

# FINAL REPORT

## FRDC Project 2005/314

### Sharing the Fish06 Conference



Australian Government

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Fisheries Research and Development Corporation



*Fish for the future*



Department of Fisheries  
Government of Western Australia

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

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## **NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Sharing the Fish06 Conference was held from 26 February – 2 March 2006 and preceded by the FAO Pre Conference Workshop on 23 – 24 February 2006.

Sharing the Fish06 Conference was an initiative of the Department of Fisheries Western Australia. The aim of the conference was to focus on resource allocation and the sustainability of fisheries and to provide a neutral and objective forum for the multi-disciplinary discussion of the elements of effective allocation of fisheries resources to ensure their sustainability. Sharing the Fish06 Conference aimed to build on the property rights concept and take forward the issue of resource allocation and sustainability in fisheries.

The fundamental question to be addressed by the conference was "How may fisheries managers and policy makers go about considering, undertaking, and implementing the allocation of fish resources to ensure their sustainability, be these issues considered at the stakeholder, local, national, international or regional level?"

The key objectives of the 2006 conference were to:

- Provide a forum to review the issues of resource allocation and sustainability
- Bring together policy makers, scientists, managers and specialists working on resource allocation to explore avenues of common interest relating to resource allocation issues
- Provide a 2-day training/capacity building symposium on fisheries management strategies and their allocation impacts.

The FAO Pre Conference Workshop on 23 – 24 February 2006 was attended by over 100 people and was successful in providing a grounding on allocation concepts for participants.

A total of 321 people attended conference and workshop (representing 321 people, from about 40 countries). This attendance was weighted towards developed countries as potential participants from developing countries could not obtain travel sponsorship and the conference funding was not designed to address this gap.

FRDC requested a special session that focused on issues and solutions for resource sharing in Australia. Over 100 people attended this session.

Sharing the Fish06 Conference was successful in meeting its objectives and received considerable positive feedback from participants about the quality of both the intellectual content and the organisation. Proceedings will be published by the Department of Fisheries Western Australia.

### **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Mr Peter Millington  
Director  
Fisheries Management Services  
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PERTH WA 6000

## **OBJECTIVES**

The key objectives of the 2006 conference were to:

- Provide a forum to review the issues of resource allocation and sustainability.
- Bring together policy makers, scientists, managers and specialists working on resource allocation to explore avenues of common interest relating to resource allocation issues.
- Provide a 2-day training/capacity building symposium on fisheries management strategies and their allocation impacts.
- Produce a synthesis volume on the topic of allocation and one or two volumes of proceedings.

## **OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE**

Sharing the Fish06 Conference was held from 26 February – 2 March 2006 and preceded by the FAO Pre Conference Workshop on 23 – 24 February 2006.

Sharing the Fish06 Conference aimed to build on the property rights concept and take forward the issue of resource allocation and sustainability in fisheries.

Three key themes were explored:

- Allocations across jurisdictions – including governmental, regional and multi-lateral issues
- Allocations across sectors
- Allocations within sectors

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Background**

In November 1999, the Department of Fisheries hosted FishRights99, an international conference that explored the "Use of Property Rights in Fisheries Management". The conference was organised in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and attracted over 350 delegates from 50 countries and gave rise to a technical publication of the edited proceedings by FAO. A closing declaration was made at FishRights99 that Western Australia would pursue a follow-up conference in 2006 on a similar theme.

Sharing the Fish06 Conference was an initiative of the Department of Fisheries Western Australia. The aim of the conference was to focus on resource allocation and the sustainability of fisheries and to provide a neutral and objective forum for the multi-disciplinary discussion of the elements of effective allocation of fisheries resources to ensure their sustainability.

### **Need**

The topic of resource allocation and sustainability is extremely broad and politically sensitive, but highly relevant and current in Australian and international fisheries management. There are many cross-sectoral allocation issues: between small scale and industrial/commercial fisheries; indigenous and other communities; capture and mariculture sectors; and amongst various stakeholders who use fisheries resources in one way or another. In addition there are many cross-sectoral jurisdictional issues that inevitably arise. Finally there are many areas where there are unresolved allocation issues – such as in international waters and/on the high seas.

Resource allocation and sustainability is a high priority and a current issue for Australian fisheries managers. Learning how the issue is being progressed by other parties world wide will directly impact and improve upon Australian policy. The conference was also aimed at raising the international profile of Australia and its progressive fisheries policy and management and the Integrated Fisheries Management initiative in Western Australia.

### **Objectives**

The key objectives of the 2006 conference were to:

- Provide a forum to review the issues of resource allocation and sustainability
- Bring together policy makers, scientists, managers and specialists working on resource allocation to explore avenues of common interest relating to resource allocation issues
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## **Methods**

EventEdge International Management Group, a local event management company, was appointed Conference Organiser in December 2004. EventEdge coordinated the design of all conference logistics including the collateral matters associated with the conference. The Esplanade Hotel Fremantle hosted Sharing the Fish06 Conference and the FAO Pre Conference workshop in its Convention Centre, capable of accommodating conferences up to 1000 delegates.

Dr Rebecca Metzner – FAO representative on the program committee assembled the program and invited the speakers to participate in the Pre Conference workshop. Due to Dr Metzner's late illness and inability to travel Mr Blaise Kuemlangan represented the Food and Agriculture Organization at the Pre Conference workshop

The Program Committee under the Chairmanship of Greg Paust put together the Conference Program. In May 2005 a meeting of the Organising Committee/Program Committee was held at the Department of Fisheries in Perth Western Australia. Committee members – Rebecca Metzner, Cream Mau and Mark Edwards travelled to attend the two-day meeting. The focus of this meeting was to discuss the program content, expand on the conference themes, identify potential keynote and invited speakers, set call for paper guidelines.

This face-to-face meeting of the committee was beneficial in moving the organisation of the conference and in particular the program forward. Further business was conducted by email and a series of phone link ups.

The program committee identified three key themes for the conference and sub themes within each key theme:

### ***Allocations Across Jurisdictions***

- High Seas Allocation Issues
- Regional Allocation Issues
- National Allocation Issues

### ***Allocations Across Sectors***

- Australian Indigenous Allocation Issues – South Australia and Northern territory Perspective
- Spatial/Temporal Allocation Issues
- Extractive/Non Extractive Sector Issues
- Allocation Between Commercial and Recreational
- Indigenous, Recreational & Commercial Allocation Issues
- Approaches to the Allocation Problem
- Re-allocating Resources between Fishing Sectors in Torres Strait Commercial Fisheries

### ***Allocations Within Sectors***

- Commercial Management Issues
- Commercial Allocation Issues – Sector Allocation Management
- Recreational Allocation Issues
- Commercial Allocation Issues – Allocation & Reallocation Processes

Each day of the conference was allocated a theme however it was found during the process of reviewing abstracts that the Allocations Across Sectors was a distinct theme which attracted more interest than the others. In order to allow for the presentation of many of the abstracts on this theme specific sub theme sessions were held on all days of the conference.

### **Results/Discussion**

The program for the conference was formed by a Keynote Address taking place in the opening session of the day followed by presentations from invited speakers after morning tea. The invited speakers provided more specific issues whereas the keynote speakers provided an overview of the theme for the day. The keynote speakers were:

Prof Susan Hanna, Professor of Marine Economics Oregon State University, USA  
Prof Ray Hilborn, Richard C. and Lois M. Worthington Professor of Fisheries Management in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, USA

Prof Gary Libecap, Anheuser Busch Professor and Professor of Economics and Law, University of Arizona, USA

Prof Peter Pearse, Professor Emeritus, Economics and Forestry University of British Columbia, CANADA

Prof Jon Van Dyke, Professor of Law, William S. Richardson School of Law University of Hawaii, USA

Ten invited speakers were asked to attend the conference. These speakers were internationally recognised and in their own right can be attributed keynote speaker recognition.

Invited Speakers were:

Dr Mahfuzuddin Ahmed, Principal Social Scientist and Director for Policy, Economics and Social Science WorldFish Center, MALAYSIA

Prof Ragnar Arnason, Professor of Fisheries Economics & Chairman of the Institute of Economic Studies, University of Iceland, ICELAND

Dr Pablo Vigliano, Senior Scientist and Adjunct Professor Department of Biology, National University of Comahue, ARGENTINA

Dr Wendy Craik, Chief Executive Murray-Darling Basin Commission, AUSTRALIA

Mr Alistair Graham, World Wildlife Fund, AUSTRALIA

Prof Gordon Munro, Department of Economics, University of British Columbia, CANADA

Prof Rosemary Rayfuse, Associate Professor and Director of International Law Programs, Faculty of Law University of New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

Dr Peter Rogers, Executive Director Department of Fisheries Western Australia, AUSTRALIA

Dr Chandrika Sharma, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), INDIA

Ms Alison Thom, Deputy Secretary Relationship and Information, Wáhanga, Te Puni Kókirí, NEW ZEALAND

Invited Speaker Dr Wendy Craik was unable to make the trip to Perth due to ill health. For the presentation to take place Dr Craik dialled into a dedicated phone line in the conference room and her voice was projected over the PA – the audio visual technician controlled her presentation.

Sharing the Fish06 Conference received over 100 abstracts for consideration in the program either as an oral presentation or Poster Display. In summary:

- 90 Abstracts were accepted for oral presentation;
- 10 Abstracts were accepted for poster display.

The majority of abstracts submissions were of a high calibre however there were many abstracts also that were well below being regarded as a quality paper, with some particularly completely off the topic.

Full papers were requested for submission to EventEdge prior to the conference by a due date. All full papers that were received by the requested date were placed on the conference web site. Of the total 103 presentations, 75 full papers have been submitted (which includes invited speakers and keynote speakers) making a total of 73% of abstracts with full papers. All speaker's power point presentations were placed on the web site alongside the presenter's abstract and full paper (if available). Some speakers opted not to place their power point on the site due to copyright laws with particular images used in their presentation.

The overall program was well received with many compliments for Greg Paust as Program Chair.

The Program Committee nominated rapporteurs for the various concurrent sessions. At the end of each day the rapporteurs collated a report for presentation the following morning to delegates prior to the next day's keynote session. The rapporteurs played a crucial role in ensuring that the outcomes of the conference were reported accurately to delegates. The quality of these rapporteurs' reports and presentations was widely complimented by delegates.

Chairs were invited based on their area of interest and expertise in various fields. The committee identified not only Australian and New Zealand chairs but endeavoured to invite international delegates to also participate in the conference and be involved.

The Australian Focus Session was sponsored by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and programmed by Peter Millington with the support of some members of the Program Committee plus Frank Prokop of Recfish Australia and Cripsian Ashby of the FRDC. It attracted more than anticipated numbers with over 100 delegates in attendance for the first part of the afternoon. Numbers for the session did reduce for the second part of the afternoon following the tea break.



## **Benefits and adoption**

The Department of Fisheries is presently in the process of producing proceedings from the Conference based on full papers. In the meantime the website holds the abstracts and the majority of papers.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will be producing a handbook based on the proceedings of the Pre-Conference workshop to be used as an extension aid in its capacity development programs.

The FRDC has formed a working group to further the issues of resource allocation identified at the Australian session.

## **Further Development**

Besides the production of edited proceedings (see below) the Department of Fisheries has committed to holding another conference on the issue of allocation and property rights in fisheries management some time in 2010.

## **Planned outcomes**

The Department of Fisheries is in the process of editing the proceedings of the Conference. Negotiations are underway with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations about the possibility of publishing the papers through the Fisheries Technical Publication series of that Organization, as occurred with the proceedings of the FishRights99 Conference.

## **Conclusion**

The Organising Committee and the Department of Fisheries pinned the success of the conference on the quality of program. The conference was a great success due to this high quality program developed by the committee along with the exceptional standard of most of the papers submitted.

## **Intellectual Property**

The intellectual property for this Conference are reserved to the authors of the contributed papers and the Department of Fisheries, as editor of the Proceedings

## **Staff**

Considerable assistance was also provided by full time and contract staff from the Department of Fisheries including Fiona O'Connor (Journalist), Dr Fred Wells (Rapporteur Organiser), Karenina Mansell (Executive Officer) and Bronwyn Adshead (Assistant Executive Officer) plus many volunteers who helped with logistics prior to and during the Conference.

# **ATTACHMENTS**

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **FRDC inserted special conditions for its grant funding.**

1. Public announcements must acknowledge the contribution that the Australian Government has made to the project through the FRDC. An appropriate acknowledgment is "Sharing the Fish Conference 06" is supported by funding from the FRDC on behalf of the Australian Government.

*All media statements acknowledged the support of FRDC, as well as periodic announcements during the course of the Conference.*

2. If not already provided for in the application, the Project Agreement will include an additional milestone that will require you to provide, within 6 weeks of exchange of the Project Agreement, a draft media release to FRDC for approval (peter.horvat@frdc.com.au). You must seek FRDC approval before using this information in any media release.

*A media release as requested was produced, cleared and released. Except during the course of the conference where time did not permit, opportunity for comment by FRDC was also offered prior to the release of other media statements.*

3. The program is to include a session that focuses on issues and solutions for resource sharing in Australia. This session should explore and improve mechanism for adjustment and co-management within a resource sharing framework. This should also scope how the Coolangatta communiqué has or has not been progressed and why; and examine statutory recreational fishing rights.

*This session was planned and undertaken as requested.*

4. The FRDC requires acknowledgement as a major sponsor on all promotional material and on venue signage (if this is not possible discuss with the FRDC the nature and level of acknowledgement possible). In addition the FRDC will require 5 full registrations, a promotional stand and the opportunity to provide material for inclusion in the conference satchels.

*This sponsorship opportunity was provided as requested. FRDC was also offered space for a booth during the conference.*

5. Any publication provided as a result of the workshop must cite the FRDC as a major sponsor. In addition 10 copies of any final publication must be sent to the FRDC.

*These will be provided when the proceedings are published.*

6. Appoint two representatives nominated by FRDC and Recfish Australia respectively to the Program Committee to, in particular, assist the Conference Organisers in the development of the program for the session referred to in Clause 3 of this Schedule.

*This was done as requested. The input of Frank Prokop and Crispian Ashby was invaluable in the design of the session. Support as chair of the Australian session was also provided by FRDC Board Member Dr Nick Rayns.*

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

### **Peter Millington (Chair)**

Director - Fisheries Management Services  
Department of Fisheries  
Western Australia

### **Greg Paust (Program Chair)**

Deputy Director – Integrated Fisheries Management  
Department of Fisheries  
Western Australia

### **Steve Dunn**

Deputy Director-General  
Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency

### **Mark Edwards**

Manager, Fisheries Policy  
New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries

### **Guy Leyland**

Executive Officer  
Western Australian Fishing Industry Council

### **Cream Gilda S Mau**

Senior Policy Officer – Domestic Fisheries Policy  
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry

### **Rebecca Metzner**

Fishery Analyst - Fishing Capacity  
Fishery Policy & Planning Division  
Fisheries Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### **Catherine Smith**

Manager, Domestic Fisheries Policy  
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From the initial planning of the conference and prior to the appointment of a Professional Conference Organiser the Department of Fisheries WA secured the support of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Ministry of Fisheries, New Zealand. The conference was held in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

Sponsorship was also obtained from a variety of sources. These included:

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation  
M G Kailis Pty Ltd  
Western Australian Fishing Industry Council  
Northern Territory Government  
South Australian Government  
Queensland Government  
AusAid  
Indigenous Business Australia

Thanks are also extended to the Organising Committee:

[Steve Dunn](#) Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
[Mark Edwards](#) New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries  
[Guy Leyland](#) Western Australian Fishing Industry Council  
[Cream Gilda S Mau](#) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry  
[Rebecca Metzner](#) Fisheries Department Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
[Greg Paust \(Program Chair\)](#) Department of Fisheries Western Australia  
[Catherine Smith](#) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry