



**Taking Stock: Annex 3
Notes from public meetings**

December 2014

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Introduction

This document sets out the issues raised by attendees at the public consultation meetings held as part of the Queensland Fisheries Review between August and October, 2014. They are recorded for the purposes of documenting all of the views raised, rather than attempting to reflect a consensus view from participants.

Notes are set out in the order the meetings were held.

Gold Coast (20th August, 2014)

40 people)

Issues raised:

- Jetskis and jetboats a problem – need to stay in channels
- FQ staff good but struggling with funding cuts
- Rec fishing license – supportive – NSW a success – needs to be quarantined for rec fishing issues
- No netting in Broadwater – benefits of NSW system again – depleting stock such that rec fishers can't catch fish – Nerang hasn't been netted in many years, very good fishing now
- Tourists struggle to catch fish – we definitely need commercial netting – but not in key tourist areas
- Rec bag limits a bit high – need to be reduced
- Very few tourists go line fishing in Broadwater – most already closed to netting – closed for Dec-Feb
- Every river, creek, etc down to NSW border is already closed
- Rec fishers get unfettered access – v strong demand for locally caught fish – catch fish on behalf of people who can't catch fish for themselves
- Perception from some is that stocks still healthy (best sea mullet season in many years)
- Recreational pressure increasing over time –
- Everyone trying to achieve the same result – healthy fish stocks, good comm. fishery, good rec fishery
- Science based decision making for MPAs
- Improve social/economic information on rec fishing
- MACs and ZACs – brilliant – bring them back
- 10 fish bag limit on any species – some fishing clubs doing it now – don't need full bag limits – feeling common amongst fishing clubs
- Fishing getting harder – fish getting smaller – have to go through a few before get a legal one
- Game fishing assoc. has a Statewide database – catch and effort
- Concern re contributing data and having it used against them in MPAs
- Effluent monitoring – need better monitoring

- Fishing generally pretty good – techniques changed, catches changed, but generally pretty good – around half catch release voluntarily – best mackerel season in a long time offshore this year
- Plenty of tourists fish the Gold Coast – but just want R&R
- Want rec fishing under separate entity to commercial fishing – more like tourism
- Need better coordination amongst Govt agencies on fisheries/marine resource management
- Broadwater generally in good condition – seeing reef fish that like good water quality
- Effectively same management system with new Govt – commercial sector expected more change
- What would you like to see in a Govt vision?
 - need stronger statement supporting commercial fisheries; more scientific approach to MPAs, more compliance officers/funding for compliance; need better resourcing; commercial fees negligible compared to service we get – money's got to come from somewhere – in return, MACs, ZACs, transparency/accountability, better enforcement/harsher penalties, better facilities/support for rec fishers (cleaning tables, signage, booklets etc – facilitated by license)
- Fishermen would pay license fee if went in to trust; none would pay if it went to general revenue
- Need better security of access for all sectors – MPAs, port developments,
- MPAs lead to greater conflict between rec and commercial fishers – been squashed in
- Fisheries managers should get to understand industry better – get their hands dirty
- Govt needs to clearly define goals
- Take the politics out of fisheries management – would be a wonderful achievement
- Little info collected from rec fishos; club fishing catches recorded but not collected by anyone
- Prior notice/weights doubtful difficult – weighing in harbour could work, but waiting time would need to be reduced – 30 mins not 1 hr
- Compliance needs to be mindful of commercial issues – e.g. inspect back at premises rather than on wharf
- Collect better info on habitat/ecosystem issues – also social/economic data
- Need process to ensure interaction between grass roots fishers and managers – regular, ongoing discussion
- Stakeholder participation needs to facilitate two-way flow of information – to Govt and back to grass roots
- No process for stakeholders talking to Govt – needs to be real consultation – not lip service
- Organise regular meetings – every couple of months – with local fishers – not just meetings when there's a problem
- Need regional management – different areas have a different mix of fisheries
- General view that populations of large non-target species – e.g. turtles, sharks – in pretty good shape
- Trawl fishery – need to keep edible bycatch species – have to throw quota species back
- Compliance needs to focus on the high risk issues; also clear interpretation of regulations amongst officers
- Perception that things would be better if compliance officers were just doing fisheries stuff – not MSQ stuff
- Compliance needs to be more flexible – only on water locally after 9am

- Need better info to rec fishers – encourage voluntary compliance – better info, also QB&FP talking to fishing clubs
- Uniformity in size limits/bag limits between Qld/NSW
- 3 lots of compliance – police, QB&FP, national parks
- Need to reduce complexity in size/bag limits – encourage voluntary compliance – needs to be streamlined
- More after hours patrols
- Levy on fishing gear/boats?
- FQ needs to be more on the front foot defending the industry (recreational and commercial) in public
- Artificial reefs, wild stocking both good ideas

Sunshine Coast (21st August, 2014)

(~20 people)

- Ewen Maddock Dam – keen to get funding for fingerlings – used to have funding source through Govt – discontinued a few years ago – very interested in getting into SIPS
- Tilapia in Ewen Maddock Dam – flow into Mooloolah River when floods
- Rec fishing needs a good funding base that is not dependent on whims of Govt – need system like NSW Rec Fishing Trust – constant funding source, used for rec fishing purposes
- Mistrust of FQ – general approach is poor – ‘have contempt for fishermen’ – going on since 1999 – hasn’t got any better with change of Govt – have seen no difference in attitude
- No confidence in consultation process – no confidence view is actually being heard
- Good ideas not getting through system – e.g. more effective BRD types
- Management more reactive than proactive
- Need to treat fishers with professional respect – need to meet/listen more regularly
- Whole decision making process is broken – no clear way for stakeholders to get an outcome
- Dept treats fishers with disdain – irrespective of rec or commercial – other states generally have much better relationship with industry generally
- Need MAC system – no info flow from Dept out and industry in
- Also need transparency in MAC system – e.g. public minutes; also Independent Chair
- Elections get in the way of good fisheries management – need to remove politics from fisheries management
- Also need to ensure vested interests don’t derail MAC outcomes
- Need a good industry body to coordinate industry policy for people on MACs
- Bigger players in commercial sector have disproportionate influence in fisheries management
- Need to make decisions based on maximum community benefit – should be guiding objective
- Need to better use bycatch – e.g. trawl flounder, flathead – important to overall viability
- Need to make a strategic decision – do we want commercial sector or not? – if yes, then it needs support
- Trawl effort units – originally \$50/unit, now \$3.50/unit – scared about future
- Uncertainty over trawl plan review – difficult to make investment decisions
- Investment warning – needs a time limit on it – breeds uncertainty
- Shark population healthy off Mooloolaba
- Need better recognition for the charter sector in Queensland
- Need limits on charter boat permits
- MAC process good – weakness was decision making at the end
- MSQ a good example how Govt departments can work with industry
- Need a local forum to allow ongoing interaction between sectors – would encourage tolerance and respect between sectors and with Govt
- Ultimately management needs to be sustainable – need also to consider impacts on wider environment – also external impacts on the fishery – e.g. development
- Managers need to defend management arrangements/sustainability
- Legislation needs better teeth to deal with external impacts on fishery
- Fishermen not automatically given updates to legislation

- Waste of bycatch that need to be thrown back dead – e.g. parrot
- Allocations currently don't deal well with recreational effort – commercial sector controlled in quota managed fisheries, no clear cap on rec sector – way to resolve it is an explicit share on rec catch
- Any allocation for rec catch needs to account for population changes
- Need better education for rec fishers
- Consider boat limits for rec fishers
- Can't have a harvest strategy if all harvesting sectors not managed
- Technology has application, but need to consider technical challenges
- To make decisions need good info, good stock assessments etc – need sustainable way of paying for that
- Little funding for stock assessment
- Need a RAG type process, but expensive – someone needs to pay for it – need greater interaction between fishers and scientists – understand underlying basis for fisheries trends
- Healthy numbers of whales off Mooloolaba – sufficient to become a navigation hazard
- Perception that level of compliance relatively high, but picking on small issues – need more patrol officers for deterrence
- Legislation should be written clearly to encourage voluntary compliance
- Overlaps in legislation – Safe Food Queensland and AQIS
- Fisheries rules generally are outdated
- Need to streamline recreational bag limits – group together for ease of compliance
- Key issue mainly is how many fish we catch, not how we catch it, as long as impacts on the wider environment sustainable
- Critical to have cap and share in fisheries – currently fisheries not actively managed
- Game fishing – don't want a lot of government involvement in the sport – have good systems in place and would like to progress co-management
- Dept is not seen as being on fishers side, irrespective of sector
- For young commercial operators – keys are certainty, number of licenses consistent with available stock/economic potential, losing ground to growing rec sector – need to manage it – critical to have defined shares/resource sharing

Wynnum (23rd August, 2014)

(~50 people)

Issues raised:

- Buyback of net licenses has been ineffective – Moreton Island
- Should be a condition of buyback that fishers stay out of industry for a period of time
- Concern over impacts of development on habitat – general ‘mismanagement’ of environmental regulation of bay
- Duplication of reporting in charter sector –one report to fisheries, one to marine parks
- One hour on artificial reefs for charter sector?
- No recognition for charter sector in fisheries
- Very strong support for rec fishing licenses amongst some clubs – NSW an ‘outstanding success’ – important to support management of fisheries – needs to be managed as a trust
- SIPS a roaring success – suddenly had funds to do the things they wanted to do
- 2 options – further regulation, or TACs for each fishery – then can leave to sectors about how they catch – rec license fees can be used to buy quota – one symbol for entire coastline doesn’t make sense – need to be able to trade quota between sectors
- Need to consider implications of TACs on multi-species fisheries
- Can’t rely on taxpayer to fund fisheries management – sectors need to foot bill for improvements – improvements to system will cost money
- Need to exclude pensioners from any recreational license fees
- Concerns over dumping/control of dredge spoil – concern that same thing will happen in extension of airport
- Concern over netting of tailor – wanted to follow NSW example of banning netting
- Need to consider coordinated management of tailor stock across Qld/NSW border – fishery in a bad way – both sectors need to play a part – blanket closure for a couple of years? Increase MLS, reduce bag limit (2 per person per day). Barbless hooks?
- Need to promote aquaculture as a means of food production – people need educating about benefits
- Commercials haven’t reached TAC for tailor – banning wouldn’t do much for stock- increase of MLS means increased net size which brings problems with other species (e.g. undersize bream)
- Need simplification of rules/regs – e.g. different marine park acts/fisheries acts with allowable gears in different zones
- No reporting back about how rec fees are being used – rec license fees should go to a Trust
- Duplication of compliance effort – 3 different groups
- Uncertainty over future marine parks undermining investment decisions
- Concerns over interaction between marine parks and fisheries – need greater clarity and certainty
- Policy/leg/decision making
- One minister responsible for marine management – coordinated though single entity
- Need to better promote rules/regs for rec fishers
- Small boating infrastructure is a mess – need a maritime services dept
- Sustainability/equity in policy statement
- Need to strengthen recognition of social/economic benefits of rec/commercial fishing

- No issue between commercial/rec – what we’re looking for from Govt is direction (covers all Govt depts. – create certainty)
- Sceptical about benefits of green/yellow zones – no information back to fishers about what has happened since zoning
- Kids shouldn’t have to pay rec fishing license
- Precautionary approach to developing fisheries
- Promote catch and release
- Greater transparency around scientific basis for decision making
- Input controls means complex regulation/TACs provide some scope to reduce regs but answer is not simple in multi-species inshore fisheries
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Allocation based on evidence – not emotion – who’s catching what and in what area – need to regionalise it
 - Need a TAC, then divided up by sectors
 - Need good monitoring arrangements for rec fishers to monitor their share
 - Need a process to resolve initial sectoral allocation of shared species
- Monitoring/analysis
 - Transport Dept has boat registration data – haven’t had a survey/question etc
 - Fishing club records a useful source of data
 - Fish care volunteers – what happened? Dept didn’t do anything with data?
 - Monitoring pest species important (broader environmental monitoring)
 - Statewide rec surveys pretty good
 - Important to publicly report fish stock status
 - Some commercial sector data good (e.g. trawl); some questionable (e.g. crab)
- Compliance
 - Current review of maritime compliance – not yet finalised?
 - Duplication in agencies – potential for streamlining?
 - Less patrol officers now – not enough to go around
 - Checking transport regs takes forever – need separate fisheries compliance unit – would get better bang for buck – more efficient use of limited resources
 - Running compliance far better than previously
- Stakeholder participation
 - Currently speak directly to local MP to progress fisheries issues – get the run around speaking to Dept
 - Need a formal process to progress fisheries issues
 - Some issues go directly through Minister
 - MAC system worked extremely well – can’t go past it – transparent process that can reduce conflict between sectors and improve transparency
 - Concern no charter operators on the FRC
 - Majority of industry not in QSIA/MBSIA – get no input – need unified body – part of license fee to fund peak body?
- Resourcing
 - Interstate fishing license?
 - Recreational fishing license
- Other issues:
 - Monitoring of Moreton Bay green zones – are they working? Has monitoring been done?

Redcliffe (23rd August, 2014)

(20-30 people)

Issues raised:

- See FQ as being more focused on commercial than recreational fishing – recreational fishing hasn't got the profile it deserves
- Need protection for spawning fish
- Need better coordination of international fisheries – e.g. 'slaughtering' of juvenile tuna in the Solomon Sea
- Fish habitat areas – responsibility recently transferred to other Govt Department – seems to be round-about way of managing habitats – section seems under-resourced
- Need to consider community values in fishing – implications for things like consolidation of licenses/quota, structure of coastal communities
- Some of size limits unrealistic
- Spawning closures – need to get fishers involved in determining dates
- Compliance issues across State borders – e.g. size of snapper – need for consistency?
- Commercial sector sees yellow zones as discriminatory; recreational sector see yellow zones as protecting bream, whiting and flathead. "FQ wasn't doing it", so recs happy to support yellow zones
- Green zones shouldn't come all of the way into shore – most have yellow strips inshore
- RUF originally intended for commercial buybacks – hasn't been spent on buybacks – have contributed \$60m over course of last 20 years – commercials should be compensated if removed from the fishery – State Govt hasn't spent any of it on commercial buyouts
- How does the Govt provide meaningful support for 300,000 rec fishers in Moreton Bay? Commercial buyouts and rec only fishing areas – also artificial reefs – will be very popular policy with rec fishers
- Grey nurse shark zones – should allow for trolling
- Fisheries management 'appalling' – Moreton Island – tourism spiked after netters disappeared – now they've come back, tourism has taken a hit – netting spawning fish is appalling
- No security for commercial businesses – too much uncertainty about access
- Development in the Brisbane River impacting beam trawl fishery – did have a compensation package, but ultimately challenged and failed – need to put it in legislation so it isn't challenged
- Principle for fishery management should be minimum effort, maximum sustainable harvest
- Used to have 3 boat yards in Redcliffe, now 1 – perception that jobs lost because of mismanagement
- Commercial support services declining because of fewer boats – lack of critical mass to support service industries
- Don't need much more management on trawl industry – down to 300 boats – opposed to quota – lost so much ground in GBRMP that don't need additional management
- Disconnect between level of quota set and catch across a number of Queensland fisheries
- Govt should have compensated Gladstone fishers to not fish while fish affected
- Problems with topsoil runoff in Brisbane River from floods

- Needs to be greater recognition of environmental change/variability and fish stock status – has had considerable impact in Brisbane area
- Redcliffe Peninsula ‘never fished better than it is now’
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Needs to come from perspective of users, not from Govt
 - Needs to be science-based
 - Political decision making open to bias/influence from small groups – independent decision making body supported – need to remove politics from decision making
 - Needs to be consideration of net community benefit in access to fisheries resources
 - Anybody any time should be able to take their kids to the beach fishing – rec fishers need to have a reasonable expectation of catching a fish
 - Need flexibility/nimbleness in regulation/decision making
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Need better information base to allocate shares
 - Need to float quotas in line with stock size
 - Concern over latent licenses in net fishery
 - Need rec only areas – funded by RUF
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Need better information to make fisheries decisions
 - Concern over perverse incentives from providing information – loaded logbooks to get increased allocation, also ‘used to site green zones’
 - Govt failed to verify information in logbooks – what systems do you have to verify information is correct?
 - Disillusionment over Govt treatment of industry/information
 - Need survey sample group from rec fishers to track effort/catch
 - Concern that information provided will be used against them
 - Need good education around value of reporting
- Compliance
 - Haven’t been checked once in a yellow zone by compliance officers
 - Need VMS in Moreton Bay trawlers
 - Concerned at ‘nit-picky’ nature of some compliance activity – seen as revenue raising
 - Laws need to be written simply – need to encourage voluntary compliance
 - Crab measurements – needs to be practical
 - Need correct labelling of seafood
 - Need better interaction with QB&FP officers – e.g. at club meetings, etc
 - Need to give regular updates of any changed regulations
 - Prosecution process too hard?
- Stakeholder participation
 - Need to ensure transparency of any MAC type process – perception that process gets hijacked by a few voices
 - Distrust of industry organisations
 - Need community meetings of this type 3-4 times per year
 - Independent adjudicator would help
 - When info/recommendations come from industry/stakeholders, needs to be a response from management
 - Need fair representation for all sectors

- Any QFMA/MAC type process needs to include a process of port meetings

Rockhampton (26th August, 2014)

(18 people)

Key issues:

- Benchmarking would be useful to test impact of changes from the Review
- Compliance needs to be better funded
- Not enough young people coming through commercial industry
- Perception that compliance is difficult because Act is too convoluted – need to be able to work smarter
- Need industry and government to work hand in hand to encourage voluntary compliance
- Need better communication around changes in fisheries rules
- 2000hrs on engine – checked by QB&FP 3 times in 10 years – need compliance effort to increase
- Calls to compliance line don't work – no evidence of being followed up – report illegal fishing activity but not followed up
- Queensland fisheries management not up there with the best fisheries managers in Australia
- Explosion of recreational fishers in recent years, but education hasn't kept pace
- Attitude of rec fishers has changed over time – more people these days fishing simply for the fun of fishing, rather than to catch a feed
- Needs funding to fix fundamental issues – rec fishing license more widely supported than what people might think
- Monitoring needs more funding – needs to be predictive
- General support for rec fishing license – distrust of how money would be spent if not in Trust – key caveat is the money goes to a Trust
- “Would buy a rec license tomorrow if money went into a Trust”
- Want to be able to enjoy rec fishing without concern over complexity of regulations
- Fisheries shouldn't be seen as a victimless crime
- Grey nomads a compliance problem – filling up freezers and selling along the way to fund trip
- Need to review effort unit system in trawl fishery – not capping effort
- Concern over impacts of investment warning – needs to be acted on and lifted asap
- Policy/legislation/decision making
 - Rebuild fish stocks back to 1970s levels
 - Let's make it simple – write it in English
 - Don't know what Government wants from its fisheries – needs to clearly state its expectations
 - Need to ensure kids can catch fish the same way we catch fish – also taking into account impacts of development
 - Need to ensure fisheries in general gets the recognition it deserves within Govt decision making
 - No goals and direction from Govt – results in arguments and division amongst sectors
- Allocation and harvest controls

- Scope for organic development of regional management – needs to be built on trust the local level
- Room in Queensland to experiment with approaches on regional management that develop locally
- Targets should be set at conservative sustainable levels
- Need good science to support
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Not confident with science saying all stocks are healthy – some are, some aren't – can't catch what you could catch years ago
 - Lack of trust in how Govt manages data – both rec telephone surveys and commercial logbook data
 - More trust in locally managed programs – e.g. Suntag
 - Perverse incentives in commercial logbooks – history based allocation with no verification of data
- Management of non-target species
 - Have been trialling BRDs in commercial crab pots
 - Been a lot of progress in past decade in dealing with bycatch/protected species – level of the issue has diminished in last few years
- Compliance
 - Compliance needs be responsive – i.e. when illegal activity is reported, action needs to be taken
 - Perception is that there's no confidence that compliance is high – fair bit of suspect activity taking place
 - Too few compliance officers over too big an area
 - Need to maximise resources – e.g. use Police where necessary
 - Need to work smarter, not harder – need to use existing resources better
 - Tools in the Act to effect compliance are deficient – need to review powers
 - Need to be strong sanctions in Act for non-compliance
- Stakeholder participation
 - Need to go back to MAC system – need to have all sectors involved
 - Recs concerned that decisions made before most recs have had their say – need process to support input/coordinate policy from each sector
 - Need to link advisory structure to management units – Statewide for Statewide fishery; regional for regional fishery – need to build trust amongst sectors and with Government
 - No sense that any submissions are listened to
 - Community burnout from consultation processes – need to move from consultation to participation – people want to be involved in making decisions – not just being consulted – no value in it
 - Need to move it up a cog – from consultation to participation – shared responsibility breeds good decisions making
- Resourcing
 - Recreational fishers should have greater say in spend of RUF. Any rec license fees must be put into a Trust for rec fishing purposes.

Gladstone (27th August, 2014)

(~15 people)

Issues raised:

- Some fishery logbooks very accurate, others not so accurate – those where there is a prospect of history based allocation
- Need consistency in logbooks – stop changing format
- Do we have enough data to assess what is a sustainable level of take in Qld's fisheries? – e.g. red throat emperor
- How do we monitor rec catch? Need good systems. Rec catches could be bigger than commercial sector
- Gladstone has one of the highest per capita rates of boat ownership in Australia
- Boyne River – large pulse of commercial effort after flood event in 2011 – lots of fishermen from outside region
- Calliope River – concern over netting of salmon run – have had same argument for 30 years
- If there is zoning, commercials should be involved in setting zones
- NT fisheries do a better job of sharing information about fisheries generally
- Aquaculture for key species – e.g. barramundi – should be promoted; wild fisheries should be preserved – potential for Govt to promote exit of commercial fishers in aquaculture industry?
- Be good to see more compliance effort – been here 26 years as a rec fisher – been checked once at the boat ramp and once at sea – needs to be more compliance effort on rec sector
- Concern that pulled fisheries officers out of Gladstone
- Reporting should be practical – can't be expected to report numbers on logbooks as you're fishing – needs to be at the end of the day
- Rec fishing license would help reporting accuracy – more support than used to be for rec fishing licensing with caveats that funds go to a rec fishing Trust and licenses don't apply to pensioners and kids
- Need for closed seasons on finfish species other than barramundi
- Policy/legislation/decision making
 - Sustainability
 - Problem with continuity if decisions are taken politically – better to have an independent Board
 - Need clear legislation – complexity breeds non-compliance
 - Act/fisheries management generally isn't keeping pace with modern technology
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Good monitoring critical for good management – need better recreational monitoring – bad information breeds conflict over who bears the burden of rebuilding stocks
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Need more feedback on comments provided in commercial logbooks
- Management of non-target species
 - Bommie cods – MLS is 38cm – don't grow to 38cm and most get taken by sharks
 - TEDs/BRDs great – though need to be able to test new designs – process currently is impractical – tested in the US?

- Survival rates of released fish – more info needed on mortality rates – want to do the right thing but need better info – don't want to end up having bigger impact by releasing fishing that die
- Compliance
 - No real deterrence – perception that compliance on recreational fishers is ineffective – no real chance of getting caught if taking over the bag limit
 - Sanctions need to act as a stronger deterrent
 - Fines should be consistent (e.g. jenny crabs) between commercials and recreationals – needs to be per crab/per undersized fish, not based on whether they're licensed or not
- Stakeholder participation
 - Need to have regular informal meetings between Govt and fishers – need to meet in good times and bad – important in the process of education – promotes voluntary compliance
 - Need alternative than simply lobbying local MPs to get changes
 - Need systems that outlive changes in Govts
 - Needs to be regionalised – problems with people having a say on things outside of their own fishery – e.g. people down south having a say on different fisheries up north etc
 - People disillusioned coming to meeting where nothing comes out of it
- Resourcing
 - Why should commercials pay fees on quota that isn't used?
 - No problem paying rec fishing license if it goes into a Trust that goes back into recreational fishing
 - Concern that RUF hasn't been used on rec fishing issues and lack of influence over where funds go

Bundaberg (28th August, 2014)

(~25 people)

Issues raised:

- Limited interest from State in using LMACs as a forum to discuss fisheries issues
- MACs didn't work because managers still driving agenda
- Need to be practical about logbook reporting – if logbooks up to date each day, commercials get a fine
- Why aren't we training more young people? Dorymen out 160nm from port on GBR, but not trained well – speedboat license only – used to have a trainee masters license – useful front door to industry – used to have a TAFE training course locally, no longer
- 200 odd applications to ad in the paper for dorymen – need extra dories to allow for training of dorymen – also need a structured training program – RQ is quota'd so extra dories no threat
- Assets devalued – trawl effort units - \$2.40, CT quota - \$6, RTE, \$2.50
- Local indigenous group interested in training
- Fishermen getting same money they were 20 years ago, but costs have increased
- Existing bureaucracy is entrenched in existing thinking – needs a sea change in the management sector
- Got out of aquaculture in Qld because too difficult – other jurisdictions moving ahead but Qld not
- Qld Sea Scallop went under because couldn't secure their rights – difficulties with Govt
- Science underpinning management of scallop fishery not good
- Insecurity associated with MPAs – perception that GBRMPA closures not based on science
- Need risk-based management – proper application of the precautionary principle
- Too little will to protect against external environmental impacts on fisheries habitat
- Lack of deckies a safety problem – older guys can't find deckies
- Need continuity of supply for export markets – need volume
- Best seafood in the world, but we're over-regulated
- Concern over MPAs – should be reduced by at least ½ - have to go 40nm to find somewhere good to fish
- Perception that aim of Great Sandy Marine Park was to stop quite a bit of fishing – people doing consultation weren't interested and didn't have a good understanding of habitats
- No practicality in MPA planning – e.g. giving the first 100m from HAT to rec fishers, but its largely dry
- Hoffman's and Barolin Rocks the best spots to fish and were closed – but the bits in the middle which aren't good for fishing remain open
- GBRMPA favoured area north of Bundaberg over Bundaberg region
- Zoning done nothing to protect reef from real impacts – commercial fishing areas were called 'pristine'
- Essential that fishers, both commercial and recreational, given security operating environment at whole of Govt level – i.e. no double jeopardy with fisheries and marine parks legislation

- Perception that environment ministers generally more senior than fisheries minister in Govt pecking order
- Qld Govt put a blanket ban on cage culture – could have a \$300m industry just off the coast
- Development pressure in local creeks – reducing fisheries habitat
- No will to get rid of old, bad ideas – e.g. Ben Anderson barrage
- Fishing businesses need flexibility – need to be able to move with the fish
- Discussion of BRDs in cast nets
- Need to apply same environmental standards to imported seafood as local seafood
- GBR should all be open, no exporting of fish
- Bag limits and size limits working OK – big problem is closed areas
- People can't invest with certainty
- Bigger potential along Qld coast in fishing than diving
- Bali reefs degraded but tourists still go there
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Science basis for decision making
 - Remove politics from decision making
 - Need to support full value chain – including supporting local markets for seafood
 - Need to recognise value of recreational fishing
 - Need to have certain operating environment for commercial sector
 - Legislation very complex – difficult to understand, easy to not comply with
 - Fisheries managers should have some say over fisheries habitat – Qld fisheries supported by inflows of freshwater – barrages, dams, barriers to freshwater flows a problem
 - Need to reduce complexity in marine governance between multiple jurisdictions/agencies
 - Artificial reefs a good idea
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Max. size limit of barra could come down – e.g. 900mm – others say 1200mm OK
 - 2 barra for rec fishers is plenty
 - MLS/bag sized limits complex, but have been accepted
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Funding limited for science which means management information weak
 - Need to track commercial data beyond the boat – need chain of custody through supply chain
 - Rec fishers distrust Govt agencies with data – more support for groups like Capfish/Infotish – absolutely no trust between rec fishers and EPA – closed all of the best spots
 - Need to monitor water quality and fish habitat health – need recognition of linkage between freshwater flows and fisheries production
 - Need reliable baseline data before dredging/development
- Management of non-target species
 - No real commentary
 - Whale populations noticeably growing
 - Ghost nets – need more flexible system to remove ghost nets – currently need QB&FP officer on site to authorise removal
 - Need good data on post-release mortality from catch and release
- Compliance

- Black market a problem
- Something needs to be done with compliance information supplied – e.g. aquaculture water quality monitoring
- Need good compliance on external developers
- LMAC the only real structured forum for interaction between compliance officers and fishers
- Need to be doing more on education – aim should be high rates of voluntary compliance
- Stakeholder participation
 - ZACs worked relatively well – good representation – good forum for dialogue between sectors/Govt
 - Approach to managing fisheries should be driven from the bottom up
 - Too much Govt involvement – too much top down – Govt tells industry what’s going to happen
 - Govt used to be there to help fishing – provided support on technical issues etc – not anymore
 - Process used to introduce artificial reefs in Hervey Bay good – inclusive, with good outcome
 - MACs work when there’s no pre-determined outcome (e.g. Burkett’s Reef through EPA)
- Resourcing
 - Need more funding for monitoring and science – essential for managing
 - Net buyback – should have been some analysis of what is appropriate level of net fishermen before commencement
 - Need stability in funding – commercial and recreational contributing
 - Should buy the business in the net fishery, not just the license
 - Suspicion that rec fishing license fees would go to consolidated revenue – need safeguards

Hervey Bay (29th August, 2014)

(~60 people)

Issues raised:

- Commercial fishing in the yellow zone/go slow zone
- Recreational fishing monitored very well – bag limits/size limits/go slow – not enough compliance for commercial sector
- What impact will this have on marine aquaculture? Can't just have it in the Torres Strait and Gulf of Carpentaria – logistically difficult in those areas – need to have it in more accessible locations
- Usually fisheries head is economist – need stronger biological experience
- Fisheries won't listen – if we get half of things of the list of good management components, most fishos would be happy
- Need a scientific basis for aquaculture regulation – e.g. SunAqua – need more stable, predictable operating environment – need scientific basis for wild catch fisheries decision making as well
- Tilapia a big problem – not much seems to be done
- Need to look at total community benefit in allocation of fisheries resources
- Can we have a rec fishing license? Use SIPS and NSW as examples – needs to go to Trust – one of most fundamental parts of whole discussion
- Rec fishers have very little to show for PPV/RUF – Trust would get around mistrust over how funds would be used – would need to consolidate RUF/SIPS and rec license if we had one
- Need to look at benefits of tourism in local area – e.g. golden trevally in local area – some species better allocated to recs
- Are we looking at marine restocking?
- Concern that CHRIS was stopped in 2005 – took a long time to get back online - no GVP figures on production figures in new CHRIS database – need better economic data
- QSMA used to provide beach price info to DAFF
- Have the policy people revisited the decision not to net spotted mackerel?
- General trust issues with rec sector – long history of broken promises to the rec sector from Govt
- Extension to both sectors has dropped right off – used to be very good – need better education/extension from Govt to industry
- Rec sector doesn't want to see commercial fishing shut down – want to see a viable commercial sector – but want to see equitable catch sharing, particularly for species which might be worth more to recreational fishing
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - No overall harvest strategy – no overall strategic direction
 - Need to consider climate variability/climate change – carbon miles on seafood imports
 - Need to balance sustainability and economics
 - Governments of both persuasions haven't had coordinated approaches to marine resource management in general – interaction between fisheries management and marine parks
 - Politics has tended to beat science in decision making

- Decisions need to be informed by good science/information
- Perhaps put day to day decision making in hands of an independent Board – Ministers sets strategic direction
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- Allocation and harvest controls
 - No allocation in east coast inshore finfish plan – failed because of it
 - Need to consider economic value in allocation – e.g. tourist species to fly anglers – or spotted mackerel – much better use of the resource to use it by line
 - Well overdue to have discussion about allocation between sectors
 - Need good data to base allocation decisions on
 - Need to actively manage important recreational fishing species – e.g. MLS on species which aren't important commercial species
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Need to assess value of recreational fishing sector
 - License would help get better data for rec sector
 - Mistrust about how data might be used from rec sector – feel that they might be penalised if they contribute data – green zones etc
 - Need to see scientists on boats doing independent sampling/observation
 - Discussion about whether commercial logbooks specify species of trevally – e.g. golden trevally, snub nosed dart
 - All sectors should be obliged to provide species specific information on catch
 - Need to build trust to improve data collection – both sectors
 - Issues with apps in older population
- Management of non-target species
 - In trawl do it pretty well – e.g. allow trials for new BRDs/TEDs etc relatively easily
- Compliance
 - Need more on the spot fines for smaller offences, rather than haul people off to court
 - See compliance guys less often – perception that fines started to increase – a good thing
 - Three navies – four if you count the transport dept – need to be rationalised
 - Interaction between state and commonwealth rules in GBRMP makes things confusing
 - Need better education to encourage voluntary compliance
 - Needs to be action if people ring up compliance hotline
 - Keep laws written simply – complexity breeds non-compliance
- Stakeholder participation
 - MACs good – useful conduit to get proposals through to decision makers
 - Wasn't perfect but not bad – good forum to get all stakeholders together to discuss problems
 - MACs useless in resolving conflict – OK where everyone agreed – Govt needs to take allocation decisions
 - MACs have best possible science involved upon which to take informed decisions
 - Need to better utilise social media – have made a good start – need to expand it
 - No process to get a hearing from fisheries – local fisho has run local meeting which is a good idea, but it's not a formal process for managing fisheries
 - Little feedback/communication from fisheries – no excuse these days with electronic communication

- Need a strong peak body for both sectors
- MACs need fair representation from all sectors
- Restocking group workshops were very good, but discontinued - great forum for discussion/debate/education etc
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- Resourcing
 - Dyed fuel for off-road use – funds go to supporting fisheries – US
 - Rec fishing license, with standard caveats
 - Need to plan for expanding rec sector in south east Qld

Tin Can Bay (30th August, 2014)

(~40-45 people)

Issues raised:

- Is there any guarantee that this review won't go down the path of the NSW review?
- Will this review lead to an increase in aquaculture?
- Fisheries don't communicate changes well – unless you're on their website regularly you wouldn't pick up many of the changes
- Need to use social media more to communicate with fishers
- Need a form that comes out with registration that tells you what changes have been made in past year
- Difficulty operating under long standing investment warnings
- Discussion around how we get good data from both sectors
- Good catch records from some fishing clubs
- Why isn't there a closed season on all fish while spawning? Fish are more vulnerable while spawning
- Are we looking at external environmental impacts on fisheries? Needs greater recognition – big issues locally
- Will we look at zoning/go slow zones that might have been put in the wrong spot?
- Perception that best reefs were all made green in the GBRMP – perception that logbooks were used against fishers
- Do we know enough about fish stocks to make good decisions – e.g. snapper? Concern over quality of data going into the system.
- Substantial environmental changes over last 30-40 years in Great Sandy Straits – some species of seagrass disappeared – less waterbirds, wildlife – question is why? Water is sour – needs to be greater recognition of external impacts on fisheries. Not sure fisheries should be in same Govt portfolio with forestry and farming. Perception that forestry has had a big impact on fisheries production/water quality in GSS. Conflict of interest between different sectors in primary industries portfolio. No new research being done on environmental impacts.
- Need to ensure healthy marine/estuarine environment to support fisheries production – e.g. barrage has had a big impact on the Mary, Burrum, Burnett – floods don't drive fisheries production anymore
- Licenses taken away with no compensation
- ZACs a good idea
- Tailor/Spanish mackerel – need freshwater in early life history stages – barrages have impacted recruitment – need to understand structural linkages in fish life cycle
- Perception that Govt management of aquatic environment including rivers too complex
- Perception that land based fertilizers are having an impact on local seagrass – Diuron, atrazines – persistent chemicals
- Aquatic industries inter-connected – big enough to have a portfolio/Minister of its own
- Where are our scientists looking at environmental impacts on fisheries?
- Discussion on fish shrinkage
- Need to promote aquaculture in Australia

- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - no flavour of the month political decisions
 - science based
 - transparency
 - clear concise legislation – needs to be able to be understood by all
 - very complex and difficult at the moment
 - need to have notes to the Act – make intent clear
 - consistency across jurisdictions in management/size limits, jenny crabs, etc- also need good cross-border coordination for shared stocks
 - transport legislation is a lot easier to understand
 - needs to be written in simple language
 - politicians do whatever they like after consultation – perception that consultation is ‘tick-box’
 - perception that average fisho doesn’t get a say on management
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Discussion about pros and cons of zoning/regional management
 - Concern about insecurity of commercial fishing rights
 - Perception that ITQs won’t give an more security in inshore fisheries
 - Government recognised commercial fishing licenses as property back in 1990s – if not property, should give money back
 - Some resource sharing arrangements at the moment – e.g. weekend closures for commercial fishers
 - Need to consider seafood consumers in allocation
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Current volunteer boat ramp surveys not that great
 - Some places easier to survey – e.g. Fraser Island
 - Clubs have good time series data
 - Most elderly people wouldn’t use an app – younger guys perhaps
 - Need to build trust, create incentives for people to contribute data
 - Recreational data contribution should be voluntary – but could build in incentives – e.g. discount on boat registration
- Compliance
 - Yellow and black numbers on the boat a magnet for compliance guys
 - Need greater focus on rec sector, but should be based around education – e.g. used to hand out crab measures etc
 - Need more boots on the ground for deterrent value
 - Differing interpretation between patrol officers – legislation very complex
 - Perception that it’s up to fishers to know legislation, but Govt officers aren’t held responsible for giving inconsistent advice
 - Challenges around practical issue such as bundling of net in the net fishery
- Stakeholder participation
 - Need fair balance of representation for all sectors
 - Perception that people can push their own personal agendas at MACs/ZACs – need mechanisms to guard against
 - Local people need to have say on local issues
 - Need permanent representatives from scientific sector

Cairns (8th September, 2014)

(40 people)

Issues raised:

- How does the Queensland system stack up with approaches elsewhere?
- Problem with the political timeframe in decision making – stakeholders here for long term but politicians here for short term
- Information from fishing clubs not reflective of total recreational fishing effort/catch – only 4% of sector
- Set lines a problem – have reported to QB&FP but no real action
- Need common sense to guide legislation – e.g. translocation policy and stocking of red claw in Tinaroo (stocked there for 25 years)
- No common sense on issues such as tilapia – all big stick at the moment – need to be pragmatic
- Used to have ZACs/Freshwater MAC – worked well, but need ongoing stakeholder involvement
- Want to stock red claw in Tinaroo – stopped because of translocation policy
- ReefMAC worked well – a real blow when we lost MACs – being able to sit down with other sectors/managers/scientists very valuable
- Quota managed fisheries – need to look at removing input controls – hurting profitability – let the industry go out and catch it the smartest way possible
- Need natural disaster assistance – e.g. Cyclone Hamish – not a cent to the industry – didn't hit land so no-one gave it priority
- Coral fishery – did a risk assessment but still waiting for changes to come in – managers don't have a good understanding of the industry – no-one in FQ who has a background in fisheries – lost internal capacity
- Quotas if properly done are a necessary part of management – problem in reef line fishery is loopholes
- Average age of commercial sector getting older
- Need to talk to ex-FQ staff who have left in recent years – very good corporate knowledge
- Not much noise made when MACs blown up – because people on MACs were the only ones who knew about the outcomes – need to have an truly transparent process
- Need a rec fishing license – can't have rec fishing reps sitting around the table unfunded – needs to be managed in a Trust
- Concern at use of PPV/RUF – has been put to nebulous uses – should have been to remove commercial effort – also was paying for stocking workshops/boat ramps – difficult to see where money has been spent
- QB&FP underfunded - black market a real problem
- Recreational fishing network – message through network is that stocks are not in good shape – have seen a great decline in grey mackerel, threadfin, queenfish – stocks vulnerable to netting; rec fishers also going over bag limits when stocks are thick – vulnerable to localised depletion
- Totally support sustainable fishing – commercials, recs and charter guys need to find a way to get along

- For commercial fishers, security of tenure a key issue – difficult to get financing
- Investment warnings a problem – purely because of lack of management from Govt – someone should be held accountable
- Economics central to improving situation – FQ has been in crisis management mode in recent years
- Need to strengthen relationship between Qld and Commonwealth to improve security for both sectors
- Fisheries management needs to be data based – needs to be transparent – put all info on the web
- Resourcing of information collection has plummeted in recent years
- Needs to be stronger linkages/coordination between different State Govt Acts – e.g. Water Act can have a big impact on freshwater fisheries
- FQ needs to be more technology savvy – finally getting to the point where commercials can submit eLogs
- FQ needs to look at way they consult with fishers – consultation needs to take account of rights holdings in the fishery
- Debate about the percentage of fish taken by commercial and recreational fishers
- GBRMPA the biggest threat to the GBRMP
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Security of tenure – need to make the industry attractive to young people
 - Need to manage it the same as tourism industry – Govt provides it support – industry needs to be seen as an valuable economic development tool – how do we develop this industry so that it employs people and contributes tax etc?
 - Needs to have a social aspect
 - Most important thing is the health of the stocks of fish
 - Science-based decision making – it's the one common currency between all sectors
 - Need to properly evaluate economic benefit of all sectors
 - Need to take fisheries out of the political cycle
 - Need for all sectors to be effectively managed – can't just have catch limits on the commercial sector
 - State Govt needs to be held accountable for both successes and failures
 - Need to be fair and reasonable – trawl fishers can't catch line fish for personal consumption
 - Govt needs to take hard decisions
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Need to manage fisheries regionally – can't have one size fits all across state
 - How do you allocate shares between sectors?
 - NT model fantastic – surveys of economic contribution of recreational fisheries – allocate river systems according to economics – buyouts for commercial fishers – catch rates for commercial fishers far higher than previously
 - Cairns had large percentage of area closed in GBRMP rezoning – squeezed recreational fishers into a smaller area
 - In quota managed fisheries, why do we need closures? Should be able to distribute effort evenly
 - Need artificial reefs in inshore zones – would take pressure off reef
- Monitoring and assessment

- Problems with phone surveys for rec fishers – recall bias – most effective approach is good boat ramp creel surveys
- Could base good surveys around key fishers
- Rec license would quantify number of recreational fishers – coupled with app based reporting would improve data collection
- Compliance
 - Need greater coordination on lines between State and Commonwealth
 - Need to put closures on c-plot program – Qld Govt gave a commitment years ago
 - Debate about bag limits – some say everyone used to current bag limits, some say they need to be fluid with stock status
 - Perception that commercials get bombarded by compliance officers – perception that officer need to find something wrong, however minor. Not reasonable.
 - Most compliance can be shore-based – more cost effective than sea based patrols
 - Compliance should pick and choose their times – do compliance during closures, not just before going to work
 - General view is that both sectors couldn't self-regulate
 - Perception that compliance could be tightened for rec sector – happy if they're checked everyday
 - Perception that nothing gets done about reports of illegal nets – also good to get feedback on compliance reports
 - Need greater use of technology to free up resources
- Stakeholder participation
 - No scientific basis for decision to reduce coral trout quota – supported investors who wanted to increase asset/lease value – prior to cyclone Hamish caught 95% of TACC – Hamish had a big impact on catch rates/catches
 - ZACs/MACs worked very well – although some didn't work well
 - Needs to be transparent
 - Can't be Brisbane-based – needs to be regionally-based
 - AFMA runs RAGs – scientifically-focused, good tool – need to have multiple scientists involved to give balance
 - FQ needs to give feedback to fishers and educate rank and file on fisheries science
 - Need to treat anglers with a lot more respect
 - GBRMPA should be part of MAC, but should have a set of principles for getting involved – i.e. if fisheries are managed in accordance with the principles GBRMPA shouldn't get involved
 - How do we get a good recreational peak body?
 - Need more balanced coverage from media around fisheries issues –
 - Many fishers are fatigued by fisheries meetings
- Resourcing
 - Any planned changes should be costed with a plan for where the funds are going to come from
 - Treat it like a business – get revenue up (e.g. rec license fee) and costs down (e.g. use of technology)
 - Quality of research in WA much higher because of stronger funding base
 - GST on recreational fishing purchases not considered in resourcing – money is there
 - Need to scrap RUF if rec fishing license introduced
 - FQ should shed some responsibilities – e.g. aquaculture, indigenous fisheries – other bodies more appropriate to support these sectors

- No arguments against rec fishing license – but needs to go into a Trust

Innisfail (9th September, 2014)

(15 people)

Issues raised:

- Question about whether Queensland has jurisdiction over the fishery
- Need more support including infrastructure for industry – not much Govt can do about fuel prices etc but can invest in helpful infrastructure
- Need security for commercial sectors – key component is management at regional level – should be an exclusive right – get return on ‘investment’ in good management – at the moment, benefits of good management could flow to anywhere – most relevant to finfish fisheries
- Can’t find definition of rec fishers in Fisheries Act – what is definition? Needs to consider people who fish for food rather than recreation – what are their rights?
- Concern at the way data supplied to fisheries/marine parks has been used – e.g. used to supply nannygai skeletons and locations caught - now all the areas are in green zones, so don’t supply fish anymore
- Didn’t design green zones well – could be tweaked to get better outcome – original consultation wasn’t done well
- Why can’t we release coral trout fingerlings on the reef?
- We’ve got the right balance of green zones, yellow zones etc – but could be in better areas
- Need better data to know what sustainable take is in each region if regional management adopted
- Less emphasis on R&D in FQ – more priority on compliance – need more applied research
- MACs/ZACs a good idea – not that expensive – need something like that back – can’t have one Statewide advisory committee – Qld too big a place – room for both local and fishery-based advisory committees
- Loss of QSIA a problem – needs some form of industry representation
- Don’t adopt a quota system for trawl – need to maintain flexibility
- Need fine tuning of green zone boundaries – some boundaries impact trawl shots for example – fine tuning would deliver the same amount of green zone but a better economic outcome for local people
- ZACs seemed to be a bit token – real decisions taken at MAC – but if we go to a regional management arrangement, local committees can have a real say in management
- Need to take the politics out of fisheries management
- Need to have open regional meetings – everyone can have their say
- Concern that management arrangements are driving small fishermen out who are more sustainable – general view that smaller operators operate in a more sustainable way – fish peaks and troughs rather than having to keep fishing – allowing more ‘efficiency’ may drive smaller operators out
- Need secure way to register rights – e.g. Victorian abalone fishery
- Spotted mackerel fishery in local area a good example of recs and pros working side by side
- Concern about people from other areas coming in and putting additional pressure on fish stocks
- Policing recreational fishing license difficult for rec fishing from shore with long coastal line

- Concern that rec fishing license would become a cash cow, and funds would be spent disproportionately in SE Qld corner
- Fisheries managers generally haven't valued the experience and knowledge of stakeholders
- Govt scrapped Fishcare program – was essentially all volunteers – lost very big educational role
- Crewing a problem competing with mining industry; quality of crew has dropped
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Need to put effort into managing creeks and rivers – e.g. used to have ribbon weed in Johnstone River – all gone – need priority on research/management on impacts on rivers and creeks – look at indicator species (e.g. mudskippers, fiddler crabs)
 - Need more social science connecting with managers – capture local knowledge
 - Need for a more stable, predictable operating environment for industry/stakeholders generally – need to be able to work without constant fear of change and rights reduction – banks foreclosing on people not because of revenue, but because of asset value – Govt needs to be accountable
 - Aquaculture regulatory process too hard – too expensive – stifles development – too much red tape
 - Legislation needs to allow for innovation – stifling at the moment – legislative process needs to allow for people to make their own commercial decisions
 - Need more support from Govt defending the industry – never see Govt defending industry in the media
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - need to manage fisheries regionally
 - need data to support/monitor sharing
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Need better monitoring of loss of fisheries habitats – has hurt fisheries productivity
 - Mining industry has increased recreational fishing capacity - spare cash has been put into better boats, can reach more areas with better technology
 - Agricultural development resulted in increased siltation – younger guys in agricultural sector learning – trying to do the right thing
- Compliance
 - Education a key part of compliance
 - Black market increased after removal of buyer's licenses
 - Black market a 'red herring' – much of our legislation presupposes people are doing the wrong thing – legislation needs to assume most people do the right thing
 - Big problem with rec fishers going over bag limit at the moment
 - Black market impacting on local businesses
 - Need better education of recreational fishers in fish ID
- Stakeholder participation
 - Perception that LMACs haven't been effective
 - Discussion of role of MAC and benefits of co-management

Townsville (13th September, 2014)

(~30-35 people)

Issues raised:

- Concern about lack of notice of the meeting – would have had hundreds if advertised properly
- Question about relationship between MRAG and FRC
- Has MRAG been given any riding instructions on future management models, closures etc?
- Discussion around which management systems around the world work best and which might be useful models for Qld
- Qld losing money because we can't manage our inshore fisheries properly – people going to Florida for charter fishing
- Commercial operators should be compensated well if access lost under resource sharing arrangements
- Support a rec license if money could be spent on enforcement to control black market
- Concern about lack of commitment from Govt in acting on recommendations from MACs/ZACs, advisory committees
- Perception that cuts have been made to the recreational sector, but few to the commercial sector
- Need greater acknowledgment of social values of fishing – need to be more cohesive as a sector – recreational fishers splintered
- Need to do what Florida did – recreational fishery boomed
- Need greater recognition of economic value of recreational fishing – others say recreational fishers would just spend money on something else
- Need to consider seafood consumers in allocation equation – majority of population
- Recreational lobby groups under-estimate catch of rec sector as a general rule
- Need better offsetting of impacts of coastal development, also infrastructure (e.g. marinas which lead to increased pressure on fishery)
- Rec anglers need to have a license – use it to get better data on rec fishing
- No fisheries independent data from inshore fishery – no data from rec sector – no baseline and no way to monitor trends – also no objectives and performance monitoring framework for recreational sector
- All sectors need to be managed – catch for all sectors should be managed consistently – everyone goes up and down – should have consistent stock strategy (MEY, MSY etc)
- Politicians based decisions on public perceptions, rather than science
- Concern about impacts on fisheries habitats and relationship to fisheries production
- Concern about membership of FRC
- Questions about process for the review – will people have a say on the draft report before going to Govt?
- Ultimate goal should be sustainability – why are we not looking more towards aquaculture to supply fish stocks? Concern about inefficient conversion ratios with aquaculture.
- Discussion about TORs and how much MRAG can provide advice on issues outside the scope of the Fisheries Act – e.g. coastal development, marine parks

- Should we have one department to manage all marine issues? Many people not aware of different jurisdictions/responsibilities of different departments/differing layers of Govt.
- Trawl northern closure too long – problems with crew – 6 weeks closure in south works better
- Need to consider aquaculture constraints in future equation – a problem with regulation at the moment
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Co-management
 - Regional management
 - Flexibility in management arrangements (e.g. to resolve conflict between sectors)
 - Science based decision making
 - Environmental factors taken into account in decision making - e.g. flexible openings/closings
 - Need effective resourcing for management system
 - Neutral decision making taking account of views of all sectors
 - Better communication with all sectors
 - Act is confusing – difficult to interpret
 - Need greater security/property rights for commercial sector
 - Fisheries Act is the single most confusing piece of legislation
 - FA has important provision to control development – interplay between FA and other Acts very important – need to retain protective provisions
 - Need flexibility to be adaptive – currently sclerotic
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Need to consider stock in green zones in assessments
 - Concern that quotas will not allow flexibility in good seasons
 - Better education is critical to resolving resource allocation issues – 99% of rec fishers have no idea how commercial sector operates
 - Need to ensure good information to base allocation decisions – co-existence is the preferred option
 - Need to apply best method of control to each fishery – may be different for each fishery – inputs/outputs
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Scientific bodies getting less funding
 - Perverse incentives for bad data in logbooks with history based allocation
 - Need to rebuild trust in providing data
 - Rec license would help – perhaps issued with tags that need to apply to all rec caught fish – same as tags that get used for barra caught in dams during the closed season
 - Concern about usefulness of existing recreational fishing survey data – too SE Qld focused
 - Rec license would give unprecedented data on recreational sectors
 - Should look at app based technology to report catches
 - Need transparency around data – cut through conspiracy theories
 - Commercial fishers data should be more available – although can get taken out of context – even knowing that information exists would be helpful
- Non-target species
 - Problem that commercials can't sell some saleable product

- Commercial fishers improving interactions with SOCI species – essentially a behavioural thing
- Seems to be good push to fix commercial non-target issues – need same push on rec gear (e.g. cast nets, bait nets)
- Solutions to bycatch issues are not legislative – need behavioural change, nimble management
- Concern about interaction between barotrauma and bag limits – released fish are shark food – needs some thought
- Compliance
 - Netting regulations are not very practical – key issue is whether fishers are responsible – can work in regs and be irresponsible, can work outside regs and be very responsible
 - In rec sector, many people don't worry about regs – no chance of getting caught
 - Social media websites with rec fishers selling fish
 - Need serious fines for non-compliance, particularly for repeat offenders
 - Compliance officers need to be involved in construction of regs to ensure common sense/practicality
 - Black market needs to be hit with hard penalties
 - Need to ensure magistrates are informed on severity of fisheries offences – need penalties that hurt
- Stakeholder participation
 - MAC system worked well – biggest problem was that it didn't feed into an effective decision making process – nothing happened with recommendations – could work well if part of good system
 - Need to pay daily fee to allow all sectors to come to the table
 - Goes hand in hand with debate about peak body – strong peak bodies will make participation process more effective – needs to be a partnership between industry and Govt
 - Should be regional if fisheries management unit is regional
 - Local people best at looking after own patch – all sectors input important
 - Potential for joint funding agreement between Commonwealth and State over marine resource consultation? Remove duplication/imposts on people's time.
- Resourcing
 - Rec licenses have to be brought in – Govts don't have money – needs to be user pays – report should make strong recommendation to introduce a license

Bowen (14th September, 2014)

(14 people)

Issues raised:

- 4 ½ inch barra net during closure – need to increase – catch undersize fish currently – net size hasn't increased with MLS increases
- No trust between industry and Govt; too much influence from NGOs; can't get a response unless it goes to the Minister
- Trawlers can't keep recreational bag limit – not right
- Uncertainty in trawl fishery as a result of the drawing out of the trawl review
- Need to support representatives from each sector going to advisory committee meetings
- Not enough coordination between FQ and other Departments – e.g. MSQ
- Expected to see more change in policy and approach with incoming government – hard to tell difference at the moment from previous government
- Plenty of fisheries reform happened in the past 20 years – real question is what's happened in the past 2 years – need to focus on systems/process to change situation – need greater grass roots local representation in fisheries management but grass roots don't necessarily have the skills to build it themselves – FQ needs to look at liaison officers at local level to support regionally-based solutions
- 1980s zoning of inshore fisheries proposed – rejected at the time, but smaller operators in favour of it – wouldn't have had same problems as today – would have greater value of licenses
- Fisheries work in cycles – 'criminal' that licenses taken off people because they can't meet criteria during poor years
- Need for some form of spatial control in the reef line sector
- Self-policing would be helped by zoning
- Trawl industry at low level, but all it will take is a new market to pop up for more boats to get in – need measures in place to stop pulse effort etc
- Need to ensure that markets continue to exist for licenses in future if area zoned
- Lesson in trigger points in EKP fishery – zoning is a dirty word, but need more sophisticated way better expend effort in the fishery – don't lock people into one zone, but should have rules to catch product at right time, for right market, for maximum return
- Lots of good work in trawl review (fishers, CSIRO etc), but FQ don't have skills to transfer knowledge, big picture to industry – very good potential for better management – independent facilitators with big picture knowledge would help
- Reef cods – don't grow to 38cm – waste of a resource – same as barramundi cod and Maori wrasse
- Better management will cost money – Govt will need to invest
- Need zones in RQ fishery to better manage impact on stocks – currently can have too much effort focused in a localised area – need more sophisticated spatial management
- Need critical mass to maintain support infrastructure
- Need a stronger property/access right
- Nothing positive has come out of Brisbane since the 1980s – can't even get the simplest of things fixed

- 10 mud crabs as a rec bag limit is far too many
- Compliance effort focused on commercial sector – nit-picky things, but black market rife – fisherman threatened with ticket for being 5 minutes out on prior reporting
- Commercials need to account for every single fish, but almost no monitoring of recreational catches – huge holes in knowledge
- Existing rights have no weight with banks
- Investment warnings a problem – go on for ever, with no accountability – undermine certainty with banks
- Discussion around effort unit conversion factor discounts larger trawl vessels – are people who want larger vessels prepared to pay higher conversion factors?
- Shouldn't have removed transfer penalties on effort units
- Need a workshop for each commercial sector to work out what the right management model/instrument are for each fishery
- GBRMPA has created a lot of overfishing through zoning – squeezing people into a smaller area
- No sensible monitoring – should be process to ring alarm bells at FQ – did have trigger points in trawl plan, but nothing happened – alarm bells should be ringing in the coral trout fishery – used to catch 3000t, now lucky to catch 800-900t – trend should have been picked up and addressed well before now
- Speculation in early days of RQ quota – prices will take a long time to recover
- Taking away assistant fishers license not good
- Discussion around decision to not put symbols on cards any more
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Science based decision making – need stronger relationship between scientists and industry
 - Need to retain flexibility to diversify in commercial sector- good commercially, good for stock health – don't flog things when they're scarce
 - Mandatory review points (both system and fishery level – e.g. trigger points in trawl plan ignored)
 - Write it clearly
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - RQ allocation process a sham – RTE given to Cairns fishermen, when they don't catch them up there – many fishers lost 20% overall – diversification and seasonal nature of fishery means that many of the quota species won't be caught – discussion around efficacy of logbook data in allocation
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Need recreational logbooks and licenses
 - Need better economic monitoring – can better assess economic consequences of decision making – small cuts add up
- Compliance
 - Perception that it's just a matter of how many tickets they need to issue this month
 - Need to get rid of the arrogance in some fisheries officers
 - Need to focus greater effort on port based monitoring
 - Need to ensure consistent interpretation between officers – same with MSQ - rules need to be written in black and white
 - Need practicality in enforcement
 - Need to get priorities right – black market

- Illegal nets in the Whitsundays area
- Stakeholder participation
 - Need multi-sectoral committee – local area based – no NGOs
 - Needs to be funded
 - Need to mirror management unit
 - Independent Chair

Mackay (15th September, 2014)

(~65-70 people)

Issues raised:

- Look at the Northern Territory for example of best practice for fisheries management – recreational anglers spend money going to NT – need to remove nets from some of the rivers – would improve king salmon fishery in particular – large king salmon have disappeared
- Need to target recreational fishing data collection to good recreational fishers
- QB&FP not resourced well enough – not enough deterrent
- Too many net licenses – but need to pay them good money to get out
- Are our MLS set at the level to allow fish to have spawned at least once?
- Need to rotate green zones
- Need to add management of fisheries habitat and connectivity as a principle – critical to maintain habitat connectivity
- NSW closures worked for recreational fishers – improve catch rates and fish shops could still get fish
- Crab bag limit should be reduced from 10 to 5 – would help with black market – 5 crabs per person, 15 crabs per boat
- Crab management plan been in process since 1996 – dragged on – greatest fear is that Govt won't have the fortitude to take on board the recommendations from this review – plenty of previous reviews that have gone nowhere
- \$60m collected from PPV/RUF – intent to have funding to buy out commercial fishers – not one penny invested in commercial net buybacks
- Current net buyback in place – previous ones haven't been effective
- Sand whiting should go to 26cm – greater egg production
- In possession limits a waste of time – too easy to get around with multiple people, no powers for QB&FP to check; recommend daily limit of 20cm, in possession limit of 30
- Should be legislation to make professional crabbers move on from creeks after 2 months
- Need to keep current bag and size limits in coral reef fin fish fishery
- Concern that filleting banned unless fillet at least 40cm – means can't fillet legal trout or RTE – want to abolish s104 of Act – or 25cm fillet length for most CRFFF species, 35cm for spangled emperor, stripeys and hussars could be left whole – concern at safety implications of larger ice boxes required for whole fish, also impacts of fish frames left at/near boat ramps
- Would like red emperor to be reduced to 50cm or 52cm – how many survive on release?
- Would like a one per boat limit on Maori wrasse
- Concern that QB&FP has insufficient presence in Mackay – hasn't kept up with increase in population
- Should be leaving fish frames at sea – don't bring back into Seaforth creek – a problem
- Need to work with professional fishermen – they need their area too
- Need to look at restocking of marine species by farmers – wouldn't have to travel as far to catch fish if inshore species more abundant

- Concern about netting in upper areas of Pioneer River – leaving dead fish on banks – small mullet, small barra
- Trawlers should be able to have recreational bag limit at sea
- Bring back the fish board to control stocks
- Don't blame the commercials – recreational sector has increased over recent years – need to learn to share waters together
- If we want more barra, need to ensure more quality habitat and connectivity
- Need to share water – plenty of people don't go fishing for themselves but like to eat fish
- Policy/Legislation/decision making
 - Sustainability
 - Fish farming
 - Fishing tourism
 - More funding/better infrastructure
 - Education
 - Need positive feedback on successes
 - Govt needs to come up with a draft policy – then we can discuss it – bureaucrats are the guys we need to influence
- Allocation and harvest controls
 - Need practicality around catch limits
 - Need good information to support allocations and harvest management
 - Could we have quotas in the inshore fin fish fishery
 - Need good stock assessment information to support catch limits
 - Concern that recreational fishing data isn't good enough
 - Should reduce barra maximum size from 120cm to 100cm
 - Bag limits could be tailored to each river system
- Monitoring and assessment
 - Should be greater use of creel surveys
 - Tagging system not working - tagged a heap of fish but no tag returns – others say tagging system working
 - Been in Mackay fishing club for 25 years – haven't heard anything from fisheries
- Compliance
 - Fisheries officers need help – no way that existing number of officers can police things – need ways that we can police things ourselves
 - Fisheries officers need to be resourced to go into caravan parks
 - Compliance needs to be focused on the right things – don't need revenue raising
 - Been fishing recreationally offshore since 1992 – haven't ever been checked
 - Perception that compliance focuses on the easy things – needs to be smarter and tackle hard things
 - Should be stronger focus on education – e.g. info pamphlets etc
- Stakeholder participation
 - MACs worked well – expertise sitting around table was fantastic – problem was advice got filtered before it got to the Minister, nothing happened
 - No two way communication at the moment
 - Apathy is the enemy
 - Need some form of regular regionally-based consultation
 - When are we going to start basing decisions on sustainability? Both sectors growing and sustainability needs to be fundamental

Warwick (29th September, 2014)

(17 people)

- Minister McVeigh thanked people for attending and provided a background to the review, noting the existing system of fisheries management was a product of 'band-aids upon band-aids' and a new approach was needed. He advised the final report from the review would be available before Christmas 2014 and the Government would set out its response before the next election.

Issues raised

- Lack of extension officers for freshwater fisheries and stocking groups - these used to be an 'in' to FQ, but don't have an effective way of communicating now
- The workshops for stocking groups were a useful forum to exchange ideas and liaise with FQ – should be brought back
- Freshwater fishers/stocking groups should have oversight role for administration of SIPS funding
- Freshwater MAC was a useful forum to discuss/debate policy issues in relation to freshwater fishing, translocation, exotic and pest fish etc – need to bring back a similar forum
- Lost FishCare volunteers – provided a very useful service for little funding
- Need to engage Gen X and Y – stocking groups getting older – clubs need the skills to engage Gen X and Y in the right way – social media etc
- Condamine Alliance has stepped into the vacuum of the FishCare volunteers somewhat – need more resources for education
- Need for greater accountability at FQ – review of freshwater management plan supposed to be out last year
- Lost funding for the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program
- Developing new freshwater fisheries is chicken and egg – can't get funding without demonstrating there is a viable fishery in place; can't demonstrate there's a viable fishery in place without funding to stock – needs to be some allowance/practicality
- PPV/RUF – was supposed to be to fund recreational facilities – now just goes to core funding
- SIPS highly successful but only covers 33 dams – need a scheme to cover all dams
- '99%' of freshwater anglers would support an all waters freshwater fishing license
- The issue of funding is central – without adequate funding, can't do much
- Groups stocking rivers and creeks feel disenchanting – don't get the support they used to
- Rehabilitation of fisheries habitats is critical to improving freshwater fishing – works hand in hand with stocking
- Need to ban set lines
- Expand closed season for Murray cod across full Murray Darling Basin?
- General discussion and agreement with the concept of an all waters recreational fishing license, with the standard caveats – money goes to a Trust, exemptions for pensioners and kids – albeit some favour requiring a license for pensioners and kids, just make it free – need to keep the benefits of being able to gather good information about fishing and target education campaigns etc

- In any general recreational fishing license, a portion of the funds should be reserved for freshwater
- Need a stronger R&D commitment to freshwater fishing issues
- Glen Lyon dam – survey in the 1990s – 90,000 yellowbelly taken in 3 months
- Currently no creel surveys on take from freshwater impoundments – good for tourism to advertise what’s being caught
- DAFF scientists are some of the best in the MD Basin but no baseline monitoring currently happening
- Harvest approach is different between Gen Y and older generations – Gen Y more catch and release
- Succession planning for stocking groups a big issue – without funding, risk older guys moving on and leaving a gap before younger generations realise they need to pick up the ball
- CQU study on recreational fishing expenditure needs to be released
- Stocking groups are eyes and ears for pest fish in Qld
- Cold water pollution a problem in some places –need to consider fish health in the timing of water releases
- Grey nomads a net benefit but do take plenty of fish
- Need to back up regulations with effective enforcement – e.g. fishing close to dam walls etc
- Freshwater stocking has benefitted the wild fishery after flooding events
- Southern strain barramundi – could be shortage if Gladstone Area Water Board get out of hatchery game
- Policy and Legislation
 - Need to ensure protection of freshwater fisheries habitats
 - Secure funding base
 - Need whole of government approach to freshwater fisheries
 - Need community involvement
 - No great problems with freshwater fishing regulations – everything went through Freshwater MAC
- Monitoring and Assessment
 - Need plain English application system for FRDC grants
 - All stocking groups should have a monitoring program
 - Fishing competitions good for helping take out pest fish
 - SIPS funding should only be spent on buying fingerlings – not monitoring
- Non-target species
 - Need to ensure protection for platypuses and turtles
- Compliance
 - Not enough funding, although officers themselves are very good where there are boots on the ground – western Qld is a very big area to police though
 - QB&FP don’t work on weekends – no overtime
 - Some areas – e.g. Mt Crosby weir – given up reporting illegal fishing
 - Some problems with fishers taking over their bag limit
 - Fishing illegally around fish barriers a big problem
- Stakeholder participation
 - Currently use FFSAQ as a conduit to government

- Need stocking workshops for rank and file interaction
- Freshwater MAC worked very well
- Researchers need to be part of 'MAC' type groups
- Resourcing
 - All waters recreational fishing license would be a big help
 - Freshwater section in FQ needs greater support

Karumba (12th October, 2014)

(6 people)

Issues raised:

- Why would you exempt pensioners from a rec license? Perhaps a lower fee, but need to have them licensed.
- Need to reduce the bag limit on amateurs – particularly barra and grunter – grunter stocks in the gulf will get depleted quickly if they're not already
- 'C' grade crabs a problem – a domino effect – people will take them because they fear if they throw them back someone else will take them
- Need for an attendance rule with crab pots – need to be actively fished – otherwise can leave them unattended for long periods – can keep fishing without being checked for months
- Lots of waste with tourist filleting – more flesh left on the fish than off in some cases
- High-grading in the recreational sector – need to review how effect bag limits are – might be more effective to lower size limits to avoid post release mortality
- Some discussion of tags for recreational fishing as a means to monitor catch
- Need to provide information material for visitors/tourists – often a weak understanding of bag limits/size limits etc
- Need targeted compliance to support introduction of rec fishing licenses
- Be good to have a system that allows a portion of the license fees to come back to the place nominated by the fisher (or the place where the license was sold)
- Tourism industry in the Gulf also needs the commercial sector – without a commercial fishing industry providing seafood, tourists wouldn't have the same experience
- Mixed messages from Dept – e.g. review wants prosperous future, while investment warning for net says fees may treble – future arrangements need to be clear that commercial fishers need to make money
- Need to be careful about use of administrative penalties
- Policy and legislation
 - Discussion about pros and cons of quota based management
- Monitoring and analysis
 - Grey nomads cagey about telling people what they're catching
 - Two boat ramps in Karumba so could be easy to creel survey, but some boat will come in outside of the boat ramps to avoid being checked
 - Problem with regulation of in possession limits – when it gets sent to relatives etc in eskies its outside of the catcher's possession
- Compliance
 - Need to ensure regulations are practical – needs to be able to be complied with
 - Gulf is a remote area – only four officers
 - Need to engage accommodation providers to help with education – give out information brochures to grey nomads etc
 - Current inspectors have respect of industry – not sure that 10 inspectors running around would help
 - Weak understanding of rules and regs amongst many tourists
 - Co-management might help strengthen resources in the area
- Resourcing

Annex 3: Notes from public meetings

- Discussion on cost recovery contribution from each sector and comparisons to other jurisdictions
- Need to ensure costs of participation in MAC/ZACs etc covered – currently fishers time comes at their own cost