

Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund

Final Report - Project DPI4Z

16 December 1990

Project Title Australasian Southern Trawl Fisheries Conference

Objectives

- (1) To organize and conduct a major conference on fisheries and potential fisheries resources of waters off southern Australia and New Zealand.
- (2) To foster co-operation and communication among Government fisheries scientists, economists and managers, industry and industry consultants.
- (3) To provide a written record of the conference, including papers presented and discussion, in the form of a substantial refereed set of conference proceedings.
- (4) To distribute this record to members of the southern trawl industry.

Summary

The Australian and New Zealand Southern Trawl Fisheries Conference was held at the World Congress Centre in Melbourne from the 6th to the 9th of May, 1990. The conference was organised by the Bureau of Rural Resources and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Initial planning of the conference was undertaken by a steering committee comprised of representatives from research, management and industry in both Australia and New Zealand.

Papers presented at the conference were available to participants in a loose-leaf binder. These and the summary and discussion sessions are currently being edited and will be published as a complete set of proceedings which will be available early in 1991.

Final report

The Australian and New Zealand Southern Trawl Conference was organised by the Bureau of Rural Resources and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics. A steering committee comprising representatives from Australian and New Zealand industry, management and research organizations was formed to plan the conference content and consider appropriate speakers for the chosen topics. The committee met once in July 1989. Members of the committee were as follows:

Dr Meryl Williams, BRR (Convenor)
Mr Perry Smith, ABARE (Convenor)

Dr John McKoy, NZMAF
Mr Greg Billington/
Mr Ray Dobson, NZFIB

Mr Richard Tilzey, BRR
Dr Peter Young, CSIRO
Mr John Kerr/Mr David Coutts, AFS
Mr David Townsend, NFIC

A conference organizer/secretary, Ms Kay Abel, was appointed late in November 1989. Speakers were contacted and supplied with an outline of the conference content, venues canvassed and selected, a logo was designed and advance publicity prepared for distribution in January 1990.

From February 1990 organization continued with preparation and distribution of registration information to interested and potentially interested parties in Australia and New Zealand. Further publicity was placed in press and magazine articles and paid advertisements (see Attachment A). Research organizations (CSIRO, MAF, BRR, ABARE and Universities), State fisheries departments and industry organizations were instrumental in distributing leaflets and brochures on the conference to their members and associates.

Participants were supplied with a printed set of the formal papers at the conference, pending subsequent publication of the complete proceedings. This provided participants with much of the information quickly and facilitated subsequent publication of the proceedings. Almost all the speakers provided written copies of their talks to the organizer prior to the conference for inclusion in the papers. A set of these papers is included with this report for FIRDC records. Multiple copies of the proceedings will be provided immediately upon publication as a final supplement to this report.

The Conference was held at the World Congress Centre in Melbourne from the 6th to the 9th of May, 1990.

The Ministers responsible for fisheries in Australia, New Zealand and Victoria were invited to address the conference during the opening session. Both the Australian and New Zealand Ministers, Mr Kerin and Mr Shirley (respectively), were able to accept the invitation and their broader political view added a valuable extra dimension to the conference.

During the lead up to the conference, discussions were held with the Australian Maritime College regarding their offer to organize a flume tank course in conjunction with the conference. The outcome of these discussions was that a number of conference participants attended a two day flume tank course at the Maritime College following the Southern Trawl Conference.

There was also considerable liaison with the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce (DITAC) to co-ordinate DITAC's Oceans Australia Conference with the Australian and New Zealand Southern Trawl Conference. The Oceans Conference was held immediately following the Trawl conference at the same venue, in the expectation that some people would be interested in attending both. The trade display was funded by DITAC and organized in conjunction with the convenors and organizer of the Southern Trawl Conference, to provide a range of exhibits of interest to participants of both conferences.

One hundred and seventy-eight people, representing industry, management, research, banking, manufacturing, educational and other interests associated with the southern trawl fisheries of Australia and New Zealand, attended the conference. Attendance from the various sectors was as follows:

	Research	Management	Industry	Other
Australia	51	21	40	25
New Zealand	9	9	20	-
Other Countries	1	-	2	-
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Total (178)	61	30	62	25

A further 20 people who were unable to attend, purchased copies of the papers.

All the sessions were well attended by a good cross section of the participants, so that research, management and industry views were heard by all.

The conference generated considerable interest among all fisheries people of both Australia and New Zealand, including those involved in inshore fisheries and trawl fisheries in more northerly regions. Enquiries regarding the conference were also received from Norwegian, French and Russian representatives, some of whom attended.

The conference was timed to be held 'between seasons' for both the New Zealand and Australian fisheries so that as many people as possible could attend. It was held in Melbourne at a central location for the southern trawl region and followed Demersal and Pelagic Fish Research Group and joint meetings between Australian and New Zealand scientists. The conference became a focus for many fisheries related activities. For instance, an advertisement for a position with MAF was included in the conference kit given to all participants and leaflets advertising several trawlers for sale by an investment company, were available at the registration desk (see Attachment B). Industry association meetings were held following the conference.

The conference programme was structured to allow a day for papers on significant known resources, a day for management approaches, a morning for regions which are less well developed and the final afternoon for general discussion and consideration of future directions. Industry, management and research perspectives from both Australia and New Zealand were included in both the resource and management days, and were represented on the discussion panel in the closing session. The programme is attached.

The quality of information and the standard of presentation at the conference was very high and was appreciated by the participants. The discussion following each paper was only a fraction of the total discussions which continued informally in relaxed social settings throughout the conference, and subsequently.

The success of the conference can be measured not only by the large attendance, but by the extent of discussions among participants and their enthusiasm to call another conference on similar lines, possibly in two years time.

The success of the conference reflects the foresight of the steering committee in preparation of a cohesive programme and choice of speakers. The draft programme and guide to speakers they prepared set the tone of the conference from the beginning. The speakers all responded by investing considerable effort in presenting papers of substance.

Press releases, magazine articles, radio and television coverage related to the conference were all very positive. A press release was aired on ABC national radio on the opening morning of the conference and issues raised at the conference subsequently formed part of a Cross Country programme, including footage taken during the sessions. Articles related to the conference appeared in several magazines and newsletters including a major feature in the July issue of Australian Fisheries Magazine. Copies of these (see Attachment A) and slides taken during the conference are included for your records.

Status of proceedings publication

Steps are in train to publish the complete proceedings of the Australian and New Zealand Southern Trawl Conference. The proceedings are being published jointly by the Bureau of Rural Resources and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Authors were asked to supply both hard copy and disk of the formal presentations prior to the conference. Most were able to comply with this request. Following the conference, the remaining papers were entered in Word Perfect files in preparation for copy editing. The discussion and summary sessions, and one paper for which no hard copy was supplied, have been transcribed from the taped record and are in the process of being edited by the speakers.

We have decided against having the conference papers refereed for the proceedings for two reasons. Firstly, the papers have previously all been available in printed form to all the participants. Secondly, because of the diversity in papers ranging from those of a scientific nature to those presenting personal views, it would not be appropriate to review them in the same way.

The figures from all papers are being processed by the publishing section of ABARE and the text and layout will be handled by the BRR. It is intended that the cover design of the proceedings will repeat the excellent logo designed by Julie Easton of BRR and used on all the printed material throughout the conference.

At this stage, we expect the proceedings to be available by the end of February 1991.

Acquittal of Funds

FIRDTA funds were applied as follows:

Travel	\$ 5,943
Salaries	\$11,950
Operational	\$22,107
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	\$40,000

The travel component of the FIRTA grant was underspent by \$2057 and this money was applied to the operational fund to help meet the conference costs. The operational costs of running the conference were \$47,367. FIRDTA funds were supplemented by monies obtained from registration fees.

A further \$15,313 has been committed for the publication and printing of the proceedings. The total costs of the conference and proceedings are expected to be \$80,573. A budget is attached (see attachment).

(Copies of the conference papers, magazine articles and slides to be enclosed.)

Australian and New Zealand

Southern Trawl Fisheries

Conference

Budget

Expenditure

Venue hire (3.5 days) \$14787

Dinner (130) \$ 6760

Papers (200) \$ 4730

Tea/Drinks (150) \$ 5490

Publicity \$ 3578

Conference Kit \$ 2033

Accessories \$ 4949

Post Conference Course \$ 820

Staffing Costs
(Recruitment costs) \$ 4220

TOTAL Operational to date \$47367

Travel \$ 5943

Salaries \$11950

TOTAL to date \$65260

Publication of proceedings
(Committed) \$15313

TOTAL Expenditure/committed \$80573

Australian and New Zealand

Southern Trawl Fisheries

Conference

Budget

Income

FIRDC grant	\$40000
Conference Fees	\$40573
TOTAL Income	\$80573

Reconciliation

Income	\$80573
Less Expenditure (including committed funds)	\$80573
BALANCE	\$ 0