

# Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery Review – Port Meetings

## Summary of key issues raised during consultation meeting

Location: Wynnum

Number of attendees: 250

Fisheries Queensland is undertaking public consultation on the Rocky Reef Fin Fish Fishery with a focus on snapper. This summary consolidates the range of issues raised by individuals who attended the public meeting listed above to discuss the current and future management of the fishery.

**These views will be considered by the government in reviewing the current Rocky Reef Fish Fishery management arrangements.**

### Fees

Issues raised include the following:

- Discussion around the fee structure - how do they know that the fee won't be changed from \$90 to \$150 after the first year.
- The PPV could be increased by \$5 to fund the services. The \$90 fee would not be required then.
- Why don't you have a licence system like NSW where it is \$30 fee for a year or less for shorter periods or \$75 for three years..
- Concerns raised about the costs associated with the fees and the impact it will have on rec fishers ability to continue using their boats– already pay registration fees for boat and trailer and the \$90 fee will add even more expenses. Will government pay compensation for boats?
- Stakeholder Network Working Group recreational members were not supportive of the fee and were never consulted on actual dollar values.

### Closures

Issues raised include the following:

- Why apply a six week closure in February-March when few people go recreational fishing?
- Is the six week closure a spawning closure? Sea surface temperature should be used to determine the timing of the closure in advance.
- The six week closure is not scientifically based. There should be some benefit to having a closure such as to protect spawning. Has any modelling been done on the closure options?
- Commercial fishers already pay a licence fee to operate - will the government be providing compensation for the six week fishing closure?

### **Impacts of RIS proposals**

Issues raised include the following:

- Will the number of snapper permits issued be limited to 9000 and would land-based fishers need to get a snapper permit?
- Discussion around the permit for snapper – do you need a permit to retain snapper caught from water craft like kayaks and sailing boats? If not than it doesn't seem fair.
- Charter boats and recreational fishers will continue to catch snapper during the six week closure and these will all be thrown back dead. What should fishermen do about this?

### **Alternative management strategies**

Issues raised include the following:

- Discussion around the closures - should the closure be broken down into weekly blocks spread across multiple months to protect spawning fish?
- The closures should be during months when snapper are known to spawn and coincide with moon phase.

### **Data and science**

Issues raised include the following:

- How can you get recreational catch estimates from a phone survey?
- Why don't you get catch estimates and length measurements from the 'real snapper' fishers?
- Why don't we know what is in the green zones and why don't fisheries monitor them? What modelling has been done to look at the potential benefits offered by green zones to the snapper stocks?
- Only slight declines in catch on the Gold Coast, elsewhere everything is good.
- Commercial and charter operators already fill out logbooks and are fined if they do not do so. Recreational fishers should be required to fill out logbooks like the commercial fishers.
- There is plenty of snapper around. You can't base your assessment on one year of catch data.
- Have been fishing for five years and did 50 trips last year and caught 350 snapper. There is nothing wrong with the snapper stock. Fisheries should be collecting information from fishers doing the fishing.
- Stakeholders here at the meeting are emotional and very angry because we believe the science is not credible and the proposals based on this are not sound.
- Biggest concern by Stakeholder Network Working Group recreational members is the lack of data available.
- In New Zealand they have sound data and have established their baseline data. Where is the raw data on Queensland catches to establish the baseline and is the raw data available?

### **Process**

Issues raised include the following:

- Minutes of the meeting should be recorded and made available to anyone. Concerns that feedback will be diluted and not get back to those in power.

- Result of this consultation process should be made available to anyone who wants it.
- Tackle shops haven't been given enough copies of the RIS and people don't know how to get involved and have their say.
- With the flooding, people knew straight away what the situation was and were kept very well informed by the government. Why isn't it the same with the rocky reef RIS? People don't know when the closure is.
- Why weren't letters sent out to all registered boat owners in QLD telling them about the management changes and the six week closure?
- Concerns about the design of the RIS questionnaire - the questions are deliberately misleading and biased and designed to get a skewed outcome towards a certain response. Independent body should have been used to design the questionnaire.
- Meetings are a farce – you have already decided which option you are going to take.
- There has been no feedback on how effective the green zones have been or how effective the recent bag and size limits for snapper have been.
- Which groups were represented on the Stakeholder Network Group? Why was NSW represented – they do not manage our fishery.
- What role did Sunfish members have on the Stakeholder Network Group and were their opinions considered.
- The mood of the meeting is indicative of a first time meeting and not one at the RIS consultation stage - if consultation is to be done properly, then the review needs to take more time.
- The four options are not acceptable as the science is not credible.
- Where is the option proposed by Sunfish?
- Have not been given opportunity to propose other options in the response form.
- The department has to learn that they need to consult properly. The department has not been listening to fishers.

For further information on the review of the fishery, or for records of other individual meetings held along the east coast of Queensland, please visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au)