
**Tactical Research Fund:
Defining a way forward for the
Queensland Reef Line Fishery
through evaluating resource sharing
research and development options
with stakeholders**



Carolyn Robins and Greg Smith



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Non-Technical Summary

2011/252 Tactical Research Fund: Defining a way forward for the Queensland Reef Line Fishery through evaluating resource sharing research and development options with stakeholders

INVESTIGATORS: Carolyn Robins¹ and Greg Smith²

ADDRESS: ¹Belldi Consultancy Pty Ltd
PO Box 459
Eumundi Qld 4562
Telephone: 0418 463 099

²Reef Line Council
PO Box 523
Bowen Qld 4805
Telephone: 0400 851 631

OBJECTIVES:

1. Conduct a workshop for all relevant stakeholders to discuss and endorse a Research and Development Plan for potential resource sharing in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery
2. Develop a vision for the fishery at the workshop
3. Develop a Research and Development Plan for potential resource sharing in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE

A high-priority project proposal, 'Defining potential resource sharing options for fisheries, with the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery as a test case', has been finalised and approved by all workshop participants. It has been submitted to the FRDC for their consideration.

A meeting was held in Townsville on 7 and 8 March 2012 to bring together stakeholders to consider future research and development needs of the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery. The meeting was chaired by Peter Neville and participants included: Reef Line Council (RLC), Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA), Queensland Charter Vessel Association (QCVA), Professional Charter Operators Queensland (PCOQ), Sunfish Queensland, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Queensland Fisheries, James Cook University (JCU), Australian Institute of Marine Sciences (AIMS), CSIRO, Adai-Kate, OceanWatch Australia and private consultants.

It was agreed that discussion, evaluation and prioritisation of resource sharing options following a co-management approach is a high research priority for the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery.

The Vision for the fishery as developed during the meeting is:

“An ecologically sustainable fishery:

1. That is managed to provide security of access within a whole of fishery global TAC based on recognised rights.
2. With real time data allowing real time management (including co-management) responses.
3. That is shared amongst all users to create a profitable fishery and quality recreational fishing experiences.”

KEYWORDS: Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery.

Acknowledgments

This work was funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) on behalf of the Australian Government. Much appreciation is extended to all of the participants of the meeting including the Chairman, Peter Neville, and independent fishery consultant, Tony Craig.

Background

Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery

'The Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery (CRFFF) is a predominately line-only fishery that targets a range of bottom-dwelling reef fish. It consists of a commercial sector, focusing primarily on live coral trout, and iconic recreational and charter sectors. The fishery operates predominately in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (GBRMP) with operators generally using smaller tender boats (dories) from a mother vessel. A comprehensive suite of management arrangement, including an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) System, is in place for the commercial fishery to ensure its sustainability into the future' (Queensland Government, 2011).

Currently, the CPUE of both major species (common Coral trout, *Plectropomus leopardus* and red throat emperor, *Lethrinus miniatus*) are considered unstable (Tobin *et al.*, 2010) and effort increases may have occurred in some geographic areas. So it is timely that stakeholders consider future management options in a co-operative co-management framework. There is a clear need for the development of a fisheries resource allocation policy. This will include alternatives of how resources can be managed within and among each stakeholder group in an equitable and transparent way.

A global Total Allowable Catch (TAC), subject to resource allocation to competing sectors, is needed so sectoral increases in catch can be identified and compensatory measures (adopted to accommodate this scenario while staying inside the TAC cap) can be considered. There is the need for resource sharing arrangements that allow for movement of catch between sectors when there are changes in composition of catch and participation rates between competing sectors. With the trawl, line and crab Management Plans all under review sectoral equity cannot be achieved into the future unless all of the available resource sharing options are evaluated.

Related projects

Related projects include FRDC 2008/103 'Adapting to change: minimising uncertainty about the effects of rapidly changing environmental conditions on the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery' (Tobin *et al.*, 2010), FRDC 2011/030 'Evaluating Candidate Monitoring Strategies, Assessment Procedures and Harvest Control Rules in the Spatially Complex Qld Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery', the preliminary stock assessment for coral trout, and RFISH recreational surveys. The resultant report will satisfy actions recommended by the Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel Industry Development Plan 2010-2013.

Need

The Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003 will be reviewed in 2012. This project's aim is for stakeholders to co-operate in developing a way forward with respect to research and development (R and D) requirements in the consideration of

resource sharing options as part of the Management Plan. Catch sharing arrangements and associated R and D between sectors of the fishery - commercial, recreational and charter - need to be explored. Finite fish resources are accessed by various fishery users and are of interest to conservation bodies, management agencies and the general public.

To ensure resource access security for all sectors while maximising economic yields and maintaining long-term biological sustainability there is a need to review current and explore future management arrangements and the associated R and D requirements. Stakeholders must work co-operatively to identify issues and discuss R and D options with the aim for consensus on future management for sustainability of economic, environmental and social aspects. Resource sharing options should align with the 'vision for the fishery' that is endorsed by the stakeholders.

Independent factors, such as climate change and environmental conditions (cyclones) impacting on the possible outcomes of management options need to be considered. For example, climate change was never factored into the original management limits and a methodology needs to be developed to deal with possible changes to stocks and habitat. Additionally, the CRFFF has experienced significant problems with dealing with natural disasters (cyclones) including a decline in catch rates for key species.

Objectives

1. Conduct a workshop for all relevant stakeholders to discuss and endorse a Research and Development Plan for potential resource sharing in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery
2. Develop a vision for the fishery at the workshop
3. Develop a Research and Development Plan for potential resource sharing in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery

Methods

1. All relevant stakeholders were invited to a workshop that was held in Townsville on 7 and 8 March 2012. The RLC and FRDC determined the appropriate membership of the workshop and the RLC invited the participants.
2. A vision for the fishery was written at the workshop.
3. The workshop participants developed an R and D Plan for potential resource sharing in the fishery.

Results

Meeting notes are in Appendix 3.

Discussion

It was unanimously agreed at the meeting that discussion, evaluation and prioritisation of resource sharing options following a co-management approach is a high research priority for the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery. The agreed format for these discussions was via a series of workshops attended by all interested stakeholders. A further recommendation is that the project co-investigators include representatives from stakeholder groups. The previously submitted proposal was updated with recommendations from the meeting and was submitted for FRAB consideration on 15 March 2012.

Benefits and Adoption

The sectors have the common goal of achieving efficient use of the resources while ensuring equality between sectors, long-term sustainability of fish stocks and maximum economic benefit. The information and ideas sharing between the stakeholders was of significant benefit to all as they charted a way forward in a co-operative manner while recognising others needs, opinions and wants. It was agreed that all resource allocation changes must ensure economic, social and environmental standards are safeguarded.

Further Development

Recommended further development is the completion of the recommended FRDC proposal 'Defining potential resource sharing options for fisheries, with the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery as a test case'. Additional priority R and D topics suggested at the meeting include:

1. Communication structure and real-time data collection for charter sector (example, evaluate the options used elsewhere and adopt to produce best practice for this fishery) From the charter vision - The structure and eligibility of the charter fishery through a FRDC-funded project including a charter national conference to identify current best practice.
2. Data collection strategy for recreational fishers.
3. Productivity advances for commercial sector.
4. Data collection review – smart phones, gps, texts etc for all sectors.

Planned Outcomes

The workshop was of benefit to the stakeholders (commercial and recreational fishers, charter operators, fisheries management and conservation agencies) by providing a medium for them to co-operatively agree on R and D requirements for possible resource sharing arrangements for the reef fish resources of Queensland. A structured way forward towards the adoption of future management of the CRFFF was developed through the modification and recommendation of a research proposal that will be submitted to FRDC during the next round of the Tactical Research Fund.

Conclusion

The stakeholders agreed that they will co-operatively and pro-actively work together to develop, evaluate and document possible resource sharing options for the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery resource. Their shared vision is to have:

“An ecologically sustainable fishery:

1. That is managed to provide security of access within a whole of fishery global TAC based on recognised rights.
2. With real time data allowing real time management (including co-management) responses.
3. That is shared amongst all users to create a profitable fishery and quality recreational fishing experiences.”

References

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Cameron, D. (2012) *Recreational vessel registration on the GBR*. Paper produced for FRDC 2011/252.

Cameron, D. And Kerrigan, B. (2012) *Governance arrangements and fishery statistics*. Paper produced for FRDC 2011/252.

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Queensland Government (2011) *Annual Status Report 2011 Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery*. Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

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Appendix 1 Intellectual Property

There are no recognised intellectual property issues arising from this research.

Appendix 2 Staff

Principal Investigator Carolyn Robins, Belldi Consultancy

Co-Investigator Greg Smith, Reef Line Council

Appendix 3 Minutes of meeting

Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery:

Defining a way forward

FRDC-sponsored Stakeholder Workshop

Seagulls Resort Townsville 7-8 March 2012.

Objectives

A meeting was held in Townsville on 7 and 8 March 2012 to bring together stakeholders to consider future research and development needs of the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Seek agreement on the need to discuss equitable fishing allocation and access to Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish resources while ensuring its ecological sustainability;
- Agree on a 5 year vision for Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish resources and its dependent fisheries;
- Identify and prioritise objectives for a FRDC Tactical Research Fund project proposal which will seek to identify a development framework for equitable allocation and access by the fisheries to these resources in accordance with above identified vision; and
- Identify resource sharing options, strategies and actions to be considered for inclusion in the developmental framework.

Participants

The meeting was chaired by Peter Neville and participants included:

- AIMS (Hugh Sweatman)
- Adai-Kate (Tony Barber, Nick Ruello)
- CSIRO (James Innes)
- GBRMPA (Darren Cameron)
- James Cook University (Andrew Tobin)
- OceanWatch Australia (David Schubert)
- Private consultants (Duncan Souter, Carolyn Robins, Tony Craig)
- Professional Charter Operators Queensland (Keith Hall, Cliff McCulloch, Les Youman)
- Qld Charter Vessel Assoc (Ray Joyce)
- Qld Fisheries (John Kung)
- Qld Seafood Industry Assoc (Geoff Tilton, Carl Daguiar, Tony Vass, David Piddock)
- Qld Seafood Marketers Assoc / Chair QFRAB (James Fogarty)
- Recreational fisher (Bob Kennedy)
- Reef Line Council (Dino Focas, Rob Lowden, Kurtis Lowden, Les Pollard, Greg Smith, Terry Must, Mat Quadrell)
- Sunfish Qld (David Bateman)
- WWF (Michael Hartz, Sian Breen, Geoffery Muldoon)

A photograph of participants is in Attachment 1.

Apologies

Paul Aubin (Carefish), Lance Murray (Sunfish), Shaun Hansen (QSIA), Michael Garrahy (QSIA)

Agenda

Time	Wednesday	Thursday
0830	Introductions and objectives	Synthesis / Revision of Day 1
0845	Current status of target species populations within the CRFFF – report on stock status and fishery-independent long-term trends of abundance and demographics Change – risk/uncertainty 20 minutes maximum each speaker / subject.	Scoping of options for” resource sharing” strategies, actions and steps required for implementation of a FRDC Tactical Response Project to establish a developmental framework for such.
0945	Governance – commercial, charter, recreational, indigenous including overview of Fishery Management Plan / EPBC WTO approval. Commercial fishery –, spatial and temporal patterns and volume of catch. Charter fishery-trends and catch Recreational fishery – trends in participation, catch Indigenous fishery.	Scoping of options – plans principally to adjust effort (take) according to the state of the fishery. Synthesise plans/options to determine most appropriate management responses to maximise ecological resilience whilst also maintaining or improving economic and social factors.
1030	Morning tea	Morning tea
1100	Economic performance [Industry/Thebaud (ELFsim)] Recreational value. Charter Value. Commercial value.	More discussion on a whole of industry approach to re-establishing a “healthy resource” and R&D needs to facilitate such. Discuss measures and penalties needed so a larger degree of self regulation could be delivered on a less combative and more cost efficient basis.
1200	Current issues, key challenges to overcome Current issues and key challenges Indigenous and conservation issues	Identify and prioritise objectives above – continued.
1230	Lunch	Lunch
1300	Current issues, key challenges to overcome Stakeholders identify major issues impacting on CRFFF. Ranking of importance of issues and actions required.	
1400	Long-term Vision for fishery . Management/co-management initiatives required to achieve vision.	
1500	Afternoon tea	Afternoon tea
1530	Long-term Vision for fishery – Synthesis.	
1600	Resource sharing – national update, lessons learned, current approaches [Peter Neville] Preliminary discussion - Resource Sharing R&D as identified by FRDC advice	
1730	Close	

Papers

The Chairman read the objectives of the meeting and discussed why FRDC funded the meeting. This included the consideration of potential research and development projects, to be supported by the stakeholders, with respect to resource sharing options in the Coral Reef Fin Fish Resources.

Various research papers were presented (electronic copies available) and clarification discussions followed as per notes.

1. Annual Status Report 2010 Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery (Queensland Government, 2011)
 - a. It was noted that these figures were due to be updated mid-year 2012.
2. Coral Trout and AIMS monitoring of the GBR (Sweatman, 2012)
 - a. Deals with long-term reef health.
 - b. Some of the results were due to sampling bias, i.e., one day, but will still show long-term trends.
3. GBRMPA extreme weather incidence response funding projects related to Coral Reef Fin Fish resources (Cameron, 2012)
 - a. It was noted that caution should be applied to conclusions due to reef selection and that it should not be assumed that these apply to the whole GBR.
4. Change/risk/uncertainty (Tobin, 2012)
5. Governance arrangements and fishery statistics (Cameron and Kerrigan, 2012)
 - a. It was noted that some catch graphics do not seem to reflect what commercial fishers have been seeing with their catches due to the standardisation method used. This was seen as an important issue and the commercial fishers requested that the methods used be transparent and reasonable.
 - b. Disappointment that the charter logbook data was not included.
 - c. RecFish Survey – reported that the drop in participation and recreational catch may be due to bad weather conditions in recent years.
 - d. The mortality of catch and release fish was queried and it was noted that it is dependent on the skill of the fisher.
 - e. Expect new figures mid-year 2012.
6. Recreational vessel registration on the GBR (Cameron, 2012)
 - a. The need for weights of fish for charter logbooks was noted.
 - b. Size of recreational vessel is worth noting – 6-8m speedboats increased in number dramatically.
 - c. Fly-In-Fly-Out – makes a difference for recreational statistics as more money spent on fishing so can afford larger vessels. This is of concern for some ports.
 - d. An assumption was put forward that maybe in recent year less people are becoming involved in fishing (due to other recreational activities available) so less people fishing but those who fish tend to invest more (i.e., more interested).
 - e. It was noted that participation is going up but so is population – so percentage of those fishing is actually decreasing.
7. The charter sector – oral presentation so all notes included here.
 - a. Northern perspective – not much movement in catches.
 - i. Variety of species caught (coral trout 4 or 5 in the list)
 - ii. Concern about mining industry on access of customers to charters. There is a decline in occupancy in some areas and prices are increased due to on-land needs (i.e., accommodation etc) being taken up by mining industry personnel.
 - iii. Cyclones results in movements in fishing areas and catch rates were maintained.

- iv. Change in species structure - north versus south.
 - b. Southern perspective – same issues re on-land needs.
 - i. Clients are moving around to try to overcome accommodation issues (i.e., move ports) and catch rate decreases.
 - c. Inshore charter fishery in North Qld.
 - i. No representation at the meeting.
 - ii. They interact with commercial, recreational and indigenous stakeholders.
 - d. Charter discussion
 - i. A question was put to the meeting ‘Does the charter industry want it to be capped (i.e., number of licences)?’
 - ii. It was felt by one charter operator that this will not change the pressure/effort.
 - iii. There was an acknowledgment they had sizable investment in gear and have a property right to the fishery and need security.
 - iv. Discussions occurred on limiting charter licences (maybe by zones) to ensure pressures on the fishery are sustainable and manageable.
8. The indigenous sector
- a. FRDC conducted a meeting in Cairns in 2011 and there were no outcomes at this point. That meeting was to determine potential projects.
 - b. FRDC has a national committee on research needs for indigenous fishers
 - c. It was noted that there was no indigenous participation in this group and this was of concern, however there was representation from indigenous fishing companies.
 - d. It was noted that there was a Queensland Indigenous Fishing Strategy 2011-2015 listing broad principles.
9. Economic performance
- a. The importance of getting economic surveys right was noted.
10. Conservation current issues (oral presentation so notes for talk included)
- a. GBR is a high impact initiate for WWF Australia – nationally and globally.
 - b. Objectives – 1. pollution/water quality, 2. fishing, 3. flag ship species.
 - c. Fishing objectives
 - i. By 2016 fishing effort will be reduced to ecological and economical sustainable and profitable levels based on studies yet to be conducted.
 - ii. By 2016 fisheries data collection, monitoring and compliance systems will be ecosystem based and stock assessments in place.
 - iii. Provide sustainability advice to markets.
 - d. MSc (Best Practice Standards/Eco Label) pre-assessment for this fishery nearly completed and a decision of how to progress is next step. MSc may create market benefits.

Discussions

Representations on boards

1. It was noted that there is a grass-roots problem concerning the appropriateness of stakeholder representations on boards. It was felt that some boards tend to consist of the businessmen and not on-the-water fishers/charter operators.
2. It was requested that an audit be conducted on the appropriateness of representations on boards and that this message needs to go back to the stakeholder groups represented in the meeting.

Working together

1. It was noted that this is a wonderful opportunity for all stakeholders to take ownership of this resource and look forward to sustainable solutions.
2. We all need to retain viable business and have to have real management approaches and look at ourselves before going forward.

Recreational fishing participation rates (points by recreational representatives)

1. The recreational sector felt the participation rate is important and it was not just that participation rates were decreasing but that there was still participation.
2. It was noted that over 50 miles seaward is outside the range of most recreational vessels, plus far northern areas is also out of range. Additionally, it is generally a week-end activity.
3. We need to consider funding methods, what are the changes (i.e., FIFO), and who will pay for changes?
4. One personal opinion option put forward was that of a recreational levy, i.e., recreational vessels over 6 metres attract a \$1000 one-off buy-back fee/payment.
5. A commercial fisher stated that his investment was long-term and security needs to be long-term and not a one-off buyback.

Resource reallocation

1. Resource reallocation needs to be defined.
2. It was noted that we need to build a data pool on catches and effort to see the real picture.

Key Challenges and Issues (as listed by each sector)

1. Commercial fishers
 - a. Guaranteed slice of the resource that does not erode (i.e., size of pie, and how to split).
 - b. A healthy resource (i.e., CPUE maintained). 'We must value the coast-line'.
 - c. Profitability.
 - d. Attract new entrants (i.e., skills and development).
 - e. Cost effective self-management.
 - f. Deliver a good product that suits the needs of the markets.
 - g. Robustness to cope with external factors (i.e., cyclones).
 - h. Negative impact of infrastructure (i.e., Gladstone).
2. Recreational fishers
 - a. Quality data collection.
 - b. Security of access.
 - c. Perceived conflict of use (i.e., increase in numbers of recreational fishers).
 - d. Sharks (i.e., need real info re endangerment status etc).
 - e. Work together.
3. Charter operators
 - a. Research and data collection (real-time data).
 - b. Access security.
 - c. Coastal impacts.
 - d. Need tool to limit effort.
 - e. Understanding of the impact of areas outside the marine park. (i.e., closures and effort shift).
4. Conservation
 - a. Real-time monitoring.
 - b. Harvest strategies.
 - c. Agree with others.

5. Indigenous
 - a. Access to areas at times of significance (i.e., ceremonies).
 - b. The difficulty of knowing which groups to communicate with was noted.

Fishery Vision (as developed by each sector)

It was noted that in 2000 a fore-sighting project report by Fisheries Industry Development Council and the Department of Primary Industries titled 'Queensland Fisheries 2010 Vision Ensuring a future for all' (Fisheries Industry Development Council, 2000) discussed in detail fishery visions for Queensland fisheries.

From this workshop the following was provided;

1. Commercial
 - a. A profitable industry with security of access.
 - i. Global TAC based on sustainable production levels.
 - ii. Global TAC shared between all sectors.
 - iii. Real-time data collection to support real-time management.
 - iv. Co-management framework so those impacted by decisions are part of the decision.
2. Charter
 - a. A sustainable and profitable charter fishery through
 - i. Limited entry charter fishery.
 - ii. Removal of latent effort in the charter sector.
 - iii. The structure and eligibility of the charter fishery through a FRDC-funded project including a charter national conference to identify current best practice.
 - iv. To support this initiative there would need to be a state-wide charter representation network.
3. Recreational
 - a. Achieve a quality recreational fishing experience.
 - b. Access to defined areas of importance and have them recognised in legislation (Recreational only fishing areas to which if anyone wants to do anything in them they have to refer to us to do it and also compensation be paid) (see note below for further information that was provided).
 - c. Real-time data for real-time management from recreational sector.
4. Conservation
 - a. MSC accreditation for the fishery.

Fishery Vision for all sectors

1. Security of access
2. Data

"An ecologically sustainable fishery:

4. That is managed to provide security of access within a whole of fishery global TAC based on recognised rights.
5. With real time data allowing real time management (including co-management) responses.
6. That is shared amongst all users to create a profitable fishery and quality recreational fishing experiences."

Recreational fishing grounds (proposal by recreational representatives)

1. Defined areas where recreational fishers are consulted before any development occurs.
2. Designed to control fishing conflict, for example, a fishing area impacted by mining.
3. May not necessarily be exclusive areas.
4. Offset compensation should be a part of this process.
5. It is defining areas that are important for recreational fishers and they have some say in what happens in that area.
6. The same process could apply for other sectors – important area (i.e., recognised fishing grounds) for commercial operators could be Swains, for example.
7. Maybe necessary to reallocate the resource in an area by a commercial buy-back.

Regional security of access for recreational fishers (points by recreational representatives)

1. The need for the TAC to be on a regional basis – set at a sustainable level and management agencies can control the activity within the TAC.
2. It was noted that a blanket TAC over the whole region to solve the problems of one region was illogical.
3. The issue of who pays for a reallocation of TAC was noted – ‘who wants to get more fish should pay compensation’.
4. It was noted by the Chair that a bag limit was just a nominal TAC and wouldn’t apply long-term (i.e., could blow-out with population increases).
5. It was noted that we need to wait for the survey to make decisions.

Security of access for the recreational sector

1. Recreational representatives felt they needed to be part of the consultation group and this starts with the ‘defined fishing grounds’.
2. Security of access is not about fish for the recreational fisher – it is about letting someone fish. It is about the experience, and not necessarily about the need to catch fish.
3. It was noted that survey results are needed before making decisions.
4. The difficulties of controlling effort in the recreational sector were noted.
5. The importance of data in the recreational sector was noted.

Charter licences (points by charter representatives)

1. Want stronger property rights and open to other mechanisms to achieve sustainability.
2. This is just the start – but we need to start. The next steps are a strong organisation to represent charter to Governments and an evaluation of available tools.
3. One issue was there is double-dipping of licences (for example, Moreton Bay). It is about the duplication of data to different agencies.
4. The need for a zone arrangement was noted, i.e., without the need for double-dipping.
5. Licences and permits are convoluted.
6. Removal of latent effort is important.
7. Need to look at possible management tools to manage charter (for example, limited entry, zoned licences, reduced bag limits, latent effort).
8. A need is a study into the structure and eligibility of the charter fishery through a FRDC-funded project including a charter national conference to identify current best practice.

TACs (noted by various people)

1. A global TAC means once the trigger is reached fishing stops – it is not a regional TAC.
2. Other stakeholders (i.e., boat builders, tackle shops etc) are impacted by possible fishery closures as a result of TAC limits being met.
3. If a species reaches a TAC limit many recreational fishers will target other species.

4. Sector transfer could be considered.
5. TAC could be determined on an annual basis in response to fishery changes.

Original RLF project (See Appendix 4)

1. Problems (as per QFRAB)
 - a. Needs development of a vision statement.
 - b. Needs stakeholder partnership – i.e., possibly as co-investigators.
 - c. Mechanism for broader community engagement.
 - d. Integrate outcomes of current research.
 - e. Clear pathway to adoption.
2. Solutions (developed during meeting)
 - a. Vision statement developed during this meeting.
 - b. Co-investigators are now RLC, consultant/administration, Sunfish, charter, QSIA and Principal investigator will be Andrew Tobin (JCU).
 - c. Achieved through meeting and with new co-investigators. Plus communication strategy included.
 - d. Additional recent projects added to proposal.
 - e. A stronger position regarding stakeholder partnership.
3. The importance of adequate data collection processes was noted again but it was also noted that the purpose of the project wasn't to collect data but to define options for possible future management.
4. It was noted that grass-roots (i.e., on the water fishers) should be a part of the process.
5. The importance of consultation with Qld Fisheries throughout the project was noted as they have to review the current Management Plan.

Other possible projects

1. Communication structure and real-time data collection for charter sector –look at options used elsewhere and adopt best practice for this fishery (From charter vision - The structure and eligibility of the charter fishery through a FRDC-funded project including a charter national conference to identify current best practice.).
2. Data collection strategy for recreational fishers.
3. Productivity advances for commercial sector.
4. Data collection review – smart phones, gps, texts etc for all sectors.

Appendix 4 Research proposal

FRDC R&D Funding Application

Project No.: 2011/226

Application Reference: CR018

Administrative Summary

Project Title

Defining potential resource sharing options for fisheries, with the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery as a test case.

Applicant

Reef Line Council

Contacts

Administrative

Name: Carolyn Robins

Position: Director

Organisation: Belldi Consultancy

Phone: 07 5447 9491

Email: belldiconsultancy@telstra.com

Principal Investigator

Name: Andrew Tobin

Position: Senior Research Fellow

Organisation: James Cook University

Phone: 07 4781 5113

Email: andrew.tobin@jcu.edu.au

Co-Investigator

Name: David Bateman

Position: Executive Officer

Organisation: Sunfish Queensland

Phone: 07 3880 4261

Email: batemanw@bigpond.net.au

Name: John Kung

Position: Scientist

Organisation: Queensland Seafood Industry Association

Phone: 07 3262 6855

Email: jkung@qsia.com.au

Name: Cliff McCulloch

Position: Director

Organisation: Northern Conquest Charters

Phone: 07429 639 514

Email: cliff@nccharters.com.au

Name: Carolyn Robins

Position: Chairman

Organisation: Belldi Consultancy

Phone: 07 5447 9491

Email: belldiconsultancy@telstra.com

Name: Greg Smith

Position: Chairman

Organisation: Reef Line Council

Phone: 0400 851 631

Email: lfsmith0@tpg.com.au

Planned Start and End Date

Start Date: 01-May-2012

End Date: 30-Apr-2013

Project Budget Summary

Contribution by FRDC

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>FRDC</u> <u>Commitment</u>
2011/2012	10,500.00	2,970.00	9,000.00		22,470.00	22,470.00
2012/2013	24,500.00	6,930.00	21,000.00		52,430.00	52,430.00

Total	35,000.00	9,900.00	30,000.00	0.00	74,900.00	74,900.00
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Contribution by Applicant

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011/2012		2,500.00	2,000.00		4,500.00
2012/2013		5,000.00	3,000.00		8,000.00
Total	0.00	7,500.00	5,000.00	0.00	12,500.00

Contribution by Other

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011/2012					
2012/2013					
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Budget	35,000.00	17,400.00	35,000.00	0.00	87,400.00	74,900.00
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Project Description

Theme

Resource access and allocation

National Research Priority

An environmentally sustainable Australia. 100.00%

Rural Research Priority

Natural Resource Management 100.00%

Consultation

A FRDC-funded meeting was held in Townsville on 7 and 8 March 2012 to bring together RLF stakeholders to consider future research and development needs of the Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery (CRFFF). Participants included Reef Line Council (RLC), Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA), Queensland Charter Vessel Association (QCVA), Professional Charter Operators Queensland (PCOQ), Sunfish Queensland, WWF, GBRMPA, Queensland Fisheries, James Cook University, Australian Institute of Marine Sciences, CSIRO, Adai-Kate, OceanWatch Australia and private consultants. It was unanimously agreed that discussion, evaluation and prioritisation of future research needs via a series of workshops should be supported. The project co-investigators include representatives from stakeholder groups.

Related projects will be integrated where appropriate. These projects include FRDC 2008/103 'Adapting to change: minimising uncertainty about the effects of rapidly changing environmental conditions on the Queensland Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery', FRDC 2011/030 'Evaluating Candidate Monitoring Strategies, Assessment Procedures and Harvest Control Rules in the Spatially Complex Qld Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery', the preliminary stock assessment for coral trout, and RFISH recreational surveys. The resultant report will satisfy actions recommended by the Reef Line and Spanish Mackerel Industry Development Plan 2010-2013.

Need

The Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003 will be reviewed in 2012. The project aim is for stakeholders to co-operate in developing management options for consideration. Catch sharing arrangements between sectors of the fishery - commercial, recreational and charter - need to be explored. Finite fish resources are accessed by various fishery users and are of interest to conservation bodies, management agencies and the general

public. Currently, the CPUE of both major species are unstable (FRDC 2008/103) and effort increases may have occurred in some areas.

To ensure resource access security for all sectors while maximising economic yields and maintaining long-term biological sustainability there is a need to review current and explore future management arrangements. Stakeholders must work co-operatively to identify issues, collect data, discuss options, develop and evaluate scenarios for sustainability of economic, environmental and social aspects of the fishery. Resource sharing options should align with the 'vision for the fishery' that is endorsed by stakeholders.

There is a clear need for the development of a fisheries resource allocation policy ('Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery Resource Sharing Options Report' – CRFFF RSOR). This will include alternatives of how resources can be managed within and among each stakeholder group in an equitable and transparent way.

Independent factors, such as climate change and environmental conditions (cyclones) impacting on the possible outcomes of management options need to be considered. For example, climate change was never factored into the original management limits and a methodology needs to be developed to deal with possible changes to stocks and habitat. Additionally, the CRFFF has experienced significant problems with dealing with natural disasters (cyclones) including a decline in catch rates for key species.

Objectives

- 1 Develop a consultation plan so all stakeholders in the CRFFF can contribute to a Resource Sharing Options Report.
- 2 Document and critique potential options, including data needs, for future management of the CRFFF resource.
- 3 Produce the final report documenting and evaluating possible options to feed into the review of the fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Management Plan 2003.

Outputs & Extensions

The primary output is a Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery Resource Sharing Options Report (CRFFF RSOR) that will document and critique all of the resource sharing options put forward and considered during the workshops. If consensus cannot be reached on an option this report will document the differing opinions held by the stakeholders. This report will be distributed to participants of the workshops for dissemination to their members.

A more concise article (based on the complete report) suitable for a wider distribution to the broader fishing community, including seafood consumers, will be produced.

Planned Outcomes and Benefits

"Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery Resource Sharing Options Report"

The project will benefit the stakeholders (commercial and recreational fishers, charter operators, fisheries management and conservation agencies) by providing the medium for them to co-operatively develop, document and critique possible resource sharing arrangements for the reef fish resources of Queensland. This will provide a structured way forward towards the adoption of future management of the CRFFF as the CRFFF RSOR will be available for consideration when future management arrangements for the Queensland CRFFF are investigated.

The sectors will have the common goal of achieving efficient use of the resources while ensuring equality between sectors, long-term sustainability of fish stocks and maximum economic benefit. The information and ideas sharing between the stakeholders will be of significant benefit to all so they can chart a way forward in a co-operative manner and be aware of others needs, opinions and wants. All resource allocation changes must ensure economic, social and environmental standards are safeguarded.

Flow of Benefits

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Recreational</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
QLD	50.00	50.00	0.00
Sub Total:	50.00	50.00	0.00
Total:		100.00	

Region

QLD:

Fishery

Queensland:
Coral Reef Fin Fish Fishery

Methods

1. A Steering Group (comprised of PI and Co-Investigators) meeting be held via phone/video conference to develop a dedicated communication strategy that will enable stakeholders to participate by providing ideas, opinions and comments. The Steering Group will also develop the appropriate format for the Final Report.
2. Workshop 1 - Participants (PI, Co-Investigators and other stakeholders) to provide ideas and opinions (key points will be - why it is necessary, who will benefit and who will pay). All options will be recorded on a white board and participants will discuss pros and cons of each option.
3. Production of Initial CRFFF RSOR (containing all options and opinions from Workshop 1) that will be disseminated to participants (as per Communication Strategy) for their and their members consideration.
4. Workshop 2 – Evaluation and prioritisation of RSOR options from the Initial CRFFF RSOR in order to produce Draft CRFFF RSOR.
5. Draft CRFFF RSOR produced and disseminated to participants for their and their members consideration.
6. Workshop 3 - Evaluation and prioritisation of Draft CRFFF RSOR for approval and final comments.
7. Produce Final CRFFF RSOR containing pros and cons of options discussed and opposing views where consensus was not reached.

Data Management

I have searched for existing data.

The data generated will be transcripts of all of the meetings and include opinions and ideas from participants.

Budget

Schedule of Payments

Due Date of	Schedule Contributions Payments	Schedule of Cash
Signing of agreement 01-May-2012	22,470.00	0.00
Mid project progress 30-Oct-2012	22,470.00	0.00
Draft final report 30-Mar-2013	22,470.00	0.00
Final report 30-Apr-2013	7,490.00	0.00
Total	74,900.00	0.00

Contributions by Applicant

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011/2012	0.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	0.00	4,500.00

Justification: Cost of attendance to workshops and office expenses.

2012/2013	0.00	5,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
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Justification: Cost of attendance to workshops and office expenses.

Total	0.00	7,500.00	5,000.00	0.00	12,500.00
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