

<b>TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER</b>	<b>MEETING No. 10</b>
<b>RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP (TRL RAG)</b>	<b>23-24 August 2011</b>
<b>TSSAC Research Priorities</b>	<b>Agenda Item 5: FOR DISCUSSION</b>

### **PURPOSE**

To provide the TRLRAG with the opportunity to review and comment on the research priorities listed in the draft 2011 Annual Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries as drafted by the TSSAC.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee (TSSAC) meeting No. 48 the Committee agreed to develop an Operational Plan (OP) to provide potential researchers with specific research areas identified by the TSSAC as being of high priority. The TSSAC further agreed to review the OP annually to ensure the research priorities remained current.

The TSSAC also agreed at TSSAC No. 52 to request relevant PZJA committees and working groups to review the research priorities for individual fisheries and provide feedback to the TSSAC in order to guide the TSSAC on subsequent revisions to the Annual Operational Plan.

The 2011 Annual Operational Plan was discussed at TSSAC No. 55 and included revisions requested by the TRLRAG in 2010 (TRLRAG9). This Plan has been provided as part of the package distributed to researchers considering applying for funding through the TSSAC in the 2012/2013 research funding round.

### **DISCUSSION**

The TSSAC requests the TRLRAG review the fisheries research priorities for the Torres Strait Rock Lobster fishery identified in the 2011 Annual Operational Plan as outlined in attachment 5A and provide comment to the TSSAC on these priorities. This will allow the TSSAC to further refine the Annual Operational Plan in 2012.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**Attachment 5A Draft Research priorities for the Torres Strait Rock Lobster fisheries from the 2010 Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries**

	RESEARCH AREA	RESEARCH NEED	THEME <sup>1</sup>	NEED <sup>2</sup>
<b>B) Rock lobster</b>	1) Fishery assessment	1a) Optimising harvest strategies, Stock assessments, strategic assessments and ERAs.	2, 3	T
		1b) Improved monitoring of catch and effort in all sectors of the fishery.	2, 3, 6	T <sup>3</sup>
	2) Efficacy of management arrangements	2a) Alternative monitoring techniques of stock status, for example GPS tracking.	3, 6	S
		2b) Estimate of non-commercial take of rock lobsters	1, 2	S
	3) Impact of changed market preferences on fishing behaviour under output controls.	3a) Understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the impact of ITQs or competitive quota on the fishery;</li> <li>ii. the extent and impact of discard mortality;</li> <li>iii. the effect of fishing behaviour under output controls on changing market preference;</li> </ul>	3, 6	T

<sup>1</sup> These themes relate to those detailed in the Strategic Research Plan

<sup>2</sup> Strategic need indicates that there is a need for this research, however, this research area is not essential in the next year. Tactical need refers to research that is required in a shorter time frame than strategic research.

<sup>3</sup> Potential research providers should note that a currently funded project is investigating this area and new projects should add to this project rather than duplicate it.

		iv. the extent of higher grading eg. moving to live product, targeting different sizes.		
	4) Connectivity between stocks in Torres Strait and neighbouring jurisdictions including QLD and PNG	4a) Understanding of migration of lobster across different jurisdictions.	2, 5	S
		4b) Impacts of fishing in neighbouring jurisdictions on Torres Strait fishery.	2, 5	S
		4c) Understanding of sink and source connectivity across jurisdictions and associated management implications.	2, 5	S
	5)	5a) Collect relevant baseline information to assess environmental change impacts on lobster populations	2, 3	S
<b>H) Other issues</b>	1) Impacts of climate change on Torres Strait fisheries	1a) Identification of potential changes to key fisheries target species and their habitats in the Torres Strait due to climate change.	2, 3	S
	2) Environmental effects of fisheries	2a) Evaluating the impacts of anchoring, pollution and discard of waste on fishery habitats.	2	T