

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting 56 5-6 October 2011
TSSAC PROCESSES Pre-proposal Assessments 2012/2013	Agenda Item No. 3.2 FOR DECISION

PURPOSE

1. The TSSAC evaluate the pre-proposals submitted for consideration using agreed proposal evaluation pro-forma.
2. The TSSAC request Principal Investigators to develop full proposals for research projects assessed as suitable for further consideration.

BACKGROUND

At TSSAC 55 the Committee agreed to a process for seeking proposals for research projects consistent with the priorities set out in the 2011 Operational Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries and Strategic Research Plan for Torres Strait Fisheries.

A call for proposals was distributed to research agencies, advertised in The Torres News and the NRM Jobs network and posted on the PZJA website.

Five pre-proposals were received:

1. Developing a profitable and sustainable barramundi cod fishery for Eastern Torres Strait islanders (PI Dr Luke Leung, UQ)
2. Building Indigenous capacity in fisheries research, monitoring and evaluation (PI Dr Ben Chuwen, UTAS)
3. Assessing long-term environmental change impacts on the Torres Strait tropical rock lobster fishery (PI Darren Dennis, CSIRO)
4. Targeted Indigenous Community Consultation in the Torres Strait: gaining an understanding of Indigenous communities' perceptions regarding boat and gear length in the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery (PI Consultant TBA)
5. Torres Strait Fisheries (PI Heron Loban, JCU)

DISCUSSION

The TSSAC should assess each of the five pre-proposals against the criteria set out in the proposal evaluation pro-forma (Attachment 3.2A) and determine if proposals are suitable to request a full proposal to be developed by the Principal Investigator for further consideration by the TSSAC. The proposals are provided at attachments 3.2 B – 3.1F.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Torres Strait AFMA Research budget will need to be monitored to ensure adequate funding. Alternative funding providers should be considered where appropriate.