



## Notes from Wynnum Snapper meeting, 10 February 2011

Approx. 300 persons attended and 4 from Fisheries Qld. Rec, commercial and charter were well represented. The Fisheries Qld presentation was given by Brigid Kerrigan and John Kung. Pat Appleton chaired.

### Overall Observations

The meeting was generally **hostile, frustrated and angry** over the contents of the RIS and the way Fisheries Qld had dealt with the Snapper review. The Chair had difficulty controlling the meeting due to the frustration and emotions of participants. 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*

(Note that the Fisheries Qld officers had difficulties responding to many of the issues raised due to constant interjections)

- ◇ Concern over the accuracy of catch estimates for recreation, commercial and charter
- ◇ Some rec fishers do not have access to computers – *contact the DEEDI hot line*
- ◇ There was a show of hands to continue with the presentation or go straight to question and answer – presentation was terminated and the floor took control of the meeting
- ◇ Rec fishers who have 2 vessels – *both would need permits*
- ◇ Concern over the 6 week interim closure, no consultation and economic hardship
- ◇ How will the 260tonne quota for recs be managed
- ◇ How was the 6 week closure determined – *aimed at effort reduction*
- ◇ \$90 fee, why so high compared with other States, seen to be revenue raising – *cost recovery for services*
- ◇ No budget data provided for costs of services
- ◇ Major criticism of rec data methodology and accuracy
- ◇ So far no-one at any of the meetings has been contacted by the RFish team
- ◇ Poor publicity on the RIS, could have been sent out to all boat owners
- ◇ None of the RIS options are sensible or supported
- ◇ The response form is biased (questions target particular issues)
- ◇ The raw data on catch and effort is difficult to access
- ◇ Misinformation on need to complete all questions in the response form
- ◇ RIS is not neutral. It is aimed at a biased outcome
- ◇ Benefits of marine park zoning have not been acknowledged – *it's about biodiversity not fishery management*
- ◇ The 2003 changes to size and bag limits (5 and 35cm) are good and working
- ◇ NSW snapper fishery is better managed
- ◇ Use boat rego fees – *not available for fisheries management except for the PPV levy*
- ◇ Recruitment is good. – *Fisheries Qld has been monitoring snapper recruitment since 2006*
- ◇ Concerns were raised that concise minutes were not being taken

- ◇ ANGER expressed by many participants- *noted*
- ◇ The president of a fishing club says that Snapper catches are very good
- ◇ Where is the positive side to Snapper fishing
- ◇ Economic impacts on businesses associated with rec fishing have not been investigated to a suitable level of detail
- ◇ What do anglers do with excess or closed season Snapper caught in deep water because they die – *discard them*
- ◇ Motion of no confidence in the RIS, some confusion but many put up hand to support
- ◇ Need a fair and accurate record for this meeting – *record to be posted on the Fisheries Qld website*
- ◇ Lack of confidence in Fisheries Qld
- ◇ Snapper permits and fees now, what species in future?
- ◇ Too much paperwork for rec fishers, just want to relax and catch a few fish
- ◇ Interim closure is not based on science – *it is aimed at reducing effort and snapper catch*
- ◇ The Snapper meetings are a waste of taxpayers' money
- ◇ Keen anglers say that snapper catches are high and hence stocks are okay
- ◇ RIS is a blunt object beating fishers into what they do not want
- ◇ Fisheries Qld. presentations about the views of recreational reps and Sunfish to the SNWG (Snapper working group) are misleading.

