



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC) Meeting Out of Session

Meeting 53 minutes

24 April 2024

Online Meeting

Agenda item 1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and apologise

1. The SEMAC Chair, Mr David McGlennon, opened the meeting at 1000 on 24 April 2024 by welcoming those present and making an *Acknowledgement of Country* statement recognising the traditional owners of the many lands in which we met, paying our respects to elder's past, present and emerging. Members noted that the meeting was being recorded and commenced proceedings.
2. The Chair confirmed attending members, participants and observers and noted apologies from Mr Gerry Geen (member).

SEMAC Members

David McGlennon	Chair
Paul McShane	Scientific member
Sarah Jennings	Economic member
Anissa Lawrence	Environment member
Gerry Geen	Industry member
Kyri Toumazos	Industry member
Simon Boag	Industry member
Will Mure	Industry member
John Harrison	Recreational member
Sally Weekes	AFMA member
Rebecca Jol	Executive officer

AFMA

Nathan Jackson	Presenter
Mark Grubert	

Apologies

Gerry Geen	Industry member
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1.2 Declarations of interest

3. SEMAC members followed the conflict-of-interest declarations as outlined in the *Fisheries Management Paper 1*.
4. Industry member, Simon Boag declared a conflict of interest for agenda item 2.
5. SEMAC agreed to follow the usual process allowing Mr. Boag to participate in the discussion but to leave the meeting whilst recommendations are made.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

6. SEMAC adopted the agenda at **Attachment B** as final.

Agenda item 2 – Trawl Closure Boundary Refinement

7. The AFMA member introduced the agenda item asking SEMAC to provide advice on SETFIA's proposal to revise the eastern (deepwater) boundaries of both the Flounder/Kingfisher Trawl Closure (Schedule 42) and Babel Island Trawl Closure (Schedule 43) to more closely align with the 210 m depth contour.
8. SEMAC were informed that the Commission at its March 2024 meeting supported the proposed amendments 'In principle', subject to ongoing low catches for the remainder of the fishing season, consultation with the SEMAC and a review of catches in 2026.
9. Nathan Jackson (AFMA) presented summary tables showing the GVP and catch and effort differences since the closures were implemented in May 2023, noting that the values presented were season averages and that the data used was from all five closures combined. SEMAC were also presented with maps showing the proposed changes to the closure boundaries.
10. SEMAC noted the following:
 - That the year-to-date catches of Jackass Morwong for the 2023–24 season are below recent historical catches (down by 74%) and trending towards significantly exceeding the reduction target of 60 tonnes (t).
 - Modelled discards for Jackass morwong in 2024 are estimated to be 2.4 t under an incidental bycatch TAC of 50 t (total mortality 52.5 t), and 5.1 t under 100 t (total mortality of 105.1 t).
 - That ABARES repeated the analysis they undertook for the initial development of the closures and estimated that the proposed changes would result in the capture of around 5 t of Jackass Morwong.
 - The accuracy of Jackass Morwong discard estimates may be improved through Electronic Monitoring (EM) but the EM trial in the CTS has not progressed to a stage where this information is available.
 - AFMA considers that based on the reduction in catch of Jackass Morwong during the current season, modifying the two closure boundaries is unlikely to result in additional catch that would exceed the level required to enable rebuilding of Jackass Morwong according to the projected catch scenarios (in line with the Harvest Strategy Policy).
 - The Industry member, Simon Boag, provided the following points in support of the proposal:
 - The eastern boundaries of both the Flounder/Kingfisher and Babel Island Trawl Closures were shown to be much deeper than 210 m with recordings in parts between 300-400 m. Depths at which Jackass morwong are less common.
 - Given the impacts from closures and other no-access zones compiling in the SESSF, Industry is struggling to find productive areas to fish, and at the moment, the fleet is operating on top of each another.
 - For SEMAC to note, that the models used to estimate the additional mortality of Jackass morwong that would be caught within the revised access area, are predicting a worst-case scenario based on data from before the structural adjustment when there were 57 SFRs in the fishery (compared with 36 in 2024).
11. SEMAC discussed:
 - Revising the boundary would potentially improve commercial catches of other species such as squid and eastern pink ling.

- ABARES undertook an analysis on additional catches and noted that approximately 18 tonnes of flathead would be represented within the revised access area (18 t of flathead equates to ~ \$250,000).
- The proposed changes would provide additional fishable grounds at the cost of 1-5 t of Jackass morwong (worst case scenario). Based on the reduction in catch of Jackass Morwong during the current season, these additional catches would still be below the level required to enable rebuilding of Jackass Morwong.

12. The Industry member thanked the committee for their consideration and left the meeting.

Concluding Questions/Comments:

13. The following questions were raised during the final discussions:

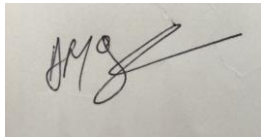
- How boundary lines are enforced - SEMAC noted that the boundary co-ordinates are provided to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) team and SFR holders for plotting. The VMS team monitors vessel position and is alerted if a fishing vessel breaches the boundary.
- SEMAC noted that the bathymetric maps used in the closure design were provided by Geoscience Australia. AFMA is not sure why the depth recorded at these boundaries was so different to the advice provided by Geoscience Australia.

14. In conclusion, the MAC supported SETFIA's proposal to revise the eastern (deepwater) boundaries of both the Flounder/Kingfisher Trawl Closure (Schedule 42) and Babel Island Trawl Closure (Schedule 43) to more closely align with the 210 m depth contour.

Close of meeting

15. The Chair thanked attendees and presenters for their input and closed the meeting, noting the next formal SEMAC is scheduled for 11 July 2024.

Signed (Chair):



Date: 30/05/24

Attachments

- A. SEMAC 53 Declared conflicts of Interest
- B. Final Agenda

Attachment A - Declared Conflicts

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

	<p>Director of Southern Fisheries Pty Ltd; Director Health Balance Pharmacies Pty Ltd; Member South Australian Boating Facility Board; Member of Shark Resource Assessment Group (AFMA); Member of South East Management Advisory Committee; 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.
Executive Officer	
Ms Rebecca Jol	AFMA – Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.
AFMA Attendees	
Dr Mark Grubert	Employed by AFMA, South East Trawl & Great Australian Bight Trawl Manager – no interest, pecuniary or otherwise.
Mr Nathan Jackson	Employed by AFMA - Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries. No interest pecuniary or otherwise.

Attachment B- Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker	SEMAC Action	Timing/Duration
DAY 1 – Teams Conference			1000-1115
Preliminaries			
1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	Advice	15 mins 1000- 1010
1.2 Acceptance of agenda	Chair	Advice	
1.3 Declarations of interest	Chair	Noting	
Business Items			
2. Trawl Closure Boundary Refinement	Sally Weekes	Advice	30 Mins 1010-1055
Meeting Close	Chair	Noting	5 mins