



2024 Queensland Freshwater Fish Stocking Workshop Proceedings

Freshwater Fishing and Stocking Association of Queensland Inc. in partnership with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Host Fish Stocking Group: Bjelke Peterson Dam Fish Management Committee.

Murgon, Friday 26th - 28th July 2024

Day 1 – Saturday 27 July

Presenter(s)	Summary
Uncle Eric Law	Acknowledgement and welcome to country by Uncle Eric Law, on behalf of the Wakka Wakka people.
Mayor Kathy Duff - Mayor of South Burnett Regional Council.	Mayor Duff welcomed delegates to Murgon and emphasised the broad range of tourism activities available in the region.
Pauline Jacob, Deputy Director-General, DAF	Pauline welcomed delegates to the workshop. She highlighted this workshop was an opportunity to come together, share ideas and look forward. Pauline expressed there would be a greater focus on freshwater and recreational fishing over the next few years, since the recent reform agenda has focussed primarily on commercial fishing. It was noted that DAF was putting a lot of energy into improving diversity and inclusion and the Women In Recreational Fishing Network is an important part of this. Pauline explained that Fisheries Queensland should be playing a lead role on environmental issues across the sector.
Michelle Wenner, DAF	Michelle introduced herself as facilitator, provided housekeeping information and brief overview of the workshop.
Freshwater Fisheries Management update John Dexter, DAF	<p>John discussed progress of the action plan from the 2022 Freshwater Stocking Workshop in Mackay. Completed items from the action plan included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Barramundi waterways policy. Now accessible on DAF website. • Improve engagement between stocking groups by implementing virtual regional stocking group meetings every three months. • Inclusion of freshwater reporting under Fish app 2.0 • Action around promotion of SIP scheme. Successful implementation of Fish n Sips fishing comps. • Stocking awards. Habitat, conservation, lifetime achievement and community engagement. • SIPS trail guides to promote fishing (5 combined into 1). <p>Ongoing items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of broodstock policy – draft ready for consultation. • Hatchery quality assurance - draft ready for consultation. • Habitat guideline – Agri Science QLD – ongoing. Developing guideline on assessment for infrastructure owners & ASQ. • Review size and bag limits for golden and silver perch – endorsed by freshwater working group. Will need to wait for an opportunity for legislative amendment before change can occur. • Add/remove impoundments under SIPS – public consultation for adding 3 new impoundments to SIPS has been completed. • Brisbane Olympics – promote freshwater fishery in lead up. Draft freshwater strategy to progress. <p>Incomplete items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional visit to stocking groups – not possible due to time & resources. Planning some regional tours early 2025. • Contact database of stocking groups – limited response • Monitoring guidelines – draft – waiting for completion of fisheries app 2.0.

	<p>John provided an update on broader freshwater work which covered legislative changes including opera house traps, adding and removing SIPS impoundments, co-management of fishery resources through Nature Conservation Act amendment with DESI.</p>
<p>SIPS update Christelle Legrand, DAF</p>	<p>Christelle provided an update on the progress of SIPS from the 2018/19 to 2023/24 financial years. SIPS revenue decreased in 2019/20 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, permit sales have recovered and increasing yearly. 2022/23 saw a record in SIPS revenue which can be attributed to the inception of the Fish n SIP\$ tagged fish competition. Over \$1 million was distributed to stocking groups for the financial year.</p> <p>Current cost of living pressures and bad weather over peak holiday periods has seen a slight decrease in SIPS revenue for 2023/24 financial year. \$944 332 was distributed to stocking groups. 3.1 million fingerlings released in 23/24 financial year. It was noted that most SIPS are purchased online and are yearly permits. Over the counter purchases are minimal however, are popular for yearly concession purchases, reflecting the age demographic that rely on this method.</p> <p>Question: Do the amount of SIPS groups receiving money change each year or is it a static number? Answer: Of the 42 stocking groups on the scheme some groups didn't receive funding as they did not fulfil their administrative requirements to receive a grant. 38 stocking groups received a grant in the 23/24 financial year. Detailed breakdown of how many groups received a grant each year is on the annual report on the web.</p> <p>Question: Is there a trend in sales (seasonal transactions)? Answer: More sales in summer especially December/Jan and busy holiday periods. Winter months are quiet. Fisheries Queensland can graph and distribute.</p> <p>Comment: Make sure we keep over the counter sales as people are worried about online scams.</p> <p>Comment: Perception that there aren't enough infringements being issued for no SIPS. Need to be seen that people are getting infringements as deterrence and to help with revenue. Lack of patrol officers for large areas in regional QLD.</p> <p>Question: What's the criteria for a stocking group to be added in to SIPS. Answer: Criteria is detailed in SIPS administrative guideline.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute link for annual financial reports once uploaded onto DAF web page. • Send raw data in excel • Distribute SIPS graphs and PowerPoint slides to stocking groups. • Graph monthly sales to see seasonal variation in permit purchases.
<p>WIRFN update Christelle Legrand, DAF</p>	<p>Christelle gave an update on the Women in Recreational Fishing Network (WIRFN) and its progress so far. The WIRFN aims to encourage female participation by targeting key barriers. The program has gained momentum since its inception in 2022 and now has over 1,900 members on the Facebook group. Facebook group was created to meet likeminded women and encourage question asking in a safe space without intimidation. The Leadership Program has increased in popularity with EOIs to join increasing yearly.</p> <p>A WIRFN event was held at Hinze Dam and President of Hinze Dam stocking group came and spoke to the large numbers of kids and mums that attended about stocking and how to get involved. High interest in joining group and getting involved, however, due to lack of communication</p>

	<p>means (no social media) the group was too hard to contact and lost an opportunity to attract new, young membership. By encouraging interest of mums and kids, there is potential to raise awareness of SIPS and for younger generation of people to join groups which helps viability of stocking groups.</p>
<p>QBFP update Brett Whitewood, DAF</p>	<p>Brett presented a summary of compliance data in freshwater for the previous year.</p> <p>Patrols focussed on local dams, closed waters, major rivers, fishing comps. Kingaroy region alone has 3 officers and covers 35% of the state (8 stocked impoundments). 4-5 times a year will go out on extended patrols. 341 patrols (>5hrs) were conducted in QLD. Within the 2 500 inspections, 80% of impoundments were inspected.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common offences – 1. marking of freshwater traps, 2. fishing in closed waters, 3. no SIP. • Lack of awareness of need for a permit (interstate people) • Non-indigenous and pest fish returned to water or used as bait. • Lack of inflatable lifejackets – this is a requirement <p>Question: Wants to know cut off point where sleepy cod are endemic and where are they not.</p> <p>Answer: As they move further west and south. Redclaw (possession come into play Cloncurry/Mt Isa). Native to the coastal rivers north of the Fitzroy River and throughout the Gulf of Carpentaria.</p> <p>Question: Why aren't fishers able to take and eat tilapia?</p> <p>Answer: This is because Lake Eyre and Murray-Darling Basins remain free of tilapia. They are mouth brooders so can easily contaminate with eggs hiding in mouth and we need to minimise risk of introduction by movement.</p> <p>Comments: More QBFP officers are needed to do more inspections in freshwater locations and issue infringement notices.</p> <p>Pauline explained that there are currently vacancies in QBFP and these are difficult to fill. She invited participants to let her know of any suitable candidates for these roles.</p>
<p>Pest fish management Tim Lucas on behalf of Hayden Ferguson, Biosecurity Queensland</p>	<p>Tim provided the Biosecurity update on Hayden's behalf. Four main bodies of work were discussed including the freshwater gold clam, the national carp control program (NCCP), tilapia and stocking small bodied native fish. There has been a new incursion of freshwater golden clam since October 2023. Currently the incursion is in a 40km stretch of the Brisbane River. The NCCP has identified key issues needing a resolution before the release of the virus can be considered. BQ is working with ANGFA, first nations groups and other state agencies to promote small bodied natives as an alternative in the pet trade and as an option for stocking. Please report any suspected invasive species to pestfish@daf.qld.gov.au with a clear closeup picture and location.</p>
Morning Tea	
<p>Revitalising stocking groups Charlie Ladd FFSAQ</p>	<p>Charlie spoke about the viability of stocking groups and ways to maintain the running of stocking groups into the future. Key points included succession planning and attracting new members especially younger members. Different methods stocking groups could implement to retain</p>

	<p>and keep new and young members. He encouraged groups to talk to club execs/general members about what is working or what isn't and how to attract and retain new and young members. Need to appeal to younger people and think of how to keep them interested. Need to have regular events on calendar to retain interest. Events can include pest fishing competitions, school holidays activities, supporting NRM groups and help to improve environment (tree planting etc), engage with other not for profit/community groups. Lots of people in Qld are unaware of native fishing stocking so need to improve communication to gain awareness. Thinking of a succession plan is important for maintaining viability of stocking groups and continuing the hard work behind it.</p> <p>Idea about amalgamating stocking groups (regional or catchment) was suggested to ease administrative burden. This idea was discussed in the break out session (details in attachment 1).</p> <p>Try and tap into all resources and use all avenues (councils, community groups, other not for profits, local business for sponsorship etc).</p>
<p>Revitalising Stocking Groups Kaidon Anderson Ozfish</p>	<p>Kaidon spoke of the different ways to raise awareness of stocking groups as well as different strategies to retain members. It is important to have a presence and make it known in the community. Make people aware you're a not for profit group seeking volunteers as this isn't always obvious. This can be done with flyers, news media (local newspaper) local radio etc. Using your funding sources such as councils etc for advertising can help with outreach. Keeping new members can be a balancing act of giving them a reason to join and keeping them active, but also not wearing them out with meeting fatigue with little achievement between meetings.</p> <p>Question: Insurance is an issue. Is there somewhere where we can get club insurance (public liability)?</p> <p>Answer: QAFCA is what was used in the past as general insurance for all clubs, however, need to find out about this as they may be folding.</p> <p>Action: FFSAQ to find out about QAFCA or general club insurance.</p>
<p>Stocking group case studies</p>	<p>Boondooma and Pine Rivers gave case studies on their stocking group activities. Boondooma spoke of the difficulties attracting young members to join the stocking group. They host events such as a pest fish competition that have a high number of participants (maximum of 600 entrants).</p> <p>Pine Rivers spoke about the different fish attracting devices and other monitoring works they do at North Pine Dam and Lake Kurwongbah and how these activities have improved catch rates. Work with Seqwater to run a vessel scheme (400 permits total) to help to gain money to stock the dam.</p>
<p>Group Discussion Revitalising stocking groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Attachment 1 for summarised feedback

	Lunch
FishGen update Meaghan Duncan NSW Fisheries	<p>Meaghan gave an update on the importance of genetically testing broodstock and the positive outcome it can provide for genetic variability in the stocking program, as well as protecting the genetic health of wild populations.</p> <p>By ensuring genetic diversity is instilled in stocking programs, this can maximise benefits of conservation actions such as ensuring stocking contributes directly to fish recovery and high-quality, sustainable fishing, as well as helping overcome the genetic threats to wild populations from stocked fish. This can preserve genetic diversity that provides wild fish with the genes to adapt to threats such as climate change.</p> <p>Question: In regard to Mary River cod, should we be doing the same as NSW DPI, how long will it take and how long should we be doing it for.</p> <p>Answer: All fish should be screened. Ideally going to all areas where species naturally occur to capture genetic diversity. Have to be done in all hatcheries stocking fish. Should not be a one off should happen over the course of lifetime of stocking group.</p>
New stocking species Trevally Michael Hutchison DAF	<p>Michael presented on trialling big eye and giant trevally as new stocking species in impoundments.</p> <p>Many groups have requested new stocking species to diversify the current impoundment fishery and potentially use this as a draw card to attract more visitors to fish the area. Especially in large, lowland, barramundi dominated dams, it is hard to establish other species. As trevally fingerlings can grow fast in captivity and are fast swimmers, this was an ideal species to trial as they have a better chance of avoiding predation from barramundi and potentially establish a fishery. Sooty grunter don't grow fast enough.</p> <p>Kinchant Dam in Mackay will be used as the trial site for all fingerling releases. The trial will be monitored by 40 electrofishing surveys to monitor number of prey species before and after trevally are stocked, gastric lavage (see what they have been eating without killing fish), micro tagging to detect growth rate and survival and boat ramp interviews and questionnaires of fishers.</p> <p>Awoonga Dam will be the trial site for releasing a small number of sub-adult and adult (20-30) trevally. They will be tracked with acoustic tags to see if fish run up to tributaries or how many go over the wall after spill events.</p> <p>If the trial is successful and permitted for stocking, hatcheries will need to be informed where to collect broodstock.</p> <p>A desktop-based risk assessment has been done and stocking will start this summer. Trying to spawn big eye in late spring, GT later into the summer.</p>

<p>New stocking species Jungle perch David Nixon DAF</p>	<p>David presented on trialling jungle perch as another potential new stocking species in impoundments.</p> <p>Stocking trials will be in Enoggera Dam and Lake Kurwongbah. Things that will be monitored include growth rate, survival rate and how they affect Australian bass. Historical range is throughout South East Queensland. Breeding to start in late spring/November. Next two seasons will be trying to get good spawning. If successful will be added to permissible species and will conduct training for hatcheries. It is important to note that broodstock can be difficult to get.</p> <p>Question: How long with the trial go for before decision is made? Answer: Next two years will be instrumental. If there's good spawning in 2024, over next few seasons will have good data on survival and if anglers are catching JP.</p> <p>Question: How tolerant will they be with water in dams that is more turbid compared to the running water in north Qld. Answer: Still popping up in SE QLD. Still handling water quality. Answer is unknown until the trial is complete.</p>
<p>New stocking species Mangrove Jack Tim Lucas on behalf of Thomas Hayes Gladstone Area Water Board</p>	<p>Thomas Hayes prepared slides with an operational update of Aquaculture Gladstone, for Tim to present in his absence. Aquaculture Gladstone (AG) supplies fingerlings through an EOI process. AG was built for the purpose of producing barramundi, mangrove jack and sea mullet.</p> <p>AG has an established, rotating broodstock of barramundi with about 3 million south east coast barramundi fingerlings produced so far. Mangrove Jack broodstock population of 40 individuals has been established with a trial spawn last year indicating that this year will be the best opportunity to commence regular production. First scheduled batch of mangrove jack will begin in October with fingerlings to be produced in December. Production will recommence in January with MJ fingerlings being the primary production focus until June. AG are working on ongoing research to improve production of this species.</p> <p>Sea mullet broodstock established. Challenges to overcome with sea mullet production include spawning initiation, maturation and larval survival. Techniques are being developed to overcome these challenges. Regular spawning success is currently being achieved.</p>
<p>Discussion of challenges and opportunities for new species John Dexter DAF</p>	<p>John explained the difficulties The Tablelands Stocking Society had with stocking mangrove jack (MJ) once they were permitted as a new stocking species for Tinaroo dam. Despite group being proactive and providing the necessary information needed, they have not yet been able to stock mangrove jack since it's been added to their permit. Reasons are difficulty to acquire fingerlings (lack of supply) or too expensive. Feedback from TSS is that the price is not necessarily worth the effort that went into putting MJ onto permit. At \$7 per fingerling could just stock more barramundi.</p>

	<p>Question: What can fisheries do to help with setting expectations of applying for a new species and what can DAF do to assist in the process of adding new species?</p> <p>Answer: A template to help with a step by step process for groups to apply for new species?</p> <p>Question: Are there any other hatcheries producing MJ</p> <p>Answer: Bass, Barra and Barcoo had a successful spawn, but there were no viable males. Still working on successful production. Potentially a second hatchery on-board.</p> <p>Question: Are we going to need to wait until end of 3 year cycle of management plan before applying.</p> <p>Answer: No, can submit an application for amendment to management plan.</p> <p>Question: Research & breeding – Given effort into breeding and research – why should SIP funds be used for stocking a new species. Is there another way of funding introduction of new species?</p> <p>Answer: Up to individual stocking group to choose what kind of fingerlings they want to spend their SIPS money on.</p> <p>Maybe for JP there is conservation angle, other avenues of funding available e.g. councils etc (conservation stocking). So could apply to one of them if you don't want to use SIPS funds.</p> <p>One draw card for Tinaroo for stocking mangrove jack was to attract more people from out of area (tourism) and therefore increase SIPS permit sales.</p> <p>Action: to develop a guideline for stocking groups on how to apply for new stocking species.</p>
Fish handling Garry Fitzgerald	<p>Garry from Somerset Wivenhoe Fish Stocking Assoc. demonstrated best practice fish handling for the release of fingerlings. This will increase survivability of fingerlings and is important information to know.</p> <p>Fingerlings cannot be kept in a bucket for more than five minutes. Prior to release, they should be transported in an insulated ice box with a pump that has oxygen circulation. Should invest in a decent oxygen bottle as it can be used to go into remote areas without impacting on survivability.</p> <p>Suggestion: DAF website should include optimum release strategies. Perhaps make this clearer to groups</p>
Afternoon Tea	
Hanwood Fish Hatchery Redgate Fish Farm	<p>Delegates were given an opportunity to tour the hatcheries and were provided with overviews of hatchery operation by David Rose at Redgate Fish Farm and Craig and Max Cluff at Hanwood Fish Hatchery.</p>
Dinner	
Awards	<p>Awards were presented for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifetime achievement (shared) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Debbie and Brian Dare ○ Shirley Walsh • Habitat improvement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bob Reid • Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Garry Fitzgerald • Community Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ewen Maddock Fish Management Inc
--	--

Day 2 – Sunday 28 July

Presenter(s)	Description of Activity
FFSAQ update Charlie Ladd FFSAQ	<p>The FFSAQ team gave an update on their respective positions (Charlie Ladd – president, Lloyd Willman – Media Officer, Kaidon Anderson – vice president, Rod Thompson – Secretary, Tracy Brown – social media).</p> <p>Charlie, president, gave an update on membership issues, importance of attracting new and young members and giving them a job to do. Allow flexibility for meeting attendance (phone or online). During Fish n SIPS pilot project \$48 000 in prize money was distributed. Fish n SIPS 2.0 progressing, first fish caught at Tinaroo. Approx. \$53 000 paid out so far. At this stage competition will end November 24.</p> <p>Native & Pest fish education display (FFSAQ) – upgrading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 (attended 29 events) • 32 planned events so far. <p>Question: What is the selection criteria for choosing participating dams in fish & sips competition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FQ is responsible. • More dams to be included in future. Discussion with FQ and FQ discuss with FFSAQ. To get people to go to regions to support regions. • Selection criteria – supporting regions • Additional dams to be added as budget allows <p>Question: Where does the money come from for competition?</p> <p>Answer: Additional money comes from other Fisheries Qld funding source – does not come out of SIPS budget.</p> <p>Reach out to FFSAQ if you need help or support in any way, now that communications styles are changing, with social media etc. Important to talk to all group members given the complexity of groups (different motivations, opinions, shortfalls etc). Networking with other groups can be helpful for solutions.</p> <p>Please send through contributions for the monthly FFSAQ newsletter and ensure your emails have been updated as there are always emails that bounce back. Not everyone is on Facebook so if want to get info out, send FFSAQ copy of information and it will go onto FFSAQ newsletter. Looking for new media officer so if you'd like to do it, please let Lloyd know.</p> <p>If you do not have a Facebook page, send your event details or any other information to Tracey and she will post something for your group. FFSAQ</p>

	<p>represents stocking groups & fishing clubs so happy to share other groups Facebook posts also to encourage more involvement and reach a wider audience. Of the 76 stocking groups in Qld, only 15 are following FFSAQ page.</p> <p>Question: Is there anyone looking at anything apart from Facebook (Instagram/tik tok) as this is what the younger generation is mostly using.</p> <p>Answer: Instagram is more for photos, but Facebook is still best platform to get information out. For now Facebook is a priority but can look at Instagram in future.</p> <p>Suggestion: Newsletters (FFSAQ) can you send to all members not just executive. Make sure it goes to all members.</p>
<p>Fisheries Enhancement Michael Hutchison DAF</p>	<p>Michael presented on the FRDC project that looked at stocking from a more ecosystem-based approach that also considers habitat enhancement rather than purely being about how much fish can go in the water. Focus has shifted from can we stock and catch fish to how do we do it responsibly and effectively. Successful stocking should be cost effective but also optimising carrying capacity of ecosystem.</p> <p>5 principles for responsible stock enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine ecological processes (what can ecosystem supports) • identify potential threats • need to evaluate optimal stocking densities • assess the economic performance (cost/benefit) • good governance of fish stocking (responsible, effective stocking plans) <p>Monitoring is important to assess what is happening with fish stocked. Currently survival rates of stocked fish is not well understood. Economic benefits are greater in closed or semi closed waters. Open marine stocking is not very effective/economically beneficial. Estuarine stocking can also be economically valuable.</p> <p>Question: When electrofishing areas for Murray cod, do you think fish have died or moved to area with habitat, if they're not found.</p> <p>Answer: If the habitat is not there you are wasting your time. Need to stock fish into areas with good habitat or improve habitat. Wasn't just MC numbers improved, Golden perch capture has improved and silver perch.</p> <p>Question: When do you know you've done enough stocking?</p> <p>Answer: Will vary depending on habitat, available food etc. Monitoring is important. If you find growth rates declining, it's starting to be overstocked.</p> <p>Question: What is a good plant and what is native to help with vegetation enhancement.</p> <p>Answer: Important that plants are native to the area. Don't want to get plants from area where there are noxious weeds, issues with transplanting these noxious weeds from one area to another.</p>
Fisheries	Kaidon spoke of the importance of good habitat on an ecosystem level.

<p>Enhancement Kaidon Anderson Ozfish</p>	<p>Overtime several factors have damaged the ecosystem resulting in habitat loss. Restoration of fish habitat is key for longevity.</p> <p>Freshwater fisheries have chance to rebuild natural habitat. Stocking is only a band aid to alleviate habitat issues. Need to fix habitat first at the root cause.</p> <p>Habitat restoration in dams include creating timber snags key habitat, terrestrial vegetation (in water) and vegetation on around water, has important functions. Rocks and hard structures are habitat. Water depth requirements needed to temperature control (breeding/feeding etc).</p> <p>Habitat restoration can be done in many different ways and is especially important around dams as this infrastructure highly impacts habitat. Connectivity is an important component for maintaining habitat however dams can stop migration routes. Although expensive and approval process is long, these restoration methods can be effective to reach the end goal of repairing ecosystem close to natural state. Reach out to FQ and Kaidon regarding habitat restoration.</p> <p>Comment: Tim mentioned Matt Moore expressed frustration previously around cost of approvals for fishway upgrades. Work happening to develop self-assessable codes to help with restoration.</p>
<p>Rec Fishing App 2.0 Catch reporting Warren Egling DAF</p>	<p>Warren presented on the new updates in the Qld fishing 2.0 app that now includes recreational catch reporting and the new features that benefit freshwater and impoundment fishing. These features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to purchase SIPS permit on app • Can I fish here function (indicates closed waters/seasons) • Species ID • Has information about non-indigenous species (sooty grunter/redclaw) • My Fishing function: record fishing trips and fishing stats • Environmental data (temperature, weather, moon phase, barometer, tidal info etc.) • Fishing location • Stocking groups will be able to obtain data from app (broad data) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still working on how this data will be presented <p>Action – FQ to develop function to add in tag data on fisheries app if a tagged fish is caught.</p> <p>Question: Can your trip be done offline? Answer: Yes, you can use app offline. Question: Will you be able to upload your SIP into the app to track expiry date? Answer: Will investigate, but don't see why that couldn't be possible in the future as you can now login with an account. Will try to add this feature to the app. Comment: A lot of people are scared to give out information as they think</p>

	<p>it'll be used against rec fishers down the line.</p> <p>Answer: Location data can be kept very broad, but it will still give you regional data.</p> <p>Comment: stocking groups would like to get information on how many of each species have been caught, as information now is patchy.</p> <p>Comment: would be good to have SIPS signs at dams with the QR code to download the app.</p> <p>Question: By putting in data, will stocking groups get some return from the app? Can they access impoundment specific data to help with the monitoring of their dam which will help with management decisions. What species are getting caught the most etc. This can help make decisions about fingerling stocking numbers.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, will figure out the most suitable way data can be sent back to stocking group (dashboard etc).</p> <p>Question: Will it recognise data from just over the border in NSW?</p> <p>Answer: No, only registers Qld waters.</p> <p>Question: Now that monitoring is up to stocking groups, is the data going to satisfy management plan requirement for stocking?</p> <p>Answer: Potentially. Recording data on the app may make management plan obsolete.</p> <p>Question: Can you record whether fish was kept, released or used as bait.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, there are fields for that but not for lure/bait. Can add that in comment section.</p> <p>Question: Can 10 or 20 flyers be posted to stocking group.</p> <p>Answer: Yes, can do that once new flyers arrive</p>
<p>Infotish dashboards Bill Sawynok Infotish</p>	<p>Bill spoke of the Infotish dashboards and how it benefits data collection and dissemination.</p> <p>The dashboards take multiple datasets and brings them together to provide information. These datasets include physical structure of dams, climate drivers, tagging (historic data going back 40 years), demographics (where they come from, gender of fishers), competitions (competition data going back 10 years), photographs of fish, catch rate data from competitors, size information, tag data, fish health loss of fish during dam spills and location effort.</p>
<p>Upcoming opportunities Tim Lucas and John Dexter DAF</p>	<p>Tim updated on the progress of the broodstock collection policy and the hatchery standards.</p> <p>The broodstock policy is to provide higher genetic diversity in stocking, slow the rate of decline in genetic diversity, understanding how many fish are stocked and which are wild.</p> <p>New research project looking into Mary River cod. External funding from Burnett-Mary regional group to do genetic work on cod. Kickstart implementation of new policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing increase in take limit outside Mary River. • Minimum production requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing limitations based on locations (in and out of Mary River catchment). <p>The hatchery standards for fish stocking are to ensure a minimum standard is achieved by hatcheries to prevent potential issues such as contamination or spread of disease and ensuring fingerling quality is high. Attempts to minimise environmental risk, risk from moving fish to one area to the next (biosecurity transfer) and risk of disease spreading.</p> <p>Quality management for stocking groups to assist decision making with what fingerlings are acceptable or not – give clarity to what deformity, mortality rates are ok to accept. This limits reputational harm and assists auditing with biosecurity Qld.</p> <p>Question: Has there been a cost given to process DNA samples? Answer: Approximately \$20,000 to do 190 samples. Standard PCR testing is not enough, especially for Mary & Murray cod (too closely related). Aim to have a system of approx. \$200 per sample.</p> <p>Question: The biggest barra hatchery in Australia is in Melbourne. How much interaction is there between Qld and the largest barra producer? Answer: Translocation arrangements are in place mainly to manage disease risk, but this hatchery has a focus on domesticated strains, which is not appropriate for stocking. If the correct strain of broodstock is used this is possible.</p> <p>John discussed upcoming opportunities including the Olympics, Fish n SIPS and 25 years of SIPS. Olympics has potential to boost freshwater fishing and recognition of SIPS given Wyaralong Dam is the rowing venue. Looking at ways of expanding Fish and SIPS competition and gaining external sponsorship for prizes (money or products). 25 years of SIPs – idea of state-wide fishing competition to celebrate the scheme. Need to discuss this idea further.</p>
	Morning Tea
Discussion	<p>Fisheries Queensland Deputy-Director General, Pauline Jacob, presented on transforming the Qld fishing and seafood sector for the future and how to improve its sustainability through a positive message.</p> <p>An open discussion was had for delegates to raise topics of concern or to ask questions. Delegates from Glenlyon Dam Fish Stocking Association raised issues concerning an all-freshwaters licence. They also spoke of various fundraising activities they do throughout the year to maintain steady funding for the group.</p> <p>Other thoughts expressed from the group included a way to promote the Olympics by using native fish of Qld in each Olympic ring with links to advertisements and info for tourists to search where to catch fish.</p> <p>Ideas board summary can be found in attachment 2.</p>

Review of actions Tim Lucas, DAF	<p>Next steps for Fisheries Queensland</p> <p>Workshop proceedings will be transcribed and circulated around to workshop delegates for feedback. These proceedings can be passed on to other stocking group members absent from the workshop, or for public knowledge.</p> <p>Action Plan will be developed based on the proceedings and feedback.</p>
DAF Facilitator	Reflection on Workshop
	Close of Workshop - Lunch packs and Delegates depart

Actions – to be developed further in Action Plan

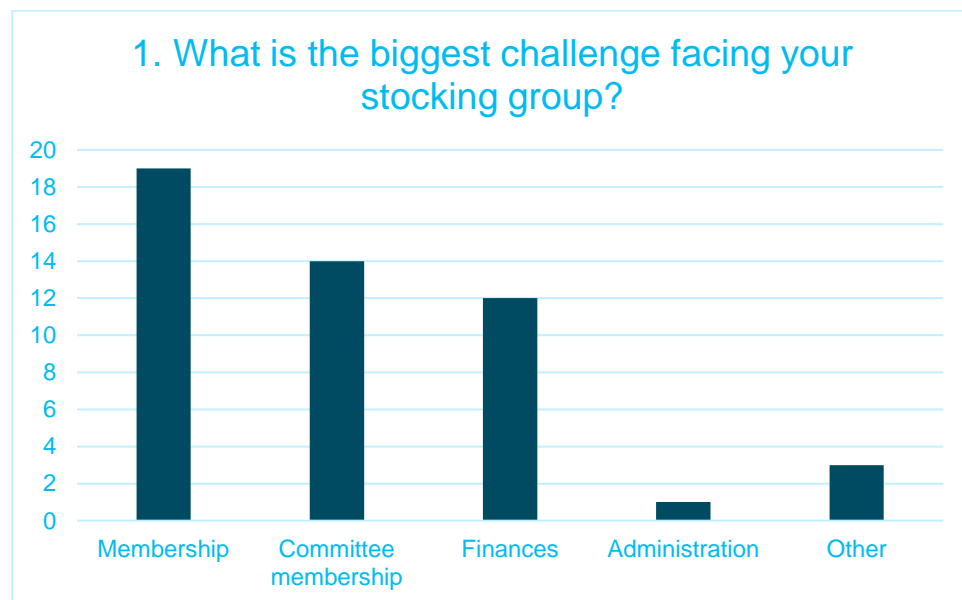
- FQ to distribute link for annual financial reports once uploaded onto DAF web page.
- FQ to send raw data in excel from SIPS survey to stocking groups
- FQ to distribute SIPS graphs and PowerPoint slides to stocking groups.
- FQ to graph monthly sales to see seasonal variation in permit purchases.
- FFSAQ to find out about QAFCA or general club insurance.
- FQ to develop a guideline for stocking groups on how to apply for new stocking species.
- FQ update monitoring guideline to include the FQ app
- FQ/ FFSAQ to develop administrative support guidelines
- Based on feedback FQ/ FFSAQ to develop options for improving stocking group administration including voluntary amalgamation or centralised support.
- FQ/ FFSAQ to develop a plan to celebrate 25 years of SIPS in 2025. This should include a whole-of-state fishing competition to promote the use of the App.
- FQ to continue app improvements - including look into adding tagged fish data as function in the app.

Appendix 1. Revitalising stocking groups

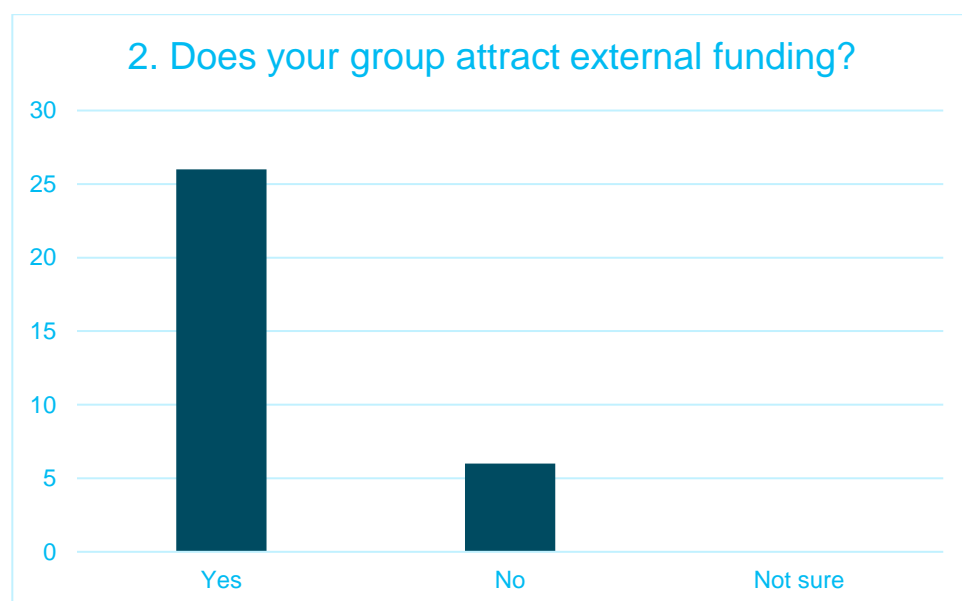
Group discussion

Identifying the issues

The room was split into smaller groups to discuss the issues that volunteer stocking groups are facing and come up with solutions.

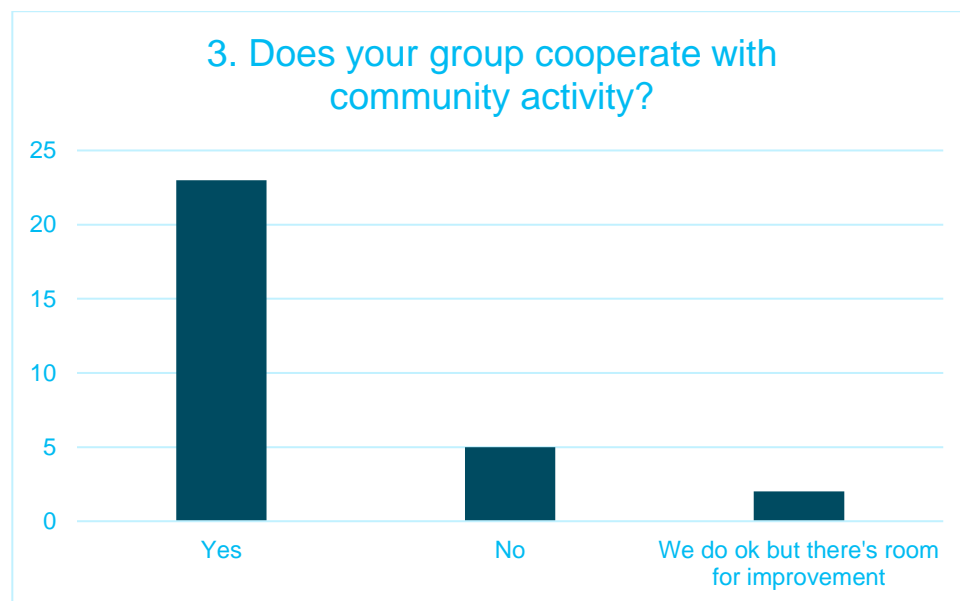


Membership was the biggest issue, followed by committee membership (people who perform leadership roles), and finances. Recruiting younger people and succession planning was raised in relation to these issues. Finance and funding were a more significant issue for smaller groups and those not on SIPS. Other challenges were fingerling availability and access to expertise and technical support.

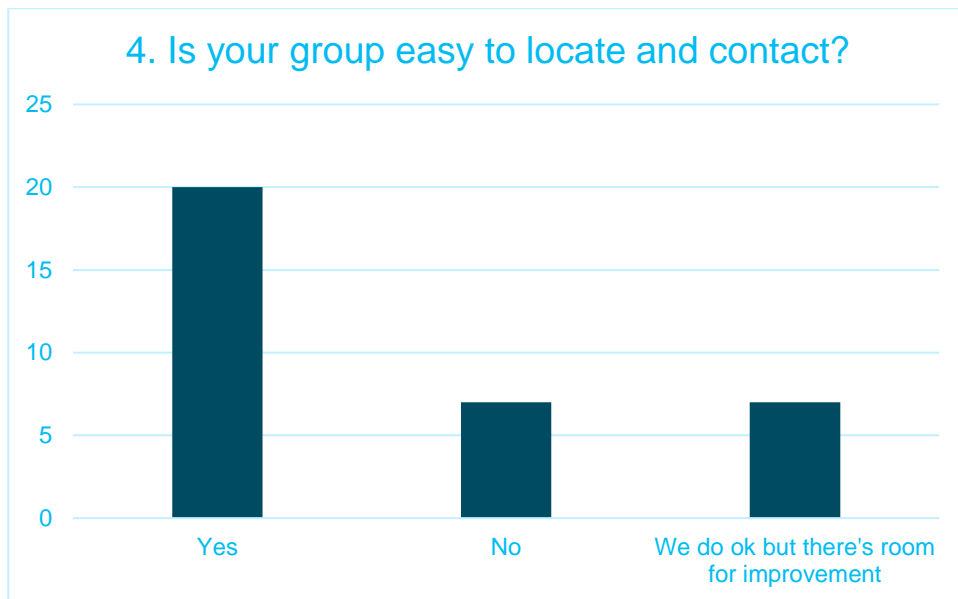


Most groups did attract external funding, however it was suggested that groups often lack expertise to know how to attract external funding (eg who to contact, how, when). Councils often support fish stocking to enhance regional tourism and a Local Community Officer should be available to assist groups. Some groups attract sponsorship from private companies or grants from various sources. One suggestion was that FQ could work more closely with water managers like Seqwater and Sunwater to promote stocking group funding priorities including infrastructure. A guideline or ongoing advice would also help with this. A final suggested action was for FQ to contact the department of sport and recreation and confirm the recent inclusion of fishing in their grants program – provide this information to stocking groups.

Community engagement

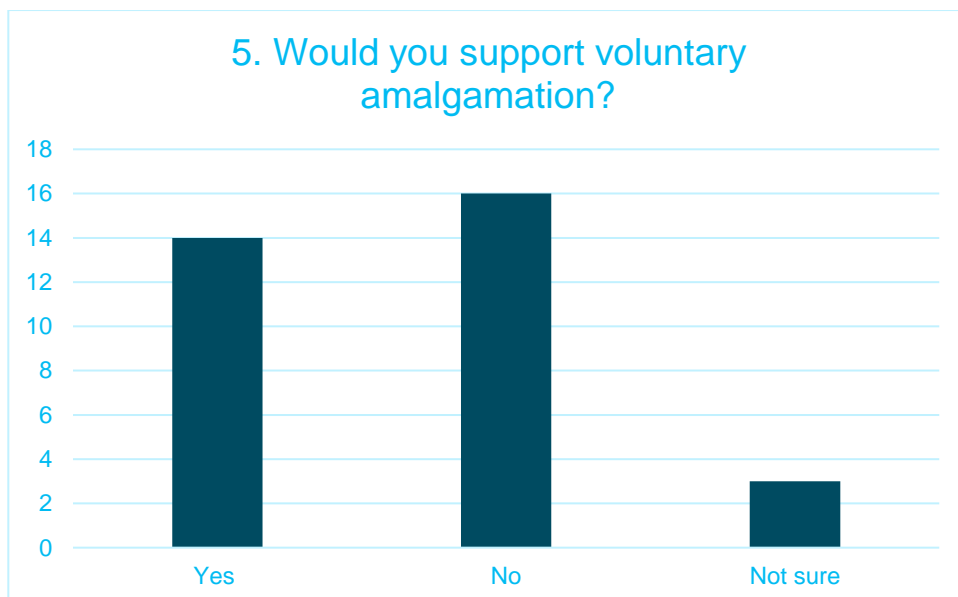


Community engagement was raised as an important way to remain relevant and visible, and attract new members. Most groups already work with other community groups. Ideas included easter fishing event, tree planting days, kids fishing days, emphasis on younger age categories for fishing competitions. Inviting community groups like scouts to do fundraising at fishing competitions was also encouraged. Working with Ozfish was another idea to improve community engagement, and it may also improve access to funding.

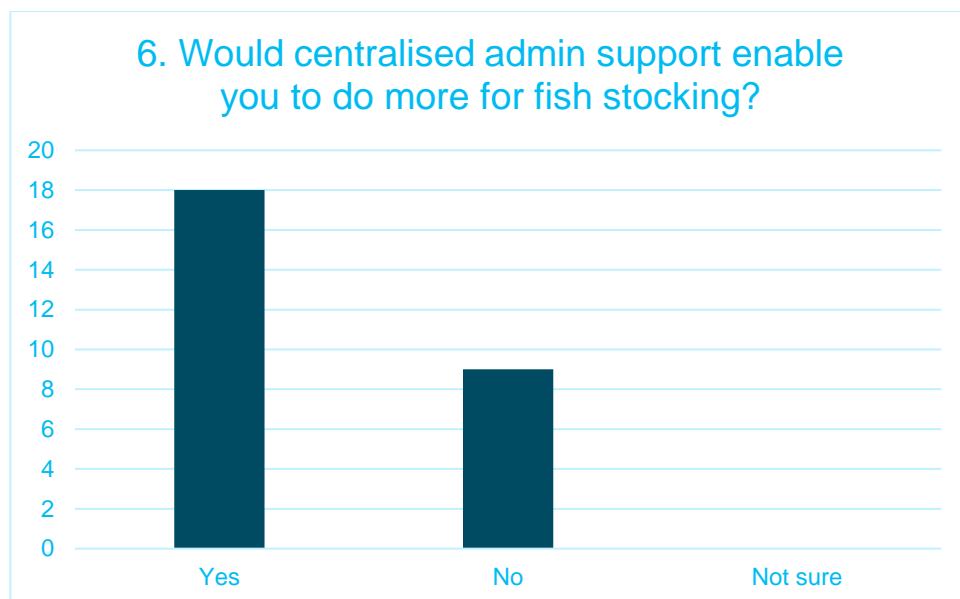


The majority of stocking groups believe that they are easy to locate and contact although 14 respondents were either not easy to contact or had room for improvement. Discussion around social media identified that Facebook was important, and FFSAQ can provide support for that if required.

Potential solutions



The potential to amalgamate stocking groups to allow smaller struggling groups to remain viable and was raised earlier in the workshop. Opinions were divided on this issue. One group was concerned that amalgamation across a catchment would result in lower genetic diversity if fewer hatcheries were engaged. Arguments for amalgamation included improved efficiency, relationships and lower administrative burden. Arguments against the idea were around the need to retain identity and purpose for local groups, risk of inequitable funding distribution, importance of local knowledge and independence.



Most groups agreed that any support they can get for administration would assist them to do more for fish stocking. Responses emphasised the need for technical support including IT, legal, financial, insurance, grants. A helpline was suggested as one way to deliver this support, with either FQ or FFSAQ to also play a facilitating role to connect stocking groups with support as required.

Attachment 2

Ideas board summary

1. To do guides/templates for major processes
2. App ideas:
 - a. Ability to add SIPS permit in app and check expiry date of permit through creating an account.
 - b. Would be handy for permit checks with QBFP
 - c. Will stocking groups be able to access impoundment data that's collected by the app? This would help dam monitoring and giving feedback to groups.
 - d. Add in "personal best" feature so it can record your longest catch for each species
 - e. Add kayak function
3. Promotion of Olympics:
 - a. To promote freshwater fishing in Qld during the Olympics, represent each Olympic ring by a native fish
4. SIPS funding and joining the scheme:
 - a. Make process of joining SIPS easier as small dams and weirs not on the scheme are disadvantaged as it is difficult to raise funding for fingerlings.
 - b. All stocking groups should be able to get some funding (\$500 minimum), or if a SIPS group has money left over, can they share the \$500 with another stocking group not on SIPS, if they're in the same catchment.
5. Stocking genetics:
 - a. Ensuring genetic integrity of stocked species should be prioritised. Stocking groups should promote fish gen or Qld equivalent to local members to ensure its funding.
 - b. Idea for future awards category – junior achievement award (pick an age group under 40 years old).
6. Is there a potential conflict with Agriculture and Fisheries being in the same dept. (farming vs habitat).
7. Have yearly workshops instead but split into north and south.
8. Admin assistance from DAF:
 - a. Develop a set of survey questions that can be posted on Facebook to assess economic benefit that will provide feedback for DAF.
 - b. Have a how to guide or template outlining how to approach certain areas that all stocking groups need to do (i.e. where to seek funding etc).
 - c. Develop a paper that groups can present to council on the benefits of stocking hoping that this will help gain funding from local government.
9. Dam facilities:
 - a. How to gain council support and work collaboratively with the water body operators and the stocking group to promote tourism to the area and reinstate camping facilities around the local dams in rural townships.
 - b. Does DAF have a plan to construct or improve facilities at dams for camping to attract visitor stays and increase fishing effort.
10. Access to waterways through private property. Is it an unreasonable requirement to have to speak with the local government authority to do this.

11. Fisheries engagement:

- a. Regional extension officers should be restored
- b. Fisheries education program visiting school. Is this viable and is funding available?
- c. If Enoggera Dam becomes part of the SIPS, is there a way for the existing dam rangers to assist with education/enforcement of SIPS?
- d. Generate a sticker with a QR code that will link to purchasing a SIPS permit.

12. Pest fish:

- a. A lot of pest fish events are based along the coast or close to big centres. Small stocking groups don't receive funds for removing pest fish.
- b. Disappointed that not much is being done about tilapia and carp infestations in dams and creeks, especially during drought periods.