

**TROPICAL ROCK LOBSTER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT GROUP 35  
(TRLRAG 35)**

**Tuesday 12 December 2023 | 8:30am – 5pm  
Wednesday 13 December 2023 | 8:30am – 2pm  
TSRA Boardroom | Thursday Island**

**ADOPTED AGENDA**

**1 PRELIMINARIES**

**1.1 Welcome and apologies**

The Chair will welcome members and observers to the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TRL RAG.

**1.2 Adoption of agenda**

The RAG will be invited to adopt the draft agenda.

**1.3 Declaration of interests**

Members and observers will be invited to declare any real or potential conflicts of interest and determine whether a member may or may not be present during discussion of or decisions made on the matter which is the subject of the conflict.

**1.4 Action items from previous meetings**

The RAG will be invited to note the status of action items arising from previous meetings.

**1.5 Out of session correspondence**

The RAG will be invited to note out of session correspondence on RAG matters since the previous meeting.

**2 UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

**2.1 Industry and Scientific members**

Industry, scientific and government agency members and observers will be invited to provide verbal updates on matters concerning the Torres Strait TRL Fishery including updates on fishing patterns, behaviours, prices, and market trends for the 2022-23 season and the start of the 2023-24 season.

**2.2 Government agencies**

The RAG will be invited to note updates from AFMA, TSRA and QDAF on matters concerning the Torres Strait TRL Fishery.

### **2.3 Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Authority**

The RAG will be invited to note a verbal update from the PNG National Fisheries Authority. Information is sought on lobster imports into Australia from PNG.

### **2.4 Native Title**

The RAG will be invited to note a verbal update from Malu Lamar (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC and other RAG members on native title matters relevant to the TRL Fishery.

## **3 CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS**

The RAG is invited to note the 2023 Climate and Ecosystem Status Report, and industry members' observations on recent environmental conditions.

## **4 CATCH AND EFFORT ANALYSES FOR THE 2022-23 FISHING SEASON**

The RAG will be invited to discuss TRL fishery catch and effort data for the 2022-23 fishing season, including catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) analyses to be presented by the CSIRO.

## **5 RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 2023 PRE-SEASON SURVEY**

The RAG is invited to discuss the results of the November 2023 pre-season survey to be presented by the CSIRO.

## **6 EMPIRICAL HARVEST CONTROL RULE**

### **Outputs for 2023-24 season**

Having regard to the analyses and discussions from agenda items 3, 4, and 5, the RAG will be invited to consider the outputs of the eHCR for the 2023-24 season.

## **7 RECOMMENDED BIOLOGICAL CATCH 2023-24**

Having regard to the outputs from the eHCR, discussion under Agenda Item 3, and the decision rules under the TRL Harvest Strategy, the RAG will be invited to provide advice on a recommended biological catch (RBC) for the TRL Fishery for the 2023-24 fishing season.

## **8 Amending the eHCR for future seasons**

The RAG will be invited to consider options, provided by CSIRO, for an amended empirical Harvest Control Rule (eHCR) to be applied in future seasons.

## **9 PROPOSED CHANGES TO MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The RAG is invited to note and discuss 3 industry proposals for changes to management arrangements in the fishery.

## **10 ROBUSTNESS OF THE PRE-SEASON SURVEY – TESTING AND ANALYSIS**

The RAG is invited to note the results of testing and analyses done by CSIRO on the pre-season survey, to ensure its robustness.

**11 INTERNATIONAL LOBSTER CONFERENCE**

The RAG is invited to note a verbal update from members who attended the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology in Fremantle.

**12 OTHER BUSINESS**

The RAG will be invited to raise any other matters for consideration.

**14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The RAG will be invited to consider the RAGs workplan and discuss a suitable date for the next RAG meetings.