



Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Meeting No. 45

June 17-18, 2008

MINUTES

CHAIR: Mr Ian Cartwright

These minutes were ratified on 27 August 2008 at TSSAC No. 46.

Prepared by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on behalf of the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority



TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING No. 45

**June 17th/18th, 2008: Commencing at 10:30 am on the 17th; 8:30 am on the 18th
Venue: AFMA Pearls Building,
Address: 38 Victoria Parade, Thursday Island, QLD**

Preliminaries – Chairs opening remarks/Apologies/Adoption of Agenda/Disclosure of Interests

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1 Meeting Administration**
 - 1.1 Introductions from each TSSAC member - All members to provide a brief introduction of themselves, their expertise and relevant experience
 - 1.2 PZJA FMP No.1 (May 2008)
 - 1.3 TSSAC Terms of Reference
- 2 TS Fishery Overviews**
 - 2.1 Fisheries Management in the Torres Strait
 - 2.2 Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery
 - 2.3 Prawn Fishery
 - 2.4 Finfish Fisheries (Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel)
 - 2.5 Hand Collectable Fisheries
 - 2.6 Traditional - Turtle and Dugong fisheries
- 3 Funding**
 - 3.1 Process for funding of TS research projects using AFMA funds
 - 3.2 External funding options
- 4 TSSAC Research Plan 2005-2010**
 - 4.1 Review of previous research plan and determination of relevance to reformed TSSAC
- 5 Research Priorities**
 - 5.1 Suggested research priorities - TS Committees/Groups
- 6 Research proposals for TSSAC consideration/support**
- 7 Call for research proposals for 2008/2009 financial year**
- 8 Work Plan for TSSAC**
- 9 Other business**
 - 9.1 Dates for next meeting

Individuals wishing to attend the meeting as an observer are required to contact the Chair (Mr Ian Cartwright: c/o TSSAC Executive Officer – Annabel Jones at Annabel.jones@afma.gov.au) notifying him of your desire to attend.

DECISION RECORD - TSSAC No. 45
(17-18 June, 2008)

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the membership of the TSSAC and the member biographies provided.

1.1.2 The TSSAC **RECOMMENDED** that the PZJA **AGREE** to appoint a representative from the TSRA and BRS to the TSSAC as permanent observers.

1.1.3 The TSSAC **RECOMMENDED** that the PZJA **NOTES** Mr Shane Fava has been nominated as the QDPI&F Representative on the TSSAC.

1.1.4 The Committee **AGREED** that the executive officer to draft letter to the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) to invite a member to attend the next TSSAC meeting (ACTION ITEM 2)

1.2.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** and **AGREED** to abide by the roles and responsibilities as set out in the PZJA FMP No.1 (May 2008) by signing a letter of acknowledgement distributed, with the exception of Mr Charles David.

1.3.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the Terms of Reference for the TSSAC.

1.3.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** to review the Terms of Reference and make recommendations for amendments "that broaden its scope to include recommendations for alternative fund providers" and to recommend these amendments to the PZJA once finalised.

TS FISHERY OVERVIEWS

2.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the overviews of Torres Strait fisheries management and individual fisheries presented to the Committee.

FUNDING

3.1.1 The TSSAC **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** to develop a process for evaluating and recommending research projects for funding utilising either AFMA Torres Strait Research funds or other funding sources.

3.1.2 The Committee **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** to an interim set of selection criteria for evaluation of the two submitted research proposals prior to assessing the proposals in Agenda Item 6.

3.1.3 The TSSAC **AGREED** for the secretariat to review procedures of past TSSAC and other scientific advisory committees with respect to conflict of interest and develop a draft policy for the TSSAC with regard to conflict of interest to consider at the next TSSAC meeting.

3.2.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the information provided on available external funding bodies.

3.3.1 The Committee **NOTED** the AFMA Torres Strait Research Funding budget for the 08/09 financial year.

TSSAC RESEARCH PLAN 2005-2010

4.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the current TSSAC Research Plan 2005 -2010; and

4.1.2 The TSSAC **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** that an independent consultant should be contracted to develop a strategic research plan for Torres Strait Fisheries by October 2008 utilising information provided in current TSSAC Research Plan 2005-2010 and other documents.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

5.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the suggested research priorities from the Torres Strait Committees/Groups; and

5.1.2 The TSSAC **DISCUSSED** and **AGREED** to defer developing a process for setting overall research priorities for Torres Strait Fisheries, until TSSAC decision 4.1.2 had been finalised.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR TSSAC CONSIDERATION/SUPPORT

6.1.1 The TSSAC **NOTED** the research proposals submitted to the TSSAC for consideration; and

6.1.2 The TSSAC **AGREED** to provide in principle support for a single research proposal for funding to AFMA subject to the Principal Investigator adequately addressing the recommended amendments by the TSSAC.

6.1.3 The Committee **AGREED** to keep the assessment of proposals as "Committee in Confidence" documents

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR 2008/2009 FINANCIAL YEAR

7.1.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** to a process of 'calling for research proposals'; and

7.1.2 The TSSAC **DETERMINED** if a call for research proposals should be made at this time.

WORK PLAN FOR TSSAC

8.1.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** to develop a plan of work for the TSSAC to be provided to the PZJA.

OTHER BUSINESS

9.1.1 The TSSAC **AGREED** to reconvene in Brisbane on August 27, 2008.

TSSAC 45 - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PZJA

1 The PZJA appoint a TSRA representative and BRS representative as permanent observers on the TSSAC.

2 That the PZJA NOTE Mr Shane Fava is the nominated QDPI&F Representative on the TSSAC.

The following members and observers were in attendance at TSSAC No. 45

Name	Role
Mr Ian Cartwright	Chairperson
Dr Annabel Jones	Executive Officer (AFMA)
Dr Yimin Ye	Research Member (CSIRO)
Dr Roland Pitcher	Research Member (CSIRO)
Dr Stephen Newman	Research Member (WA Fisheries)
Ms Sevaly Sen	Social/Economics Research Member
Dr David Wilson	AFMA Member
Mr Charles David	Traditional Inhabitant Representative Member
Mr Shane Fava	QDPI&F Member
Mr Tony Vass	Independent Industry Member

Observers

Name	Role
Mr Toshi Nakata	TSRA
Mr Neil Bensley	BRS

Apologies

Nil

Declaration of Interest

Name	Interests
Mr Ian Cartwright	Consultant
Dr Annabel Jones	Acting Thursday Island Fisheries Manager
Dr Yimin Ye	CSIRO researcher
Dr Roland Pitcher	CSIRO researcher
Dr Stephen Newman	WA Fisheries researcher
Ms Sevaly Sen	Consultant
Dr David Wilson	Acting Senior Fisheries Manager AFMA
Mr Charles David	Iama Traditional Owner
Mr Shane Fava	QDPI&F Senior Fisheries Manager
Mr Tony Vass	Ex Mackerel License Holder

Action Items

No.	Action	Agenda	Responsibility	Status
1.	The Chair on behalf on the TSSAC will respond to correspondence from Ms Prichard.	Correspondence	Chair	Completed
2.	The Executive Officer draft a letter to the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) to invite a member to attend the next TSSAC meeting.	1.1	Executive Officer	Target end July
3.	Mr David to consult with his constituents and the fisheries portfolio member of the TS Regional Council regarding signing the acknowledgement of the roles and responsibilities of TSSAC Members as described in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper (FMP) #1 prior to the next meeting of the TSSAC.	1.2	Community representative	Next meeting
4.	TSSAC members to review the Terms of Reference and suggest amendments to more adequately reflect the strategic role of the Committee at the next TSSAC meeting and recommend these amendments to the PZJA.	1.3	TSSAC members	Target Mid July
5.	To draft a brief paper for next meeting about how to get the islanders involve in research, communicating research before and during research.	2.1.	Executive Officer	Next meeting
6.	TSSAC Secretariat to review procedures of past TSSAC and other scientific advisory committees with respect to conflict of interest and develop a draft policy for the TSSAC with regard to conflict of interest to consider at the next TSSAC meeting.	3.1	Executive Officer	Next meeting
7.	Methods for better integrating the Committee with other funding bodies will be discussed further at subsequent meetings	3.2	Executive Officer	TBD
8.	TSSAC engage a suitably qualified/experienced independent consultant to develop a strategic research plan by October 2008 utilising information recommended by the TSSAC at TSSAC 45.4.1.1.	4.1	Executive Officer	Target End July
9.	Secretariat to provide response to researchers on their submissions to the TSSAC.	6.1	Secretariat	Completed
10.	TSSAC Executive Officer to collate	6.1	Executive	Next Meeting

	current cultural protocols (eg TSRA and CRC Torres Strait) for researchers working in Torres Strait for discussion at the next TSSAC meeting.		Officer	
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Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting held in 2006 were not discussed as there were no current members that were present at the 44th meeting of the TSSAC and it was deemed that the records were not relevant to this meeting.

Business arising from the minutes

Not applicable

Outcomes of PZJA 22

Relevant items from PZJA 22 were covered in the agenda items.

Review and Adoption of the agenda

Agenda adopted with amendments as follows:

- 3 Funding
 - 3.3 Budget
- 9 Other business
 - 9.2 PZJA Communications

Correspondence

Two letters were tabled to the Committee from:

- 1: Mr Nick Rayns (AFMA) in regards to AFMA's Program for addressing bycatch and discarding in Commonwealth Fisheries: an Implementation Strategy.
- 2: Ms Anna Prichard in regard to Torres Strait Fisheries Management Advisory Committee research recommendations

The Committee NOTED the correspondence from AFMA.

The Committee AGREED to the CHAIR responding to Ms Prichard's letter on behalf of the TSSAC.

ACTION ITEM 1: The Chair on behalf on the TSSAC will respond to correspondence from Ms Prichard.

Agenda Item 1.1: Meeting Administration

To ensure new members were provided with adequate background, an emphasis was placed at this meeting on discussion of policy and procedures relevant to the TSSAC.

The Committee discussed the current membership and in particular the role of observers (permanent and casual observers) at TSSAC meetings. It was agreed that

casual observers and in particular Torres Strait Islanders, are to be welcomed at meetings where possible and appropriate, as they have considerable potential to add to discussions. Permanent observers will also be considered, balancing the need for additional input with the requirement to keep the Committee at a manageable size.

1.1.1 The TSSAC NOTED the membership of the TSSAC and the member biographies provided.

The Committee agreed to appoint two permanent observers: i) a TSRA nominee to support the Islander Member and ii) a Bureau of Rural Sciences (a division of DAFF) nominee in recognition of their interest in the status and information needs of Torres Strait fisheries.

All observers (casual and permanent) must follow the procedures detailed in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper (FMP) No. 1 (May 2008).

1.1.2 The TSSAC RECOMMENDED that the PZJA AGREE to appoint a representative from the TSRA and BRS to the TSSAC as permanent observers. RECOMMENDATION: The PZJA appoint a TSRA representative and BRS representative as permanent observers on the TSSAC.

1.1.3 The TSSAC RECOMMENDED that the PZJA NOTES Mr Shane Fava has been nominated as the QDPI&F Representative on the TSSAC. RECOMMENDATION: That the PZJA NOTE Mr Shane Fava is the nominated QDPI&F Representative on the TSSAC.

1.1.4 The Committee AGREED that the executive officer to draft letter to the PNG National Fisheries Authority (NFA) to invite a member to attend the next TSSAC meeting (ACTION ITEM 2).

Agenda Item 1.2: PZJA FMP #1

The Committee discussed the role and responsibilities of the Committee as a whole, and individual members, as set out in PZJA FMP No. 1 (May 2008). Managing conflict of interest was discussed in some depth and it was agreed that this issue required careful attention during all work of the Committee.

1.2.1 The TSSAC NOTED and AGREED to abide by the roles and responsibilities as set out in the PZJA FMP No.1 (May 2008) by signing a letter of acknowledgement distributed, with the exception of Mr Charles David.

Mr David reserved his decision until he consults with other CFG and fisheries portfolio member of the TS Regional Council regarding signing the acknowledgement of the roles and responsibilities of TSSAC Members as described in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper (FMP) #1.

ACTION ITEM 3: Mr David to consult with his constituents and the fisheries portfolio member of the TS Regional Council regarding signing the acknowledgement of the roles and responsibilities of TSSAC Members as described in PZJA Fisheries Management Paper (FMP) #1 prior to the next meeting of the TSSAC.

Agenda Item 1.3: TSSAC Terms of Reference

The Committee did a preliminary review of the current terms of reference (TOR) for the TSSAC and agreed that they required amendment. In particular, it was felt that they could better reflect the broader strategic role they felt the Committee should be taking including the role to make recommendations on funding sources and linkages with other research organisations. The Committee agreed to suggest amendments/inclusions to the TOR at the next TSSAC meeting for endorsement by the PZJA.

1.3.1 The TSSAC NOTED the Terms of Reference for the TSSAC.

1.3.2 The TSSAC AGREED to review the Terms of Reference and make recommendations for amendments “that broaden its scope to include recommendations for alternative fund providers” and to recommend these amendments to the PZJA.

ACTION ITEM 4: TSSAC members to review the Terms of Reference and suggest amendments to more adequately reflect the strategic role of the Committee at the next TSSAC meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Fisheries Overviews

2.1.1 The TSSAC NOTED the overviews of Torres Strait fisheries management and individual fisheries presented to the Committee.

There are misunderstandings with a number of the fisheries surveys being conducted by researchers on Torres Strait Fisheries, for example, how fishery independent surveys need to be conducted to provide an accurate estimate of populations over a large area, rather than just where fishing is conducted, and presumably where fish are most abundant.

It was agreed by the Committee that greater involvement of Islanders on research surveys/ field work would mitigate these misunderstanding by providing opportunities for Islanders to learn and have a better understanding of research survey techniques which they could subsequently take to their communities. Difficulties with meeting Occupational Health and Safety requirements for all government departments, eg Commercial Diving qualifications (Professional Scuba diving qualifications to AS2299) to do underwater surveys requiring diving were raised, however, there are other avenues where Islanders should and can be involved in scientific research. This will require further discussion to allow the TSSAC to encourage that such opportunities are included in future research in Torres Strait.

ACTION ITEM 5: To draft a brief paper for next meeting about how to get the islanders involve in research, communicating research before and during research

Agenda Item 3.1: Process for funding of Torres Strait Research Projects Using AFMA TS Research Funds

The process for evaluating research proposals submitted to the TSSAC from research providers was discussed at length. The Committee discussed and agreed that a transparent, equitable and open process for evaluation of research proposals submitted to the TSSAC was essential. The Committee agreed to consider past TSSAC processes and those of other agencies at a future meeting to ensure the most effective process was developed for the TSSAC, including agreed procedures for addressing Conflict of Interest (COI) of Committee members (perceived or direct). In the short term, in order to evaluate two research proposals submitted to the

TSSAC at this meeting, an interim set of evaluation criteria were discussed and adopted for this meeting only.

3.1.1 The TSSAC DISCUSSED and AGREED to develop a process for evaluating and recommending research projects for funding utilising either AFMA Torres Strait Research funds or other funding sources.

Further details on the preliminary screening process will be discussed at upcoming TSSAC meetings.

3.1.2 The Committee DISCUSSED and AGREED to an interim set of selection criteria for evaluation of the two submitted research proposals prior to assessing the proposals in Agenda Item 6. The criteria were:

Attractiveness

- 1 Is the research supported by industry and community (project and objectives)?
- 2 Do the outcomes have merit and are measurable where appropriate?
- 3 Cost/Benefit Analysis
- 4 Is there collaboration between stakeholders (i.e. between community and/or industry, research organisations and management agencies)?
- 5 Are there links to previous research?
- 6 Does the project lead to capacity development for communities?
- 7 Contribution funding/other sources (in-kind contribution)
- 8 Research plan objectives

Feasibility

- 1 Is the end-user/s identified
- 2 Are the outputs and outcomes relevant to end-user/s
- 3 Are Extension and communication well developed and effective?
- 4 Are the methods well described and consistent with the objectives?
- 5 Are the methods scientifically sound and ethical?
- 6 Does the applicant and organization have the capacity to produce outputs?
- 7 Is the budget to meet the outputs and outcomes?
- 8 Is there appropriate data management?

These criteria will be refined at subsequent meetings of the TSSAC.

3.1.3 The TSSAC AGREED for the secretariat to review procedures of past TSSAC and other scientific advisory committees with respect to conflict of interest and develop a draft policy for the TSSAC with regard to conflict of interest to consider at the next TSSAC meeting (ACTION ITEM 6).

Agenda Item 3.2: External Funding Sources

The Committee discussed a desire to be engaged with other funding organisations such as:

- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC, COMFRAB)
- Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF)
- Australian Research Council (ARC)

Methods for better integrating the Committee with other funding bodies will be discussed further at subsequent meetings, including timing TSSAC operations to maximise opportunities for other funding sources for Torres Strait research (ACTION ITEM 7).

3.2.1 The TSSAC NOTED the information provided on available external funding bodies.

Agenda Item 3.3: Budget

3.3.1 The Committee NOTED the AFMA Torres Strait Research Funding budget for the 08/09 financial year.

Agenda Item 4.1: TSSAC Research Plan 2005-2010.

The previous TSSAC had developed a Torres Strait Strategic Research Plan for 2005-2010 (TSSRP 05-10). The TSSAC felt that the TSSRP 05-10 was too broad to be effective in guiding the TSSAC and needed updating. The revised plan should be developed in two parts: Part one would include themes, overall research strategies and potential funding sources for the next five years; Part 2 would be more operational in nature, and be revised on an annual basis to reflect changing priorities and activities. The Committee agreed it would be most efficient to engage a suitably qualified and experienced, independent consultant to review a number of existing documents including the TSSRP 05-10 and develop Part one of the new TSSRP. TSSAC members agreed to rank a list of research priorities developed as part of TSSRP at a future TSSAC meeting.

4.1.1 The TSSAC NOTED the current TSSAC Research Plan 2005 -2010; and

4.1.2 TSSAC DISCUSSED and AGREED that an independent consultant should be contracted to develop a strategic research plan for Torres Strait Fisheries by October 2008 utilising information provided in current TSSAC Research Plan 2005-2010 and other documents including:

1. Torres Strait Strategic Research Plan (2005-2010)
2. Appendices developed with TSSRP 05-10
3. Torres Strait Fisheries Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2000
4. Research recommendations from PZJA consultative bodies including working groups and TSFMAC
5. Torres Strait Fisheries Management Plans currently in development
6. DEWHA Strategic Assessment recommendations
7. TSSAC Member suggested research priorities.

ACTION ITEM 8: TSSAC engage a suitably qualified/experienced independent consultant to develop a strategic research plan by October 2008 utilising information recommended by the TSSAC at TSSAC 45.4.1.1.

Agenda Item 5.1: Suggested Research Priorities – TS Committees/Groups

The Committee discussed including research recommendations from PZJA Consultative bodies in the amended TSSAC strategic research plan. It was agreed that these research recommendations be included in development of a TSSAC strategic research plan in agenda item 4.1.

5.1.1 The TSSAC NOTED the suggested research priorities from the Torres Strait Committees/Groups; and

5.1.2 The TSSAC DISCUSSED and AGREED to defer developing a process for setting overall research priorities for Torres Strait Fisheries, until TSSAC decision 4.1.2 had been finalised.

Agenda Item 6: Research proposals for TSSAC Consideration

Two research proposals on developing community based harvest strategies for the Torres Strait Hand Collectible fishery (including beche-de-mer) were considered. These proposals had been submitted on invitation from AFMA based on tactical research requirements. It was recognised that the process for calling for these proposals was not ideal but acceptable given the absence of agreed TSSAC guidelines for appropriate submission of proposals to the Committee.

6.1.1 The Committed NOTED submission of two research proposals as follows:

1. Fishing into the future the Torres Strait Islander (TSI) Way: Adaptive Community-based Governance, Management, Monitoring and Research by TSIs of their Hand Collectable Fisheries and other Marine Resources. (PI: Ms Anna Prichard, University of Queensland).
2. Sustainable harvest strategies for the Torres Strait Hand Collectable Fisheries. (PI: Mr Tim Skewes, CSIRO).

The Committee discussed the appropriateness of the Committee assessing these proposals. The Committee agreed that in the interim to finalising TSSAC processes that they would use the evaluation criteria discussed in Agenda Item 3.1 to assess the two research proposals.

The two CSIRO researcher members on the TSSAC were not present for discussion of the two projects.

Mr David stated he would not receive any financial gain from Ms Prichard's research project of which he is recorded as co-investigator and, therefore, does not have conflict of interest in evaluating the two research proposals.

The two research proposals were evaluated on the basis of feasibility and attractiveness using criteria discussed and agreed upon earlier in the meeting. The Committee agreed in principle to recommend one proposal from CSIRO for funding by AFMA subject to the Principal Investigator making a number of amendments suggested by the Committee to the approval of the TSSAC secretariat and AFMA.

6.1.2 The Committee AGREED to give in principle support to the CSIRO proposal to AFMA subject to the Principal Investigator adequately addressing the recommended amendments by the TSSAC.

6.1.3 The Committee AGREED to keep the assessment of proposals as "Committee in Confidence" documents.

ACTION ITEM 9: Secretariat to provide a response to researchers on their submissions to the TSSAC.

The importance of gaining support for the outcomes of research by engaging Torres Strait Islanders in research was emphasised, as was the importance of reconciling 'western science' with traditional knowledge. A range of strategies to involve Islanders before, during and after research projects were discussed.

The Committee agreed to review and consider appropriate cultural protocols for researchers working in Torres Strait and how these could be incorporated into research recommended by the TSSAC. Such protocols/procedures would require to be incorporated in research proposals.

In summary, the TSSAC expressed strong support for community based approaches for research and management in Torres Strait hand collectables and traditional fisheries. Further, it was considered that without community support, research activities and their associated outcomes were likely to be ineffective.

ACTION ITEM 10: TSSAC Executive Officer to collate current cultural protocols (eg TSRA and CRC Torres Strait) for researchers working in Torres Strait for discussion at the next TSSAC meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Call for Research Proposals

The Committee referred discussion of processes for calling for Research Proposals to the next meeting of the TSSAC planned for August 2008.

7.1.1 The TSSAC AGREED to a process of 'calling for research proposals'; and

7.1.2 The TSSAC DETERMINED if a call for research proposals should be made at this time.

Agenda Item 8: Work Plan for the TSSAC

The Committee discussed and agreed upon the need for three TSSAC meetings per year for the next year or two to get some momentum in fisheries research in Torres Strait. A tentative 12 month timetable for TSSAC meetings was designed to fit in with other PZJA meetings, AFMA and other funding organisations. The following tentative schedule and objectives for each TSSAC meeting were agreed:

The general Annual Work plan:

Outcome	Responsibility	Time
Develop Annual Research Priorities and call for pre-proposals	TSSAC	June/July*
Pre-proposals received and registered	EO	August
Evaluation of Pre-proposals and call for full proposals	TSSAC	October
Full proposals received and registered	EO	February
Evaluation of full proposals and recommendations for funding	TSSAC	March
Funding provided	AFMA	July

* Requirement for this mid year meeting will be reviewed once TSSAC processes are finalised.

8.1.1 The TSSAC AGREED to develop a plan of work for the TSSAC to be provided to the PZJA.

Agenda Item 9.1: Dates for Next Meeting

9.1.1 The Committee AGREED to set TSSAC 46 for August 27 2008, QDPI&F Building, Anne St, Brisbane and TSSAC 47 for November 3-4 2008 in Cairns, Northern Fisheries Office QDPI&F (to be confirmed).

Agenda Item 9.2: PZJA Communications

The Committee discussed communication from the TSSAC with the PZJA and its consultative bodies including the Fisheries MAC and Working Groups. It was generally accepted that the most efficient way to do this was through the Chairs Summary and recommendations.

Concluding remarks:

TSSAC strongly SUPPORTS community based approaches for research and management in Torres Strait hand collectables and traditional fisheries