNINGS	Economic member
MS ANISSA LAWRENCE	Conservation member
DR PAUL MCSHANE	Scientific member
MR SIMON BOAG	Industry member
MR GERRY GEEN	Industry member
MR KYRI TOUMAZOS	Industry member
MR WILL MURE	Industry member
MR JOHN HARRISON	Recreational member
MS SALLY WEEKES	AFMA member
MS REBECCA JOL	Executive officer

#### Invited Participants

James Woodhams

#### Observers

Brett McCallum, AFMA Commission

Anna Willock, AFMA

Steve Hall, AFMA

Yvette Lamont, AFMA

Fiona McKinnon, NSW State

Andy Warmbrunn, NRE, Tas

#### Apologies

Mr Gerry Geen, Industry Member

#### 1.2 Declarations of interest

- 1 SEMAC members noted the conflicts of interest requirements as outlined in [AFMA's Fisheries Management Paper 1](#). Members and participants updated their Declarations of Interest as shown in Table 1 of the Preliminaries paper and discussed specific conflicts of interest with agenda items (see **Table 1**).

4. An updated table of declared conflicts of interest is provided at [Attachment A](#).
5. The Chair sought advice on how the SEMAC should manage these conflicts.
6. The MAC decided that conflicted participants would be permitted to contribute to the discussion but would be excused from the meeting for any recommendation made by the MAC (outlined in Table 1).

**Table 1. Declared conflicts by relevant members in relation to specific agenda items and SEMACs decision regarding participation for those items.**

Agenda Item	Potential conflicts of Interest	Discussion Participation	Recommendation Participation
<b>4. SESSF TAC<sup>1</sup></b>	Simon Boag Will Mure Kyri Toumazos	Present	Absent
<b>5. SPF TAC</b>	Simon Boag	Present	Absent
<b>6. Monitoring in the Gillnet fishery</b>	Simon Boag James Woodhams  Kyri Toumazos	Present Present	Present Present  (Noted – members may be asked to leave if a conflict arises)  Absent
<b>7. WORDAC Murray Dogfish Closure</b>	Simon Boag Will Mure	Present	Absent

### 1.3 Adoption of agenda

7. SEMAC adopted the agenda at [Attachment B](#) as final.

### 1.4 Minutes of previous meeting

8. SEMAC noted that the minutes of the SEMAC 51, held in October 2023 have been completed but are still waiting on final comments from some of the members. The final draft will be available as soon as those comments are received.

### 1.5 Actions arising from previous meetings

9. SEMAC noted that action items from previous meetings including the progress against action items in the updates provided by the Executive Officer at [Attachment C](#).
10. SEMAC noted that there were no unresolved actions.
11. A list of action items established at this meeting are listed at [Attachment D](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Total Allowable Catch

## Agenda item 2

### 2.1 - Managers Update

12. A written update was provided to SEMAC members on the key management issues arising since the last meeting in October 2023.

13. The update was taken largely as 'read' with the following key points discussed:

- In relation to the rebuilding closures and the eastern boundary review, Industry member, Simon Boag, highlighted the concerning effects that the rebuilding closures are having on the trawl fishery, noting that there are very few productive grounds left for Industry and that other management arrangements are making matters worse such as those involving wind energy, carbon storage and seismic exploration. The member also noting that government subsidies will soon expire, fuel prices are rising and there is little investment into ageing vessels. To survive all of this, the fishery needs access to productive fishing grounds. The inshore trawl fleet is facing financial collapse.
- SEMAC noted that the bathymetric maps used in the closure design only provide a general estimate of ocean depth and due to ocean floor topography in these closure zones, the boundary line runs through much deeper water than the maps suggest. Depths at which rebuilding species such as Jackass morwong and John dory are less common. For this reason, Industry proposes that a slight adjustment to the eastern boundaries would provide additional fishable grounds without impacting rebuilding species (a boundary line at 210 m). Adding that fisheries management needs to be adaptive to moving boundaries and re-setting allocations to support the small Australian fisheries for the future.
- SEMAC was presented with an example of the Climate and Ecosystem Status Reports. AFMA noted that the information is general and preliminary in nature and will be updated regularly based on regular RAG and MAC feedback. The report was well received by all members.
- The review of AFMA's Management Advisory Committee and Resource Assessment Group consultative framework has been completed and the AFMA Commission agreed to an implementation plan with both short term (1 to 12 months) and longer term (12 to 24 months) actions to improve the performance of the MAC and RAG's. AFMA will work with the MAC and RAG EO's and Chairs to develop and test the practicality/usability of various aspects of the implementation plan (e.g., training materials, standard operating procedures, and templates) before seeking feedback from the MAC's and RAG's and implementing change more broadly.

Action 1: AFMA to circulate the MAC and RAG framework review and implementation letter that was sent out to Chairs.

### 2.2 - Industry Update

14. The Chair asked industry members to provide an update on any items arising since the last meeting in October 2023. SEMAC noted the following updates by:

#### Simon Boag (SETFIA<sup>2</sup>) on the Trawl fishery:

Following on from the points raised during the rebuilding closure review discussions, the Industry member reiterated that the inshore fishery is on the verge of collapse, noting that there has also been a decrease in

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<sup>2</sup> South East Trawl Industry Association

market demand and profitability which is likely to result in an adjustment in value of quota. The following points were also highlighted:

- Fresh seafood in Australia will be mostly imported or provided by foreign owned vessels.
- Demand for Australian fish supply is still good and new country of origin labelling laws will help.
- Levi subsidies are due to end in 2025.
- The average age of boats is around 48 years, and not seen as worth investing in.
- Windfarms, seismic survey zones and marine park re-zoning is threatening to impact the gillnet fishery and the long line fishery.
- A research fishery may assist fishers stay afloat allowing access into historical viable fishing grounds.
- When managing risks, fisheries managers need to consider a balance of evidence approach as the models are not always accurate and the potential outcomes could be detrimental for the fishery.

Kyri Toumazos (Industry member, SSIA):

- The Shark fishery has been performing extremely well throughout the 2023 season.
- Fishing in South Australia and Victoria has been extremely positive, and the stocks are in extremely sound shape.
- Most of the challenges this year have been around operational cost increases, but this was minimised slightly by increases in price of the product.
- The School Shark issue is still the biggest problem for the fishery as abundance is severely impacting operational efficiencies due to avoidance of many areas. Over the last five years the footprint of area to avoid has increased and it is becoming more difficult to target Gummy Shark in South Australia.
- Eastern Bass Strait is the only area in the fishery that you are able to operate comfortably but industry has been avoiding this area as much as possible in accordance with management arrangements to lower catch in Bass Strait.
- Industry is extremely happy with the stocks and is looking forward to the second "Close Kin" genetics modelling during 2024.
- A final point was made in relation to the future of Australian fisheries stating that the Government should be investing in fisheries infrastructure and /or vessels; and that in order to support a viable fishery, the Government must have an appetite for risk and be adaptive to change (i.e., legislation and boundary revision).

15. Will Mure (Mures Fishing P/L):

- Pink ling catches, market price and demand have been good.
- There is a high potential that Industry will focus more fishing effort on ling (whilst conditions are so good) and this may have flow on effects on Blue eye trevalla CPUE and potential reductions in quota.
- Blue Eye catches are good when there are no Orcas. Orcas have been prevalent

during January.

- Best year on Ling both east and west but we did target for longer due to tightness of Blue Eye quota.

**John Harrison** (Recreational Member):

- There have been no updates/comments/information received from the recreational fishing industry sectors regarding SEMAC discussions, minutes, or action items so there was nothing to report.

## **Agenda item 3 – SESSF Harvest Strategy Updates**

16. SEMAC was presented with the DRAFT SESSF Harvest Strategy Framework (2024 revision) that will guide the TAC setting process for the 2024-25 SESSF fishing season.
17. SEMAC noted that the revised harvest strategy is based on transitional arrangements adopted by the Commission, while a multi-species harvest strategy continues to be developed.
18. SEMAC noted the following key points:
  - The aim of this work is to reduce the amount and cost of resources required to run stock assessments and redirect those savings into other projects.
  - In relation to the species categories, if a species under the trigger species category is at high risk due to climate change, the RAG will have the option to consider it more exclusively. Furthermore, trigger species will continue to be reviewed annually through the Multi-Year Total Allowable Catch (MYTAC) working group.
  - Savings made through this process will be redirected to where it is needed e.g., research and monitoring. AFMA will decide on the most important areas to direct the cost savings.
  - Industry member noted that the term MYTAC is confusing as most are subject to further adjustments with discounts and state catches, noting that technically they are multi-year recommended biological catches (MYRBCs).
  - Removing quota for some species that are no longer fished or caught is a broader and longer-term plan for the fishery noting that this process is likely to be addressed in the new harvest strategy.
19. SEMAC supported the revision to the harvest strategy and the proposed amendment to establish a 'trigger species' group for SESSF quota species noting that consideration should also be given to the terminology used for MYTAC's that are in fact a multi-year RBC<sup>3</sup>.

## **Agenda item 4 – SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season.**

20. SEMAC considered TACs, overcatch and undercatch and determined weights for all SESSF quota species (excluding Bight redfish, deepwater flathead and orange roughy Albany and Esperance); and non-quota species for the 2024-25 fishing year.

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<sup>3</sup> Recommended biological catch

21. SEMAC noted that of the 35 species requiring SEMAC TAC advice, there were:
- six species with new stock assessments.
  - eight species classified as overfished that require bycatch TAC advice.
  - six species with changes to TACs or management issues that need to be resolved; and
  - ten trigger species where no issues have been identified and no new information is available.
22. To streamline the process for 2024, AFMA provided a table containing an overview of factors that influence the TACs each year at [Attachment E](#)
23. SEMAC discussions and recommendations are provided for each species in the *2024 SESSF species summaries* on the [AFMA website](#).
24. A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the recommended TACs for school shark and Gummy shark. These deliberations informed the recommended TACs described in *the 2024 SESSF species summaries* and are described in more detail below.

School shark:

25. School shark is a transient migratory species and is assessed as one stock in the SESSF.
26. School shark is also a rebuilding species and therefore is managed under the [2015 School shark rebuilding strategy](#). No targeted fishing is permitted. The strategy requires the stock to be rebuilt to 20 per cent of unfished levels within 66 years. It is generally accepted that school shark is rebuilding.
27. A CKMR assessment was undertaken in 2019 with the next assessment likely in 2025.
28. AFMA presented the information provided at Table 2 to the SEMAC, stepping out the forecast school shark removals considered by the Shark Resource Assessment Group (SharkRAG) in developing the bycatch TAC recommendation. Noting that WA state catches have increased from 4 to 34 t between 2019 and 2021, an additional column was added for SEMAC consideration with a Western Australian catch of 15 t, as 15 t was recorded in the most recent fishing season, 2022/23.

**Table 2: Bycatch TACs derived from either the total mortality threshold or the estimated total removals (whichever is lower), increased by population growth, with deductions made for removals not under quota.**

	No States	Incl States (no WA)	Incl States & WA 33K	Incl States WA 15K
Total catch (kg)	254,372	283,877	313,224	298,877
Population increase	1.0609	1.0609	1.0609	1.0609
<b>Forecast removals (kg)</b>	<b>269,863</b>	<b>301,165</b>	<b>332,300</b>	<b>317,079</b>
<b>Total mortality threshold (kg) (from close kin assessment) for 2024</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>
<b>Capped removals (kg)</b>	<b>269,863</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>	<b>296,000</b>
Forecast State removals (kg)	-	31,302	62,437	47,216
Commonwealth discard average (kg) (survival rate of 88.5% applied)	55,177	55,177	55,177	55,177
<b>Commonwealth bycatch TAC (kg)</b>	<b>214,686</b>	<b>209,521</b>	<b>178,387</b>	<b>193,608</b>



29. SEMAC discussed the difference between the above projections and whether no state catch, some state catches (South Australia, Tas Vic,) or all state catch is included in the bycatch TAC calculation.
30. SEMAC noted that the SharkRAG (Dec 2023) did not account for state catch and discards explicitly in their recommended TAC of 215 t on the basis that; 1) the approach was consistent with how the TAC has been set for the last two years and 2) the intent of providing for the unavoidable bycatch of the Commonwealth gummy shark fishery. SharkRAG agreed to further discuss the approach moving forward.
31. SEMAC noted that, as stated in the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy, all sources of mortality should be accounted for despite the RAG advice.
32. SEMAC recommended that **all state catches** be included in the bycatch TAC calculation to ensure that the total mortality does not exceed the CKMR mortality threshold (296 t) enabling continued rebuilding of the stock. Further, SEMAC recommended that the most recent WA state catch estimate of 15 t be used as it is more realistic, noting that measures to constrain catches of school shark is being developed by the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development over the next 12 months.
33. SEMAC recommended the following method be used to calculate the bycatch TAC:
  - Total mortality threshold 2024 (296 t) – state catch (47 t) – Commonwealth discards (55 t) = Bycatch TAC (194 t)
34. SEMAC noted that there will be consequences for the gummy shark TAC as school shark are an unavoidable bycatch of the gummy shark fishery, as such, the gummy shark TAC should be reduced for 2024-25 to minimise the total mortality of school shark.
35. Industry raised concern about the States not constraining school shark catch and that the Commonwealth have no control over state catch while the Commonwealth have taken significant steps to reduce school shark catch. Industry stated that the States should also be taking responsibility to constrain catches. Noting these concerns, SEMAC recommended that all sources of mortality are monitored during 2024-25 and for AFMA to continue engagement with the other jurisdictions.
36. SEMAC noted that the RAG will need to re-consider the school shark methodology setting of the bycatch TAC before the next season if no assessment is available.
37. SEMAC recommended an incidental bycatch TAC of 194 t, which accounts for state catch and represents an 8% reduction to the school shark bycatch TAC recommended by SharkRAG.

### Gummy Shark

38. SEMAC noted that their recommended school shark, bycatch TAC is below the incidental bycatch level expected while targeting gummy shark from the gummy shark TAC from the gummy shark assessment:

1. 3-year average TAC: 1,596 t (calculated from a 1733 t RBC)
2. for 1st year (2024) step down TAC: 1,694 t (calculated from a 1831 t RBC)

Unless the gummy shark TAC is reduced; an increased level of school shark discarding could occur resulting in a higher total mortality.

39. SEMAC recommended that the gummy shark TAC be reduced by 8%, commensurate to the reduction in school shark TAC
40. In making the TAC recommendation, SEMAC were presented with the following two options:
  1. 3-year average, 8% reduction = 1468 t

2. 1st year (2024) step down, 8% reduction = 1558 t

41. Members noted that:

1. applying the 8 per cent reduction to the first year of the annual step down, rather than the three-year average, minimises the economic impact on industry
2. a review of recent gummy shark TACs and associated school shark bycatch and discards suggested that applying the 8% reduction to the three-year average TAC may be overly constraining and, as such, unnecessary to achieve the reduction in school shark mortality.

42. Industry raised significant concern that Commonwealth operators and Quota / SFR holders will be impacted economically if the gummy shark TAC is reduced due to unconstrained state catches of school shark. Industry expressed that fisheries management was being too conservative and driving policy to the extent that healthy stocks have massive caveats.

43. SEMAC recommended:

1. a TAC of 1558 t for the 2024-25 season, which is an 8% commensurate reduction as per the school shark TAC
2. setting the TAC for only one year on the basis that TAC setting will be reviewed for the 2025-26 season, based on all sources of school shark mortality during the 2024-25 season.

## **Agenda item 5 – Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) TAC recommendation for the 2024–25 fishing season**

44. Steve Hall (AFMA) introduced the agenda item seeking SEMAC to provide TAC advice for the SPF during the 2024-25 fishing year.

45. SEMAC noted:

- Six of the seven SPF stocks remain at the same Tier level under the Harvest Strategy as in 2023-24 resulting in RBC and TAC recommendations being relatively consistent with those for the previous fishing season with only small adjustments made due to changes in annual deductions of mortality from sources other than SPF operators.
- Western stock numbers are lower as there is no interest by Industry to fish in the western zone, and therefore the Industry and SPFRAG have no desire for scheduling daily egg production method (DEPM) surveys to increase western stocks to a higher Tier level at this time.
- With respect to Redbait west, the biomass estimate was undertaken in 2017-18 and 2023-24 was the 5th and last season this stock could remain at Tier 1 without a new DEPM survey biomass estimate. As a result, the RBC for Redbait west halves as it falls to Tier 2 of the Harvest Strategy for the 2024-25 season. Industry noted that there has been no fishing effort for Redbait in the west.
- The Eastern stocks: Blue mackerel and Jack mackerel, are fishing well. Industry noted that catches are starting to become constrained by the Blue mackerel (east) quota and that there is work underway to look at this further. The fishery is Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accredited with only one condition to set target reference limits under the harvest strategy. MSC accreditation is important as the product cannot be sold to the primary market (i.e., fish feed/oil for aquaculture) without it.

46. SEMAC supported the TAC recommendations for each SPF quota species for the 2024-25 fishing season as they were presented in the 2024 SPF species summary.
47. SEMACs discussions and recommendations are provided for each species in 2024 SPF species summary on the [AFMA website](#).

## Agenda item 6 - Monitoring in the Gillnet fishery

48. Cate Coddington (AFMA) introduced the agenda item seeking SEMAC to provide support for the expansion of the electronic monitoring (EM) and to provide advice regarding any other aspects of the current approach to EM in the gillnet sector of the Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery (GHAT)

49. SEMAC noted:

- AFMA is at various stages of implementing a suite of measures to improve logbook reporting and boat level management, which includes:
  - expanding EM to all boats in the sector
    - while 75% of vessels in the sector have EM, there is about 92% coverage of effort (fishing days)
    - this will assist with targeting fisheries management, education, and compliance at the individual boat level rather than at the fishery level.
    - strengthening vessel level management including enhancing incentives and disincentives for improving logbook reporting
    - reporting by vessels with EM is better than those that do not, for example 99 per cent of the TEP species interaction reports are from vessels with EM.
  - reducing the EM catch composition review rate from 10 per cent to 5 per cent (implemented for a trial period from 1 May 2024)
    - this is in response to a request by industry to achieve some cost savings,
    - TEP species review will remain at 10 per cent.
    - review of fishing effort will remain at 100 per cent in Australian sea lion zones.
    - a congruence analysis between logbook and EM data will be undertaken in 3-5 years to ascertain the impact of the review reduction
  - considering recommendations from Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) arising from their *evaluation of the reliability of electronic monitoring and logbook data for informing fisheries science and management: Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector*<sup>4</sup>

50. SEMAC discussed:

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<sup>4</sup> Emery, T, Noriega, R, Parsa, M, Bromhead, D., Timmiss, T. & Woodhams, J. 2023, *An evaluation of the reliability of electronic monitoring and logbook data for informing fisheries science and management: Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector*, ABARES research report, prepared for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Canberra, February 2023. CC BY 4.0. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/fq7r-9d17>

51. While cost savings will be achieved by reducing the EM review rate for catch composition, it is anticipated that most of these savings might be diverted into other processes.
52. Industry member raised concerns regarding the impacts on mandating EM systems on low effort concession holders and the potential for these costs to cause these operators to exit the fishery.
53. AFMA are considering whether it is possible to subsidise the cost of installation from the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring program.

Action 2: AFMA to provide Industry with an estimated breakdown of the cost savings for expanding EM against the additional costs for installing and reviewing EM for the remaining Gillnet boats.

54. Some members questioned if collecting a relatively small amount of additional data from what is already a tightly monitored fishery, would improve management outcomes. AFMA outlined that increased coverage would improve vessel-level outcomes for TEP reporting and would assist with both targeting fisheries management measures and implementing vessel-level management.
55. That alternative methods could be considered to incentivise and educate operators to improve their reporting, rather than through the expansion of cameras.
56. SEMAC supported the expansion of EM to all vessels on the proviso that those vessels not above the effort level threshold can be supported financially to install cameras noting that boats already over the threshold will have cameras installed and already provide good coverage of the fishery as a whole.

## Agenda Item 7 - WORDAC Murray Dogfish Closure

57. SETFIA submitted a proposal to SEMAC 52 (6–7 February 2024) to expand the area of the Western Orange Roughy Data Collection (WORDaC) program into the deeper sections (>700 m) of the Murray Dogfish Closure; that is, the part of the Murray Dogfish Closure also covered by the Deepwater Trawl Closure. This includes one site that supported historically high catches of orange roughy known as the ‘Western Grounds’. There is no proposal to change to the 200 t Research Catch Allowance (RCA) for orange roughy.
58. While there is some overlap in depth distribution between orange roughy and southern dogfish (aka gulper shark), with orange roughy occurring deeper, the work undertaken by CSIRO that informed AFMA’s Upper-slope Dogfish Management Strategy suggests it is minimal.
59. The WORDaC program runs for six months from 1 May to 31 October each year.
60. SEMAC noted:
  - The following additional conditions are proposed in addition to the normal underlying WORDaC management arrangements if WORDaC project vessels are permitted to fish the Murray Dogfish Closure:
    1. A 10 Gulper shark per vessel limit for the WORDaC ‘season’; if breached the vessel in question would be excluded from fishing inside the Murray Dogfish closure for the remainder of the season (but can fish in other WORDaC areas). Gulper sharks that will count towards the 10 fish limit are Harrison’s Dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*), Endeavour Dogfish (*C. moluccensis*) and Southern Dogfish (*C. zeehaani*).
    2. Electronic monitoring for the month of May 2024 with parallel observer coverage (within the Murray Dogfish closure) to determine the efficacy of EM identification of gulpers and any gulper catch. The EM trial is to verify whether targeted fishing for orange roughy can occur without interactions with dogfish.

3. An AFMA go/no-go decision on June 1 about continued WORDaC sampling within the Murray Dogfish closure following this initial trial that considers the efficacy of EM and gulper catches (if any).
4. If the program continues within the Murray Dogfish Closure: analysis of all catches within the Murray Dogfish closure using EM (potentially across remaining vessels).
5. An additional 75 t sub-limit within the Northern zone/Murray Dogfish Gulper Closure (i.e., a 75-tonnes limit within the existing 100 tonnes northern zone catch limit within the total 3-zones 200 tonnes limit).

61. SEMAC considered the following discussion points:

- Noting that the core habitat of Gulper shark is at approximately 500m (range 300 -700m) and that the proposal is to only fish at depths greater than 700 m; What effect will climate change have on the distribution of the Gulper sharks. Will they move deeper? Highlighting further research in this area.
- When the Dogfish closures were being developed, it was considered less complicated to overlay the closure zone with the existing deepwater closures to reduce lines on water map noting that these closure zones could be reconsidered if thought necessary. Similarly, this was done in the Great Australian Bight Orange roughy fishery, allowing research fishing access in the Upper Slope Dogfish closures.
- RAG advice indicates that the depth distribution of Gulper sharks is shallower than Orange Roughy.

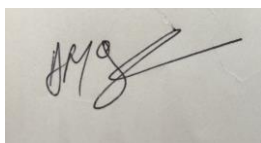
62. SEMAC supported the EM trial noting that a review of the EM data from the May 2024 trial would be required before any further research fishing in the Murray Dogfish closure is allowed. AFMA is developing a project plan for the EM trial in the CTS more broadly and including a specific component for the Murray Dogfish closure.

## Other Business

63. Conservation member, Anissa Lawrence noted that under the Ghosts Nets Australia program, a FRDC proposal has been submitted to set up a national waste fishing gear recovery system, noting that there is interest from an international buyer to obtain fishing gear from Australia. The plan is to set up a feasibility study to look at how to ensure the program is economically viable, and reduce cost to Industry, noting that SETFIA will be involved in the pilot study. Donated gear will be recycled into clothing for Patagonia and prevent it from going to landfill.

## Close of meeting

64. The Chair thanked the MAC for their contribution and closed the meeting on Day 2 at 12:52 PM.



Signed (Chair):

Date: 30/05/24

## Attachment A - Register of Interests

Members	Declared interests - Last updated: July 2023
Dr David McGlennon	Chair - No interest pecuniary or otherwise
Ms Anissa Lawrence	<p>No pecuniary interest</p> <p>Director of TierraMar Ltd</p> <p>Independent consultant</p> <p>Undertakes contracts for a number of Conservation NGOs, government departments, non-government agencies and the private sector on a range of fishery related matters</p> <p>Conservation member on SharkRAG, SPFRAG, SEMAC, Spencer Gulf Prawn RAC and the South Australian Rock Lobster MAC</p> <p>Chair of Ocean Future Fund Inc.</p>
Mr Gerry Geen	No pecuniary interest. Industry member of SPFRAG
Mr Will Mure	<p>Sole Director of Mures Fishing P/L</p> <p>Commonwealth fish receiver permit</p> <p>Tasmania fish processing licence</p> <p>Scalefish hook boat SFR, SEQ Quota Holding Permits, Auto longline fishing permit</p> <p>High Seas permit</p> <p>Blue eye trevalla SFRs, Ling SFRs, Ribaldo ITP</p> <p>Mixed species Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) and SFRs</p> <p>Member of various fishing related associations including Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), Southern Shark Industry Alliance (SSIA), Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)</p> <p>Industry member on SERAG</p>
Dr Paul McShane	<p>Chair of SERAG and a member of SEMAC and SESSFRAG.</p> <p>No pecuniary interest in the SESSF.</p> <p>Principal of Global Marine Resource Management Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Adjunct Professor (Fisheries and Aquaculture) College of Science and Engineering, James Cook University.</p>
Dr Sarah Jennings	<p>Economics member on SERAG and SESSFRAG.</p> <p>Member of AFMA Economics Working Group.</p> <p>Independent economics consultant.</p> <p>No pecuniary or other interest.</p>
Mr John Harrison	Panel Member of the Independent Review of the Domestic Commercial Vessel Safety Legislation and Cost and Charging Arrangements.
Mr Simon Boag	<p>Industry member on SERAG.</p> <p>Executive Officers to SETFIA, SSIA and SPFIA.</p> <p>SETFIA and SSIA receives funding from AFMA to complete projects under co-management agreements.</p> <p>Undertakes contracts as an independent consultant.</p>
Mr Kyriakos Toumazos	<p>CEO (South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association Inc.);</p> <p>Director of Southern Sea Eagles Pty Ltd;</p> <p>Director of Southern Fisheries Pty Ltd;</p>

	<p>Director Health Balance Pharmacies Pty Ltd;  Member South Australian Boating Facility Board;  Member of SharkRAG and SEMAC (AFMA);  Member of AMSA Regional Safety Committee;  Director Southern Shark Industry Alliance;  Director PACK Investments Pty Ltd;  Director Cruickshank’s Corner Developments Pty Ltd;  Director Cruickshank’s Corner Commercial Pty Ltd;  Director Seafood Industry Australia;</p>
Ms Sally Weekes	AFMA Demersal and Midwater Senior Manager (Acting) – AFMA SEMAC member – no interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>Invited participants</b>	
Mr James Woodhams	<p>Employed by ABARES.  On behalf of ABARES, has a minor financial stake in the project ‘2019-036: Implementation of dynamic reference points and harvest strategies to account for environmentally-driven changes in productivity in Australian fisheries’.  Non-financial roles on the steering committee for the Multi species harvest strategy project led by CSIRO, the Reviewing biological parameters project led by CSIRO and Alternate indicators for the SESSF (working group reporting to SESSFRAG).</p>
Ms Fiona McKinnon	NSW DPI (Fisheries)– no interest pecuniary or otherwise
<b>Executive Officer</b>	
Ms Rebecca Jol	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
<b>AFMA Attendees</b>	
Ms Anna Willock	Employed by AFMA, Deputy CEO, Fisheries Management Branch, no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Daniel Corrie	Employed by AFMA, Senior Manager, Fisheries Management Branch, no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Dr Mark Grubert	Employed by AFMA, South East Trawl & Great Australian Bight Trawl Manager – no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Cate Coddington	Employed by AFMA, A/g Manager- Gillnet, Hook and Trap (GHAT) and High Seas (SPRFMO) Fisheries, – no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Steve Hall	AFMA – Manager SPF, Scallop and Squid – no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Jennifer Power-Geary	Employed by AFMA - Management Support Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Yvette Lamont	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Alannah Wood	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Ms Micheel Henriksen	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Nathan Jackson	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.

Ms Rachel Downes	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
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## Attachment B – Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker	SEMAC Action	Timing/Duration
<b>DAY 1 – Radisson on Flagstaff Conference Room</b>			0915-1715
<b>Preliminaries</b>			
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	Advice	<b>30 mins</b> 0915-0945
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	Advice	
1.3 Declarations of interest	Chair	Noting	
1.4 Action items	Executive officer	Noting/questions	
<b>Updates</b>			
2.1 Managers (taken as read)	AFMA	Noting/questions	<b>15 min</b> 0945-1000
2.2 Industry Update (taken as read)	Industry	Noting/questions	
<b>Morning Tea</b>			<b>15 mins</b> 1000-1015
<b>Business Items</b>			
3. SESSF harvest Strategy Updates	Dan Corrie	Advice	<b>45 mins</b> 1015-1100
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season	AFMA	Advice	<b>90 mins</b> 1100-1230
<b>Lunch</b>			<b>30 mins</b> 1230-1300
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season (contd.)	AFMA	Advice	<b>120 mins</b> 1300-1500
<b>Afternoon Tea</b>			<b>15 mins</b> 1500-1515
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season (contd.)	AFMA	Advice	<b>120 mins</b> 1515-1715

Agenda Item	Speaker	SEMAC Action	Timing/Duration
DAY 2 – Raddison on Flagstaff / MS Teams Conference Room			0930-1700
Business Items			
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season (contd.)	AFMA	Advice	75 mins 0930-1045
Morning Tea			15 mins 1045-1100
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season (contd.)	AFMA	Advice	90 mins 1100-1230
Lunch			30 mins 1230-1300
4. SESSF TAC recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season (contd.)	AFMA	Advice	120 mins 1300-1500
5. Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) TAC recommendation for the 2024-2025 fishing season	Steve Hall	Advice	30 mins 1500-1530
Afternoon Tea			15 mins 1530-1545
6. Monitoring in the Gillnet fishery	AFMA	Advice	30 mins 1545-1615
7. WORDAC Murray Dogfish Closure	Simon Boag	Advice	30 mins 1615-1645
Any other business	Chair	Noting/Questions	10 mins 1645-1655
Review of action items	EO	Advice	10 mins 1655-1705
Next Meeting/Meeting Close	Chair		5 mins 1705-1710

## Attachment C

Table 2 - Progress of Actions from Previous Meetings.

Complete/Redundant	Underway	Yet to start	SEMAC advice required / for noting
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	Agenda item	Meeting No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	1.5. Actions arising from previous meetings	51	AFMA to provide SETFIA with an update on the depth analysis work to be undertaken by AFMA to revise the eastern boundaries of the rebuilding closures.	AFMA	Ongoing	<u>Underway:</u> Work is currently underway to consider the industry proposed revision of the eastern boundary. See Manager's update.
	2. Fishery update	50.1	AFMA to circulate the EM workplan and deliverables against the investment when available.	AFMA	As soon as available	<u>Underway</u> - A formal workplan for all aspects of the EM program is under development and will be circulated when finalised.
	4. Protected Species	50.3	AFMA to ensure that the purpose of the protected species interaction paper is made clearer and provide a greater level of detail to support its purpose, the next time it is provided.	AFMA	Ongoing	<u>Underway:</u> AFMA will develop the paper further, ensuring that the purpose is clarified, also noting that 'for advice' items are to be clearly identified what advice is being requested and why.

	Agenda item	Meeting No.	Description	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status update
	4.SESSF TAC Recommendations for the 2023-24 Fishing season	49.1	As part of developing the Western Orange Roughy Research Plan (WORRP), AFMA to seek advice from SERAG on the timeframe required to obtain sufficient data to assess the status of Western Orange Roughy stock and determine sustainable harvest levels.	AFMA	SERAG 2023	<u>Underway</u> – Discussions are ongoing with CSIRO and the data team regarding the timeframe and sampling required to run an assessment. The WORRP has been extended another 2 years as part of the 2023-25 SETFIA co-management contract.
	9. GHAT ERAs	45.4	Action item 5: (Discussed during GHAT ERA agenda item) When developing a bycatch and discarding workplan for the hook sector of the GHAT, AFMA to note the lack of monitoring in the manual longline sector and the potential influence on the outcomes of the ERA, and develop an action to implement representative monitoring in this sector.	GHAT manager	SEMAC 51	Work on the GHAT bycatch and discard workplan has not yet commenced but has been identified as a key priority in the 2024 AFMA workplan. Irrespective of the Bycatch and Discard workplan, AFMA is looking at expanding EM in the GHATF more broadly, including the manual hook sector, over the next 12-18 months, consistent with previous SEMAC advice. More information is provided at agenda 6.

## Attachment D

**Table 3. Actions from meeting 52**

Agenda Item	No.	Action	Entity Responsible	Timeframe
2. Manager's Update	1.	AFMA to circulate the MAC and RAG review outcomes letter that was sent out to Chairs	SEMAC EO	As soon as possible
4. SESSF TAC Recommendations	2.	In relation to Mirror dory, AFMA to seek approval to waive the 'large change limiting rule' and allow for an increase in quota to utilise the recent increase in catch rates and to reduce discards.	AFMA	Before season rollover
6. Monitoring in the Gillnet fishery	3.	AFMA to provide Industry with an estimated breakdown of the cost savings for expanding EM against the additional costs for installing and reviewing EM for the remaining Gillnet boats.	EM team	SEMAC 54

**Table 4. Recommendations from meeting 52**

3. SESSF Harvest Strategy Updates	1.	AFMA to consider terminology used for MYTAC's that are in fact a multi-year RBC.
4. SESSF TAC Recommendations	2.	AFMA to circulate the out of session school shark bycatch TAC recommendations from SharkRAG.
4. SESSF TAC Recommendations	3.	In relation to School shark, AFMA to monitor all sources of mortality during 2024-25 and continue to engage with other jurisdictions.
6. SPF TAC Recommendations	4.	SEMAC supported the TAC recommendations for each SPF quota species for the 2024-25 fishing season as they were presented in the 2024 SPF species summary.

## Attachment E

SL= Slope; SM=Seamount; WoE =Weight of Evidence; 1° = Primary; 2° = Secondary; 3° = Tertiary/Byproduct; BC = Bycatch; New = New assessment; P = Page Number in [2024 SESSF Species Summaries](#) document.

Species	Assessment Tier (year)	Eco no mic valu e	Species Category	MYTAC status in 23-24	MYTAC maintained by SESSFRA?	Stock status	Climate projections	Change in TAC from 2023-24 (t)	Requires MAC input?	Issues
Alfonsino, P-124	3 (2013)	3°	Trigger	9 <sup>th</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	
Blue eye trevalla, P-127	4 (SL, 2023) 5 (SM, 2021)	1°	SL: MYTAC SM: Trigger	New	N/A			+25	Yes	Updated T4
Blue grenadier, P-133	1 (2022)	1°	MYTAC	1 <sup>st</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	
Blue warehou, P-80	4 (2013)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	High (though uncertain) discards
DW Shark (East), P-59	4 (2023)	2°	MYTAC	New	N/A		Uncertain	0	Yes	Updated T4
DW Shark (West), P-63	4 (2023)	2°	MYTAC	New	N/A		Uncertain	+92	Yes	Updated T4
Elephant fish, P-44	WoE (2020)	3°	Trigger	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	

Flathead, P-85	1 (2022)	1°	MYTAC	1 <sup>st</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	Yes	Proposal to continue to constrain TAC – bycatch issues (Jackass Morwong)
Gemfish (East), P-138	1 (2010)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	
Gemfish (West), P-143	4 (2022)	2°	Tigger	1 <sup>st</sup> /3-yr	Yes		Uncertain	0	No	
Gummy shark, P-29	1 (2023)	1°	MYTAC	New	Yes			TBC	Yes	RAG provided RBC options
Jackass morwong (East), P-91	1 (2021)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	
Jackass morwong (West)	1 (2018)	3°								
John dory, P-97	4 (2021)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	
Mirror dory, P-101	4 (2023)	2°	MYTAC	New	N/A			+119	Yes	
Ocean perch, P-105	4 (2020)	2°	Trigger	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	
Orange roughy (Casc), P-52	1 (2009)	1°	MYTAC	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	Outdated stock assessment
Orange roughy (East), P-47	1 (2021)	1°	MYTAC	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			-96	Yes	2024 assessment postponed

Orange roughy (Sth), P-73	1 (2021)	1° (Pe dra B)	MYTAC	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			-7	Yes	
	1 (2000)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A					
Orange roughy (West), P-77	1(2002)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	200 tonne RCA to be allocated through the Western Orange Roughy Research program
Oreo, basket, P-56	3°	3°	MYTAC	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes		Uncertain	0	No	
Pink ling, P-147	1 (2021)	1°	MYTAC	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			-32	Yes	Eastern nominal TAC to be determined
Redfish, P-108	1 (2020)	BC	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	Yes	
Ribaldo, R-153	4 (2020)	3°	Trigger	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes		Uncertain	0	No	
Royal red prawn, P-156	4 (2020)	2°	Trigger	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes		Uncertain	0	No	
Sawshark, P-40	4 (2020)	2°	Trigger	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	
School shark, P-35	1 (2018)	2°	Depleted	1-yr TAC	N/A			TBC	Yes	Increased State catches to be considered
School whiting, P-113	1 (2020)	1°	MYTAC	3 <sup>rd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	No	



Silver trevally, P-119	1 (2023)	2°	MYTAC	New	N/A			TBC	Yes	New Joint Assessment (Commonwealth and NSW DPI) Different TAC options to be considered
Silver warehou, P-160	1 (2021)	1°	MYTAC	2 <sup>nd</sup> /3-yr	Yes			0	Yes	Declining indicators and climate sensitivity
Smooth dory (Cascade), P-52	4 (2010)	3°	Trigger	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	No	
Smooth dory (other), P-69	WoE (2022)	3°	Trigger	1-yr TAC	N/A			0	No	
Hagfish (non-quota), P-164	N/A	1°	N/A	1-yr TAC	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	No	
Orange roughy (non-quota), P-164	N/A	BC	N/A	1-yr TAC	N/A	N/A		0	No	
Boarfish (non-quota), P-164	N/A	3°	Trigger	1-yr TAC	N/A	N/A		0	No	