

# **Queensland Shark Control Program**

**Scientific Working Group**

**Terms of Reference**

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# 1 Background

The Queensland Shark Control Program (the Program) aims to reduce the chance of shark attack on humans in Queensland waters. This is achieved by removing large and potentially dangerous sharks from 85 popular beaches along the Queensland coastline. The responsibility for managing the Program on behalf of the Queensland Government lies with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). The Program is a legislative responsibility provided for in the *Fisheries Act 1994*. The government maintains a strong commitment to maintaining the safety of beach users in Queensland.

A permit for that part of the Program that operates within the Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (the Marine Parks) was jointly granted in 2005 and again in 2017 under both the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and the *Queensland Marine Park Act 1982*. Pursuant to permit G17/3328.1 condition 37 and 38 state that:

- 37 The Permittee must, by 30 September 2017, establish and fund a Scientific Working Group (SWG) for the duration of the permit to determine appropriate research into non-lethal alternatives and non-target species reduction strategies. The Terms of Reference and membership of the SWG are to be approved in writing by the Managing Agency and made public on the Permittee's website.
- 38 The Permittee must make publicly available on their website no later than 30 September each year, an annual (financial year) summary of the SWG deliberations and advice to the Permittee, including formal meeting minutes. The first summary is due on 30 September 2017 and each subsequent year thereafter.

These terms of reference satisfy, in part, the requirements of condition 37 and 38 of permit G17/33288.1.

## 2 Role of the Scientific Working Group

The Scientific Working Group (the Group), established by the Queensland Government, will bring together expertise in gear technology, species science and program management.

The main role of the Group is to advise DAF in relation to:

- (a) Development of a research strategy including research priorities relevant to shark control activities in the Marine Parks;
- (b) equipment configurations with the aim of improving program effectiveness and reducing impacts on non-target species in the Marine Parks;
- (c) published research and reports relevant to shark control activities in the Marine Parks; and
- (d) development of alternative technologies including non-lethal methods.

## 3 Membership

Membership of the Group is by invitation only.

### 3.1 Chair

The Group will be chaired by the Director, Fisheries Queensland, DAF.

## **3.2 Members**

The Group membership will consist of representatives from:

- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- Industry and conservation groups; and
- Independent Fisheries Scientists.

The Chair may approve invited guests for meetings on specific topics of interest. Members may nominate a proxy if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Term of appointment: 3 years.

Members will be invited to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of each meeting. These will be recorded in a register which will be reviewed at each meeting.

## **4 Operation**

The Scientific Working Group will meet biannually or more often if required. Only members and invited guests may attend meetings. Costs associated with attendance at meetings will be met by DAF.

## **5 Confidentiality and non-disclosure**

Members must comply with the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service, including the following requirements:

- Observe confidentiality and exercise tact and discretion when dealing with sensitive issues. If a stakeholder member is concerned about the disclosure to non-members of an issue that they consider may be sensitive, the member should seek advice from the Chair.
- At all times act honestly, exercise care and diligence in the discharge of their duties and not make improper use of inside information. Information is considered to be used improperly where, by using the information, a member gains an advantage either directly or indirectly (financial or otherwise) over another person or causes detriment to the project or to another person.
- Not publish or communicate to any person, who they are not authorised to publish or communicate to, any fact or document which comes to their knowledge, or into their possession because they are a committee member and which (because of its confidential nature) it is their duty not to disclose.

## **6 Reporting**

The Group will report, through the Chair, to the Deputy Director General, Fisheries and Forestry, DAF.

The Terms of Reference, membership of the Group and annual summary of deliberations, including meeting minutes, will be published on the DAF website by no later than 30 September each year, commencing 2017.

## 7 Secretariat

Secretariat support will be provided by DAF. The Secretariat will maintain records for the Group. Meeting agendas, attachments and papers will be circulated at least one week prior to the meeting and draft minutes will be available within one week.

## 8 Acronyms and Definitions

DAF	Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
the Group	Scientific Working Group
the Marine Parks	Commonwealth Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Queensland Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park
the Program	Queensland Shark Control Program