



Notes from Mooloolaba Snapper meeting 7 Feb 2011

Approx. 60 persons attended (Recreational, commercial and charter) plus 7 from Fisheries Qld. The Fisheries Qld presentation was given by Brigid Kerrigan and John Kung. Pat Appleton chaired.

Observations-

- ◇ The meeting was hostile over the four options and the way Fisheries Qld had dealt with the Snapper review.
- ◇ Participants were vocal. It was common for several participants to interrupt proceedings and make comments and ask questions, all at the same time.
- ◇ It was very much a top down presentation by Fisheries Qld, giving their specific views on the stock assessment and the options.

Concerns raised and Fisheries Qld responses-

- ◇ How much Snapper is currently taken in nets – *unsure, a few tonnes*
- ◇ Proposed Snapper angler logbooks – *will record number of Snapper kept. The snapper discard data and weight/size of kept Snapper will be optional.*
- ◇ The interim closure was not subject to consultation and has a major impact – *Government has decided on the closure*
- ◇ The charter ITQ is unenforceable – *the new payments will enable greater enforcement capability*
- ◇ The fees for charter and commercial are too high – *cost recovery for additional services*
- ◇ Why are the closures not matching the spawning season – *Snapper have a protracted(long) spawning period*
- ◇ What is the total biomass of Snapper and how was the 400 tonne TAC determined – *response difficult to interpret, gobbledegook!*
- ◇ The need to manage Snapper in conjunction with NSW to have complementing approaches – *Fisheries Qld talks regularly with NSW fisheries*
- ◇ Snapper recruitment (abundance of juveniles) – *recruitment of Snapper in Moreton Bay is high and relatively stable, recruitment is not seen as a problem.*
- ◇ Response forms have been rejected if they don't choose one of the four options – *responses with be accepted in all ways presented*
- ◇ Economic impacts of the 4 options not carefully evaluated – *the SNWG had an input to this*
- ◇ Science of the Snapper stock assessment is unacceptable due to the data limitations. The reviewers have already noted this – *no response.*
- ◇ Stock assessment was questioned for accuracy – *biomass graph shown*
- ◇ How come FQ can say that only 35% of biomass currently present when the total biomass is unknown – *changed subject to age-frequency analysis*
- ◇ Habitat issues and their impact – *advised to mention this in your response*
- ◇ Fisheries Qld has already made up its mind on Snapper management – *denied*
- ◇ Were the 2003 changes in the bag limit from 10 to 5 & size limit from 30cm to 35cm beneficial – *No, stock continues to decline*
- ◇ Why have mahi mahi in the Rocky Reef fishery? – *Changed subject to the proposed combined bag limit of 15 for Rocky Reef species.*
- ◇ What happens when the annual quotas are reached – *Stop fishing for Snapper*
- ◇ What about the rec quota – *If it is reached further restrictions will be introduced*
- ◇ Bag limit of 2 in option 3 encourages high grading – *agree*
- ◇ **Participants concluded that the management options are “reactionary” and based on poor/uncertain science. Fisheries Qld should look at ways of collecting better information which are cost effective. The management proposals are “A dramatic knee-jerk reaction”.**