



Notes from Redcliffe Snapper meeting, 7 February 2011

Approx. 300 persons attended plus 7 from Fisheries Qld. Rec, commercial and charter were represented. The local (Labour) member, Lillian van Litsenburg addressed the meeting. The LNP candidate Scott Driscoll was present and handed out a paper on his views.

The Fisheries Qld presentation was given by Brigid Kerrigan and John Kung. Pat Appleton chaired. Alex Campbell explained the Snapper stock assessment.

Overall Observations

The meeting was hostile over the four options and the way Fisheries Qld had dealt with the Snapper review. There was a very high degree of frustration expressed by participants. There is also confusion about what the management proposals are meant to achieve. The economic impacts in the Redcliffe area were discussed and expected to be severe. The Fisheries Qld stock assessment was challenged and not accepted as a reasonable indicator of the current status of Snapper stocks.

Issues raised and Fisheries Qld responses

- ◇ Why was the science review done by a New Zealander? – *he is well qualified*
- ◇ How was sampling carried out? – *comments deferred*
- ◇ The issue of trawl bycatch was raised on several occasions – *no comments made.*
- ◇ Effects of floods on Snapper – *little impact as Snapper can move*
- ◇ How much Snapper is taken in nets? – *8tonnes, 3 tonnes but getting less each year*
- ◇ Net fishing will kill more Snapper with the proposed limit of 5 – *no comments*
- ◇ Snapper caught off the shore(headlands) and from kayaks – *permits not needed, can be kept*
- ◇ How is the charter ITQ allocated – *see Fisheries Qld after the meeting*
- ◇ Can ITQs be transferred across commercial and charter – *no*
- ◇ Will ITQs be transferrable to interstate and overseas businesses – *probably*
- ◇ Proposed ‘gilled and gutted’ for charter and commercial – *may need new regulation*
- ◇ How do quota unit costs promote business – *not the intention*
- ◇ Tourism Redcliffe – **statement that the 4 options will have major adverse impacts**
- ◇ Seasonal closures in options 1-3 would not apply to charter and commercial – *agreed*
- ◇ The 4 options are just spin, just pick one and discuss – *no preferred option*
- ◇ Which option has the Government chosen – *none at present*
- ◇ Chairs comment – **if all 4 options are unacceptable put up an alternative.**
- ◇ When will the meeting notes be put on the Fisheries Qld website – *as soon as possible*
- ◇ The interim closure starting mid-February was done without consultation, Government dictatorship
- ◇ In 3 years’ time many jobs will be lost – *no comments*
- ◇ Is compensation available – *not a resource re-allocation proposal so no compensation*
- ◇ Options 1 and 2 are elitist requiring a large fee, computer reporting and complex regulations

- ◇ The Fisheries Qld boat ramp monitoring is not measuring all Snapper – *Fisheries Qld concerned and will investigate*
- ◇ Artificial reefs supported – *DERM has a good artificial reef programme in Moreton Bay*
- ◇ How many rec people were surveyed in data used for stock assessment? – *5000 in 2003 and 2005 this year 15000 will be surveyed. The survey methodology is being changed to improve the accuracy of the rec data*
- ◇ Uncertainty in the stock assessment – *The FQ fish population modeller did a white board explanation which many in the audience criticised. On his understanding of Snapper fishing, he stated that he had never been fishing or caught a snapper – he was a computer modeller.*
- ◇ Snapper closures and spawning – *the closures are not spawning closures but ways to reduce the Snapper catch overall*
- ◇ Why not increase the Snapper minimum size – *modelling indicates little value*
- ◇ Severe impacts of the interim closure on businesses – *no comments*
- ◇ Equity issues in charging fees, large vs small boats, regular vs limited fishing time, age and wealth of the fishers. – *we will look at those issues*
- ◇ The rec survey data is inaccurate and rec fishers say catches are good
- ◇ Will bag and size limits, closures be relaxed if stock improves – *yes*
- ◇ Private vessel levy now collects \$4.5million annually, so why the need for more funds for Snapper?
- ◇ The 2003 bag and size limits and the green zones are providing good management of Snapper
- ◇ The Amateur Fishing Association club at Bribie has good historical data on Snapper from early 1900s and were never asked for it– *Fisheries Qld happy to get this data*
- ◇ What happens if the 260tonne quota is reached – *probably tighter controls*
- ◇ Rec fishing is for relaxation not to fill out a lot of paper for Government

