

AFMA Economic Working Group: Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

The Economic Working Group (EWG) brings together the economist members of AFMA's Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) and other fisheries economists to provide AFMA Commission and Management with guidance on economic issues affecting Commonwealth fisheries. In providing this economic advice, EWG members will need to take into account AFMA's legislative objectives under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* in particular, maximising the net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries

Terms of Reference

1. Provide direct advice to AFMA (Commission and Management) on implications and impact of any proposed management decision which may significantly affect net economic returns to the Australian community and industry (e.g. asset values).
2. Provide advice to AFMA Management, MACs and RAGs to ensure a consistent approach to data collection and analysis, including on the identification and reporting of key economic performance indicators.
3. Identify research needs as part of improving the analysis of fisheries economic issues, including providing comment on relevant research proposals for potential AFMA and/or Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funding.
4. Provide advice on the implementation and reporting on relevant Government policies.

The AFMA Commission will appoint the Chair of the EWG.

In addition, AFMA Management, in conjunction with the Chair, can appoint the following as members:

- Economic members of RAGs
- One economist from ABARES (if not already a RAG member)
- One economist with expertise in the Commonwealth commercial fishing industry
- An economist with experience in the recreational fishing sector
- A Senior Manager from Fisheries Management Branch as the AFMA member

Non-RAG members' appointments will be for a term of three years.

RAG economist members' appointment terms will be the same as their terms on the respective RAGs.

Invited Participants and Observers may be invited by the Chair on an as needs basis (but are not members of the EWG). This can include for example Observers from other agencies and social scientists with experience working in the indigenous fisheries sector.

Secretariat services will be provided by the Policy, Environment, Economics and Research section and will be responsible for the timely provision of information to the EWG.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- The EWG Chair will ensure thorough and effective discussion on major fishery and cross fishery economic issues. The Chair will also provide a communication link between the EWG and the AFMA Commission.

- Members will contribute to EWG deliberations and communicate to and from their respective RAGs and associated MACs.
- The AFMA member will communicate the outcomes of the EWG meetings to RAGs and MACs that do not have an economic RAG member or where no EWG member is in attendance.
- The economic member with expertise in commercial fishing is to contribute to EWG deliberations by providing knowledge and experience relevant to the economic issues of the Commonwealth fisheries not covered by RAG economic members and relevant to interactions with non- Commonwealth fisheries (e.g., State and International).
- Invited expertise will contribute to EWG deliberations by providing knowledge and experience relevant to the economic issues under discussion.
- Supplementary internal and/or external participants at any EWG meeting may be invited by the Chair on an as-needed basis, including any need to consider any Indigenous fishery economic issues.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- EWG members and supplementary participants will declare all conflicts of interests (actual or perceived) in the matter being considered, not limited to pecuniary gain, and even if in doubt as to the relevance of an interest. These declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- Declarations of conflict of interest are to be made at the commencement of each meeting and prior to the commencement of discussions on a particular agenda item during the course of the meeting.
- Members and supplementary participants with a conflict of interest in a particular agenda item may remain in the room and may contribute information to the discussion but must refrain from discussions while recommendations are formulated.
- The EWG Chair may request members and supplementary participants with a conflict of interest to leave the room when considered necessary.
- EWG members and supplementary participants will keep all discussions, deliberations and information provided to them, in or out of session, confidential unless otherwise agreed with the Chair. EWG members and participants must receive written agreement from the Chair prior to releasing confidential material.

MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE

- The AFMA Commission will monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the EWG against its terms of reference AFMA will review the impacts of research priorities and economic advice delivered by the EWG in achieving any improvements to net economic returns for the Australian community.

The AFMA Commission will review the impacts and effectiveness of the EWG at least every three years.