



## Notes from Southport snapper meeting 15/2/2011 by David Bateman

Approx. 230 people attended with QBFP & DEEDI staff (Including Jim Groves)

### Observations

- Meeting was better controlled than others although I found the autocratic style very clinical.
- Most did not support any of the options
- Major objections to Trag & Pearl Perch being included in the closure
- Major objections to any form of fees
- Major concern over loss of business e.g. charter & allied bait /tackle etc.
- No commercial fishers present as there is no commercial operators on Gold Coast
- Credibility lost in some answers that were not believed & animosity towards FQ generated

### Questions & Answers

- Why no consultation before the current closure – **Interim decision by Fisheries**
- Why have you let the fishery decline – **past management measures found not to be working**
- What will the fee be used for – **Management & Admin of the snapper fishery, expenditure report will be provided each year.**
- If the problem continues will there be more regulation – **If necessary after the 2 year review**
- Is NSW reviewing their snapper fishery – **different type of fishery in colder waters**
- Does climate affect snapper – **yes ,a drought is good for snapper due to clean water**
- Why cannot log books go out with boat registrations – **FQ will consider it**
- Snapper caught in NSW & landed in Qld – **angler needs to prove where the fish came from**
- FQ not trusted with data as it would be used against anglers – **data is generally confidential**
- Why \$90 when NSW only charges \$35 for all fishing – **money needed to manage snapper**
- Do snapper move – **not great distances but the spawn travels on the currents**
- Why not issue individual permits, not per boat – **easier to attach to a registered vessel.**
- What is the offence & fine – Having snapper on board without a permit &(approx. \$ 200 to \$400)

### Statements

- Conflicting statistics in the RIS document & other printed literature
- Socio economic impacts did not consider Charter needs
- Permit fee is just an imposition & a further tax on boat anglers
- Trag & Pearl perch can be targeted in specific areas off the Gold Coast with low snapper Bycatch
- Angler of 30 years did not believe that snapper are as depleted as stated
- Any quota is “thin edge of the wedge” & will reduce in future
- Peer reviewed science is needed to be sure the science is correct, then anglers will believe it.
- Breeding & spawning areas need protection as well
- Many charter boats are fishing in close. They are getting less snapper but more Trag & Pearl Perch