

TORRES STRAIT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Meeting 56 5-6 October 2011
TSSAC PROCESSES Strategic Research Plan mid-term review	Agenda Item No. 3.3 FOR DISCUSSION

PURPOSE

That the TSSAC **DISCUSS** an appropriate review process for the Strategic Research plan for Torres Strait fisheries.

BACKGROUND

The Strategic Research Plan was developed by the TSSAC in 2009 to describe how the TSSAC will use research opportunities to improve the PZJA's management of the fisheries resources of the Torres Strait. The Plan consists of the following parts:

- Part 1 identifies the principles, administration and funding aspects of the Torres Strait fisheries research programme.
- Part 2 identifies the key factors influencing Torres Strait research needs.
- Part 3 identifies key policy and research issues in the 11 fisheries managed by the PZJA.
- Part 4 identifies the six research themes that will guide Torres Strait fisheries research during the life of this Plan.

The Strategic Research Plan is used in conjunction with the Annual Operational Plan, a short guide detailing specific research objectives for each of the Torres Strait fisheries.

The Strategic Research plan states that:

'The TSSAC's intent is that this Plan and the Operational Plan be living documents, capable of responding to the changing nature of the Torres Strait fisheries and institutional environments. In line with this intent, TSSAC will undertake annual reviews of the Operational Plan, a mid-term review of this Plan after 2-3 years, and a full review of this Plan in 2014.'

DISCUSSION

The Strategic Research Plan is at Attachment 3.3.A. Given that it has now been two years since the inception of the Plan, the TSSAC need to undertake the mid-term review. The Committee should discuss how the review will be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION

3.3.1 That the TSSAC **DISCUSS** appropriate processes for reviewing the Strategic Research Plan for Torres Strait fisheries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil