

TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER	MEETING No. 10
RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP (TRL RAG)	23-24 August 2011
Correspondence	Agenda Item 1.2:

7 March 2011

Mr John Pollock

Chair
Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group
c/o PO Box 376
Thursday Island
QLD 4875

Dear Mr Pollock,

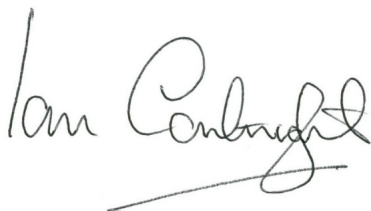
Thank you for your letter dated 22 July 2010 which was tabled at TSSAC No. 53.

Members of the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) considered your clarification of the new approach for conducting the lobster stock assessment and setting a TAC as well as allaying concerns regarding potential discontinuation of the mid-season surveys.

The TSSAC members, in particular the Torres Strait Islander representative on the Committee, were satisfied that the new approach is appropriate for the fishery. Members of the committee will now be comfortable in conveying this information to their relevant agencies and constituencies if required.

Thank you for your help in this matter and we look forward to our continued communications regarding research relevant to our two groups.

Regards,



Mr Ian Cartwright
Chair
Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee

Torres Strait

PZJA

Protected Zone
Joint Authority



**Queensland
Government**



8 March 2011

Mr John Pollock

Chair

Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Resource Assessment Group

c/o PO Box 376

Thursday Island

QLD 4875

Dear Mr Pollock,

The Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) met in Cairns on the 28th October and considered feedback from the TRLRAG on the research priorities listed in the 2010 Annual Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries (the Plan).

The Committee noted the suggestion from the TRLRAG that research on the influence of spawning biomass of tropical rock lobster on the east coast of Queensland on Torres Strait stocks would be of value in improving the stock assessment. In response, the Committee considered that a cost-benefit analysis should be undertaken prior to funding to ensure it represents value for money. The Committee also noted the recommendation that research priorities consider the efficient use and collection of fishery independent environmental data in fisheries research projects.

The TSSAC agree that the issues of discarding and higher grading are priorities for the lobster fishery in the immediate term and that collection of this information would be beneficial before any move to quota occurs. The Committee will alert fisheries managers to consider this. The TSSAC also support more research into the holding and grow out of lobsters.

The TRLRAG comments on research priorities will be incorporated into the 2011 Annual Operational Plan for Torres Strait fisheries and the TSSAC will continue to communicate with the TRLRAG regarding research priorities in the future.

On behalf of the TSSAC, I thank the TRLRAG for taking the time to provide well considered recommendations on priority areas for research in the Torres Strait. I look forward to working together in the future to ensure that fisheries research in the Torres Strait effectively informs fisheries management in the area.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Cartwright".

Mr Ian Cartwright

Chair

Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee