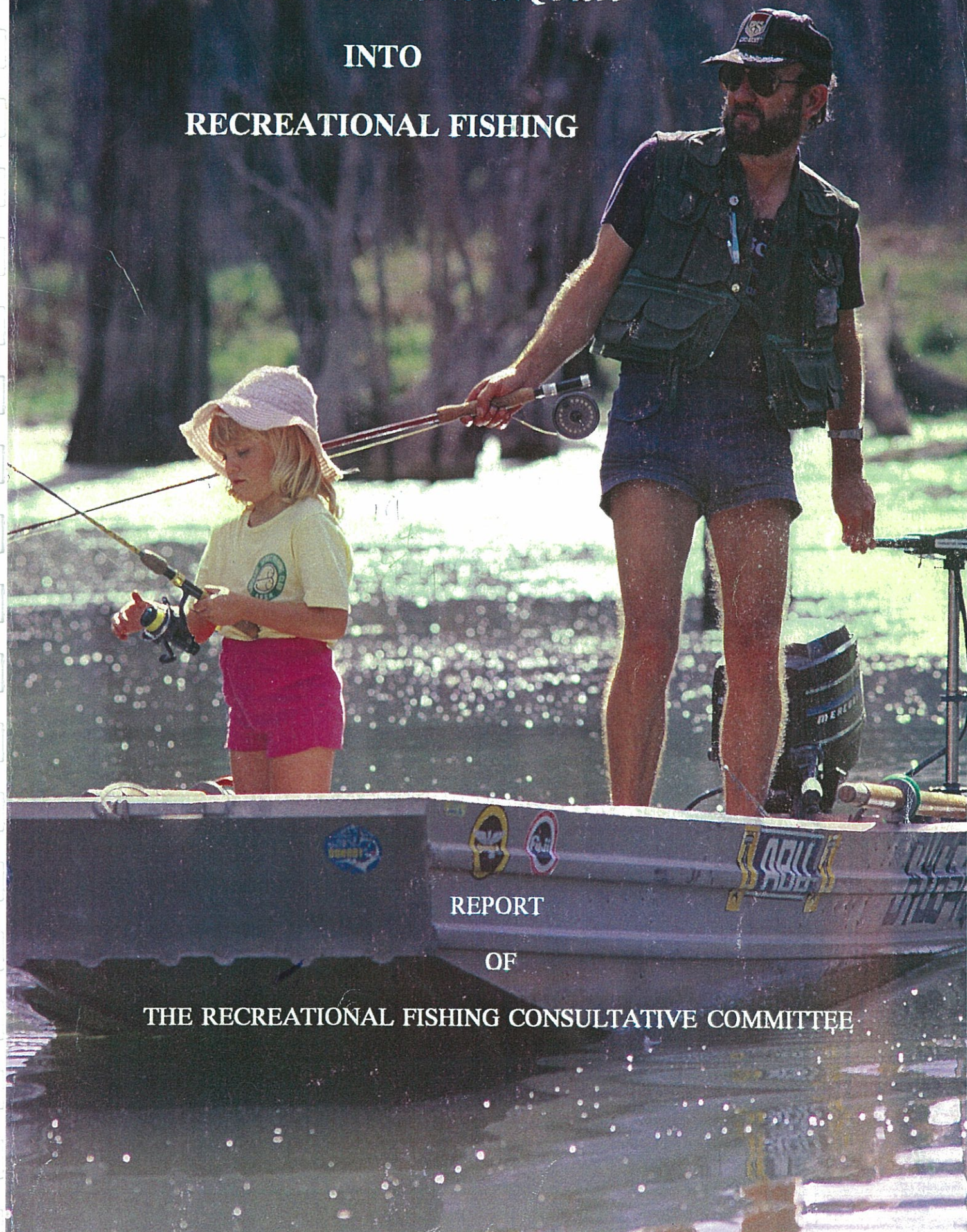


STATE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY  
INTO  
RECREATIONAL FISHING

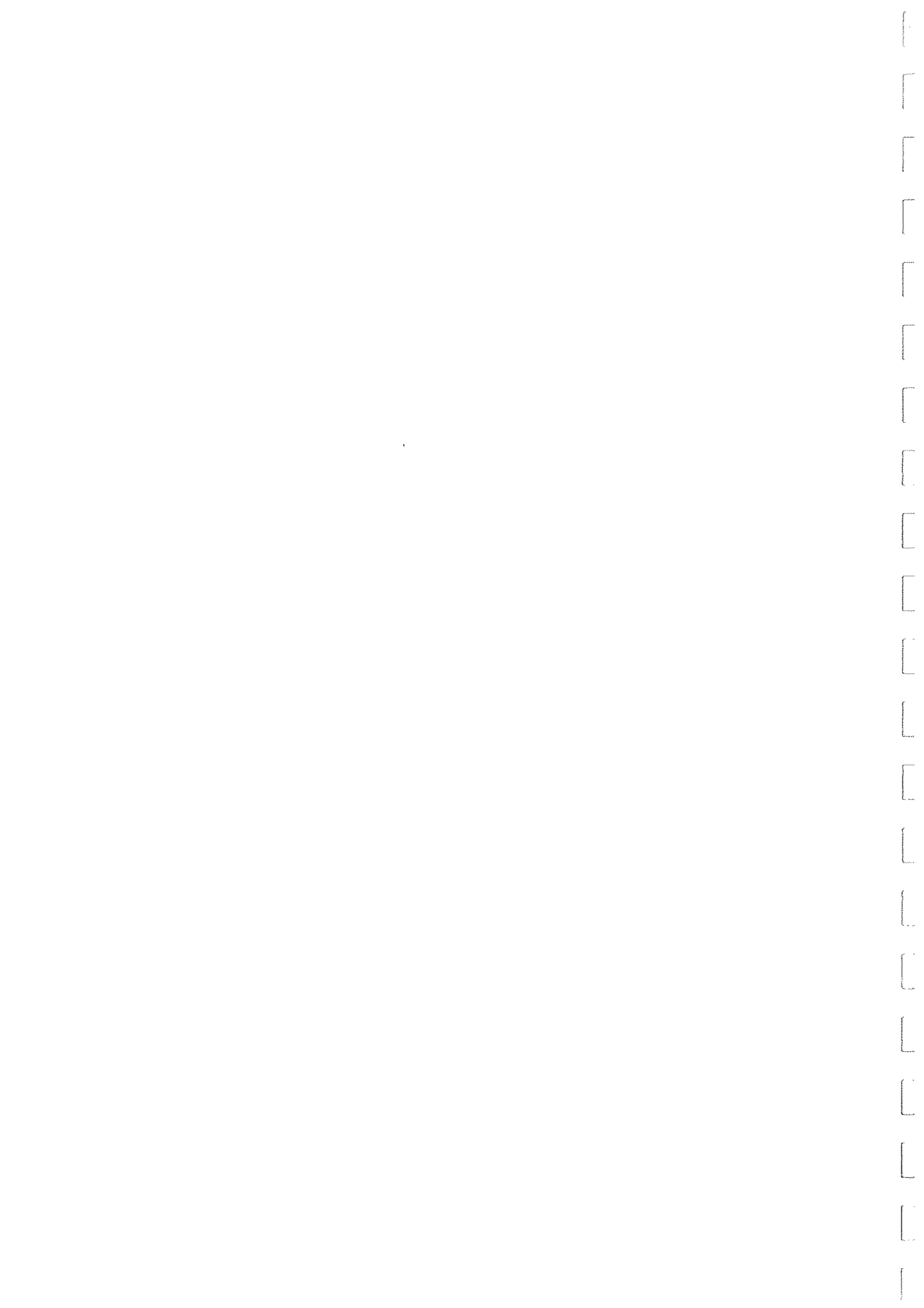


REPORT

OF

THE RECREATIONAL FISHING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE





**STATE GOVERNMENT INQUIRY  
INTO  
RECREATIONAL FISHING**

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### Important Note

This is a report to the Queensland Government in accordance with Terms of Reference dated 14 December 1992. This report does not represent, nor does it intend to represent, Queensland Government policy.

Cover: Father and daughter sharing the joys of fishing.  
(Photography: Warren Steptoe)

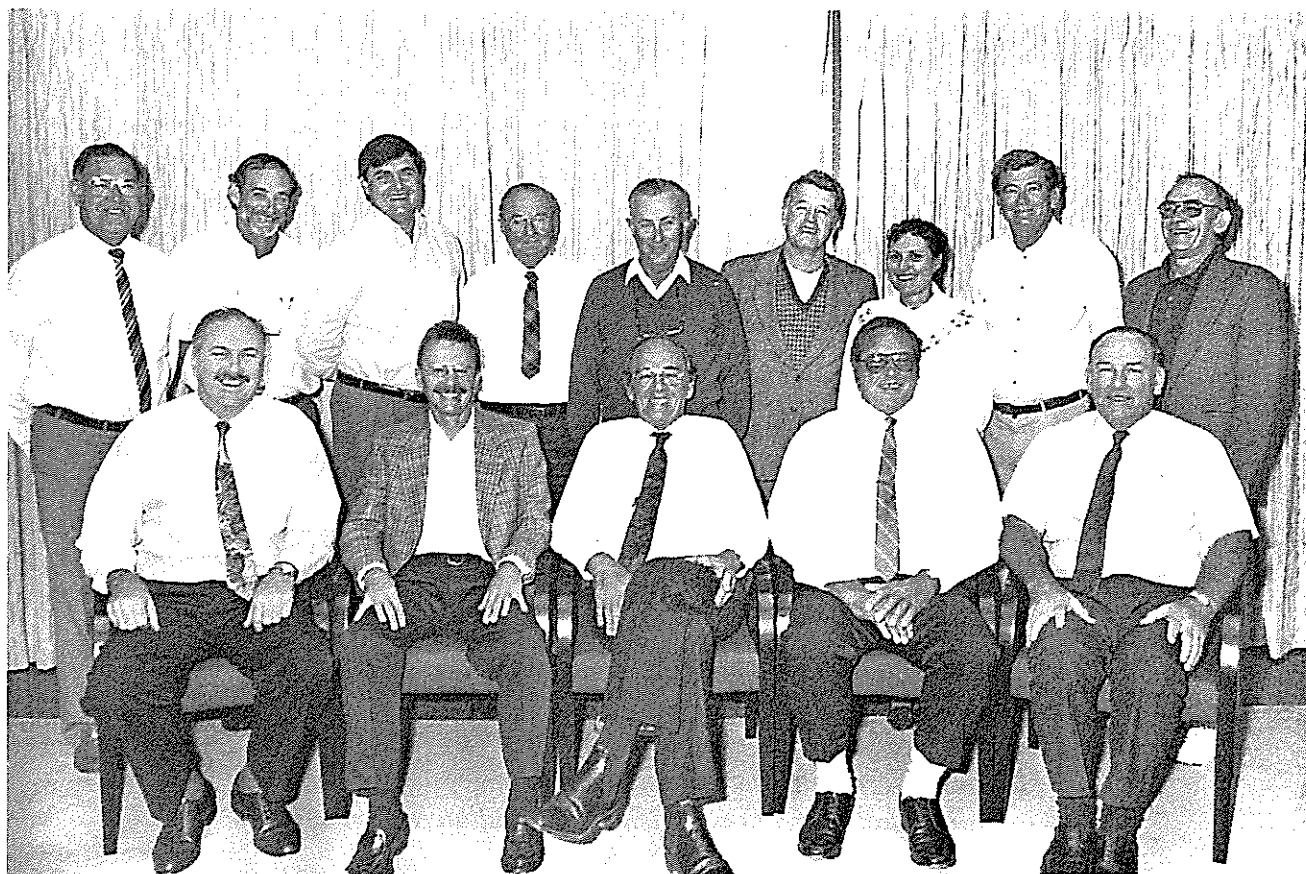
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## RECREATIONAL FISHING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Membership

Chairman	—	Honourable Tom Burns, MLA	
Members	—	Ms Christine Musgrave	— Laura
	—	Ms Marina Hoare	— Cairns
	—	Mr Harry Bligh	— Townsville
	—	Mr Vic McCristal	— Cardwell
	—	Mr Bill Sawynok	— Rockhampton
	—	Mr Ron Dempster	— Maryborough
	—	Mr Les Meiklejohn	— Warwick
	—	Mr Martin Bowerman	— Gold Coast
	—	Mr Bill Greenhill	— Brisbane
	—	Mr Geoff Orr	— Brisbane
	—	Mr David Bateman	— Brisbane
	—	Dr Barry Pollock	— Brisbane
	—	Mr Len Mossop	— Gold Coast
	—	Mr Alan Turnbull	— Gold Coast
Secretary	—	Mr Max Blackburn	— Brisbane



**The Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee at its final meeting in Brisbane on 19 June 1993.**

**Standing left to right: Les Meiklejohn, Geoff Orr, Martin Bowerman, Ron Dempster, Alan Turnbull, Pat Appleton (Technical Advisor to Committee), Marina Hoare, Len Mossop and Harry Bligh.**

**Seated left to right: Barry Pollock, Max Blackburn (Secretary), the Honourable Tom Burns, MLA (Chairman), Billy Greenhill and David Bateman.**

**Absent - Christine Musgrave, Vic McCristal and Bill Sawynok.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recreational fishing community in Queensland has responded in an unprecedented way to the opportunity to identify key fisheries issues and the types of management arrangements required to address these issues. In excess of 3000 people at public meetings and over 4000 written submissions have delivered a clear message to Government that the legitimate needs of recreational anglers must be met in future fisheries policies.

A common concern expressed by a large number of people responding to the Inquiry was that recreational fishing was not generally recognised as an industry in its own right. This question of recognition was fundamental to the future of recreational fishing and the many associated industries which support it. Without it, it becomes extremely difficult to expect other users of the resource to acknowledge recreational angling as having a serious, legitimate right to consideration. There was an expectation that the recreational fishing community will be treated as equal partners in the development of strategies and management plans for the sustainable use of all fisheries.

The Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee recognised early in the Inquiry that it had a difficult task in formulating long-term strategies for the sustainability of the fishery that were acceptable to everyone.

In its early deliberations the Committee concluded that it was impossible to establish policies for the long-term management of recreational fishing without some of those policies impacting directly on the commercial fishing sector as both sectors target the same fish species. This was a constant source of concern to the Committee and the recommendations which are included in this report relating to the commercial sector were not taken lightly. The Committee concluded however that the sustainability of the resource was its ultimate and major concern. The recommendations contained in the report endeavour to treat both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers in a fair and equitable way.

The Committee was mindful of two other very important matters when considering sustainability of the resource. The first related to Queensland's rapidly growing population and the second to the fact that our natural fishery was finite. During its deliberations the Committee was repeatedly confronted with the challenge to get the correct balance between protection of the finite resource and the increasing pressures for its use.

The scope of the Inquiry was such that the Committee decided to categorise the recommendations in the report into a number of broad topic headings for ease of presentation. Each of the broad topic headings has a brief introductory section followed by a series of recommendations each with associated discussion.

There was intense public concern about fisheries habitat protection and this was one area where both recreational anglers and commercial operators were in complete accord. There was a concern that in some areas of Queensland habitat loss and degradation had proceeded to the point where firm fisheries management measures would need to be introduced so as to prevent any further deterioration of the fisheries.

Strategies recommended to halt or reduce the decline have included the need for additional fish sanctuaries and habitat reserves, proposals to minimise the impact of coastal developments including the imposition of performance bonds on developers, controls on sewage discharges and industrial and other wastes into the aquatic environment together with the impact of jet skis and four wheel drives on the marine environment and the distribution of fish stocks.

The Inquiry process identified a lack of information available to many recreational anglers about fisheries and environmental management and the poor understanding generally by anglers of current fishing rules. Recommendations were aimed at the implementation of public information and awareness strategies designed to raise the level of knowledge about fish stocks and the habitat on which they depend. Zonal Advisory Committees were seen as local groups having an important and integral role in community education programs. A key strategy was the proposal for a "Fishcare" program designed to improve community awareness of the need to conserve our marine resources as well as the inclusion in school curricula of material related to the management of fisheries and habitat protection. It was considered essential that codes of practice be introduced to encourage the development of ethical recreational fishing behaviour for fishing organisations and the general public and that these codes should include procedures for access into Aboriginal communities.

It was essential that the Queensland Government had adequate and reliable funding for recreational fisheries management, research and enforcement.

The Committee was acutely aware that the large number of issues raised in the public consultation process and subsequent recommendations could only be addressed by the injection of considerable additional funding. The Committee saw an important role for the Commonwealth Government in making funds available for recreational fisheries purposes, given the considerable revenue derived from sales tax on angling equipment. While the Committee recognised that anglers would not welcome additional fees and charges, it has addressed responsibly the question of the recreational fishing community making a contribution to some of the likely costs of implementing these recommendations.

The concept of a general marine recreational licence was widely circulated and soundly rejected and the Consultative Committee decided not to pursue this matter further.



A number of funding options however have been recommended including fees on new bait and cast nets, fees on participants in commercially based fishing competitions and an additional amount to be imposed on registration fees for pleasure craft used for fishing purposes. It was fundamental that any revenue raised from these options be placed into a trust fund dedicated for use on recreational fishing. Operators of fishing charters should also be required to make a contribution to meeting the costs of fisheries management. The Committee has also strongly recommended that funding support for the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program be restored to at least its original level of \$1 million.

With regard to fisheries management strategies, the clear message from the bulk of submissions received by the Inquiry was that fishing pressure on some species in some areas was now at a point where action was necessary to further protect the species. For some species it was necessary to restrain further effort being applied and accordingly a package of measures which will address both commercial and recreational effort has been proposed. These include changes to minimum sizes, closures to give increased protection to spawning stocks, bag limits, catch quotas on tailor, winter whiting and lesser mackerels as well as proposing a review of some commercial and recreational fishing methods. While the introduction of bag limits for an increased range of recreational species may not be a popular recommendation, it should be viewed against the need to contain effort and in conjunction with recommendations made to contain or reduce commercial effort.

Commercial fishing effort impacted not only on the species being targeted but also on species caught incidentally in fishing operations. The Committee had therefore addressed concerns raised by many anglers relating to the effect on the fish food chain of beam and otter trawling and netting in bays and inshore areas. Some species not now commercially targeted have been recommended for declaration as non commercial species. In some more populated areas it was considered appropriate that the Government declare additional areas to be recreational fishing areas through the exclusion of commercial netting. Both commercial and recreational fishermen supported the need for improved management arrangements to protect species between low and high water and there is a need for a publicly available management plan for species in these areas.

There was widespread support throughout the community for the introduction of zonal management arrangements to apply to estuary and inshore fisheries. There was a strong view that zoning be implemented immediately in Moreton Bay, following its status as a marine park, to protect this unique resource coming under enormous pressure from fishing and other uses.

There was a strong emphasis on the need for a fully resourced, efficient and effective surveillance and enforcement capability. This capability should be directed at both the targeting of offenders who inflict the most damage on the resource and the general fishing public in terms of promoting an increased understanding of natural resource management. Initiatives to augment the efforts of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol include increasing penalties for major offences, introduction of "on the spot" fines and flying squads, strengthening the current docket system in the marketing sector and augmenting the current complement of patrol officers with the appointment of other government officers as fisheries inspectors. The development of flying squads was viewed as an initiative critical to the operational effectiveness of the patrol in areas of illegal selling of fish and illegal setting of nets.

The Committee held the strong view that an organisational structure and consultative mechanism involving all major user groups in fisheries be established for the management of fisheries. The involvement of these groups was fundamental to ensuring that issues involved with resource protection and utilisation were managed according to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development. Balanced representation on fisheries management bodies at all levels and particularly participation by members of the local community in the determination of management arrangements in their area reflect the strong desire for involvement by recreational anglers in decision making processes.

The establishment of a Ministerial Policy Council to give advice on strategic fishing policy issues was viewed as an essential forum to consider the longer term direction that fisheries will follow in issues such as removal of excess fishing capacity and access rights.

In respecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, all anglers should obtain approval and observe the requirements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils before venturing on to traditional lands for recreational fishing purposes. The Committee also recommended that all members of the Queensland community who fish recreationally should be subject to the same recreational fishing rules.

Restocking of freshwater impoundments has been highly successful in Queensland in recent years. Funding has decreased however in recent years and alternative methods of funding the ongoing stocking of impoundments have been considered. Recommendations relating to entry and access fees to dams and impoundments and the establishment of new fisheries in other impoundments have been made by the Committee.

The importance of aquaculture as an alternative source of fish product was highlighted. It was recommended that aquaculture projects be actively promoted in Queensland as an important supplementary source of seafood for the commercial sector. It was also suggested that procedures should be established to clearly differentiate aquaculture product in the marketing process to ensure that it did not impact adversely on the management of wild stocks.

Fish stocks and the environment which support them have been characterised by a lack of information upon which to base management decisions with any confidence. This related not only to the ecological status of stocks but also to recreational fishing as a human activity impacting on those stocks. Emphasis was placed on research into the main fish species of interest to recreational fishing both from the catching and food chain perspective. The collection of recreational catch data to augment commercial catch data was viewed as imperative. Priority research into incidental catch from commercial fishing operations and the effect of these fishing methods on the food chain of recreational species was recommended. The development of satisfactory trawl apparatus which would have minimum impact on the sea bed and be species specific was also accorded high priority. In addition, it was felt that urgent design work was required to develop an effective method to allow migratory species of fish to travel around barrages, etc.

There was considerable uncertainty about recreational fishing in national parks especially in the marine environment and the Committee has recommended a policy so that anglers have formal recognition of long standing recreational fishing activity in national parks.

A number of concerns were expressed about the appropriateness of certain types of commercial fishing apparatus and its use and the Committee has recommended that these be investigated.

As Chairman of the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee I would like to thank Committee Members for their efforts during this six month Inquiry. I believe that they have made a significant contribution towards the major goal – the formulation of key policies and implementation of key management strategies which will lead to a viable recreational fishing sector based on sustainable use of the fisheries resources.

Thanks also to my Parliamentary colleagues for convening the sub-committees which co-ordinated submissions, Ministers and Officers of the Western Australian, New South Wales and Northern Territory Governments who gave of their time to talk to me about recreational fishing management and to the Liaison Officers of the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council who organised many of the public meetings.

My thanks also go to the Inter-Departmental Working Group and especially its Chairperson Jacki Byrne and to the officers of both the Queensland Fish Management Authority and the Department of Primary Industries who provided much assistance to the Inquiry. In particular I extend my gratitude to Pat Appleton, the Secretary of the Queensland Fish Management Authority who acted as technical adviser to the Committee.

To Max Blackburn, the Secretary to the Inquiry, I pay a special tribute for the hard work, enthusiasm, and determination which he displayed throughout the course of the Inquiry. Thanks also goes to the Research Officer Shaun Rohrlach, and to Debbie Laakso and Susan Southwell for typing the report and processing the submissions.



**Tom Burns MLA**  
**Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services**  
**and Minister for Rural Communities**  
**Chairman, Recreational Fishing Inquiry**

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5 July 1993



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### ENVIRONMENT AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

#### Recommendation 1 – Additional Fish Sanctuaries and Habitat Reserves

That as a matter of priority a complete listing of all fish habitat areas critical to key fish species be completed.

That legislation be amended to provide for the declaration of freshwater habitat/reserve areas.

That urgent action be taken by the Government to set aside additional fish sanctuaries and habitat reserves with a strategic spread along the coastline, eg. in every 100 kilometres of coastline between the Gold Coast and Cooktown there be a minimum of 500 hectares of fisheries reserves.

That there be an expanded public awareness program on the role of fish sanctuaries and habitat reserves, including the involvement of Local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies.

#### Recommendation 2 – Control Over Habitat Loss

That the principles of 'no net loss' of habitat and buffer zones between foreshore and wetlands and proposed developments be adopted in guiding decisions on developments near to fisheries habitat areas.

That all proposals for coastal development be critically assessed and subsequently carefully controlled so that their impact on the aquatic environment is kept to an absolute minimum.

That substantial performance bonds be attached to coastal developments as a means of ensuring compliance with agreed standards.

That in cases where habitat loss is absolutely necessary, developers including port authorities, be required to contribute to the enhancement of fisheries, including funding for specific habitat restoration and fisheries research.

That when authorisations are granted to develop coastal lands, developers be required to ensure that measures are in place to prevent or control the effects of acid sulphate or potential acid sulphate soils on the aquatic environment.

### **Recommendation 3 – Sewage Discharges into Aquatic Environment**

That sunset clauses should be imposed on local authorities to terminate all primary discharges into tidal areas and that land discharge be adopted as an alternative wherever this is environmentally acceptable and economically feasible.

That local authorities be required to cease discharges of sewage, other than tertiary treated sewage, into the aquatic environment by the year 2001.

### **Recommendation 4 – Agricultural, Industrial and Domestic Run-off into the Aquatic Environment**

That integrated catchment management approaches that lead to a reduction of inputs of silt, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic pollutants into rivers, reduction of erosion, and reduced loss of stream bank vegetation be strongly supported.

That Integrated Catchment Management Groups include a representative appointed by Zonal Advisory Committees to represent fishing interests.

That the appropriate Government agencies progressively set stricter standards for industrial discharges and for renewal of licences and enforce such standards.

That increased penalties be introduced for point discharge of industrial and other waste leading to deterioration in water quality and fish kills, and that legislation be introduced that would allow Magistrates to hand down judgements which require convicted persons or companies to undertake restoration of the environment or restock affected streams.

### **Recommendation 5 – Loss of Fishing Amenity caused by Jet Skis, Hovercraft, Four Wheel Drive Vehicles etc.**

That investigations be undertaken into the effects of four wheel drive vehicles, jet skis and similar vessels on the marine environment and the distribution of fish stocks and that appropriate controls including areas of use be introduced if necessary.

### **Recommendation 6 – Loss of Fishing Amenity through Removal of Access**

That when parts of foreshore areas or waterways are considered for development (industrial, tourist related, marinas) local authorities and port authorities recognise the historic availability of access by recreational anglers and grant approvals which maintain access by anglers to those fishing areas.

### **Recommendation 7 – Siting of Rubbish Tips**

That existing rubbish tips be upgraded and planned tips be designed to prevent the leeching of harmful contaminants into the aquatic environment.

That penalties be imposed on local authorities for destruction of fisheries habitat caused by rubbish tips.

### **Recommendation 8 – Dredging and Sand/Gravel Extraction Operations**

That in considering applications for dredging and sand/gravel extraction operations, Government agencies and local authorities should consult with the relevant fisheries agency and ensure that these proposed operations do not adversely impact on the aquatic environment.

### **Recommendation 9 – Sewage Holding Tanks**

That the Department of Transport and Department of Local Government set a time table for the establishment of sewage and sullage tanks on appropriately sized vessels together with the installation of pump out facilities at designated anchorages by port authorities and other responsible organisations.

### **Recommendation 10 – Bait Packaging**

That the Government initiate discussions with other States and the Commonwealth to develop a national strategy aimed at eliminating non-biodegradable bait packaging in the fishing industry.

### **Recommendation 11 – Angler-caused Pollution**

That public authorities must provide garbage disposal facilities at boat ramps.

## **EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**

### **Recommendation 12 – Priority Public Education and Awareness Campaign**

That a priority public education and awareness campaign be introduced into Queensland aimed at increasing knowledge of fishery matters co-ordinated by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Department of Environment and Heritage and involving port and local authorities, tourism associations, bait and tackle outlets, coast guards, air sea rescue groups, fishing clubs, motels and camping and caravan parks.

That management plans should incorporate appropriate education and awareness strategies.

**Recommendation 13 – Role of Zonal Advisory Committees in Education and Public Awareness**

That Zonal Advisory Committees advise on and assist in local public education and awareness campaigns.

That members of Zonal Advisory Committees assist local schools by making voluntary presentations to school children and other community groups on a range of recreational fishing matters.

**Recommendation 14 – "Fishcare" Program**

That a "Fishcare" program be developed, based on the principles of ecological sustainability, and that Zonal Advisory Committees help develop local area fishery resource plans according to these principles.

**Recommendation 15 – School Curriculum to Include Information on Management of Fisheries and Ecological Systems**

That the Government ensure that matters involved with the management of fisheries and habitat protection are part of the school curriculum.

**Recommendation 16 – Codes of Practice**

That codes of practice be developed and implemented by fishing clubs and associations for their members and that the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, in consultation with recreational fishing organisations, develop suitable codes for widespread distribution to members of the public.

**Recommendation 17 – Boat Ramp Notice Boards**

That boat ramp notice boards be erected throughout Queensland informing recreational anglers of a wide range of relevant fishing information eg. minimum size of local fish and crustaceans, bag limits, closed areas, penalties, safety issues, handling of tagged fish, fisheries hotline number etc.

That Zonal Advisory Committees co-operate with port authorities and local authorities in the erection of these notice boards.

That the funding for the construction and erection of these notice boards be provided by port authorities and local authorities.



## FUNDING

### Recommendation 18 - Funding for Fisheries Management

That no general marine recreational fishing licence be introduced in Queensland.

That funding for the management of recreational fishing in Queensland be increased by the adoption of the following options and that the revenue generated be placed into a trust fund dedicated for use on recreational fishing.

- (i) A \$20 fee on new bait and cast nets.
- (ii) Fees on participants in commercially based fishing competitions eg. Orchid Beach Classic, Straddie Classic etc.
- (iii) An "in principle" fee for people travelling to Fraser Island, Great Barrier Reef, Gulf of Carpentaria etc. for extended fishing trips so that the proposed bag limits do not prevent their holiday or trip.

That the following options be investigated.

- (i) Port authorities and local authorities be financially responsible within their areas for boat ramps and signage on fishing and boating safety.
- (ii) A special purpose recreational fishing fee of \$10 be imposed on registration fees for pleasure craft used for fishing purposes.
- (iii) The Department of Sport, Tourism and Racing be responsible for the development of recreational fishing as a sport and leisure activity and provide education, brochures, videos, etc.
- (iv) Appropriate sponsorships be sought from the private sector to increase the funds available for the distribution of information on fisheries matters.

That a levy be applied on fishing clubs and/or their affiliated organisations to provide adequate funds for the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council to operate effectively.

### Recommendation 19 - Supplementary Commonwealth Funding for Recreational Fishing Management

That the Queensland Government approach the Commonwealth Government for supplementary funding for recreational fishing management.

That funds from sales taxes on Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBS) be returned to the States for the promotion of boating safety issues by the State's port authorities.

#### Recommendation 20 – Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program

That funding support to the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program be restored to at least its original level of \$1 million.

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

#### Recommendation 21 – Size Limits

That the existing minimum sizes for Bream (Pikey and Yellow-finned), Tarwhine, and Luderick of 23cm be increased to 25cm; Flathead (Bar-tailed, Mud and Sand) be increased from 30cm to 35cm; Coral Trout be increased from 38cm to 40cm; and Swallowtail (Dart) which presently has no minimum size should have a minimum size of 30cm.

That these sizes be reviewed within two years.

That where necessary net mesh sizes presently included in the regulations be changed to reflect increases in minimum sizes of fish and that this be introduced over a period of time to allow commercial operators to replace existing nets.

#### Recommendation 22 – Bag Limits

That recreational bag limits be introduced for the following species.

. Spotted Javelin Fish (Grunter)	- 20
. Tailor	- 20
. Flathead (Bar-tailed, mud and sand)	- 10
. Bream (Pikey and Yellow Finned) and Tarwhine	- 30
. Whiting (Gold-lined and sand)	- 30
. Swallowtail Dart	- 20
. Mangrove Jack	- 5

That bag limits be reviewed within 2 years.

That an authorisation system be developed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, in consultation with the recreational fishing sector, to cater for those anglers travelling to isolated locations where bag limits in possession would be unreasonable for an extended stay.

### **Recommendation 23 – Spawning Area Closures**

That further closures be introduced in Queensland to protect spawning tailor aggregations. 3

That the principle of spawning closures established for the barramundi and tailor fisheries be adopted in relation to the bream, whiting and flathead fisheries in all areas.

That spawning closures be implemented in Recreational Fishing Areas on a trial basis.

That consideration be given to the closing of selected reefs during coral trout spawning periods.

### **Recommendation 24 – Declaration of Certain Fish as Non-Commercial Species**

That Swallowtail (Dart) and Mangrove Jack be declared as non-commercial species. 4

### **Recommendation 25 – Winter Whiting Trawl Closures**

That seasonal closures to trawling be introduced in designated winter whiting areas in Moreton and Hervey Bays and Great Sandy Strait. 3

That if seasonal closures and catch quotas did not adequately address target trawling of winter whiting then this fish be declared as a non-commercial species.

### **Recommendation 26 – Crabbing**

That investigations be undertaken with a view to limiting the number of crab pots in use in selected rivers and estuary systems. 4

That investigations be undertaken into implementing a system of rotational closures to crabbing to spell rivers, creeks, estuaries and bay systems and that any resultant closures apply to both commercial and recreational crabbers.

That fisheries managers, biologists, commercial and recreational fishing representatives investigate the development of a suitable escape hatch mechanism for rigid crab pot apparatus.

That uniform crab regulations between the States be investigated.

That the current ban on the taking of female mud and sand crabs be retained.

That the present recreational bag limit of ten mud crabs per person in possession be retained.

That the current minimum legal sizes for both mud and sand crabs be retained at a carapace width of 150mm and that the proposed underbody measurement be deleted.

#### **Recommendation 27 – Inverted Dillies**

That the specifications for inverted dillies include :

- . diameter of hoop less than 1 metre
- . gauge of wire or hoop at least 6.2mm
- . ply of net to be 12 ply multifilament

and that these specifications be introduced with a phase-in period of 24 months from the date of announcement.

#### **Recommendation 28 – Catch Quotas**

That under the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, the Government consider catch quotas where the necessary stock assessment could be undertaken utilising existing research and monitoring.

That in fisheries where there is evidence of decline the Government implement catch quotas as a means of ensuring the viability of stocks.

#### **Recommendation 29 – Phasing Out of River/Inshore Beam Trawling**

That river/inshore beam trawling operations be phased out with immediate attention to the Burnett, Mary and Burrum Rivers, Great Sandy Strait and the rivers of Moreton Bay except the Brisbane River upstream of Luggage Point to the Victoria Bridge.

That all river/inshore beam trawling endorsements be made non-transferable.

#### **Recommendation 30 – Special Zonal Arrangements to Apply in Moreton Bay**

That special zonal arrangements apply to Moreton Bay fisheries to ensure that this unique resource is managed to ensure its viability for future generations.



**Recommendation 31 – Ring Netting for Lesser (Small) Mackerels**

That the use of ring netting apparatus for lesser mackerels be capped and limited to those operators who could demonstrate a significant commercial level of involvement over a three year period and that endorsements be non-transferable during the period of the current research program.

That catch quotas be implemented in this fishery.

**Recommendation 32 – Management of Inter-tidal Areas including Bait Fisheries**

That a management plan be developed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority in conjunction with relevant organisations, for the management of inter-tidal areas including oyster leases.

That zoning of areas for commercial worm digging be implemented.

That all worm digging be banned from foreshores in residential areas and that rotational closures of other foreshores be enforced.

That destruction of habitat from worm digging operations and from the use of bait nets be minimised.

**Recommendation 33 – Otter Trawl Boundaries**

That as a general principle otter trawl boundaries be set at a minimum distance of two kilometres offshore from population centres and that as a concession for this arrangement seasonal access by trawlers to banana prawns be developed in consultation with the appropriate Management and Zonal Advisory Committees.

**Recommendation 34 – Ocean Beach Net Fishery**

That a zonal system of management for the ocean beach net fishery on a year round basis be introduced.

That weekend closures apply to commercial netting on ocean beaches all year round other than the taking of mullet.

That the ocean beach net fishery boundaries be amended to include the area from Comboyuro Point to Cape Moreton on Moreton Island.

That a limitation on catches based on past levels of participation be applied to the taking of tailor by commercial fishing operators based on the total catch of 126 tonnes during 1992 and that this catch quota be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains a constant percentage of the total catch.

**Recommendation 35 – Netting in Specific Bays, Estuaries and Rivers of Recreational Significance**

That a maximum length of net be introduced for specific bays, estuaries and rivers.

That evidence of excess netting in a specific area leading to over fishing should result in a closure of that area for an extended period to commercial netters.

**Recommendation 36 – Establishment of Recreational Fishing Areas**

That Recreational Fishing Areas be declared throughout Queensland in all areas where permanent netting closures presently apply and that additional netting closures be introduced in the following areas and declared as Recreational Fishing Areas.

- . Part of the Southport Broadwater
- . Part of the foreshores of the Redcliffe Peninsula
- . Pumicestone Passage
- . Part of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait
- . Part of the Hinchinbrook Channel
- . Johnstone River
- . Trinity Inlet
- . Barron River

That the exact boundaries and the extent of the areas be recommended by Zonal Advisory Committees.

That all commercial fishing activity be excluded from these areas.

That the matter be reviewed in three years.

**Recommendation 37 – Removal of Latent Effort**

That urgent steps be taken to remove the latent (ie, unused or under-utilised) effort in the commercial fishery.

That specific action be taken to remove the latent effort in the east coast barramundi fishery before the next barramundi review in 1996.

That fees charged for endorsements be increased substantially.

**Recommendation 38 – Zoning of Estuarine and Inshore Fisheries (excluding East Coast Otter Trawling)**

That a system of fishing zones be developed for estuarine and inshore fisheries (excluding east coast otter trawling) for consideration by the Minister.

That the views of Zonal Advisory Committees must be taken into consideration when determining the future fisheries resource and habitat management measures for the zones.

#### **Recommendation 39 – Recreational Fishing Charter Boats and Operations**

That all recreational fishing charter boats and land-based operations including estuary, inshore and reef be licenced with appropriate conditions applying in each sector, including logbook returns on catch and effort.

That a code of ethics for charter boat operators be developed which re-affirms amongst other things that the selling of the catch was illegal.

#### **Recommendation 40 – Reduction in Fishing Effort**

That policies be developed through the Minister's Policy Council and in consultation with the commercial sector to provide for a reduction in commercial fishing effort.

That the beneficiaries of the reduction in commercial effort contribute to the purchase of licences.

#### **Recommendation 41 – Amnesty Period for Voluntary Surrender of Illegal Nets**

That an amnesty period of three months for the voluntary surrender of illegal nets or fish net mesh be declared throughout Queensland and that penalties be increased significantly for the possession of illegal nets.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Recommendation 42 – Increased Funding for Fisheries Enforcement**

That the Committee believed strongly that levels of staff for fisheries surveillance and enforcement be increased to ensure an acceptable level of compliance.

#### **Recommendation 43 – Higher Public Profile for Boating and Fisheries Patrol**

That strategies be developed by the Boating and Fisheries Patrol and resources deployed to target offenders which inflict the most damage on the resource.

**Recommendation 44 – Extend Fisheries Enforcement Powers to Personnel from other Government Agencies**

That personnel from other Government agencies – Water Resources Commission, Department of Environment and Heritage, Local Authorities (eg. Environmental Health Officer), Aboriginal Rangers and possibly D.P.I. Stock Inspectors (for freshwater impoundments) – be empowered as fisheries inspectors.

**Recommendation 45 – Increased Penalties for Major Offenders**

That penalties be increased substantially for a range of major offences such as the illegal sale of fish, the taking of female crabs and illegal netting including the confiscation of boats, trailers, cars, fishing gear and the loss of commercial fishing licences used in committing the offence.

That a points system for repeat offenders be implemented.

**Recommendation 46 – On the Spot Fines**

That on-the-spot fines be introduced in fisheries legislation as soon as possible.

**Recommendation 47 – Flying Squads**

That a "Flying Squad" be established with unmarked vehicles and boats to target enforcement problem areas.

**Recommendation 48 – Illegal Sales of Fish**

That the current docketing system for the buying and selling of seafood be improved with a view to strengthening its capacity to audit fish sales.

**ACCESS TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND AND TRADITIONAL FISHING**

**Recommendation 49 – Access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land**

That in gaining access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for recreational fishing purposes, anglers must observe the requirements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils.



### **Recommendation 50 – Traditional Fishing**

That the Government support and endorse the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take fish, crustaceans and other marine products for traditional purposes.

That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities be involved in decision making procedures that affect any fisheries management measures which may impact on traditional fishing.

That traditional fishing practices be recognised and supported by State fisheries management framework.

That the current system of allocating community licences in the name of the Chairperson of the community be maintained.

That all members of the Queensland community who fish recreationally should be subject to the same recreational fishing rules.

## **FISHERIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION**

### **Recommendation 51 – Fisheries as One Entity in Queensland**

That the Government combine operational management functions (research, enforcement, and habitat protection) within the Department of Primary Industries with the Queensland Fish Management Authority into a single statutory body to be known as the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

### **Recommendation 52 – Position of Fisheries in Government**

That the Government consider where the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority sits within the framework of Government.

### **Recommendation 53 – Restructure of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority**

That the Board of the proposed Queensland Fisheries Management Authority be restructured on an expertise basis with members having demonstrated knowledge in at least one of the following ie., natural resource management, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, conservation and commerce/finance.

#### **Recommendation 54 – Establishment of Management Advisory Committees**

That Management Advisory Committees be established within the framework of The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority based on the following major fisheries and which include appropriate and equitable representation by recreational and other major user groups.

- . Shellfish
- . Finfish
- . Freshwater
- . Aquaculture

#### **Recommendation 55 – Establishment of Zonal Advisory Committees**

That Zonal Advisory Committees representing, for example, recreational, commercial and traditional anglers, local authorities, relevant State Government Departments, tourism and community representatives be established by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to offer advice on issues relating to management, research, enforcement, habitat protection, restocking, and public information on a zonal basis.

#### **Recommendation 56 – Establishment of a Fisheries Policy Council to Advise Minister**

That a Fisheries Policy Council be established to offer independent and strategic policy advice to the Minister and that it be representative of all aspects of fishing and associated activity.

#### **Recommendation 57 – Strategy for Research, Enforcement and Monitoring**

That the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority be responsible for setting research, enforcement and monitoring strategies and priorities taking into account advice from Management Advisory Committees and Zonal Advisory Committees.

#### **Recommendation 58 – Management Plans**

That the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Management Advisory Committees, in conjunction with the Zonal Advisory Committees, undertake the development, implementation and evaluation of statutory management plans for fisheries in Queensland.

#### **Recommendation 59 – Co-ordination of Management Agencies**

That the Minister responsible for fisheries establish a formal consultation process to co-ordinate fisheries management policies and strategies with other agencies whose decisions impact significantly on fisheries resources.

## RESTOCKING

### Recommendation 60 – Entry and Access Fees to Dams and Impoundments

That agencies in control of dams and impoundments be authorised within predetermined criteria to set entry and access fees to meet the costs of restocking and enforcement and that such fees be determined and controlled in consultation with local stocking groups and local authorities.

### Recommendation 61 – Establishment of New Fisheries in Dams and Impoundments

That dams and impoundments which have not been stocked be given special funding to assist initial stocking and the establishment of local fish stocking groups.

### Recommendation 62 – Stocking of the Marine Environment

That research be undertaken to establish hatchery techniques and stocking methods for the purpose of stocking recreational fishing areas with prime marine angling species and that the Government fund a pilot project in a heavily fished area eg Pumicestone Passage.

## AQUACULTURE

### Recommendation 63 – Support for Aquaculture Projects

That aquaculture projects be actively promoted in Queensland as an important new source of seafood for the commercial sector.

That there be minimal loss of habitat from this form of industry.

That local authorities consult with fisheries authorities to determine areas of land suitable for aquaculture which could then be zoned accordingly.

### Recommendation 64 – Identification of Aquaculture Product in the Marketing Process

That publicity be given and procedures established to clearly differentiate aquaculture product in the marketing process to ensure that it does not impact adversely on the management of wild stocks.

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

### Recommendation 65 – New or Extended Fisheries and Upgraded Apparatus

That the impacts of new or extended fisheries or of using new or upgraded apparatus be carefully assessed prior to approval and that such operations be closely monitored to ensure the early detection of any harmful impacts.

### Recommendation 66 – Research into Key Fish Species

That research into the main fish species of interest to recreational fishing be significantly increased with the primary aim of obtaining information for fisheries management purposes with an initial focus on key recreational species.

### Recommendation 67 – Fish Data Base for Monitoring (Stock Assessment)

That a comprehensive recreational data base be developed to monitor the catches of popular fish species and to estimate angler effort as part of an overall program aimed at the sustainability of those species.

### Recommendation 68 – Involvement of Recreational Anglers in Data Collection

That processes be established which allow recreational anglers to be involved in fisheries research, monitoring and data collection activities.

### Recommendation 69 – Fishways on Major Coastal Rivers

That urgent design work is necessary to develop an effective method to allow migratory species of fish (particularly barramundi) to travel around barrages.

### Recommendation 70 – Research into Translocation of Species

That assessments be made of the impacts of moving live fish species to areas outside of their natural range (includes exotic species) and a firm policy be put in place by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority as a matter of urgency.

### Recommendation 71 – Research into Bait and Cast Net Catch

That research be undertaken into the impact of bait and cast nets on fish resources.

That the regulations be amended to provide for a clear separation of bait nets when in use.

### Recommendation 72 – Trawl By Catch

That urgent research be undertaken into:

- . the level of recreational angling species found in trawl by catch and whether this has any detrimental impact on the fish stocks available to anglers;
- . the effects of trawling on the marine environment and ecosystems; and
- . the development of species specific trawl apparatus.

### Recommendation 73 – Fish Aggregation Devices and Artificial Reefs

That a detailed scientific investigation be undertaken into the usefulness of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADS) and Artificial Reefs in terms of their contribution to fisheries habitat, fish stocks and recreational fishing.

That artificial reefs be established in recreational fishing areas.

## FISHING IN NATIONAL PARKS

### Recommendation 74 – Fishing in National Parks – Marine and Freshwater Environments

That the preferred legislative framework utilised in Queensland for the conservation and management of marine areas should be that provided by the Marine Parks Act, rather than the Nature Conservation Act.

That existing recreational fishing practices in the marine environment within national parks and conservation parks should be noted and respected in the preparation of conservation plans for those areas.

That the exclusion of fishing (both recreational and commercial) be accepted where this can be justified on ecological grounds for the effective conservation of an area or for the establishment of scientific reference areas.

That it be accepted that freshwater recreational fishing within national parks is generally prohibited. However, where recreational fishing is an important component of the established recreational use of a park (e.g. Noosa River in Cooloola, and Lakefield) that it be accommodated within the conservation plan for the park.

That the Department of Environment and Heritage publish a list of National Parks in Queensland where recreational fishing can be undertaken.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Recommendation 75 – Appropriateness of Commercial Apparatus

That the amount of tunnel netting that can be used at any one time or in any specific area be reviewed in the context of zonal management.

That an investigation be undertaken into the desirability of using monofilament net.

That the amounts and types of net that any one commercial operator can have in possession at any time while in a fishing operation be urgently reviewed.

That except for the stout whiting fishery, fish trawling be prohibited in Queensland waters.

## INTRODUCTION

Queensland has reached a watershed in fisheries management. Change, development and growth since World War 2 have presented us with radically altered conditions and needs. Changes leading into the next century are pressing hard on our resources. It's time for responsible decisions – decisions which don't merely respond to present needs but look to the future in a positive way.

How many recreational anglers live in Queensland is not precisely known. If we count those who fish regularly, the figure is lower than that for those who fish once a year. But with 107,000 boats (all kinds, commercial and recreational) registered, and surveys which show that over 800 000 Queenslanders fish at least once each year and regular anglers numbering around 250 000 the need for an active policy is obvious.

Without clearly defined policies, the work of management is limited to strategies which respond only to the past. It is easy to speak of a policy of "sustainability" but we need to know what that is – in measures that respond to the effects of population increase, the speed of technological advance, environmental change and community attitudes.

Around the world, the tragedy of fisheries management has always been too late a response to fisheries needs. If we are to change that, it will be by setting out to lead rather than merely react after a problem develops.

This inquiry has shown a startling depth of community concern for the State's fisheries. The widespread process of public consultation has shown that people want to be involved. There is a universal demand for responsible management and responsible behaviour. In the past, with fewer people and a pristine resource, the fishery could sustain casual and careless treatment. Today that situation is reversed. Queensland's population is increasing dramatically, the fishery is anything but pristine, and casual or careless management is out of the question.

In this tight economic climate, we have to look beyond our restrained funding options. As it happens, the Queensland Fish Management Authority has recently completed a number of reviews into component fisheries – the crab, barramundi, reef line and ocean beach net fisheries. We can operate from a stronger base of established data and therefore accelerate the pace of change.

We also know that more catch data is needed from the recreational sector. To ensure the growth of knowledge about our real fisheries situation, the trend is towards public education and community participation. This should not rely merely on the recreational fishing organisations but on wider programs. This involves a higher public profile for both the Queensland Fish Management Authority and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. We have less need of a negative enforcement culture and more need for innovative and positive leadership roles.



Fish are important. They are part of our Australian lifestyle, part of our heritage, part of our wealth, and all of our responsibility.

In today's world, fishing such as ours is increasingly a privilege. As such it can only be retained by management underpinned by policies allowing adaptation to change, adaptation to the increasing pressures of technology and growth and geared to the concepts of management based on fairness and consultation. Skills and care in handling and releasing fish, community participation in fish stocking and environmental programs and the use of information from fish tagging groups will all be necessary to protect the fisheries resource. We already have Landcare. Why shouldn't our Queensland community embrace Fishcare projects as well?

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FISHING INQUIRY

On 23 December 1992, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Rural Communities, the Honourable Tom Burns, MLA, and the Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable Ed Casey, MLA, jointly announced a State Government inquiry into Queensland's recreational fishing industry.

In making this announcement the Ministers stated that this was the first comprehensive review of recreational fishing to be undertaken in the State.

The decision to undertake the inquiry was a result of the Government's recognition that a long term strategy for the management of recreational fishing should be developed.

On 27 December 1992, the Honourable Tom Burns, MLA, announced the composition of the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee to head the inquiry. Membership of the Committee was :

Chairman	-	Honourable Tom Burns, MLA
Members	-	Ms Christine Musgrave - Laura
	-	Ms Marina Hoare - Cairns
	-	Mr Harry Bligh - Townsville
	-	Mr Vic McCristal - Cardwell
	-	Mr Bill Sawynok - Rockhampton
	-	Mr Ron Dempster - Maryborough
	-	Mr Les Meiklejohn - Warwick
	-	Mr Martin Bowerman - Gold Coast
	-	Mr Bill Greenhill - Brisbane
	-	Mr Geoff Orr - Brisbane
	-	Mr David Bateman - Brisbane
	-	Dr Barry Pollock - Brisbane
	-	Mr Len Mossop - Gold Coast
	-	Mr Alan Turnbull - Gold Coast
Secretary	-	Mr Max Blackburn - Brisbane

The Deputy Premier also announced that the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee would be supported by an Inter-departmental Working Group including officials from the Departments of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, Environment and Heritage, Primary Industries, Housing, Local Government and Planning and the offices of Cabinet and Rural Communities.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee's terms of reference were :

- . key management strategies to ensure the sustainability of recreational fishing including identification of fish species of particular importance, regions of significance and assessment of relevant environmental issues;
- . identification of key areas of research and monitoring;
- . most appropriate ways of funding recreational fishing research, enhancement, management and enforcement;
- . development of education and community awareness strategies focussing on the need to manage Queensland's fisheries resource.

### INQUIRY PROCESS

In early January 1993 the public of Queensland was informed of the inquiry through press releases, television and radio announcements and by the release of posters to fishing clubs, bait and tackle outlets etc calling for public submissions.

The Chairman of the Consultative Committee also wrote to 2700 master fishermen in Queensland in February 1993 informing them of details of the inquiry and requesting them to make submissions. Over 100 responses to the inquiry were received from this group.

The first public meeting associated with the inquiry was held in Cairns on Friday 8 January 1993 with approximately 110 people in attendance. This was followed by a further 28 meetings throughout the State from as far north as New Mappoon (near Cape York) to the Gold Coast and as far west as Mount Isa. In all over 3000 people attended these meetings. Details of the public meetings held throughout Queensland are outlined in Appendix A.

Numerous issues were raised at these meetings with members of the public taking the opportunity to contribute to the debate on such crucial issues as environment and habitat management, fish stock protection, enforcement, education, research and catch sharing. All issues raised at the public meetings were recorded for consideration by the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee.

At each public meeting the Chairman encouraged those present to write submissions to the inquiry about ways of improving the fishery in Queensland. The response to the call for written submissions was unprecedented with 4085 submissions being received by the Inquiry. Each of these submissions was acknowledged in writing. A full report on the written submissions, together with the methodology used for analysing them, is included elsewhere in this report.

Small sub-committees, which were convened throughout the State by local MLAs, contributed significantly to the overall flow of information both from their own submissions and the co-ordination of locally written submissions.

At its first meeting in January 1993, the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee decided that one of its priorities was to identify the key issues. In all its deliberations the Committee was mindful of the need to ensure the sustainability of recreational fishing in Queensland into the next century.

The Committee met on six occasions during the term of the Inquiry. These meetings were forums for discussion and consideration of the views which were expressed at public meetings, in written submissions and by the Committee members themselves on a broad range of issues within the terms of reference of the inquiry.

The April 1993 meeting of the Consultative Committee was undertaken with the assistance of a professional facilitator to ensure that the issues of importance to recreational anglers were clearly identified and early options or recommendations documented.

Subsequent Consultative Committee meetings refined the options and recommendations based on wider canvassing with local groups, consultations with affected groups and within the deliberations of the Committee itself. Consultation with affected groups included meetings with the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation, the Queensland Fish Distributions Association, the Queensland Seafood Marketers Association and the South East Queensland Bait Processors Association. A number of other people were invited to give the Committee specialised information on a variety of topics and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

During the course of the Inquiry the Chairman and Secretary of the Consultative Committee visited both the Northern Territory and Western Australia for discussions with their respective Governments on fisheries management matters. Both these Governments have implemented very successful recreational fishing policies which are recognised throughout Australia. A number of useful ideas gained through these discussions were subsequently tabled and considered by the Consultative Committee in preparing its recommendations. The time and assistance given by both the Northern Territory and Western Australian Governments and their officers to the Chairman and Secretary of the Consultative Committee is gratefully acknowledged.

During the course of its deliberations the Consultative Committee was requested by the Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable Ed Casey, MLA to review certain fisheries related matters prior to them proceeding further within Government. One of these matters, the Reef Line Fishery Management Measures, was considered by the Consultative Committee and endorsed. It was subsequently approved by the Government and the new management measures applied as from 1 July 1993. The other matters considered by the Consultative Committee, together with its decision on each matter, are detailed in Appendix B.

## OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

At all public meetings associated with the recreational fishing inquiry the public were invited to submit written submissions. In addition a poster calling for submissions was circulated to bait and tackle shops, fishing clubs etc. Numerous press releases emanating from the Deputy Premiers's Office also called for public submissions. Small sub-committees, which were convened throughout the State by local MLAs, also contributed to the number of submissions received.

The closing date for submissions was 3 May 1993. Some late submissions were received and were included in the final analysis.

In all 4085 submissions were received by the Inquiry. The Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee was impressed with both the number and standard of the written submissions. The submissions were generally thoughtful and constructive and offered many ideas on how to improve the fishery in Queensland. The majority of submissions came from individuals. However numerous submissions were also received from progress associations, conservation groups, research organisations, boating clubs, littoral societies, schools, tourist associations, local authorities, fishing clubs etc. Major submissions were received from peak organisations such as the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation and the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council. While some submissions were of a pro-forma nature others were detailed and lengthy submissions supported in some cases by documentary evidence and photographs. An alphabetical listing of the submissions is included as Appendix F.

Each submission was examined individually and the fisheries, environmental, economic, social and other comments relating to the Terms of Reference for the inquiry were summarised. These comments were then categorised into 29 separate headings under three broad groupings of Resource Sustainability Issues (including environment, habitat, level of commercial and recreational fishing effort, etc), General Controls (bag limits, minimum sizes, enforcement/surveillance, etc) and Other Issues (aquaculture, research, restocking, structure etc). This process enabled the Recreational Fishing Consultative Committee to give careful consideration to all issues raised in the public submissions as well as gauging the level of concern in specific areas.

A detailed statistical report known as "Queensland Recreational Fishing Inquiry - Content Analysis of Public Submissions" which contains the results of the above process can be obtained by contacting the Queensland Fish Management Authority, 157 Ann Street, Brisbane 4000. Telephone (07) 225-1839.

## ISSUES, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### ENVIRONMENT AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

The major concern expressed by anglers at meetings and in submissions related to the direct impact that over-fishing, habitat loss and degradation was having on fish stocks. There was a concern that in some areas habitat loss and degradation had proceeded to a point where firm fisheries management measures needed to be introduced so as to prevent any fisheries collapse.

There was an urgent need to identify critical fisheries habitat areas and to amend the legislation to protect those areas as far as possible from pressures associated with development and other uses.

Not only was it essential that critical habitat be identified and protected but that the public including Government agencies was made aware of the need to maximise the retention of such habitat.

Mangrove, wetland areas, mud and sand banks, as well as critical habitats in river systems could be lost or degraded by the consequences of urban, industrial and agricultural development. These consequences include sewage discharges, agricultural, industrial or domestic run-off, agriculture development including ponded pastures and other physical factors.

Pollution of the aquatic environment through the use of plastics including bait packaging was a major concern which required urgent attention.

The increasing number of jet skis and other similar craft was directly impacting on fish stocks and their distribution. They were also adversely affecting the aquatic environment and the quality of fishing.

### Additional Fish Sanctuaries and Habitat Reserves

There are three types of reserves declared in Queensland specifically to protect coastal aquatic habitats for fishing purposes; Fish Sanctuaries, Fish Habitat Reserves and Wetland Reserves. State and Commonwealth Marine Parks are also a means of protecting coastal habitats for multi-use purposes, which include recreational fishing.

Queensland marine parks are established over tidal lands and tidal waters to ensure that their use is ecologically sustainable. Many uses within the marine park are possible through the use of multiple-use management achieved by the development of a zoning plan. The Committee noted that this concept had been applied recently to Moreton Bay. The management of fisheries, along with other uses within the park would be subject to the overall zoning plan. A separate plan however would be developed under fisheries legislation for the day to day management of the fisheries.

It was of concern to the Committee that all habitat areas of critical importance to key fish species had not been identified at a local level. This was seen as a priority task. As well there was a need for increased involvement and commitment by local groups as well as local authorities and State and Commonwealth Government agencies to the process of declaration and retention of critical fish habitat areas. This involvement by the local community was vital to the process of identifying the views of that community on issues where judgements needed to be made as to the use of habitat in their area for development or conservation purposes. The proposed Zonal Advisory Committees (See Recommendation 55) could play a key role in this process.

The Committee believed that insufficient work had been undertaken to identify critical freshwater habitat areas important to recreational fishing and that present legislation did not adequately allow for this to be done.

#### *Recommendation 1*

*That as a matter of priority a complete listing of all fish habitat areas critical to key fish species be completed.*

*That legislation be amended to provide for the declaration of freshwater habitat/reserve areas.*

*That urgent action be taken by the Government to set aside additional fish sanctuaries and habitat reserves with a strategic spread along the coastline, eg. in every 100 kilometres of coastline between the Gold Coast and Cooktown there be a minimum of 500 hectares of fisheries reserves.*

*That there be an expanded public awareness program on the role of fish sanctuaries and habitat reserves, including the involvement of Local, State and Commonwealth Government agencies.*



### Control Over Habitat Loss

The foreshore and coastal zone contains some of the most ecologically productive and important natural systems and great care was needed in siting developments to ensure minimum impacts on fisheries habitat areas. A lot of concern had been expressed at public meetings and in submissions at the effects of the removal of mangroves and wetland areas on the productivity of coastal fisheries.

The Committee acknowledged that the reclamation of mangrove areas for the construction of residential canal estates, marinas, tourist related activities and waterfront industrial and port development was a major cause of wetlands destruction in Queensland's marine environment.

The Committee believed strongly that the financial bona fides of developers needed to be demonstrated before any commitment or approval was given. The Committee cited the case of the Oyster Point development at Cardwell as an example of a development which had failed through lack of funds after mangroves were destroyed.

The Committee felt that developers, including port authorities, needed guidelines which stipulated that mangrove clearing approvals or the destruction of any fisheries habitat were conditional on sufficient progress having been made with a project's infrastructure (roads, power, water, phone lines etc). In cases of coastal developments involving habitat loss, it was essential for performance criteria to be established and for appropriate contributions eg. performance bonds to be sought in cases of habitat loss. The present fishing legislation provided for such contributions.

The Committee was aware of the Green Paper on Proposals for Managing Queensland's Coastline which was published by the Department of Environment and Heritage in 1991. One of the objectives of this paper was to allow for the orderly and environmentally responsible use of the coast having due regard to long term community benefit and natural occurrences such as cyclones, storm surges and floods (P.14). The guidelines proposed within this objective included the principles of :

- . "zero net loss" of habitat, biodiversity and process;
- . building buffer zones between foreshores or wetlands;
- . in estuaries, 100 metres landward from high tides;
- . on sandy coasts, 100 metres landward from the vegetation line.

The Committee was aware of the growing concern within the scientific community about the effects of exposing acid sulphate soils to air and the resultant release of sulphuric acid and aluminium into the soil solution. The acid and aluminium were washed into waterways by heavy rains, affecting fish and other marine organisms. The Committee noted that these soils were widespread throughout the coastal regions of Australia.

### *Recommendation 2*

*That the principles of "no net loss" of habitat and buffer zones between foreshore and wetlands and proposed developments be adopted in guiding decisions on developments near to fisheries habitat areas.*

*That all proposals for coastal development be critically assessed and subsequently carefully controlled so that their impact on the aquatic environment is kept to an absolute minimum.*

*That substantial performance bonds be attached to coastal developments as a means of ensuring compliance with agreed standards.*

*That in cases where habitat loss is absolutely necessary, developers including port authorities, be required to contribute to the enhancement of fisheries, including funding for specific habitat restoration and fisheries research.*

*That when authorisations are granted to develop coastal lands, developers be required to ensure that measures are in place to prevent or control the effects of acid sulphate or potential acid sulphate soils on the aquatic environment.*

### Sewage Discharges into Aquatic Environment

Sewage discharges into coastal waterways were seen as a major source of pollution and degradation of coastal habitats. Local Authorities, who were primarily responsible for sewage disposal, should adopt methods such as land irrigation to dispose of primary sewage where ever possible. Alternatively the Queensland Government should encourage more complete treatment to at least the secondary stage of treatment before any discharge into rivers and bays occurs.

### *Recommendation 3*

*That sunset clauses should be imposed on local authorities to terminate all primary discharges into tidal areas and that land discharge be adopted as an alternative wherever this is environmentally acceptable and economically feasible.*

*That local authorities be required to cease discharges of sewage, other than tertiary treated sewage, into the aquatic environment by the year 2001.*

### Agricultural, Industrial and Domestic Run-off into the Aquatic Environment

The Government's initiative on integrated catchment management was viewed as a valuable framework for fostering co-operation and co-ordination between land holders, other resource users, community groups and government agencies including local authorities in the management of natural resources on a river catchment basis.

Catchment management processes and groups provided the means for reducing the run-off into rivers of agricultural chemicals as well as reducing erosion and siltation of rivers which could lead to degradation of fisheries resources and their habitats.

Detailed recommendations with respect to integrated catchment planning and management were proposed in the draft Twenty-Five Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and similar processes were being promoted by the Department of Primary Industries as part of its Integrated Catchment Management and Landcare Programs.

The Committee supported these initiatives and expressed the view that tighter controls were needed on chemical sprays which affected the quality of aquatic habitats and which were still widely used (eg pesticides, cotton insecticides, mosquito fogs etc). Aerial spraying adjacent to creeks and estuaries should be banned (hand spraying only).

Industrial processes, particularly their discharges or potential discharges, were regarded as a threat to the quality of the fisheries due to high pollution levels. Greater effort was needed in the monitoring of the impacts of industrial processes on aquatic habitats. For example, repeated fish kills caused by discharges from sugar mills. Stricter standards on industrial discharges and their subsequent enforcement were highly desirable.

Increased penalties and restoration (clean-up) requirements were means of controlling impacts of industrial pollution. Conditions on discharge licences should be more stringent each year to provide for the eventual elimination of pollution.

The Committee was aware that environmentally friendly petroleum products were available for outboard powered craft and believed that these would assist in reducing pollution in both the freshwater and marine environments.

#### *Recommendation 4*

*That integrated catchment management approaches that lead to a reduction of inputs of silt, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic pollutants into rivers, reduction of erosion, and reduced loss of stream bank vegetation be strongly supported.*

*That Integrated Catchment Management Groups include a representative appointed by Zonal Advisory Committees to represent fishing interests.*

*That the appropriate Government agencies progressively set stricter standards for industrial discharges and for renewal of licences and enforce such standards.*

*That increased penalties be introduced for point discharge of industrial and other waste leading to deterioration in water quality and fish kills, and that legislation be introduced that would allow Magistrates to hand down judgements which require convicted persons or companies to undertake restoration of the environment or restock affected streams.*

#### Loss of Fishing Amenity caused by Jet Skis, Hovercraft, Four Wheel Drive Vehicles etc.

Several submissions drew attention to the impact of the use of noisy craft such as jet skis and hovercraft on the marine environment and fish stocks and their distribution.

Comments were also received about the effect that four wheel drive vehicles were having on the availability of eugaries and beach worms and the impact of vehicle lights and vibration on fish stocks (eg. tailor on Fraser Island) which causes them to travel further offshore. A number of submissions commented on the detrimental impact that these activities were having, including the disturbance of fish nursery areas, erosion of river banks and the dispersal and frightening away of fish from the anglers.

The Committee's view was that all of these impacts were adversely affecting the quality of recreational fishing. Further information on the impacts on fisheries of such craft was needed and appropriate controls, including zoning of use, should be implemented if the results warranted it.

#### *Recommendation 5*

*That investigations be undertaken into the effects of four wheel drive vehicles, jet skis and similar vessels on the marine environment and the distribution of fish stocks and that appropriate controls including areas of use be introduced if necessary.*

#### Loss of Fishing Amenity through Removal of Access

A concern expressed by some anglers involved the loss of prime recreational fishing areas such as jetties, river banks and foreshores to industrial complexes, marinas and a range of tourist related developments.

It was the view of the Committee that historical access by recreational anglers to these areas should be continued and that local and port authorities should give consideration to the non-boating recreational fishing public when determining approvals for development.

#### *Recommendation 6*

*That when parts of foreshore areas or waterways are considered for development (industrial, tourist related, marinas) local authorities and port authorities recognise the historic availability of access by recreational anglers and grant approvals which maintain access by anglers to those fishing areas.*

#### Siting of Rubbish Tips

Many submissions were concerned about the siting by local authorities of rubbish tips close to rivers, streams and foreshore areas. More often than not the tips were situated on land which comprised fisheries habitat areas. The Committee noted that there was ample evidence to show that significant quantities of harmful material leached out of rubbish tips over time and had detrimental effects on the flora and fauna of these sensitive areas. The Committee's view was that all rubbish tips must be sited away from environmentally sensitive areas and that local authorities should recognise the harmful effects of rubbish tips situated adjacent to waterways.

#### *Recommendation 7*

*That existing rubbish tips be upgraded and planned tips be designed to prevent the leeching of harmful contaminants into the aquatic environment.*

*That penalties be imposed on local authorities for destruction of fisheries habitat caused by rubbish tips.*

#### Dredging and Sand/Gravel Extraction Operations

The Committee expressed concern that dredging and sand/gravel extraction operations throughout Queensland were presently having a detrimental effect on the aquatic environment. Submissions to the Inquiry cited instances of river bank collapse, increasing turbidity, silting and a general degradation of habitat areas as a result of these operations.

Coral dredging was another example of an activity which degraded fisheries habitat areas. The dumping of spoil from dredging operations, canal and marina developments, into the marine environment or foreshore habitat areas was a practice of major concern.

The Committee was aware of measures introduced by a number of authorities to resolve the disposal of unstable spoil and the difficulties faced by many existing operators in locating suitable areas for its disposal.

It was the Committee's view that the relevant agencies responsible for approving these operations should consult in the first instance with the fisheries agency. This consultation was necessary to ensure that applications for dredging did not involve critical habitat areas or proposed areas and that the proposed operations would be conducted with minimal disruption or impact on the aquatic environment.

#### *Recommendation 8*

*That in considering applications for dredging and sand/gravel extraction operations, Government agencies and local authorities should consult with the relevant fisheries agency and ensure that these proposed operations do not adversely impact on the aquatic environment.*

#### Sewage Holding Tanks

There was concern that the increasing use of small craft without appropriate sewage and sullage facilities could be degrading the quality of aquatic habitats. The Committee believed that boats on which people were living, as well as commercial vessels, should be fitted with appropriate sewage holding tanks, and that these tanks should be pumped out at facilities provided by port authorities and other responsible organisations at marinas, harbours and other shore bases.

#### *Recommendation 9*

*That the Department of Transport and Department of Local Government set a time table for the establishment of sewage and sullage tanks on appropriately sized vessels together with the installation of pump out facilities at designated anchorages by port authorities and other responsible organisations.*

### **Bait Packaging**

The Committee expressed concern about the amount of bait packaging which abounded in the marine environment. Most bait used by recreational anglers was packaged in non-biodegradable plastic bags. Not only was this plastic material a major source of pollution but it had the ability to harm and kill sea birds and marine life.

The Committee believed that a national strategy to eliminate the use of non-biodegradable bait packaging material should be developed in conjunction with the Commonwealth and other State Governments.

### ***Recommendation 10***

*That the Government initiate discussions with other States and the Commonwealth to develop a national strategy aimed at eliminating non-biodegradable bait packaging in the fishing industry.*

### **Angler-caused Pollution**

Sources of pollution caused by the angling community included fishing line, which had shown to be a problem to sea birds and other marine life, plastic bags, discarded bottles, tins and other refuse. The Committee believed that this issue was also applicable to other recommendations in the report including angler education and codes of practice.

### ***Recommendation 11***

*That public authorities must provide garbage disposal facilities at boat ramps.*

## **EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS**

Submissions sought the establishment of information and education programs aimed at improving public knowledge and acceptance of fisheries rules and regulations. The Committee felt that a more concerted effort was required to make information available to recreational anglers and the general public about issues involved in fishing eg. environment and habitat management, sustainability of the resource, bag limits, size limits etc.



The Committee considered that the effective implementation of many of the recommendations in this report would depend to a large extent on the development and implementation of community education programs.

Zonal Advisory Committees, recommended elsewhere in this report, were considered by the Committee to be an integral and important part of community education programs. These Committees would have a role in monitoring local issues and assist in providing relevant information to the sections of the local community they represent.

The Committee was aware of the success of the national "Landcare" program and believed that a similar "Fishcare" program should be developed in Queensland.

The Committee considered that strategies should be adopted as a means of encouraging ethical recreational fishing behaviour throughout the community. These should include specific campaigns aimed at encouraging conservation, particularly with reference to shellfish gathering and the taking of undersized fish.

Establishment of notice boards at boat ramps which showed the minimum sizes of local fish together with information on bag limits, closed seasons, penalties etc. was a further strategy.

#### **Priority Public Education and Awareness Campaign**

The Committee considered public education and awareness as a critical issue. A large proportion of the recreational fishing population had little knowledge and understanding of fisheries matters, including fisheries regulations. It was vital for the sustainability of fisheries to increase the awareness of the recreational fishing sector in a range of fisheries matters. This should be presented in a range of outlets that would impact on occasional anglers (for instance holiday anglers and visiting interstate anglers) as well as frequent anglers. Inexpensive leaflets handed to anglers buying bait or tackle and fish measuring devices were cited as examples to be considered.

The Committee also considered that there was a specific need for an education campaign to promote conservation particularly with reference to shellfish gathering and the taking of undersized fish.

Elsewhere in this report is a recommendation that management plans be implemented for all fisheries in Queensland. The Committee considered that these management plans should incorporate appropriate education and awareness strategies.

#### ***Recommendation 12***

*That a priority public education and awareness campaign be introduced into Queensland aimed at increasing knowledge of fishery matters co-ordinated by the*

*Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Department of Environment and Heritage and involving port and local authorities, tourism associations, bait and tackle outlets, coast guards, air sea rescue groups, fishing clubs, motels and camping and caravan parks.*

*That management plans should incorporate appropriate education and awareness strategies.*

### Role of Zonal Advisory Committees in Education and Public Awareness

Elsewhere in this report is a recommendation (Recommendation 55) that Zonal Advisory Committees comprising eg., recreational, commercial and traditional anglers, local authorities, relevant State Government Departments, tourism and community representatives be established by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to offer advice on issues relating to management, research, enforcement, habitat protection, restocking, and public information on a zonal basis.

Zonal Advisory Committees would have an important role in identifying local issues and appropriate methods of increasing public awareness. They could bring to the attention of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and other authorities, issues requiring public education and awareness action and suggest appropriate local methods of conveying information, and assist in assessing the level of success of information campaigns. It was expected that individual committee members would be in a position to inform the sections of the community they represented.

A view was expressed by the Committee that members of Zonal Advisory Committees, particularly retired commercial fishermen and experienced amateur anglers, may be prepared to assist local schools by making voluntary presentations to children on a range of recreational fishing matters including bag limits, size limits, spawning area closures etc.

### *Recommendation 13*

*That Zonal Advisory Committees advise on and assist in local public education and awareness campaigns.*

*That members of Zonal Advisory Committees assist local schools by making voluntary presentations to school children and other community groups on a range of recreational fishing matters.*

### "Fishcare" Program

Given the success of the national "Landcare" program, it was considered by the Committee that a "Fishcare" program based on the principles of ecological sustainability would substantially improve community awareness of the need to conserve our marine resources.

There were numerous examples in submissions of the need to collect information about fisheries resources in local areas. This information included the amount of habitat, state of fish stocks, spawning areas etc.

The Committee envisaged that the Zonal Advisory Committees would play a leading role in the establishment and operations of the "Fishcare" program. In addition participation of local people in the program would be a major element in the collection of fisheries resource information leading to the development of local area fishery resource plans. It would also be the vehicle by which fisheries information could be disseminated to the general public.

#### *Recommendation 14*

*That a "Fishcare" program be developed, based on the principles of ecological sustainability, and that Zonal Advisory Committees help develop local area fishery resource plans according to these principles.*

### School Curriculum to Include Information on Management of Fisheries and Ecological Systems

There was abundant evidence to suggest that peoples' attitudes to conservation including fisheries and wetland management were formed at an early age. Schools have already adopted curricula concerning a range of natural resource management themes. It was important that fisheries and wetland management matters be maintained in school curricula so that young people were exposed to these ideas and could carry the "right" attitudes into their adult life.

#### *Recommendation 15*

*That the Government ensure that matters involved with the management of fisheries and habitat protection are part of the school curriculum.*

### Codes of Practice

The Committee felt that a code of practice should be developed by each angling organisation and that general guidelines be developed by the fisheries management agency for codes of practice. It was important that anglers be made aware of their responsibilities and the code of practice could be used as an educational tool. The public image of anglers would be enhanced in the eyes of other groups.

The Committee also considered that anglers should be made aware of the procedures for access into traditional areas. It was suggested that a code of practice should be prepared and distributed through fishing clubs, tackle stores and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

### *Recommendation 16*

*That codes of practice be developed and implemented by fishing clubs and associations for their members and that the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, in consultation with recreational fishing organisations, develop suitable codes for widespread distribution to members of the public.*

### Boat Ramp Notice Boards

At public meetings suggestions were made that more use be made of notice boards at public boat ramps in terms of providing information about fisheries rules. The Committee was aware of the practice in Western Australia of erecting large notice boards adjacent to boat ramps which informed recreational anglers of a wide range of relevant fishing information. These signs included information on minimum sizes of local fish and crustaceans, bag limits, closed areas (if applicable), penalties, handling of tagged fish, fisheries hotline number, safety issues and advice to the effect that it was illegal for recreational anglers to sell their catch. The Committee saw considerable merit in this approach and suggested that similar signs be erected throughout Queensland. It was also suggested that Zonal Advisory Committees would be the appropriate forums to co-ordinate the erection of these signs which could be funded by contributions from port authorities and local authorities.

### *Recommendation 17*

*That boat ramp notice boards be erected throughout Queensland informing recreational anglers of a wide range of relevant fishing information eg. minimum size of local fish and crustaceans, bag limits, closed areas, penalties, safety issues, handling of tagged fish, fisheries hotline number etc.*

*That Zonal Advisory Committees co-operate with port authorities and local authorities in the erection of these notice boards.*

*That the funding for the construction and erection of these notice boards be provided by port authorities and local authorities.*

## **FUNDING**

Government services in support of recreational fishing include the functions of enhancement (e.g. fish stocking), management, research, information, enforcement and habitat protection. The present costs of these services in Queensland was approximately \$5.5 million annually, most of which was provided from Queensland Government Consolidated Revenue. Additional services were being requested in support of recreational fishing in Queensland, and these services would require additional funding.

The Committee was advised that as at 30 June 1992 there were 107827 registered boats in Queensland and that registration fees totalled \$7.7 million. Boat trailer registrations contributed approximately \$3.8 million. Commercial fishing licence fees contribute \$2.05 million per annum to the Queensland Fish Management Authority.

### **Funding for Fisheries Management**

At present the fisheries agencies in Queensland (Department of Primary Industries and Queensland Fish Management Authority) obtain funding mainly from Queensland Consolidated Revenue and commercial industry. However, considerable funding also came from the Commonwealth Government for fisheries under joint management arrangements eg. Torres Strait and funds from research bodies for commercial fisheries. Other (minor) sources of funding included private developers and overseas funding bodies (e.g. United Nations).

The Committee was mindful that a large number of issues raised during the public meeting process and in submissions could only be addressed by the injection of considerable additional funding. These issues included further research on a range of fish species and habitat, public education and information on fisheries matters, higher levels of staffing for the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and new enforcement strategies, management and compensation for the possible buyback of licences as part of the removal of commercial fishing effort.

The Committee was aware of the inadequate amount of information available for managing many of the fish stocks of importance to anglers and therefore making informed decisions about resource management and resource sharing was difficult. It was also aware that the draft National Policy on Recreational Fishing document stated that the amount of funding required for recreational fishing in Australia was \$44 million per annum. To achieve this level of funding, recreational anglers would need to contribute directly towards managing the fisheries in which they participated.

A large part of the debate on the issue of whether recreational anglers should contribute directly to fisheries management revolved around what happened to the contributions made by the recreational sector. There was a suspicion that the contributions would not be used solely to benefit recreational fishing. Mechanisms such as the establishment of trust funds dedicated to recreational fishing was cited as a way of ensuring that funds from the recreational sector could be accounted for.

Apart from the present funding, the Committee saw other possible sources of funding being the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing, port authorities, a general recreational fishing licence, fees for selected fishing apparatus (recreational) and fees on leisure boat registrations.

It was noted that recreational fishing was the second largest participative sport behind swimming yet received almost no funding compared with other sports. It was considered that for recreational fishing to develop, it must receive greater recognition as a sport through the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing. It was suggested by the Committee that a specific recreational fishing development section should be established within this department.

The Committee was also of the view that the private sector should be encouraged to sponsor and fund specific packages which aim to inform recreational anglers on fisheries matters. Such an arrangement would supplement the efforts of Government and recreational fishing organisations. This could include direct sponsorship of Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and other Government material.

It was noted by the Committee that most large-scale recreational fishing competitions, which are now popular and common in Queensland, are commercial ventures. As such they are the beneficiaries of fisheries management and resources and therefore should be expected to contribute to the cost of that management. It was envisaged that any fee levied would not apply to club competitions conducted under some predetermined criteria.

The impact of recreational fishing on available fish stocks was becoming increasingly clear as were the socio-economic benefits of recreational fishing and its supportive industries. What was also becoming clearer was the need to adequately fund the sustainable resource which provided economic benefits to Queensland. The introduction of a general recreational fishing licence for adults with discounts for holders of senior cards and pensioners was not supported by the majority of recreational anglers and was not recommended by the Committee. The basis for the opposition to licences was the impost of costs and charges already impacting on anglers such as sales taxes on fuel, tackle etc. An alternative to a general licence would be fees on selected fishing apparatus, fees on pleasure boat registrations and fees on commercially based fishing competitions. The Committee was of the view that some level of funding needed to be available to implement the measures sought by the bulk of people responding to this Inquiry. It was recognised that there would be some resistance to implementation of any form of fees as a means of raising revenue.

The Committee however felt that unless the funding needs of recreational fishing were adequately met then the long-term viability of the popular recreational fisheries would be jeopardised and the quality of fishing would inevitably fall.

If some form of funding system was introduced the Committee favoured the trust fund method of holding the revenue with such funds being expended on the following :

- . catch monitoring and research on fish and habitat;
- . public education and information;
- . extra enforcement and surveillance capability;
- . enhancement of the fishery (restocking);
- . buying back commercial licences; and
- . adequate/equitable representation in decision-making on fisheries resources.

The Committee also believed that fishing clubs and their affiliated organisations should contribute financially to the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council to enable the Council to fulfill its role as the peak recreational fishing body in Queensland.

#### *Recommendation 18*

*That no general marine recreational fishing licence be introduced in Queensland.*

*That funding for the management of recreational fishing in Queensland be increased by the adoption of the following options and that the revenue generated be placed into a trust fund dedicated for use on recreational fishing.*

- (i) *A \$20 fee on new bait and cast nets.*
- (ii) *Fees on participants in commercially based fishing competitions eg. Orchid Beach Classic, Straddie Classic etc.*
- (iii) *An "in principle" fee for people travelling to Fraser Island, Great Barrier Reef, Gulf of Carpentaria etc. for extended fishing trips so that the proposed bag limits do not prevent their holiday or trip.*

*That the following options be investigated.*

- (i) *Port authorities and local authorities be financially responsible within their areas for boat ramps and signage on fishing and boating safety.*
- (ii) *A special purpose recreational fishing fee of \$10 be imposed on registration fees for pleasure craft used for fishing purposes.*

- (iii) *The Department of Sport, Tourism and Racing be responsible for the development of recreational fishing as a sport and leisure activity and provide education, brochures, videos, etc.*
- (iv) *Appropriate sponsorships be sought from the private sector to increase the funds available for the distribution of information on fisheries matters.*

*That a levy be applied on fishing clubs and/or their affiliated organisations to provide adequate funds for the Queensland Sport and Recreational Fishing Council to operate effectively.*

#### Supplementary Commonwealth Funding for Recreational Fishing Management

At present the Commonwealth Government provides very little funding in support of services to recreational fishing in Queensland. However the Commonwealth collected taxes directly associated with the cost of recreational fishing such as sales tax on gear, boats, motors, etc. and taxes on fuel. These taxes did not apply to the State's commercial fishermen as they were exempt due to their status as primary producers. Under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, the Commonwealth, in co-operation with the Queensland Government, had given responsibility for most fisheries services (all fisheries except tuna and billfish) to the Queensland Government. However little direct funding support has been provided by the Commonwealth for services to recreational fishing. The draft National Policy Statement on Recreational Fishing recognised the role of the Commonwealth in recreational fishing including the options for the Commonwealth to contribute directly to funding.

The Committee was of the view that the Queensland Government should pursue supplementary funding from the Commonwealth for recreational fishing management.

The Committee was aware of the Commonwealth Government's initiative in the introduction of Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBS) and that it was not prepared to exempt these devices from sales tax. It was felt that the Commonwealth should be prepared to allocate some of the sales tax funds obtained from EPIRBS to the States for the promotion of boating safety issues by the State's port authorities.



*Recommendation 19*

*That the Queensland Government approach the Commonwealth Government for supplementary funding for recreational fishing management.*

*That funds from sales taxes on Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBS) be returned to the States for the promotion of boating safety issues by the State's port authorities.*

Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program

The Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program has been in progress within the Fisheries Division of Department of Primary Industries for approximately eight years. It has proven to be very successful and has received wide spread support by the recreational fishing sector. This program was initially funded by a special Queensland Treasury allocation of \$1 million to primarily cover the operational cost of the program. The program includes fish stocking, research into recreational species, and liaison activities with the various recreational fishing interests. Departmental budget constraints have reduced funding by 30-40%, although the program was still active and supported by the sector. The Committee was strongly of the view that the program be restored to at least its original funding level and expanded beyond that level if at all possible.

*Recommendation 20*

*That funding support to the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program be restored to at least its original level of \$1 million.*

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

*The Committee agreed that all of the recommendations of this section should reflect the following principles.*

1. *Ecologically Sustainable Development with regard to :*
  - . integrated decision-making processes;*
  - . need to provide for broad community involvement;*
  - . cost effective and flexible policies;*
  - . a "precautionary" based approach to decision-making.*

2. *Where an adjustment of commercial fishing effort is deemed necessary, the preferred option for altering the resource share was a buyback of commercial fishing licences as a means of compensation.*

The Committee examined submissions in relation to the status of key recreational species. The clear message from the bulk of submissions was that fishing pressure on some species in some areas was now at a point where action was needed to be taken to further protect the species. Fisheries management strategies need to be developed which would contain or reduce fishing effort.

The Committee believed that for some species it was now necessary to put a cap on the effort being applied and accordingly a variety of measures which will address both commercial and recreational effort have been proposed.

While the introduction of bag limits for an increased range of recreational species may not be a popular recommendation, they should be viewed against the need to contain effort and in conjunction with recommendations made to contain or reduce commercial effort.

Commercial fishing effort impacts not only on the species being targeted but also on species caught incidentally in netting operations. The Committee has therefore addressed concerns raised by many anglers relating to the effect on the fish food chain of beam and otter trawling and netting in bays and inshore areas.

The Committee believed it was now appropriate that some species not now commercially targeted be declared as non commercial species. In some more populated areas it was considered appropriate that the Government declare additional areas to be exclusively recreational fishing areas through the exclusion of commercial netting.

There was widespread support throughout the community for the introduction of zonal management arrangements to apply to estuary and inshore fisheries with local fishermen and other groups having a major say in the way that fisheries in a particular area and zone are managed.

### Size Limits

For many years Queensland has applied minimum size limits (and sometimes maximum size limits) to fish. These minimum size limits are the smallest at which certain species can be kept. Presently there are numerous fish in Queensland which have a minimum size limit imposed on them. The Committee endorsed the Queensland Government decision to introduce minimum and maximum size limits for 36 reef fish species to apply from 1 July 1993.

Scientifically, minimum legal sizes are based on the principle of allowing the individuals of the species to spawn at least once, thereby providing a higher degree of protection for the stock. Minimum size limits in use in Queensland are based as far as possible on known biological estimates of fish sizes at first maturity.

The Committee expressed concern at the amount of pressure being placed on bream, whiting, flathead and coral trout populations in Queensland. Some concern was also expressed about swallowtail (dart).

Increasing the minimum size of bream, tarwhine, luderick, flathead and coral trout and implementing a minimum size on swallowtail (dart) were considered efficient methods of conserving these fish stocks.

The Committee felt that where necessary net mesh sizes should be amended in line with the proposed new minimum sizes to ensure that only fish of legal size or over were taken. Commercial fishermen should be given adequate time to change their nets.

#### *Recommendation 21*

*That the existing minimum sizes for Bream (Pikey and Yellow-finned), Tarwhine, and Luderick of 23cm be increased to 25cm; Flathead (Bar-tailed, Mud and Sand) be increased from 30cm to 35cm; Coral Trout be increased from 38cm to 40cm; and Swallowtail (Dart) which presently has no minimum size should have a minimum size of 30cm.*

*That these sizes be reviewed within two years.*

*That where necessary net mesh sizes presently included in the regulations be changed to reflect increases in minimum sizes of fish and that this be introduced over a period of time to allow commercial operators to replace existing nets.*

#### Bag Limits

Bag limits are the only form of output controls placed on recreational anglers. They are usually most effective when coupled with other management measures such as increased minimum sizes and spawning area closures.

Bag limits have two essential roles in the management of recreational anglers. Firstly, the concept of a catch constraint encourages anglers to be more conservative in their fishing practices by taking only what they need for personal consumption, and by promoting the attitude that if a limit exists for a species then that species must be under some fishing pressure. Primarily bag limits should be seen as an educational tool for fisheries management. Bag limits put a ceiling on excessive catches and focus public attention on the growing need for a strong conservation ethic among recreational fishers.

Secondly, bag limits are used as a legislative tool to facilitate apprehension of persistent offenders. They constrain the catches of the most successful anglers to a level which is both reasonable and sustainable for that particular species.

Bag limits are a major deterrent to anglers inclined to take large catches for sale and profit.

The Committee was concerned at the declining tailor stocks, which was based on trends from recreational reports and commercial log book data. It was considered that tailor was one of the most important recreational surf species and strong measures were needed to reverse the perceived declining trend in catches. A bag limit was proposed on recreational fishermen in conjunction with a total allowable catch by commercial operators based on past levels of participation. It was noted that New South Wales was introducing a bag limit of 20 tailor in possession.

It was considered that the increased size on bream, tarwhine and flathead would assist in maintaining the stocks at current levels but the Committee conceded that bag limits would be necessary as part of the conservation strategy. As Swallowtail Dart and Mangrove Jack were being recommended as non-commercial species, the Committee believed that a bag limit should be applied to these species to assist with stock conservation.

Submissions from North Queensland and the Gulf of Carpentaria indicated that the Spotted Javelin Fish (commonly known as Grunter) was being heavily targeted in certain areas. For this reason the Committee believed that a bag limit should be imposed on this species.

It was noted that recreational bag limits had recently been applied to 26 species in the Reef Line Fishery Management Plan. A copy of these bag limits is attached as Appendix C.

The Committee was aware of the problems which could occur with anglers who travel to some locations (eg. Fraser Island, Gulf of Carpentaria, Great Barrier Reef etc) for fishing purposes for extended periods. In this case it was considered that the bag limits in possession would be unreasonable for those anglers who spend up to a week or more in these locations. It was suggested that some form of authorisation system be developed to cater for these special circumstances.

The Committee felt that such an authorisation system should be developed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, in consultation with the recreational fishing sector, with the proviso that any fees, which were derived from such an arrangement, be directed to relevant fisheries research and management.

### *Recommendation 22*

*That recreational bag limits be introduced for the following species.*

. Spotted Javelin Fish (Grunter)	- 20
. Tailor	- 20
. Flathead (Bar-tailed, mud and sand)	- 10
. Bream (Pikey and Yellow Finned) and Tarwhine	- 30
. Whiting (Gold-lined and sand)	- 30
. Swallowtail Dart	- 20
. Mangrove Jack	- 5

*That bag limits be reviewed within 2 years.*

*That an authorisation system be developed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, in consultation with the recreational fishing sector, to cater for those anglers travelling to isolated locations where bag limits in possession would be unreasonable for an extended stay.*

### Spawning Area Closures

Closed seasons (or spawning area closures) were generally applied to provide the highest possible degree of protection for fish and crustaceans at a time during which they were aggregating or congregating to spawn. Such congregations most often occur at prominent geographical sites such as river mouths, sand bars, rocky outcrops and so on, leaving the species vulnerable to capture.

In the case of some species which exhibit either unique biological characteristics relating to lifespan, fertility, male/female spawning ratio, or predictable spawning behaviour, uncontrolled access during this period could result in a harmful depletion of the stock.

The Committee considered that the seasonal closures on barramundi and tailor were successful and this principle should be extended to other fisheries.

It was suggested that more tailor closures supported by biological information could be implemented in areas such as Kirra, Point Lookout, Cape Moreton and Fraser Island and that these be on a seasonal/geographical basis e.g. Kirra in June, Point Lookout and Cape Moreton in July.

With estuarine fish, total closure of an area was not considered desirable because of increased effort on adjacent locations. A breeding season for these species generally extended over several months so it would be possible to rotate areas for part of the season. Examples include :

- (a) for flathead close parts of Jumpinpin in September, parts of Moreton Island in October and parts of the Southport Broadwater in November;
- (b) for bream close parts of Jumpinpin (Kalinga Bank) in June and parts of the Southport Broadwater (Seaway) in July.

Closing of individual reefs during coral trout spawning periods was also considered important for the protection of breeding stocks.

The Committee considered that Zonal Advisory Committees should be consulted on any proposals for spawning area closures.

### *Recommendation 23*

*That further closures be introduced in Queensland to protect spawning tailor aggregations.*

*That the principle of spawning closures established for the barramundi and tailor fisheries be adopted in relation to the bream, whiting and flathead fisheries in all areas.*

*That spawning closures be implemented in Recreational Fishing Areas on a trial basis.*

*That consideration be given to the closing of selected reefs during coral trout spawning periods.*

### Declaration of Certain Fish as Non-Commercial Species

The Committee considered proposals to declare a number of popular angling species as non-commercial species. These species included tailor, winter whiting, swallowtail (dart) and mangrove jack.

Discussions with commercial fishing representatives have indicated that both tailor and winter whiting have established commercial markets. Both species are a relatively cheap form of seafood satisfying a need at the lower end of the market. The Committee has accepted this position and has recommended elsewhere in this report ways of managing the commercial harvesting of these species.

The Committee felt that the following two fish species were very important to recreational anglers and should be declared non-commercial species.

Swallowtail – From fishing club records it has been shown that swallowtail are one of the main surf fish caught by beach anglers. They are an excellent sportfish and can be taken virtually on any type of bait. Although these fish are of limited commercial value at present it was felt that they could become easy prey if commercial markets were found for bulk fish catches. Legal lengths and bag limits were proposed to regulate recreational catches.

Mangrove Jack – This was a prime recreational target species, particularly in North Queensland and was a major target species of recreational fishing guides catering for tourist anglers. Commercially caught Mangrove Jack were generally incidental however some targeting of the species occurred using the net technique called "plonking". This method involved a snag being surrounded by a net and then creating maximum disturbance on the snag to drive the fish into the net. The effectiveness of the method had the potential to impact significantly on snag dwellers such as Mangrove Jack. Research was being undertaken into stocking of this species into saltwater and freshwater areas and the species had some potential for stocking in impoundments. Making Mangrove Jack a non-commercial species would enhance tourist fishing for the species in North Queensland while having little impact on commercial activities.

#### *Recommendation 24*

*That Swallowtail (Dart) and Mangrove Jack be declared as non-commercial species.*

#### Winter Whiting Trawl Closures

Winter whiting are the most sought after and prolific fish caught by family anglers in south-east Queensland. This species was targeted by beginners and accomplished anglers alike. There was currently no evidence to suggest that the stocks were under threat, although they could be in the future, due to the expected large increase in anglers in south-east Queensland and increased commercial harvesting of this species.

The Committee examined submissions which proposed that winter whiting be declared a non-commercial species. The Committee also considered that a minimum size limit could be applied for commercially caught winter whiting but decided not to proceed with this proposal.

However, discussions with representatives from the fish marketing sector demonstrated that this species was now being targeted as a commercial product. The Committee was also aware that this species had been recommended as a trawl by-catch species by the Queensland Fish Management Authority as a possible way of reducing specific non prawn and scallop targeting by trawling operations.

In Moreton and Hervey Bays and Great Sandy Strait the commercial catching of winter whiting was carried out essentially in areas and at times when minor numbers of prawns were caught. There was a view that these areas should be closed seasonally to prevent trawling of winter whiting.

The Committee believed that further management measures were now required to ensure that the stocks were available to both commercial and recreational anglers in the future. It was the Committee's view that after considering all factors that seasonal area closures and catch quotas in Moreton and Hervey Bays and Great Sandy Strait would be the most effective management measure to achieve the long-term viability of this species.

#### *Recommendation 25*

*That seasonal closures to trawling be introduced in designated winter whiting areas in Moreton and Hervey Bays and Great Sandy Strait.*

*That if seasonal closures and catch quotas did not adequately address target trawling of winter whiting then this fish be declared as a non-commercial species.*

#### Crabbing

The Committee was aware of the concern expressed at the public meetings and in written submissions about excessive crabbing which was occurring with several commercial crabbers working small river, creek, estuary and bay systems and placing the crab populations under intense pressure.

The Committee considered the proposition of a limit to be placed on the number of crab pots which could be used in each river and estuary system. Although this idea had merit the Committee felt it would be difficult to implement on all rivers and streams. However it may prove to be possible in some selected rivers or estuaries.

In addition it was suggested that a system of rotational closures be implemented to spell rivers, creeks, estuaries and bays and that any resultant closures apply to both commercial and recreational crabbers. The Committee considered that this was a matter on which Zonal Advisory Committees could investigate and offer advice.

In discussing the issue of protection of crab stocks the Committee was aware of measures used in other States to protect undersized crustaceans. In particular the Western Australian rock lobster industry protected the undersized rock lobster by requiring rigid pots to be constructed with escape hatches. This mechanism allowed the protected stock to escape but retained the stock sought by the operator.

Because of the differing laws between the States, there was an incentive for Queensland crabbers to transport undersized and female crabs into New South Wales. It was considered essential to have uniform crab laws between adjacent States and efforts should be directed to this end.

The Committee was firmly of the opinion that the current ban on the taking of female mud and sand crabs should be retained. It was also of the view that the recreational bag limit of ten mud crabs per person in possession be retained.



The Committee was aware of the proposal by the Queensland Fish Management Authority in its recent report on the Crab Fishery Management Plan Review to change the method of measurement of sand crabs by modifying both the carapace width and the alternative underbody measurement. The Committee saw problems with this proposal and suggested that the current minimum legal size for both mud and sand crabs be retained at a carapace width of 150mm and deletion of the underbody measurement.

#### *Recommendation 26*

*That investigations be undertaken with a view to limiting the number of crab pots in use in selected rivers and estuary systems.*

*That investigations be undertaken into implementing a system of rotational closures to crabbing to spell rivers, creeks, estuaries and bay systems and that any resultant closures apply to both commercial and recreational crabbers.*

*That fisheries managers, biologists, commercial and recreational fishing representatives investigate the development of a suitable escape hatch mechanism for rigid crab pot apparatus.*

*That uniform crab regulations between the States be investigated.*

*That the current ban on the taking of female mud and sand crabs be retained.*

*That the present recreational bag limit of ten mud crabs per person in possession be retained.*

*That the current minimum legal sizes for both mud and sand crabs be retained at a carapace width of 150mm and that the proposed underbody measurement be deleted.*

#### Inverted Dillies

This apparatus was popular with recreational crabbers due to its ease of use, storage and relative low cost. It was noted that during the Crab Review undertaken by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority a number of concerns were expressed regarding the use of this apparatus due to the damage it caused to protected crabs. The concern was not so much for the apparatus itself but its irresponsible use. This concern was also expressed in submissions to the Inquiry.

The Committee considered banning the apparatus but finally felt it would be more appropriate to control the specifications of the apparatus. It took the view that the specifications eg. the diameter of the hoop, gauge of the wire or hoop and ply of the net, needed modification.

It was believed however that although the apparatus was a widely accepted and affordable method of crabbing it should be monitored and if any adverse effect was detected then the apparatus should be phased out.

### *Recommendation 27*

*That the specifications for inverted dillies include :*

- . diameter of hoop less than 1 metre*
- . gauge of wire or hoop at least 6.2mm*
- . ply of net to be 12 ply multifilament*

*and that these specifications be introduced with a phase-in period of 24 months from the date of announcement.*

### Catch Quotas

The Committee noted that the management of fisheries in Queensland has been undertaken by utilising what is called "input controls". Input controls include limited licences, gear restrictions, limit on number of boats, boat replacement policies and closures. In recent times some output controls have been used for recreational anglers eg bag limits on mud crabs, barramundi, a range of reef species, freshwater species and proposed limits on estuary species.

Apart from the trochus fishery, no output controls were employed in the commercial sector in Queensland.

The commercial industry in other fishery jurisdictions were progressing to total allowable catches of a particular fish resource and transferable quotas for individual fishermen which guaranteed them a proportion of the allowable catch. The total allowable catch was based on sound data on the biomass of the species and was a way of allocating the resource among fishermen and between competing sectors such as commercial and recreational.

The Committee was aware of the Government's commitment to the principles of ecologically sustainable development and that an assessment of fish stocks would be an important element under these principles. Where there was evidence of decline in fish stocks, the Committee's view was that stock assessments should be undertaken as a matter of priority and that catch quotas should be considered as an alternative means of managing the fishery.

### *Recommendation 28*

*That under the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development, the Government consider catch quotas where the necessary stock assessment could be undertaken utilising existing research and monitoring.*

*That in fisheries where there is evidence of decline the Government implement catch quotas as a means of ensuring the viability of stocks.*

### Phasing Out of River/Inshore Beam Trawling

Submissions and comments made at public meetings (particularly concerning the Burnett, Mary and Burrum Rivers and the rivers flowing into Moreton Bay) both supported a phasing out of river/inshore beam trawling as it was considered to be a very destructive, low return fishery removing small prawns and fish from the food chain as well as destroying the habitat. The impact of this method of fishing on recreational fish species was believed to be very significant and current research was required to monitor this impact. The Committee understood that in some situations there was a view that the prawns should be left to move out of rivers and to offshore areas as larger prawns of more economic value. This was one area where local buy back arrangements should be considered.

#### *Recommendation 29*

*That river/inshore beam trawling operations be phased out with immediate attention to the Burnett, Mary and Burrum Rivers, Great Sandy Strait and the rivers of Moreton Bay except the Brisbane River upstream of Luggage Point to the Victoria Bridge.*

*That all river/inshore beam trawling endorsements be made non-transferable.*

### Special Zonal Arrangements to Apply in Moreton Bay

It was considered that Moreton Bay was a unique recreational, educational and economic resource for over 1.5 million people. This resource was under increasing pressure from a growing population. It was estimated that south east Queensland's population would increase to over 3 million by 2001 and it could reasonably be expected that a significant number would engage in recreational fishing. Such pressures would lead to increasing conflicts between the various users of the bay's resources. Similarly some activities could conflict with environmental sustainability. Many activities such as recreation and fishing depended on maintaining a quality environment.

The Committee expressed grave concerns for the future of Moreton Bay. It believed that unless stricter management measures were put in place as a matter of urgency, the quality of fishing would decline further and in some extreme circumstances it could lead to breeding stock failure and the collapse of some individual fisheries.

The Committee was mindful that it had recommended elsewhere in the report bag limits on popular species of fish in Moreton Bay (flathead, bream and whiting) as well as increases in minimum size limits for these species as a means of conserving fish stocks. It had also recommended area closures to give fish protection during times of spawning aggregations.

Trawling and netting in Moreton Bay were perceived by a large number of people at public meetings and reinforced in the written submissions as having a detrimental effect on recreational fishing. The number of commercial fishermen who currently operate in Moreton Bay and the potential for other licenced fishermen to join them was a source of extreme concern. Technology advances in the net fishery were making these fishermen very efficient in targeting prime species such as bream, whiting and flathead. Many submissions suggested that trawler numbers should be decreased to reduce the conflict between the two sectors and augment the sustainability of the fishery.

The Committee noted that some commercial fishermen had recommended an end to tunnel netting.

The Committee concluded that urgent steps should be taken to reduce the amount of commercial effort in Moreton Bay and that some special arrangements should be introduced to closely manage the area.

These special management arrangements should be embodied in a fisheries management plan which would contain the maximum number of licenced boats to operate in the area, gear restrictions, time and area closures, bag limits, size limits and any other measure required to ensure viability of the fishery.

The Committee considered that this zone, with its special fisheries management arrangements, was in step with the Government's initiative in declaring Moreton Bay as a marine park.

### *Recommendation 30*

*That special zonal arrangements apply to Moreton Bay fisheries to ensure that this unique resource is managed to ensure its viability for future generations.*

### Ring Netting for Lesser (Small) Mackerels

The Committee noted the strength of feeling emanating from the Maryborough\Hervey Bay and Brisbane areas concerning the use of ring netting for the lesser mackerel species.

This type of apparatus was considered to be extremely efficient and very destructive to the resource taking complete schools of fish. It produced a poor quality of product in the case of big catches. It was noted that ring netting was a common practice in the taking of other species in restricted areas such as snags in creeks and rivers. The effect of this type of operation in such areas should be investigated.

The Committee noted that a mackerel research project had been approved which would examine the status of the three major species (spotted mackerel, school mackerel and grey mackerel). Issues to be examined would include species composition and biological parameters such as growth, reproduction and natural survival.

The Committee was aware of an assessment of this method of fishing and its impact on mackerels recently undertaken by the Queensland Fish Management Authority. The report acknowledged the level of concern expressed by the recreational fishing community in relation to the future viability of the resource but did not advocate the prohibition on this method on the basis that such restriction could not be substantiated on resource management grounds.

In the context of this assessment and the establishment of the research project on mackerels, the Committee was of the view that the future use of the ring netting method for mackerels should be limited to those operators who could demonstrate a significant commercial level of involvement in the fishery.

Catch quotas would need to be investigated for this fishery if the stocks were considered to be under pressure from fishing effort.

#### *Recommendation 31*

*That the use of ring netting apparatus for lesser mackerels be capped and limited to those operators who could demonstrate a significant commercial level of involvement over a three year period and that endorsements be non-transferable during the period of the current research program.*

*.That catch quotas be implemented in this fishery.*

#### Management of Inter-tidal areas including Bait Fisheries

The Committee expressed concern about the large amounts of shellfish, soldier crabs, eugaries etc which were collected in inter-tidal areas. In some cases these activities have caused a depletion of the resource and degraded the foreshores. It was felt that these important areas should be included in a management plan which provided for research, public education and specific management measures.

The Committee was also aware that there were numerous derelict oyster leases in Queensland (particularly in Moreton Bay) which needed to be tidied up and some management measures put in place.

Concern was also expressed that commercial worm digging disturbs seagrass beds and constant use can destroy productive inter-tidal habitat. There was also concern about the depth of holes that were being made and no effort being expended to fill these holes on completion of the bait gathering.

It was the Committee's view that there should be action to protect the habitat from worm digging and from the use of bait nets.

The Committee believed that a system whereby the banks were spelled by rotating the digging areas would assist in alleviating the problem. A further option considered to have merit was to introduce a system of zoning for commercial worm digging.

### *Recommendation 32*

*That a management plan be developed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority in conjunction with relevant organisations, for the management of inter-tidal areas including oyster leases.*

*That zoning of areas for commercial worm digging be implemented.*

*That all worm digging be banned from foreshores in residential areas and that rotational closures of other foreshores be enforced.*

*That destruction of habitat from worm digging operations and from the use of bait nets be minimised.*

### Otter Trawl Boundaries

Many submissions made reference to the adverse impact of trawling on seagrass areas and to the large quantities of small fish and other marine life killed by trawl apparatus. Each of these submissions referred to varying distances for trawlers to operate off shore. It was observed that in some areas of Queensland the prevailing social attitude of communities was that it was unacceptable for trawlers to operate in inshore areas where the probability of catching and destroying quantities of undersized fish species was high. The situation was more objectionable to many people because the method of trawling appeared to be indiscriminate in its operation as once the net was in the water there was no way of ensuring that non target species were not taken.

The Committee noted that research work was being undertaken on ways in which to make trawl nets more species specific and have less impact on the sea bed in their operation.

The Committee agreed with the principle of keeping trawlers away from inshore areas and felt that the Zonal Advisory Committees would be appropriate forums to advise on the exact boundaries in each area.

It was considered reasonable for trawlers to access seasonal runs of banana prawns as this species did not generally travel far off shore.

It was also believed that consideration of the significant social impact of trawlers operating close to shore near population centres should be taken into account as well as any economic or sustainability issues.

The view of the Committee was that in principle trawlers be not allowed within two kilometres of the shoreline but that consideration might be given to seasonal access to prawns in relevant areas.

### *Recommendation 33*

*That as a general principle otter trawl boundaries be set at a minimum distance of two kilometres offshore from population centres and that as a concession for this arrangement seasonal access by trawlers to banana prawns be developed in consultation with the appropriate Management and Zonal Advisory Committees.*

### Ocean Beach Net Fishery

Recreational angling occurred on ocean beaches throughout the entire year. During the summer months anglers target whiting and dart whilst during winter/spring they target principally bream and tailor. Commercial beach net fishing operations have been undertaken on the ocean beaches of south Queensland for over 100 years.

The Committee acknowledged the relevance of a recent proposal by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to introduce zoning to the area of management for the winter ocean beach net fishery and believed that it should be extended to cover the entire year.

This fishery has also been the focus of considerable conflict between commercial and recreational anglers. As this conflict occurs mainly at weekends the Committee felt that the current weekend closure applying to commercial netting in estuarine areas should be extended to cover ocean beaches as well. As mullet was a commercial only species, the Committee was of the view that its taking should be excluded from the weekend closures.

The Committee found difficulty in understanding why the ocean beach between Cape Moreton and Comboyuro Point was not included in the ocean beach net fishery area of management. The inclusion of this area within the proposal to zone the ocean beaches would limit the number of commercial fishermen in an area which was a prime recreational fishing area.

Recreational anglers have had long standing concerns over the impact of commercial netting of the tailor species. This concern has been focussed on the level of netting undertaken at prime recreational fishing locations such as Moreton, Stradbroke and Fraser Islands.

The Committee recognised the existence of a commercial fishery for tailor but believed that access to the fishery should be limited to those fishermen who could demonstrate a past involvement and also believed that their catches should be limited. In addition, the catch quota of the commercial sector should be reviewed annually to ensure that the percentage of the commercial catch relative to the total catch remained constant.

Elsewhere in the report a bag limit of 20 tailor in possession was recommended as a means of reducing the recreational take of this species.

Further spawning area closures were also being considered.

The Committee was mindful that tailor was a major recreational species and through its attraction to tourists, produced significant income to the Queensland economy.

#### *Recommendation 34*

*That a zonal system of management for the ocean beach net fishery on a year round basis be introduced.*

*That weekend closures apply to commercial netting on ocean beaches all year round other than the taking of mullet.*

*That the ocean beach net fishery boundaries be amended to include the area from Comboyuro Point to Cape Moreton on Moreton Island.*

*That a limitation on catches based on past levels of participation be applied to the taking of tailor by commercial fishing operators based on the total catch of 126 tonnes during 1992 and that this catch quota be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains a constant percentage of the total catch.*

#### Netting in Specific Bays, Estuaries and Rivers of Recreational Significance

The Committee understood that there was no specific control other than the overall limitation on endorsements which restricted the total number or amount of apparatus which could be used in any one river, estuary or bay location. Current regulations specify what an individual commercial fishermen could do with nets but there were no restrictions on the total number of licenced fishermen who could have nets in the area. In some cases there were too many commercial operations targeting limited stocks of some species and the problem was aggravated by fishermen from outside the area coming into the area during peak periods.

The Committee was of the view that the prospects for recreational anglers were diminished as a consequence of commercial effort being applied to a number of specific areas.

This view was based on the strong anecdotal information presented at public meetings and the frequency with which it was raised in submissions made to the Inquiry. Approximately 48% of the 4085 submissions received expressed concern about the level of netting in estuarine and inshore areas.



It was suggested that for bays, estuaries and rivers where over fishing could be demonstrated a maximum length of net be introduced. The maximum length of net should be determined at no more than that presently being used by permanent operators within that specific system.

The Committee believed that should this arrangement not resolve the over fishing problem then the management authority consider the implementation of closures to achieve the desired protection of fish stocks.

### *Recommendation 35*

*That a maximum length of net be introduced for specific bays, estuaries and rivers.*

*That evidence of excess netting in a specific area leading to over fishing should result in a closure of that area for an extended period to commercial netters.*

### Establishment of Recreational Fishing Areas

In determining the areas that should be included as recreational fishing only areas the Committee drew on many ideas and reasons advanced in public meetings and submissions to the Inquiry.

Members of local communities who attended the public meetings indicated strong support for the concept that important recreational fishing areas on the east coast of Queensland be free from commercial activities to reduce pressure on depleted fish stocks, prevent further degradation of marine habitat and enhance tourism values by improving the standard of recreational fishing. These changing social attitudes were also reflected in submissions received by the Inquiry.

There was an increasing acceptance of the fact that the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing, in the proposed recreational fishing areas, were more important than the economic contribution of the commercial fishing sector which, in many instances, was obtained at some cost to the environment.

The selection of areas to be set aside for recreational fishing took into account factors such as the closeness of the site to significant population centres; the amount of recreational fishing undertaken at the location by all types of recreational anglers; the suitability of the areas for stock replenishment projects; the potential of the areas for centres of tourism based on activities like recreational fishing and the amount of dislocation likely to be caused to commercial operators who consistently fished these areas.

In considering this matter the Committee also took into account the concerns raised by a number of individual commercial operators regarding the catching of travelling schools of mullet in proposed recreational fishing areas. Specific areas raised included certain parts of both the Southport Broadwater and the Redcliffe Peninsula. The Committee felt that these were valid concerns which should be addressed by Zonal Advisory Committees when advising on exact boundaries of the recreational fishing areas.

There was strong support from the Committee that the following general areas be declared as recreational fishing areas but that it be left to Zonal Advisory Committees to advise on the exact boundaries.

- . Part of the Southport Broadwater
- . Part of the foreshores of the Redcliffe Peninsula
- . Pumicestone Passage
- . Part of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait
- . Part of Hinchinbrook Channel
- . Johnstone River
- . Trinity Inlet
- . Barron River

The Committee stressed that this was a unique opportunity for local community members and organisations to have input into deciding on the most appropriate use of part of a community resource.

#### *Recommendation 36*

*That Recreational Fishing Areas be declared throughout Queensland in all areas where permanent netting closures presently apply and that additional netting closures be introduced in the following areas and declared as Recreational Fishing Areas.*

- . *Part of the Southport Broadwater*
- . *Part of the foreshores of the Redcliffe Peninsula*
- . *Pumicestone Passage*
- . *Part of Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait*
- . *Part of the Hinchinbrook Channel*
- . *Johnstone River*
- . *Trinity Inlet*
- . *Barron River*

*That the exact boundaries and the extent of the areas be recommended by Zonal Advisory Committees.*

*That all commercial fishing activity be excluded from these areas.*

*That the matter be reviewed in three years.*

### Removal of Latent Effort

The Committee considered that the present licensing arrangement did not effectively provide for a cap on commercial fishing effort. This was because the present endorsement system enabled a commercial operator to fish, in most circumstances, in all areas of the State and to move from one fishery to another provided the appropriate endorsement was held.

As an example of this the Committee cited information contained in a discussion paper entitled "Review of the East Coast Barramundi Fishery" relating to the level of latent effort in that fishery, ie as at mid-1991 approximately one-fifth of all licence endorsement holders had not engaged in the fishery for two consecutive years while one-third of all operators had maintained only minimal involvement in the fishery over the same time. There was a recognition that the commercial sector would view this as an advantage as it had argued the case for diversification, claiming that it had economic and conservation benefits.

Since 1984 there had been a "freeze" on the issue of new commercial fishing vessel licences. However, the current licence system allowed for fishing effort to swing to specific areas and specific fisheries. While this could act as a safety valve, it leads to considerable effort being applied in some circumstances. The current system therefore tolerated a large component of latent effort which makes effective fisheries management through licensing extremely difficult.

Transfer of under-utilised or unused licences could result in an increase in real effort.

Mechanisms which have been used in other States include :

- . the use of non-transferability of licences, at least in the interim period;
- . the use of zoning and other access rights to limit total access in a specific area;
- . the imposition of access fees on users to offset costs of management, research and enforcement;
- . a range of licence buyback schemes.

The Committee noted that while these mechanisms were introduced generally with a view to providing stability to the commercial fishery some of them were prerequisites for the removal of latent effort.

Appropriate performance criteria were also viewed as a means of ensuring that anyone retaining an endorsement was utilising it full time and not using it on a part time basis. It would have the effect of removing latent effort, decreasing the effects of commercial "pulse" fishing and providing the opportunity for a better return for the genuine commercial fishermen.

The Committee was surprised at the relatively low cost of fishery endorsements and the fees paid generally for access to the commercial fishery. As an example an east coast barramundi endorsed operator with a crab and net endorsement with two tenders would pay approximately \$600 per annum or \$12 per week. Details of annual licence fees paid by commercial fishing operators together with relevant commercial statistics are included as Appendix D.

### *Recommendation 37*

*That urgent steps be taken to remove the latent (ie, unused or under-utilised) effort in the commercial fishery.*

*That specific action be taken to remove the latent effort in the east coast barramundi fishery before the next barramundi review in 1996.*

*That fees charged for endorsements be increased substantially.*

### Zoning of Estuarine and Inshore Fisheries (excluding East Coast Otter Trawling)

The Committee noted the strong support coming from the public meetings along the coast for some form of regional area input into sustainable fisheries issues. There was a recognition of recreational fishing pressure, particularly in highly populated areas, and also commercial pressure, particularly from fishermen who did not live in the area.

Also of concern was the number of unused licences or partly used licences which, if sold, could become active licences and thereby increase the amount of fishing pressure on fish stocks.

The Committee acknowledged these concerns and noted that the current method of allowing commercial fishermen to fish the entire east coast allowed effort to be transferred from one area to another with all vessel licence holders with a particular endorsement theoretically able to fish in any one location.

The Committee was also concerned that of the thousand or so commercial fishermen who held endorsements in the major method fisheries (crab and net), a significant number did not utilise or seldom utilised those endorsements.

The possibility of this latent effort being transferred into real effort was considered along with the increasing effort through technology increases and increasing number of recreational anglers as the critical issue in managing fishing effort.

To manage the potential for this latent effort being converted to real effort over time, the Committee considered that zoning of estuarine fisheries would be an essential step in that process.

The Committee considered that any zonal arrangement should incorporate the following major elements :

- . zonal boundaries;
- . determination of an acceptable level of effort within those boundaries;
- . biological needs of the major target species; and,
- . appropriate apparatus and conditions of use.

The implementation of zones for fisheries was also considered essential to cater for the different management measures and local community needs in different geographical areas. It was believed that responsible fishermen within an area would be more likely to look after their fisheries.

It was noted that there would be no impediment for a commercial operator to purchase a licence in another zone. Zonal Advisory Committees would be important contributors in the development of strategies on fisheries management for commercial, recreational and traditional sectors within individual areas.

The Committee considered that there was no point in buying back commercial licences unless a system of zoning was in place in Queensland otherwise other commercial operators would become established in the area.

#### *Recommendation 38*

*That a system of fishing zones be developed for estuarine and inshore fisheries (excluding east coast otter trawling) for consideration by the Minister.*

*That the views of Zonal Advisory Committees must be taken into consideration when determining the future fisheries resource and habitat management measures for the zones.*

#### Recreational Fishing Charter Boats and Operations

It was felt that charter boats and land-based charter operations involving recreational fishing needed to be monitored to avoid excess fishing effort and to maintain control of their activities.

It was recognised that the implementation of bag limits on fish species would assist in containing excess fishing effort but it was equally recognised that a proliferation of these charter boats and operations had posed problems for popular areas such as Trinity Inlet.

The Committee believed that within the next decade, the expected rate of increase in these charter operations both water and land-based, would require some form of control to ensure that the growth occurred in a managed way.

If a licence/permit was considered appropriate to maintain control, then the Committee believed it should contain specific requirements such as logbooks to record the amount and categories of species taken. Control would also be exercised on such activities as catching and releasing barramundi.

There was a realisation that the charter boat and land-based charter operations, based essentially on recreational fishing activities and therefore direct beneficiaries of the fishery resource, did not contribute any direct funds towards management, research, enforcement or administration of fisheries in Queensland.

The Committee also considered that a code of ethics for recreational fishing charter boat operators and land-based charter operations be developed in consultation with Zonal Advisory Committees which highlighted, amongst other things, that the activity was recreational and re-affirmed that selling of the catch was illegal.

#### *Recommendation 39*

*That all recreational fishing charter boats and land-based operations including estuary, inshore and reef be licenced with appropriate conditions applying in each sector, including logbook returns on catch and effort.*

*That a code of ethics for charter boat operators be developed which re-affirms amongst other things that the selling of the catch was illegal.*

#### Reduction in Fishing Effort

In some circumstances the Committee believed that there will need to be some reduction in real commercial effort to enhance fishing opportunities for both recreational anglers and the remaining commercial operators.

The Committee was aware of the comments made at public meetings and in the written submissions in relation to the removal of commercial operators from various areas of Queensland. It was also aware that these comments were based on reasons such as concern for the sustainability of prime angling species, changing social values to the use of natural resources for recreational purposes and allocation of the fishery resource to recreational anglers and the remaining commercial operators.

The Committee felt that the method for determining the removal of commercial operators was a matter for the Government and its agencies to decide.

However a number of submissions to the Inquiry suggested that compensation for commercial operators should be considered in cases where commercial fishing licences (endorsements) were totally removed from the fishery to enhance or promote the fishery. There were benefits to remaining commercial fishermen through reduction in commercial competition. In some situations commercial beneficiaries should contribute to licence buy back arrangements.

Cases for compensation due to licence removal could be considered on a zonal basis. Funding for such an arrangement could also be sought from the zone where the benefits occur. Within a zone, a fund could be established for compensation purposes, with contributions sought from recreational anglers and their organisations, tourism and recreational business interests, local authorities and remaining commercial operators.

The Committee drew attention to public meetings and submissions which showed that in certain regional areas of Queensland there was support for locally based voluntary trust funds to buy back commercial fishing licences.

It was also recognised that local authorities who demanded that areas be closed to commercial fishing should contribute to its funding as part of support for local tourism/recreational developments.

The Committee looked at arrangements which had been put in place in the Northern Territory and Western Australia to reduce commercial fishing effort. These were based on industry and/or Government funded buy-back schemes.

The Committee was also aware that a proposal for a Queensland East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery Stabilisation Scheme was canvassed with the commercial fishing industry in 1992. This particular proposal was rejected by a poll of all trawl endorsement holders. One of the major reasons for its non-acceptance by the commercial industry was the likely extent of individual contributions to the funding of the scheme.

#### *Recommendation 40*

*That policies be developed through the Minister's Policy Council and in consultation with the commercial sector to provide for a reduction in commercial fishing effort.*

*That the beneficiaries of the reduction in commercial effort contribute to the purchase of licences.*

#### Amnesty Period for Voluntary Surrender of Illegal Nets

In an endeavour to reduce the number of illegal nets throughout Queensland the Committee considered that the Government should encourage people to surrender their illegal nets without fear of prosecution.

#### *Recommendation 41*

*That an amnesty period of three months for the voluntary surrender of illegal nets or fish net mesh be declared throughout Queensland and that penalties be increased significantly for the possession of illegal nets.*

## ENFORCEMENT

The Committee, supported by community comment in submissions to the Inquiry, placed great emphasis on the need for efficient and effective surveillance and enforcement of fisheries regulations. All agreed that this was essential for the success of management measures designed to conserve and enhance fish stocks.

With this in mind, the Committee has proposed that resources available for surveillance and enforcement purposes should be increased and placed on a firmer footing than at present. The Committee was also supportive of extending the authorisations of a fisheries inspector to other government employees following successful experience with the recent appointment of Water Resources Commission officers as inspectors.

Improved public awareness, increased penalties for major offences together with simplified administrative procedures were viewed as desirable new initiatives which could be taken. It was recognised, nonetheless, that unfortunately there were people who would continue to offend, trying to avoid detection in the process.

This would require a tightening in documentation to minimise blackmarketing of product, an enforcement service more responsive to reports of illegal activities and improved intelligence about illegal fishing resulting from access to a wider range of information drawn from local communities.

These principles are embodied in the following recommendations.

### Increased Funding for Fisheries Enforcement

There was a strong body of opinion within recreational fishing ranks as evidenced by the public submissions that there were not enough patrol officers operating in the field. The length of the Queensland coastline, the number of rivers, creeks etc to patrol, the multi-functional role of the patrol in that they enforce boating safety as well as fisheries legislation and the number of commercial and recreational anglers in Queensland all pointed to responsibilities in excess of the capacity of the current patrol officers to achieve. The Committee was aware of the demands placed on Government for funding for a myriad of needy causes but believed that the provision of an increased number of officers for the patrol for fisheries functions was required to protect the publicly owned resource. Alternatively, close attention needed to be given to strategies which would allow the current patrol to become more effective.

#### *Recommendation 42*

*That the Committee believed strongly that levels of staff for fisheries surveillance and enforcement be increased to ensure an acceptable level of compliance.*



### Higher Public Profile for Boating and Fisheries Patrol

The Committee noted comments made at public meetings and reflected in many submissions that patrol officers were never seen by the fishing public. While there could be some benefit from increased visibility of the patrol in terms of public perception it was considered that this would not significantly increase the effectiveness of the patrols in reducing the level of major offences. The Committee considered that the patrol should develop strategies which target the 10% of offenders which inflict the most damage on the resource.

Prosecution involving severe penalties and the resultant publicity associated with the apprehension and conviction of major offenders would considerably elevate the patrol's image in the eyes of the fishing public. It would also act as a deterrent to other major offenders.

Notwithstanding the above, it was strongly endorsed by the Committee that patrol officers needed to also develop public awareness strategies which would allow them to spend time at boat ramps and other congregating points so that the average angler would be aware of their existence and the important role that they played in the management of fisheries.

#### *Recommendation 43*

*That strategies be developed by the Boating and Fisheries Patrol and resources deployed to target offenders which inflict the most damage on the resource.*

### Extend Fisheries Enforcement Powers to Personnel from other Government Agencies

The Committee was of the view that a useful strategy to augment the current complement of patrol officers was to investigate the possibility of appointing other Government officers as fisheries inspectors. The powers granted to these officers could be either partial or total depending on the circumstances. It was considered that comprehensive training programs were a critical part of the initiative as the role of fisheries officers was of necessity a highly skilled professional position. There were State Government Departments and local authorities with officers who had the potential to become fisheries inspectors to supplement the tasks of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

#### *Recommendation 44*

*That personnel from other Government agencies - Water Resources Commission, Department of Environment and Heritage, Local Authorities (eg. Environmental Health Officer), Aboriginal Rangers and possibly D.P.I. Stock Inspectors (for freshwater impoundments) - be empowered as fisheries inspectors.*

### Increased Penalties for Major Offenders

There was strong concern at the frequency and regulation of offenders who are breaching fisheries regulations and receiving low fines from the Courts.

The Committee noted the view being expressed in many submissions to the Inquiry that fisheries offences appeared to be interpreted by the Courts as nothing more than misdemeanours with repeat offenders receiving very low fines.

There was a strong view that the Government should be increasing the penalties for significant fisheries offences and that Magistrates should be reassessing their attitudes to these matters and accept that offenders are infringing laws which are there to protect a sensitive natural resource which belongs to the entire community.

Many submissions to the Inquiry supported moves to stamp out illegal fish selling by recreational anglers (shamateurs). There was much support for a high level of penalties for fish selling offences. The Committee was of the view that penalties for these offences should include the confiscation of catches, boats, trailers, cars and fishing gear used by shamateurs.

The Committee believed that buyers of illegally sold fish should incur similar penalties.

The Committee considered that a points system should be implemented for repeat offenders with loss of licence (commercial) or equipment, vehicle and boat (recreational) for multiple convictions within a time period.

### *Recommendation 45*

*That penalties be increased substantially for a range of major offences such as the illegal sale of fish, the taking of female crabs and illegal netting including the confiscation of boats, trailers, cars, fishing gear and the loss of commercial fishing licences used in committing the offence.*

*That a points system for repeat offenders be implemented.*

### On the Spot Fines

On the spot fines have been used in other jurisdictions and in other legislation within Queensland. Their primary purpose is to augment the enforcement process whereby it allows the person caught infringing a specified minor fisheries offence to pay a prescribed penalty to an authorised collection agency rather than going to court.

On the spot fines were generally applied to those offences that directly relate to some physical action or the result of the action of a person witnessed by another person authorised to issue such a penalty. It was considered that such a system would be a more efficient method of dealing with minor offences which currently consume a significant amount of time of the Courts and the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol.

#### *Recommendation 46*

*That on-the-spot fines be introduced in fisheries legislation as soon as possible.*

#### Flying Squads

There was evidence to suggest that the movements of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers in regional centres were easily monitored. The movement of marked vehicles and vessels undertaking estuary and river surveillance could be conveyed to fishermen before the patrol had any opportunity to catch potential offenders red-handed.

The Committee was aware of the success of police flying squads used for a variety of traffic infringements and believed that the concept would be effective for patrol activities, particularly in known problem areas.

The flying squads' style of operations of using officers not known to the local population, utilising unmarked vehicles and boats and depending on the element of surprise would provide the patrol with an additional strategy in its efforts to ensure compliance with fishery rules and policing of illegal sales of fish to the shop/restaurant trade.

#### *Recommendation 47*

*That a "Flying Squad" be established with unmarked vehicles and boats to target enforcement problem areas.*

#### Illegal Sales of Fish

A large number of submissions received by the Inquiry expressed concern at the level of "blackmarket" sales of fish and that this activity carried out by a relatively small number of people, was reflecting badly on the majority of anglers and commercial operators who obeyed the rules.

The Committee noted that retail fish buyer licences have been removed by the Government but the current requirement that a docket be received by the fish retailer for fish purchased for reselling would still be retained.

Whilst acknowledging that it was a difficult task to eliminate all illegal selling of fish the Committee was of the view that the docketing system and the information required on the docket should be investigated. The Committee was also of the view that other recommendations being advocated elsewhere in this report, viz flying squads and the possible use of local authority inspectors for certain fisheries enforcement provisions would also be beneficial in lowering the incidence of illegal sales of fish.

*Recommendation 48*

*That the current docketing system for the buying and selling of seafood be improved with a view to strengthening its capacity to audit fish sales.*

**ACCESS TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND AND TRADITIONAL FISHING**

The Committee considered that all anglers should obtain approval and observe the requirements of local Aboriginal Councils before venturing on to traditional lands for recreational fishing purposes.

It was the Committee's view that all members of the Queensland community should be subject to the same recreational fishing rules. These principles are embodied in the following recommendations.

**Access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land falls into a number of categories and access to those lands is regulated by provisions of the Acts governing those areas.

In Deed of Grant in Trust Areas entry is permitted only on public roads and other places of public resort for lawful purposes. Visitors should not stray from the public access route or other public areas unless they have permission from the Council. The Committee noted that the boundaries of Coastal Deed of Grant in Trust communities extend to high water mark and if public access is not in place permission must be obtained from the Council to be on beaches.

A similar situation applies in the Mornington Island and Aurukun Shires as well as on transferred/claimed land where permission must be obtained from the relevant Council.

The Committee has recommended (Recommendation No.16) that codes of practice be established for recreational anglers and that these codes should include procedures for access into traditional areas.

*Recommendation 49*

*That in gaining access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities for recreational fishing purposes, anglers must observe the requirements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils.*

### Traditional Fishing

The Committee noted that traditional fishing occurs in water adjacent to Queensland particularly in remote areas near Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Committee acknowledged the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take fish and crustaceans for traditional purposes.

A number of submissions to the Inquiry expressed the view that all recreational anglers should have equal rights. They said that traditional methods and fishing rights should be continued in situations where Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander people fish at a subsistence level primarily to provide food for their community. Otherwise they should be subject to the same rules as other recreational anglers.

The Committee therefore considered that there should be a clear distinction between recreational fishing and traditional fishing. In defining traditional hunting, fishing or gathering the Australian Law Reform Commission in their 1986 report titled "The Recognition of Aboriginal Customary Law" Vol. 2 stated that in determining whether an activity was traditional, attention should focus on the purpose of the activity rather than the method. In many cases hunting and fishing practices have incorporated new material. There was no reason why the incorporation of new materials should be considered as not traditional (p180).

The view was also expressed that local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities be involved in relevant fisheries management measures which impacted on their rights. This involvement would be facilitated by being represented on Management Advisory and Zonal Advisory Committees. This representation would require endorsement by the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Committee recognised that community licences are currently available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to enable them to undertake commercial activities.

### *Recommendation 50*

*That the Government support and endorse the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take fish, crustaceans and other marine products for traditional purposes.*

*That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities be involved in decision making procedures that affect any fisheries management measures which may impact on traditional fishing.*

*That traditional fishing practices be recognised and supported by State fisheries management framework.*

*That the current system of allocating community licences in the name of the Chairperson of the community be maintained.*

*That all members of the Queensland community who fish recreationally should be subject to the same recreational fishing rules.*

## **FISHERIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND REPRESENTATION**

The Committee believed that the organisational structure and consultative mechanisms established for fisheries management were fundamental to ensuring that resources would be sustainable into the future. Effective fisheries management now required that the principles of ecologically sustainable development be adopted and incorporated. These required that all user groups be fully consulted and involved in the development and amendment of fishery management plans. These plans should now be provided for in fisheries legislation.

The Committee fully supported the recommendation of the Public Sector Management Commission to change the composition of the Board of the Queensland Fish Management Authority based on the members having skills in commercial and recreational fishing, natural resource management, finance/commerce and conservation.

The Committee believed that the present situation where there were two separate pieces of legislation covering fisheries and two separate agencies having a role in fisheries management was both confusing and inefficient and supported the decision of the Minister for Primary Industries to introduce a new single Act by the end of 1993.

Meetings and submissions from all parts of Queensland strongly supported the need for greater involvement and participation by local commercial and recreational anglers and other groups in fisheries management, research and environment issues on an area basis. One of the fundamental recommendations of the Committee therefore related to the establishment of Zonal Advisory Committees to provide such advice to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. This advice together with State wide advice provided by Management Advisory Committees would enable the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to develop and implement effective management plans. As well Queensland Fisheries Management Authority would be better placed to integrate and prioritise research, enforcement, information and fisheries habitat needs for more effective fisheries management.

A Fisheries Policy Council was seen as having the role of advising the Minister on strategic issues and policies affecting Queensland fisheries.

A diagram which explains the recommended organisational structure is attached as Appendix E.

### Fisheries as One Entity in Queensland

At present the Queensland Government agencies with responsibilities for recreational and commercial fisheries, including wetland management, are the Department of Primary Industries and the Queensland Fish Management Authority, a statutory authority. The areas of responsibility and services of the two are overlapping and complementary and should be combined into a single entity, to be called the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. It was considered important by the Committee to include the existing functions and services of operational management including research within the new Authority.

The Committee noted that part of the reasoning behind the establishment of the new Australian Fisheries Management Authority was that efficiencies and cost savings would accrue from combining fisheries functions into one agency.

A statutory authority was viewed as being a suitable structure to manage the day to day operations of the fisheries as it would enable the Government to effect its responsibilities in a flexible, open and less bureaucratic way. It would also provide for greater community and industry participation in the determination of the appropriate management programs for Queensland's fisheries.

#### *Recommendation 51*

*That the Government combine operational management functions (research, enforcement, and habitat protection) within the Department of Primary Industries with the Queensland Fish Management Authority into a single statutory body to be known as the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.*

### Position of Fisheries in Government

The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority could sit in one of the several existing portfolios within the Queensland Government framework. The main problem stems from the fact that fisheries can be seen to have three different components viz commercial (catching, aquaculture and marketing), recreation and sport, traditional and environment (habitat). However the Committee strongly supported the view that fisheries should not be fragmented into different departments. The Committee made the point that the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority need not necessarily sit within the Primary Industries portfolio.

#### *Recommendation 52*

*That the Government consider where the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority sits within the framework of Government.*

### Restructure of The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority

This recommendation is consistent with the recent Public Sector Management Commission review of the Department of Primary Industries, in that it suggests that the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority Board be expertise-based. The Committee is strongly of the view that recreational fishing expertise be represented on the new Board and that this representation be no less than equal to the representation of commercial fishing. (At present the Board was chosen to represent the various interest groups and recreational fishing interests have one representative, whereas commercial fishermen have four representatives and commercial marketing has two representatives).

#### *Recommendation 53*

*That the Board of the proposed Queensland Fisheries Management Authority be restructured on an expertise basis with members having demonstrated knowledge in at least one of the following ie., natural resource management, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, conservation and commerce/finance.*

### Establishment of Management Advisory Committees

Management Advisory Committees (MACs) were needed to advise the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) on priorities for the management, monitoring and research, and surveillance of particular fisheries. Equitable representation by the recreational fishing sector was sought on MACs to ensure that the interests of recreational fishing received attention. It was envisaged that the MACs would be the main contact that the QFMA would have with each major fishery on a State-wide basis. This was based on the view that although all fisheries have common goals and objectives, they also have specific needs and priorities.

The MAC would be a forum where statewide issues relating to a particular fishery were discussed, problems identified and options put to the QFMA for decision. The views of the Zonal Advisory Committees (Refer Recommendation 55) would be an important element in this process to ensure that the local variation to some of the issues were taken into account in the considerations. A relatively small number of MACs was suggested so as to eliminate the possibility of overlap and duplication. These committees were also proposed as part of the recommendations of the Public Sector Management Commission.

#### *Recommendation 54*

*That management Advisory Committees be established within the framework of The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority based on the following major fisheries and which include appropriate and equitable representation by recreational and other major user groups.*

- . *Shellfish*
- . *Finfish*
- . *Freshwater*
- . *Aquaculture*



### Establishment of Zonal Advisory Committees

The importance of regional input to fisheries issues was based on the premise that involvement in resource management at the local level was strengthened if local participation was sought on appropriate management measures for that area. It was essential that regional ideas and knowledge on fisheries issues be part of the fisheries management process. The Committee noted that the views expressed by people at public meetings and through the written submissions on a wide range of local issues and conditions affecting those issues, highlighted the vast differences between areas of coastline and the attendant fisheries e.g. the Gold Coast and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Based on these views the Committee considered that Committees called Zonal Advisory Committees be established to advise on local issues. Representation on Zonal Advisory Committees would comprise a wide range of local interests eg. commercial, recreational, traditional, local authorities, relevant State Government Departments, tourism, business and community representatives.

It was expected that the Zonal Advisory Committees would report to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority but would have close links with the relevant Management Advisory Committees, particularly on issues involving statewide considerations.

Guidelines for the operations of Zonal Advisory Committees would need to be prepared to ensure that representatives on the Committees clearly understood the role of these bodies and for recognition by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority of the important functions that the Committees would be undertaking.

It was anticipated that minimal core central funding from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority would be available to the Committees with supplementary funding obtained locally. The Committee considered that members of Zonal Advisory Committees would not be paid, however travelling and out of pocket expenses would be reimbursed.

It was not envisaged that these Committees would develop constitutions or any other formal administrative structure but would be interested or concerned individuals representing various groups within their local communities.

The Committee anticipated that about eight Zonal Advisory Committees (which could include areas centred on say Hervey Bay, Gulf of Carpentaria etc) would be established and their responsibilities would include advise on zonal issues (Refer Recommendation 38 on a system of fishing zones), provision of fisheries information, environmental issues, research priorities etc as well as concepts such as "Fishcare".

### *Recommendation 55*

*That Zonal Advisory Committees representing, for example, recreational, commercial and traditional anglers, local authorities, relevant State Government Departments, tourism and community representatives be established by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to offer advice on issues relating to management, research, enforcement, habitat protection, restocking, and public information on a zonal basis.*

### Establishment of a Fisheries Policy Council to Advise Minister

A Fisheries Policy Council would provide advice on strategic policy issues in relation to fisheries direct to the Minister. This advice would be independent of and in addition to that provided by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and Department Policy Advisers. The Policy Council should interact closely with the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority Board by having at least one common member. It was also considered to be an appropriate forum for office bearers of the industry groups to represent their respective organisations at a higher policy level. It was anticipated that the Council would meet once or twice each year or as requested by the Minister.

### *Recommendation 56*

*That a Fisheries Policy Council be established to offer independent and strategic policy advice to the Minister and that it be representative of all aspects of fishing and associated activity.*

### Strategy for Research, Enforcement and Monitoring

There was a need for priorities and strategies to be determined for research, enforcement and monitoring in fisheries throughout Queensland. The structure of the new management authority would be ideally placed to provide the role particularly as it would have the guidance of the Management Advisory Committees and the Zonal Advisory Committees. The Committee noted that the cost of fisheries management, particularly the research and enforcement aspects, were considerable. This meant that priorities and strategies needed to be formulated on a clear understanding of what was needed in the fisheries and that research and enforcement activities needed to be both efficient and cost effective.

### *Recommendation 57*

*That the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority be responsible for setting research, enforcement and monitoring strategies and priorities taking into account advice from Management Advisory Committees and Zonal Advisory Committees.*

### Management Plans

It was essential that Queensland fisheries be managed within the framework of ecologically sustainable development to ensure that fish stocks were available so that maximum benefits could be derived by the recreational, commercial and traditional fishing sectors and the wider community.

Sustainable multiple use of fisheries would be facilitated by the development of management plans to co-ordinate the activities of all user groups. Primary responsibility for developing management plans should rest with the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority with advice from Management Advisory Committees and Zonal Advisory Committees. This process would ensure that the relevant industry sectors and community groups have contributed via a public consultation process.

Appropriate research and monitoring data should be used in the development, implementation and evaluation of these management plans.

#### *Recommendation 58*

*That the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and the Management Advisory Committees, in conjunction with the Zonal Advisory Committees, undertake the development, implementation and evaluation of statutory management plans for fisheries in Queensland.*

#### Co-ordination of Management Agencies

Five agencies were involved in making decisions that impact on fisheries resources in Queensland. They were :

- . Department of Primary Industries
- . Department of Environment and Heritage
- . Queensland Fish Management Authority
- . Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- . Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Decisions made by these authorities can impact directly on the quality of recreational fishing. These decisions can also have economic implications for the State or regions within the State. The Committee considered that it was essential that the objectives and strategies of these agencies be co-ordinated to ensure that the total management effort resulted in the maximisation of the economic and social benefits derived from the marine resources. For this to happen there must be a structured form of liaison and communication among these management agencies.

#### *Recommendation 59*

*That the Minister responsible for fisheries establish a formal consultation process to co-ordinate fisheries management policies and strategies with other agencies whose decisions impact significantly on fisheries resources.*

## RESTOCKING

Restocking of freshwater impoundments has been a highly successful program in Queensland. The funding for this program had decreased over the last few years and alternative methods of funding the ongoing restocking of impoundments needs to be addressed.

New dams and impoundments were viewed separately to those impoundments which had been stocked originally by Government funding. It was highlighted that these new impoundments should be assisted by Government funding in establishing a fishery in the first instance.

The increasing pressure on fish stocks in the marine environments was forcing Government agencies and the recreational fishing sector to look at ways of enhancing areas frequented by recreational anglers. New techniques and stocking methods needed to be established for this purpose.

## Entry and Access Fees to Dams and Impoundments

Freshwater fish stocking of dams and other impoundments has been very successful in recent years. The costs of stocking were initially met by the Queensland Government, although as the stocking program increased, it was necessary for local stocking groups to contribute to costs (particularly the purchase of fingerlings and in some cases facilities). With the increasing popularity of recreational fishing in stocked areas, it has become necessary for recreational anglers to directly contribute to the costs of the stocking program. Financial contributions in this case may best be made by entry and access fees to the impoundments. Such a scheme would need consultation with local authorities and stocking groups before implementation. In most cases funds raised locally should be used for stocking programs ie., stocking, education, enforcement, research and monitoring.

### *Recommendation 60*

*That agencies in control of dams and impoundments be authorised within predetermined criteria to set entry and access fees to meet the costs of restocking and enforcement and that such fees be determined and controlled in consultation with local stocking groups and local authorities.*

### Establishment of New Fisheries in Dams and Impoundments

A small number of dams, including new dams, have not been stocked and do not have local fish stocking groups. In such cases, initial support should be given by Government agencies to provide incentives for local fish stocking groups to become established and to purchase fingerlings for initial stocking. Once these stocking groups become established the Government should withdraw support as the group has an opportunity to become involved in setting access fees to meet the costs of restocking.

#### *Recommendation 61*

*That dams and impoundments which have not been stocked be given special funding to assist initial stocking and the establishment of local fish stocking groups.*

### Stocking of the Marine Environment

Whilst the management of wild stocks was a primary consideration, there was an opportunity to enhance our fisheries by stocking and seeding areas with prime marine angling species. Stocking marine species in order to enhance recreational fishing was at a very early stage of development in Queensland, however research and investigations of appropriate species and methods were considered to be a valuable, strategic objective for the management of recreational fishing.

#### *Recommendation 62*

*That research be undertaken to establish hatchery techniques and stocking methods for the purpose of stocking recreational fishing areas with prime marine angling species and that the Government fund a pilot project in a heavily fished area eg Pumicestone Passage.*

### AQUACULTURE

The growing importance and role of aquaculture in supplying high quality seafood and as a means of taking pressure away from some of the wild fish stocks was highlighted in a number of submissions. The industry's development however needed to be planned to ensure that suitable areas could be set aside specifically for aquaculture and that any loss of fisheries habitat was minimal.

The potential for loss of control of the management of native species, e.g. barramundi, by the expanding aquaculture industry and some of its marketing strategies, (e.g. undersized, plate-sized barramundi) in terms of identification of product was of concern. Consultation with the aquaculture industry to implement effective measures and subsequent wide publicity of these measures would enable the aquaculture and commercial industries to operate in harmony.

### Support for Aquaculture Projects

The aquaculture industry in Queensland is growing rapidly and has the potential to supply more of the State's seafood needs. Seafood products from some of the commercial wildstock fisheries could in time be replaced by aquaculture products, thus enabling a greater use of the wildstocks for recreational fishing purposes.

The expanding aquaculture industry needed appropriate guidelines for site selection to ensure minimal disturbance to wetlands and fisheries habitats. State Government authorities were the most appropriate organisations to identify areas which could be used for aquaculture and then local authorities could incorporate these areas into their zoning arrangements.

### *Recommendation 63*

*That aquaculture projects be actively promoted in Queensland as an important new source of seafood for the commercial sector.*

*That there be minimal loss of habitat from this form of industry.*

*That local authorities consult with fisheries authorities to determine areas of land suitable for aquaculture which could then be zoned accordingly.*

### Identification of Aquaculture Product in the Marketing Process

In some instances the aquaculture industry wished to market products which did not comply with wildstock management arrangements, such as minimum sizes. There were no objections to such practices provided the aquaculture product was clearly identified as such. The Committee expressed concern about any potential for protected wildstock (such as undersized fish) to be marketed as aquaculture products.

*Recommendation 64*

*That publicity be given and procedures established to clearly differentiate aquaculture product in the marketing process to ensure that it does not impact adversely on the management of wild stocks.*

**RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

Fisheries research was important in providing information on our fish stocks. Details of migrations, breeding habits, size at maturity, food types, preferred habitats as well as details on the status of stocks (eg size of fish populations) were vital as the need increases to better manage our fisheries resources.

**New or Extended Fisheries and Upgraded Apparatus**

The Committee felt that it was essential that the impacts of new or extended commercial fisheries be carefully assessed prior to the granting of new permits, licences or endorsements.

Factors to be reviewed by fisheries management should include stock status of the target species, ageing cycles, structure of the fish schools and possible levels of by-catch, sustainability of the proposed fishery and its effects on existing recreational and commercial fisheries and the environment and the projected net gain or loss to the Queensland economy.

Where developmental fishing permits are issued for restricted periods, fisheries scientists should regularly observe the fishing operation to ensure that any harmful impacts are quickly detected.

Similar studies should be undertaken in respect of applications for the use of new or upgraded fishing apparatus.

*Recommendation 65*

*That the impacts of new or extended fisheries or of using new or upgraded apparatus be carefully assessed prior to approval and that such operations be closely monitored to ensure the early detection of any harmful impacts.*

### Research into Key Fish Species

Research has been undertaken into various aspects of the biology and ecology of fish stocks of interest to recreational fishing. However much work was still required because our knowledge was far from adequate in many cases and particularly for fisheries management decisions.

In cases where fisheries management decisions were needed to be made and scientific information was not available, it was strongly suggested that management decisions reflect the need to ensure that fish stocks were not adversely affected.

### *Recommendation 66*

*That research into the main fish species of interest to recreational fishing be significantly increased with the primary aim of obtaining information for fisheries management purposes with an initial focus on key recreational species.*

### Fish Data Base for Monitoring (Stock Assessment)

An important component in fisheries data was adequate details of the recreational catch and effort over time. This makes the task of managing fisheries much more difficult as the impact of the recreational sector on certain species was uncertain. The nature of participation in recreational fishing makes the task of collecting data on the total recreational catch and effort difficult and often impractical particularly in financial terms.

An innovative recreational catch model needs to be developed that will allow an estimation of the recreational catch and effort over time to be made. Such a model should be simple in the first instance then grow in complexity as understanding of the model and data collection techniques are refined.

### *Recommendation 67*

*That a comprehensive recreational data base be developed to monitor the catches of popular fish species and to estimate angler effort as part of an overall program aimed at the sustainability of those species.*



### Involvement of Recreational Anglers in Data Collection

There was increasing support from recreational fishing groups and individuals to undertake fisheries research and monitoring projects, as well as assisting agencies such as the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Australian Institute of Marine Science, and universities with such projects. The present involvement by the recreational fishing sector needed to be encouraged, promoted and co-ordinated. Any involvement by the recreational fishing sector could include, but not be limited to, creel and boat ramp surveys. The Committee noted that one of the functions of the proposed Zonal Advisory Committees would be to co-ordinate and prioritise fishing research activities in the zone. Zonal Advisory Committees could also foster co-operative research efforts.

### *Recommendation 68*

*That processes be established which allow recreational anglers to be involved in fisheries research, monitoring and data collection activities.*

### Fishways on Major Coastal Rivers

The construction of dams, weirs and barrages on river systems has resulted in barriers which can pose a serious threat to the movement of fish throughout their natural range. These barriers have major implications for those species that need to migrate for breeding purposes or to migrate to available nursery areas. If these migrations are prevented, then spawning may not be possible or recruitment to the nursery areas may be reduced.

Fishways of various types have been placed on some structures, but monitoring shows that they are ineffective. This was also supported by many public submissions. There was an important need to establish suitable design features for fishways so that they enable fish movements. The main problem at this time was lack of knowledge of efficient fishway design features and other measures which facilitate the mass movement of fish such as barramundi, bass, golden perch and mullet across barriers presented by dams and barrages.

### *Recommendation 69*

*That urgent design work is necessary to develop an effective method to allow migratory species of fish (particularly barramundi) to travel around barrages.*

### Research into Translocation of Species

The translocation (moving to new river systems) of exotic and native fish species has the potential to adversely affect fish stocks native to that area. It was noted that translocation can also be beneficial in establishing or enhancing recreational fishing. The Committee considered that careful assessment of the beneficial and adverse impacts of translocation is necessary before moving fish to new areas. The Committee considered that until adequate research had been undertaken that the movement of fish species should be restricted to areas within their natural range.

#### *Recommendation 70*

*That assessments be made of the impacts of moving live fish species to areas outside of their natural range (includes exotic species) and a firm policy be put in place by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority as a matter of urgency.*

### Research into Bait and Cast Net Catch

The Committee considered banning of bait and cast nets as has occurred in New South Wales but opted for research to be undertaken into the impact of this apparatus on fish resources. Little information was available on the level of use and catch by this apparatus, and this type of information was important in determining appropriate management arrangements.

There was concern by the Committee about the inappropriate use of bait nets whereby a number of individuals were joining their nets to increase their effectiveness. It was felt that a regulation stipulating a clear separation between each net when in use would resolve the problem.

#### *Recommendation 71*

*That research be undertaken into the impact of bait and cast nets on fish resources.*

*That the regulations be amended to provide for a clear separation of bait nets when in use.*

### Trawl By Catch

Prawn and scallop trawlers catch a variety of fish and crustaceans in their nets and there was concern over the trawl by-catch (that is the catch other than prawns or scallops) much of which is returned to the marine environment. Of particular concern to a significant number of respondents to the Inquiry was the detrimental effects of trawl nets on the environment and non-target species. The trawl apparatus was viewed as being an unsatisfactory method of fishing generally and further priority research was needed to develop trawl gear which was acceptable in terms of causing low impact on the sea bed and more species specific in its use. The Committee was aware of research efforts in many countries to develop more environmentally friendly trawl apparatus.

### *Recommendation 72*

*That urgent research be undertaken into:*

- . the level of recreational angling species found in trawl by catch and whether this has any detrimental impact on the fish stocks available to anglers;*
- . the effects of trawling on the marine environment and ecosystems; and*
- . the development of species specific trawl apparatus.*

### Fish Aggregation Devices and Artificial Reefs

Although the Committee was generally in favour of introducing further Fish Aggregation Devices and Artificial Reefs in Queensland it was mindful of adverse research findings on their effects. It was felt that further research should be undertaken on existing devices and reefs to ascertain their contribution to fisheries habitat, fish stocks and recreational fishing.

### *Recommendation 73*

*That a detailed scientific investigation be undertaken into the usefulness of Fish Aggregation Devices (FADS) and Artificial Reefs in terms of their contribution to fisheries habitat, fish stocks and recreational fishing.*

*That artificial reefs be established in recreational fishing areas.*

## FISHING IN NATIONAL PARKS

While it was not a major issue at public meetings and in submissions the question of fishing in national parks was important to people who have historically fished these areas.

The Committee noted that there was considerable uncertainty about recreational fishing in national parks especially in the marine environment and expressed the view that a policy be established so that anglers had formal recognition of long standing recreational fishing activity in national parks.

### Fishing in National Parks – Marine and Freshwater Environments

Fishing within national parks was presently permitted on a case by case situation of each park based on the pre-existing use of the area for fishing and the objectives for the establishment of the area. Where appropriate it was accommodated within the conservation plan for the areas.

It was the view of the Committee that the Marine Parks Act would be the appropriate legislation for management of marine areas within national parks rather than the Conservation Act.

The Committee accepted that freshwater recreational fishing within national parks was generally prohibited. However the Committee was strongly of the view that where recreational fishing had an established and traditional link with a park (Noosa River in Cooloola and Lakefield) that it continue to be accommodated within the conservation plan for that park.

The Committee felt that a list of national parks where recreational fishing can be undertaken be published by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

### *Recommendation 74*

*That the preferred legislative framework utilised in Queensland for the conservation and management of marine areas should be that provided by the Marine Parks Act, rather than the Nature Conservation Act.*

*That existing recreational fishing practices in the marine environment within national parks and conservation parks should be noted and respected in the preparation of conservation plans for those areas.*

*That the exclusion of fishing (both recreational and commercial) be accepted where this can be justified on ecological grounds for the effective conservation of an area or for the establishment of scientific reference areas.*

*Recommendation 7A*

*That it be accepted that freshwater recreational fishing within national parks is generally prohibited. However, where recreational fishing is an important component of the established recreational use of a park (e.g. Noosa River in Cooloola, and Lakefield) that it be accommodated within the conservation plan for the park.*

*That the Department of Environment and Heritage publish a list of National Parks in Queensland where recreational fishing can be undertaken.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

During the course of the Inquiry comments were made at both public meetings and in written submissions about commercial fishing apparatus in terms of its effect on fish stocks. Concerns were expressed about the efficiency of some forms of commercial apparatus and how it was used.

### Appropriateness of Commercial Apparatus

The Committee noted a number of submissions which referred to concerns about commercial fishing apparatus, including tunnel netting, monofilament nets, fish trawling and commercial nets in possession and use.

It was noted that tunnel netting has been a long standing commercial fishing practice in prescribed areas of Moreton and Hervey Bays/Sandy Straits. The Committee was of the view that tunnel netting, given the dimensions of the apparatus (maximum of 1700 metres), has the capacity to result in the capture of large quantities of popular recreational species ie., bream, whiting and flathead.

This view was reflected in concerns raised in submissions. The Committee noted that the relevant legislation did not prescribe a minimum distance by which tunnel nets may be separated. Attendance rules for these nets should also be strictly enforced to ensure that at no time were fish left behind the net out of water.

Comments in submissions and personal observations by Committee Members, indicated that monofilament was a very efficient netting medium. It allowed more net to be carried by smaller crews in comparison to conventional netting materials. The Committee felt that more investigation should be undertaken on the effect and use of this type of net before further action was taken. Beach anglers have complained about two person crews using monofilament nets to rake gutters for bream, whiting etc. The Committee was aware that monofilament net was banned in New South Wales where multifilament net was the predominant netting material.

It was reported that commercial fishermen carry multiple numbers of nets when travelling and set several at a time.

Concern was expressed by the Committee that this activity was adding to the increase in effort on prime recreational species such as whiting, bream and flathead. The wider use of monofilament net also contributed to this problem because of its ease of operation. There was also concern at the potential for cheating on the system by allowing a number of nets to be in possession on the vessel which could be utilised contrary to regulations.

Fish trawling was considered detrimental to fish stocks around reef areas. Operations in the Gulf of Carpentaria and previous activities off Cape Moreton where trawlers allegedly were targeting reef fish, were the main offenders. Except for stout whiting, no further endorsements should be issued and the existing regulations relating to trawling be enforced.

#### *Recommendation 75*

*That the amount of tunnel netting that can be used at any one time or in any specific area be reviewed in the context of zonal management.*

*That an investigation be undertaken into the desirability of using monofilament net.*

*That the amounts and types of net that any one commercial operator can have in possession at any time while in a fishing operation be urgently reviewed.*

*That except for the stout whiting fishery, fish trawling be prohibited in Queensland waters.*

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**APPENDIX A**

**RECREATIONAL FISHING INQUIRY**  
**SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

<b>City/Town/Locality</b>	<b>Meeting Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Estimated Attendance</b>
Cairns	Cominos House	08/01/93	110
Innisfail	Game Fish Club	09/01/93	55
Townsville	City Council Rooms	09/01/93	300
Bowen	Air Sea Rescue Building	09/01/93	60
Mackay	Mackay Sailing Club	09/01/93	130
Rockhampton	Schotia Place	10/01/93	110
Gladstone	Park Lane Receptions	10/01/93	70
Gold Coast	Paradise Point Community Centre	12/01/93	320
Bribie Island	Air Sea Rescue Building	13/01/93	300
Scarborough	Moreton Bay Boat Club	14/01/93	240
Manly	Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club	15/01/93	270
Sunshine Coast	Kawana Community Centre	13/02/93	80
Cooktown	The Lure Shop	18/02/93	30
Karumba	Karumba Point Boat Hire	18/02/93	65
Normanton	Carpentaria Shire Chambers	18/02/93	16
Mt Isa	Electorate Office – Member for Mt Isa	19/02/93	6
Emerald	Memorial Club	19/02/93	9
Pialba	State High School	27/02/93	200



APPENDIX A CONTINUED

City/Town/Locality	Meeting Venue	Date	Estimated Attendance
Maryborough	City Hall Rooms	27/02/93	95
Ipswich	St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall	06/03/93	77
Warwick	Town Hall	06/03/93	30
Cania Dam		09/03/93	14
Bundaberg	State High School	09/03/93	350
Tin Can Bay	Coast Guard Building	10/03/93	70
Weipa	Convention Centre	20/04/93	18
New Mappoon	Community Centre	20/04/93	25
Lockhardt River	CDEP Office	21/04/93	10
Coen	Race Club Hall	21/04/93	30
Mossman	Royal Hotel	22/04/93	20

## APPENDIX B

### MATTERS REFERRED BY THE MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES TO THE RECREATIONAL FISHING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION

<u>Item</u>	<u>Comment and Decision</u>
Reef Line Fishery Management Measures	Endorsed. Minister for Primary Industries informed to allow regulations to proceed effective from 1 July 1993.
Ocean Beach Net Fishery Review	The concept of zoning was endorsed but a number of concerns were expressed by the Consultative Committee. These concerns have been addressed in the section of the report entitled "Ocean Beach Net Fishery".
Crab Fishery Management	<p>A number of concerns were expressed by the Consultative Committee. The majority of these concerns have been addressed in the section of the report entitled "Crabbing".</p> <p>Other specific concerns of the Consultative Committee include :</p> <p><u>OFMA Recommendation 12</u> - Spray System - Not endorsed.</p> <p><u>OFMA Recommendation 15</u> - Current ban on the taking of female mud crabs be examined - Not endorsed.</p> <p><u>OFMA Recommendation 20 (b)</u> - Master Fishermen in possession of mud and sand crab meat - Not endorsed.</p> <p><u>OFMA Recommendation 21</u> - Prohibition on the backing of crabs be removed from regulations - Not endorsed.</p>

APPENDIX B CONTINUED

<u>Item</u>	<u>Comment and Decision</u>
Amendment of Moreton Bay Trawl Boundary Description	Endorsed. This is to rectify deficiencies in two point descriptions of present boundaries. Arises from changes in the position of beacons.
Amendment of Fin Fish Trawl Fishery Boundary	Not endorsed. There is considerable concern with the possible impact on recreational fishing of the proposed extension of the stout whiting trawl boundaries into the 20 metre contour.
Management Arrangements for the East Coast Barramundi Set Gill Net Fishery	Endorsed.
Proposal to Amend the Boundaries of Permitted Trawl Areas in Hervey Bay	Endorsed.
Trawl By Catch of Marketable Fish Species	Not endorsed. The Consultative Committee has proposed a seasonal closure to trawling in Moreton Bay to help protect winter whiting. A separate zone for Moreton Bay has been proposed and the issue should be considered within this context.
Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program	Endorsed. This matter relates to the response from a questionnaire which was forwarded to all Stocking Groups in December 1992. This will now allow the response to be released.

## APPENDIX C

### REEF LINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN BAG LIMITS APPLICABLE AS AT 1 JULY 1993

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bag Limit (Whole Fish)	Bag Limit (Fillets)
Black Spot Tusk Fish	Choerodon schoenleinii	10	20
Black Kingfish	Rachycentron canadus	10	20
Broad Barred (Grey) Mackerel	Scomberomorus semifasciatus	10	20
Coral Trout	Plectropomus species	10	20
Estuary Cod	Epinephelus coioides	10	20
Fingermark (Large Scale Sea Perch)	Lutjanus johnii	10	20
Large Mouth Nannygai	Lutjanus malabaricus	10	20
Maori Wrasse	Cheilinus undulatus	1*	2*
Mulloway	Argyrosomus hololepidotus	10	20
Pearl Perch	Glaucosoma scapulare	10	20
Potato Cod	Epinephelus tukula	1*	2*
Purple Tusk Fish	Choerodon cephalotes	10	20
Queensland Groper	Epinephelus lanceolatus	1*	2*
Red Throat Emperor	Lethrinus miniatus	10	20
Red Emperor	Lutjanus sebae	10	20
Rosy Job Fish	Pristipomoides species	10	20
School Mackerel	Scomberomorus queenslandicus	30*	60*
Small Mouth Nannygai	Lutjanus erythropterus	10	20
Snapper	Pagrus auratus	30*	60*
Spangled Emperor	Lethrinus nebulosus	10	20
Spanish Mackerel	Scomberomorus commerson	10	20
Spotted/Black Jew	Protonibea diacanthus	10	20
Spotted Mackerel	Scomberomorus munroi	30*	60*
Teraglin Jew	Atractoscion aequidens	10	20
Venus Tusk Fish	Choerodon venustus	10	20
Wahoo	Acanthocybium solandri	10	20

#### TOTAL BAG LIMIT

A person must take or have in possession no more than the bag limit listed above and may have no more than a total of 30 fish or 60 fillets, and any combination of whole fish and fillets must not exceed the equivalent of 30 whole fish with two fillets being equal to one whole fish.

\*TO BE REVIEWED BY 30 JUNE 1994



## APPENDIX D

### ANNUAL LICENCE FEES PAID BY COMMERCIAL

#### FISHING OPERATORS

	\$
Master Fisherman's Licence	121
Trainee Master Fisherman's Licence	109
Assistant Fisherman's Licence	68
Fishery Endorsement Fee	* 46 to 57
Tender Vessel Renewal	75

Primary Vessels  
Licence Issue/Renewal Fee Based on Length

(a)	Non Otter Trawl	
	0 - 9.99 (m)	149
	10 - 13.99	171
	14 - 15.99	194
	16 - 18.99	240
	19 and over	332
(b)	Otter Trawl	
	0 - 9.99	155
	10 - 10.99	212
	11 - 11.99	223
	12 - 12.99	245
	13 - 13.99	263
	14 - 14.99	367
	15 - 15.99	430
	16 - 16.99	539
	17 - 17.99	603
	18 - 18.99	666
	19 and over	821

Some examples

13 metre Moreton Bay Trawler with crab and line endorsements + 1 tender	502
10 metre net fishing boat with crab and line endorsements + 1 tender	410
10 metre crab fishing boat with line endorsement	274
Typical beam trawl (Bundaberg) with line endorsement + 1 tender	342

## APPENDIX D CONTINUED

Typical tunnel netter Moreton Bay with line endorsement + 2 tenders	432
Typical Ocean Beach + Net and Line endorsement + 1 tender	394
Annual fee to Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation	399

### Commercial Licence Statistics as at 1 April 1993

Total Primary Vessels	2135
Total Tender Vessels	2559
Total Master Fishermen	2708
Total Trainee Master Fishermen	1685
Assistant Fishermen	2469
Total Number of Otter Trawlers (Including Concessional Zone)	937
Total number of Endorsements	5796

\* A small number of endorsements exceed these amounts.

### Fees Charged on Recreational Anglers

Speedboat Driver's Licence	\$26.80 + \$15 for test
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#### Boat Registration Fees

##### Some examples

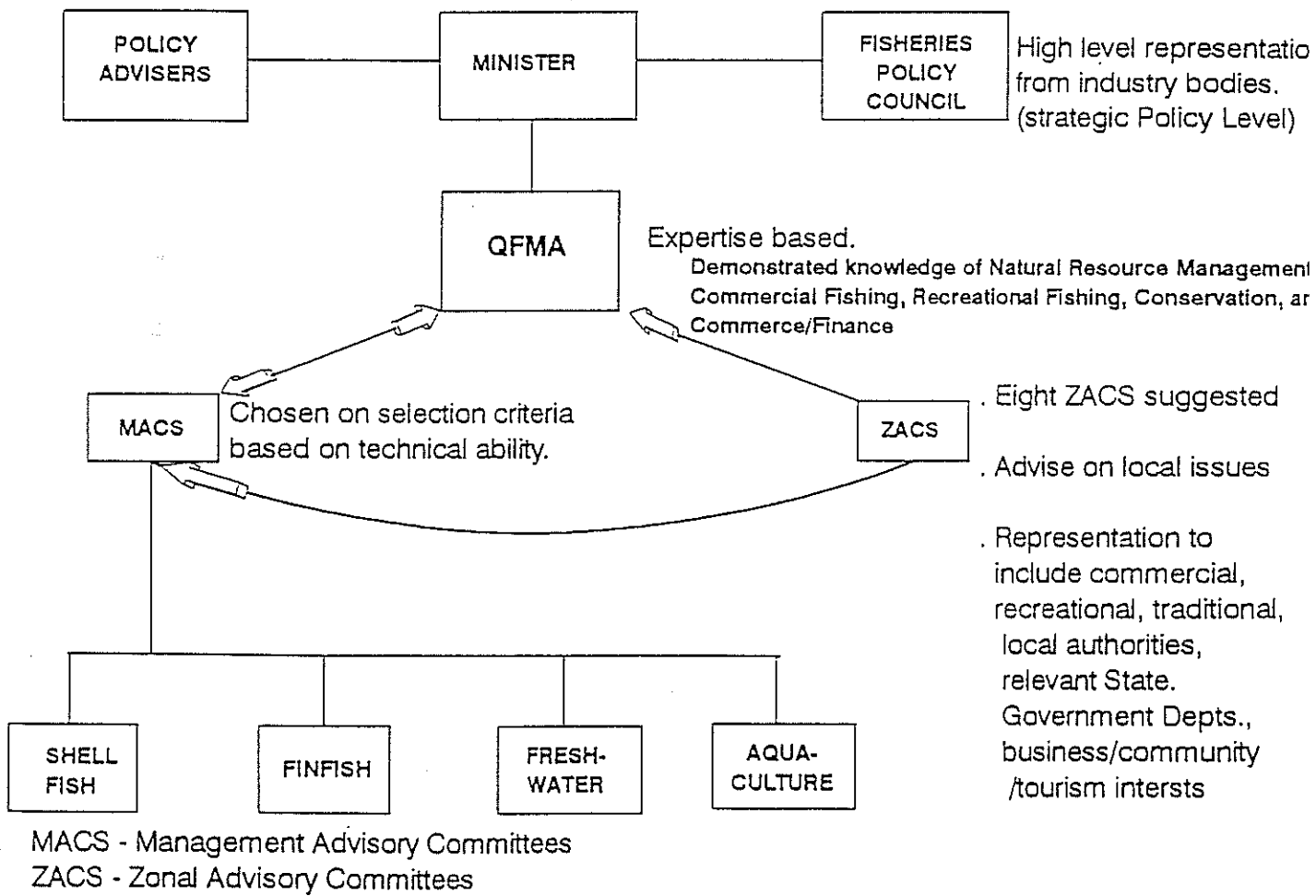
Up to 3.0M	\$ 60.50
4.1M to 4.5M	\$ 73.30
4.6M to 5.0M	\$ 99.10
5.1M to 6.0M	\$105.50
7.1M to 8.0M	\$118.30

#### Boat Trailer Registration Fees

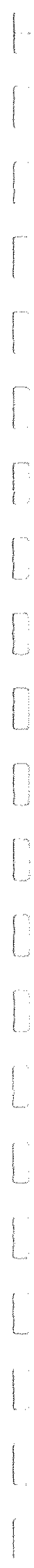
Not exceeding 1 tonne	\$ 56.70
1 tonne and not exceeding 5 tonnes	\$ 97.50
Exceeding 5 tonnes	\$285.40

## APPENDIX E

### PROPOSED FISHERIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE







## APPENDIX F

### Recreational Fishing Inquiry Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Abbink J	Anderson R	Australian Bass	Barram I
Abel H	Anderson R	Association	Barratt K
Abel P	Anderson R	Australian	Barrett J
Abela J	Anderson W	National	Barrett P
Abela V	Andrews C	Sportfishing	Barrett R
Abercrombie J	Andrews J	Assoc. Qld.	Barron Delta
Abercrombie P	Andrews J	Branch	Fishing Club
Aberdare	Andrews K	Auswide Marine	Barry M
Extended Amateur	Andrews L	Avender C	Barry W
Fishing Club	Andrews R	Avender H	Bartolo J
Abraham W	Anning J	Avery R	Bartolo L
Ackerly W	Ansell R	Baade M	Barton J
Adams G	Antoniolli P	Baartz A	Bartrim H
Adams P	Apex Amateur	Bacchiella D	Bartrum K
Adcock N	Deep Sea Angling	Backo H	Bassett G
Addis D	Club Inc	Baczynski K	Bauer A
Agioritis M	Appo K	Bader P	Bauer B
Agnes Water	Apps R	Baikie V	Bauer C
Fishing Club	Archer H	Bailey J	Bauer R
Agnew D	Archie D	Bailey W	Bauer R
Ahcay M	Argaet G	Bain S	Bauer R
Aikman K	Argart J	Baker D	Bawden N
Aitken D	Argent N	Baker R	Baxter D
Albert K	Argent R	Baker R	Baxter J
Albrecht P	Argus J	Baker S	Baxter R
Alexander N	Arkinstall D	Baker S	Baxter R
Alford W	Armit P	Baker T	Baxter R
All Tackle	Armstrong D	Bakker M	Bay M
Sportfishing	Armstrong D	Baksheev A	Beahan S
Allan C	Arndell S	Baldock B	Beard M
Allard I	Arnold A	Baldwin P	Beard R
Allen C	Arnold S	Ball G	Bears Boat Hire
Allen E	Arratta L	Ball J	Beasley G
Allwright J	Artemieff P	Ball S	Beatts G
Altadonna P	Arthur R	Ballin K	Beatts L
Alto P	Arthy I	Ballinger E	Beatts R
Alvey Reels	Ashdown J	Balu S	Beatty S
Australia	Ashwell R	Bampton B	Beauclerc C
Ambrose J	Aspinall P	Bandiera S	Beaudesert
Andersen E	Atkinson B	Barbeler L	Fishing Club
Andersen G	Attwater R	Barbeler M	Beaumont G
Andersen N	Attwater R	Barber C	Beavan S
Anderson A	Atwell P	Barber D	Beavis K
Anderson A	Auchter W	Barbi S	Beavon M
Anderson A	Auomin N	Barnard A	Bebendorf D
Anderson A	Austin G	Barnes A	Bebendorf K
Anderson A	Austin G	Barnett G	Beckett L
Anderson I	Austin K	Barnett G	Beckmann R
Anderson J	Austin T	Barney G	Beduhn R
Anderson L	Austin W	Barr D	Beeston C
Anderson M		Barr T	Behrens K

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry

## Alphabetical List of Submissions

Bell C	Blackford G	Booth W	Brayne R
Bell C	Blackman G	Borchardt A	Brealey B
Bell D	Blahland A	Borello B	Brearley M
Bell G	Blair T	Borello D	Breckell G
Bennett A	Blake C	Borg C	Brendale J
Bennett C	Blake L	Borg L	Bretherton B
Bennett K	Blake T	Borg M	Brett C
Bennett L	Blanch R	Borgelt G	Brette N
Bennett N	Bland K	Boringa R	Brianese W
Bennett N	Blaney J	Bos F	Bribie Island
Bennett R	Blaney J	Bos F	Boating and
Bennett R	Blaney T	Boschma B	Fishing Club
Bennett R	Bli Bli Riverside	Boshammer C	Brigden D
Bennetts G	Landcare Group	Boshammer C	Brigden M
Benshead T	Bloomfield H	Bosworth K	Brigginshaw A
Benson R	Bloomfield M	Bottcher G	Bright B
Bensted P	Blow V	Boughton K	Brinksley R
Bentley B	Blues J	Boughton L	Brisbane
Beny W	Blumberg G	Bovey J	Sportfishing Club
Bergle J	Bnezdiloff G	Bowden B	Inc.
Bergman U	Board A	Bowden G	Brisbane Valley
Bergmann D	Boardman J	Bowden J	Anglers
Berrill C	Boatfield P	Bowden M	Brisbane Visitors
Berrill G	Bobbermen N	Bowden W	and Convention
Berry J	Bocchiella D	Bowes D	Bureau
Bertucci J	Bock A	Bowie M	Brisby D
Best W	Boggin W	Bowler G	Britton C
Best W	Boland T	Bowley N	Brockhurst M
Beverley D	Bolic P	Bowman A	Brodie M
Bherz L	Bolt J	Bowtell B	Bromley C
Biancucci A	Bolton P	Boyes J	Brook M
Biasi R	Bombardieri S	Boyle E	Brooker J
Biddle L	Bond A	Braddon A	Broome O
Bidgood L	Bond S	Bradford L	Broomfield D
Bill J	Boneham D	Bradley D	Brophy M
Bimrose D	Bonehill F	Bradley F	Brotherton D
Bingham A	Bonehill R	Brady D	Brouwer J
Bioletti T	Bonehill S	Brady G	Brown A
Biolketti J	Bonehill T	Brady N	Brown D
Birchall O	Bonney H	Bragg K	Brown D
Birchall O	Bonney S	Brammall S	Brown D
Birer R	Bonney S	Brampton S	Brown D
Birtie D	Bonson P	Brandes K	Brown E
Bishop K	Boois R	Brandon A	Brown E
Bison A	Boon F	Bray B	Brown K
Bistricie M	Boondall	Bray K	Brown K
Bjelke-Petersen	Wetlands	Bray N	Brown M
Dam Fish	Management	Bray P	Brown P
Management	Committee	Bray S	Brown P
Committee	Booth B	Bray S	Brown R
Black M	Booth W	Brayne H	Brown W

## Recreational Fishing Inquiry Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Brown W	Burketown	Camp P	Carme S
Bruce R	Barramundi	Campbell B	Carmelito B
Bruce S	Fishing	Campbell B	Carpenter D
Bruce-Smith J	Organisation	Campbell C	Carpenter M
Bruce-Smith M	Burleigh Heads	Campbell C	Carr J
Bruth D	Amateur Fishing	Campbell D	Carr T
Bryce P	Club Inc	Campbell E	Carr W
Bryde M	Burling P	Campbell E	Carroll R
Buchan R	Burnett Catchment	Campbell E	Carruthers R
Buchanan A	Fish Management	Campbell M	Carseldine S
Buchanan L	Council	Campbell R	Carson A
Buchlert W	Burnett R	Campbell R	Carstens N
Buckby M	Burnett Trading	Campbell T	Carter K
Buckby P	Pty Ltd	Camplin N	Carter K
Buckeridge T	Burns A	Cania Dam Fish	Carter T
Buckley P	Burns T	Stocking	Carter T
Budd C	Burton G	Association Inc	Carter W
Bufl M	Burton N	Canning C	Cartwill I
Bugeja S	Burton V	Cannon A	Carty J
Buit G	Butchart R	Cannon B	Caruana F
Bull P	Butler P	Cannon K	Caruso R
Bullock F	Butler R	Cant J	Carvana D
Bundaberg &	Bygraves L	Cantwell J	Carvana M
District Artificial	Bygraves T	Cany J	Carvin B
Reef Assoc Inc	Byrne P	Capbell C	Casey J
Bundaberg	Byrne R	Capellari I	Casey R
Amateur Fishing	Byrne R	Capper R	Cash G
Club Association	Byrne S	Capricorn Sport &	Cash J
Inc	Byrnes J	Light Game	Cassells S
Bundaberg District	Byrnes T	Fishing Club	Cassidy B
Tourism &	Byrooe J	Capricorn Tag and	Castles M
Development	Cabbage Tree	Release	Caswell S
Board Ltd	Point Boat Hire	Sportfishing Club	Caterra P
Bundaberg Fish	Cacciola J	Inc.	Cato N
Stocking	Cage G	Capricorn Tourism	Cavati G
Association	Cahan H	& Development	Central Qld
Bundaberg Qld	Cairns and District	Organisation Inc	Amateur Fishing
Sport &	Amateur Fishing	Capricornia	Clubs Association
Recreational	Club	Fisheries Advisory	Cerutti T
Fishing Council	Cairns	Committee	Chadwick G
Burans R	Sportfishing Club	Carapellotti R	Chadwick W
Burchart R	Calderara A	Cardwell Ice	Chald A
Burchell D	Caldwell N	Works	Challacombe C
Burdekin	Callegri C	Cardwell	Chan T
Recreational	Calligan R	Sportfishing Club	Chandler J
Sportfishing Club	Cameron C	Career W	Chang C
Burgess J	Cameron D	Carey N	Chaplin P
Burgess R	Cameron W	Carey R	Chaplin R
Burke S	Camilleri G	Carier C	Chaplin R
	Camilleri J	Carkeet L	Chaplin W
	Camilleri R	Carlow D	Chapman G

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry

## Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Chapman H	Close P	Coombes D	Craddock J
Chapman K	Clother M	Coombes J	Craig B
Chapman M	Clothier C	Coombes J	Craig g
Chapman R	Clowes A	Coombes R	Craig L
Chapman R	Coates & Modin	Coombes W	Cranage A
Chapman S	Seafood Supplies	Coombes Y	Crane G
Chappell J	Cobb A	Cooper	Crane J
Charlier P	Cobb W	Cooper A	Crase B
Charlton N	Coch V	Cooper G	Crawford G
Cheng S	Cochrane C	Cooper L	Creedy K
Chesher D	Cockburn K	Cooper N	Crest R
Chesher P	Coen Social &	Cope D	Crimeen M
Chesner P	Progress	Cope J	Crimmin P
Chetham R	Association Inc.	Copley K	Crimmins J
Childs H	Coffin I	Corcoran T	Crisafulli A
Choo Chai J	Cole M	Core G	Cristaldi J
Christensen M	Cole W	Corfield H	Croke M
Christopherson P	Coles A	Corley S	Crompton G
Chs B	Collier J	Cornish D	Cross M
Chung I	Collins E	Corrie N	Cross N
Church D	Collins K	Corrigan S	Cross R
Church D	Collins K	Corser C	Crossman R
Clare L	Collishaw J	Corvin S	Crosswell R
Clarey K	Combes R	Costa C	Crosswell R
Clarey K	Comino V	Costanzo J	Croton S
Clarey R	Conne D	Costello N	Crowley M
Clarice R	Connell M	Cottell R	Cruckshank K
Clark B	Connelly R	Cotter G	Cruckshank B
Clark D	Connelly R	Cotterill A	Cull B
Clark F	Connolly M	Cotterill R	Cullen A
Clark G	Connolly N	Coucom J	Cullen G
Clark I	Connors K	Coucom J	Cunningham A
Clark J	Conor T	Coulch N	Cunningham G
Clark K	Conrad & Gargett	Coulson D	Cunningham G
Clark L	Pty Limited	Coulton F	Curcuruto F
Clark R	Conter G	Council of the	Currington D
Clarke F	Conti J	Shire of Cardwell	Curry J
Clarke L	Coochiemudlo	Court G	Cutting D
Clarke N	Progress	Cousenc J	Cutts R
Clarke N	Association	Cousins F	Cutts T
Clarke N	Cook A	Cousins F	D'Aguiar C
Clarke R	Cook D	Covell C	D'Andilly M
Clarke S	Cook G	Covell S	D'Ath R
Clarke T	Cook J	Covey J	DA's Supa Mart
Clarke Y	Cook J	Cowell D	Daday Z
Clarry G	Cook S	Cowley R	Dagg C
Clayton E	Cook T	Cowley W	Dahl B
Clegg G	Cook T	Cox D	Dahlen J
Clemments M	Cooke G	Cox D	Dal Ponte J
Clifford W	Cooke J	Coyne W	Dalamaras J
Clifton B	Cooke S	Coznell P	Dale A

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry

## Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Dale A	Demos J	Dorrstein F	Edmonds W
Dale D	Denison P	Dougheaty C	Edmonton Amat.
Dale E	Denman C	Dougherty C	Fishing Club
Dale K	Denman D	Douglas G	Edward G
Dale M	Denman L	Douglas J	Edward G
Dallosto M	Dent N	Douglas L	Edwards L
Dalton C	DePinto S	Douglas W	Edwards M
Damata T	Derrick J	Dowling L	Ehlers B
Daniel G	Derrick N	Downie L	Ehlers D
Daniels J	Derrington N	Doyle J	Eichhoim H
Dannell S	Deslandes R	Doyle J	Eilbeck R
Danson T	Devenish R	Drabsch E	Eliadis E
Darby E	Devescovi T	Dransfield N	Eilbeck R
Dare B	Devey R	Draper T	Ellen L
Darke A	Devine P	Drevins D	Elliot J
Darke R	Di Pietrantonio M	Dries D	Elliot R
Darr R	Di Salvo A	Drobic P	Ellis B
Dartnell T	Diax M	Du Rietz B	Ellis D
Dartnell T	Dibley J	Du Roetz M	Ellis D
Dass P	Dibley N	Duell T	Ellis J
Davey A	Dibley R	Duffill W	Ellis R
Davey L	Dick T	Duffy M	Ellis S
Davey W	Dicker C	Duhig R	Elms C
Davidson K	Dickfos J	Dukes J	Elseback N
Davidson K	Dickinson C	Duncan A	Elworthy N
Davidson M	Dickinson K	Duncan B	Ely J
Davies C	Dickinson K	Duncan L	Embregts G
Davies H	Dickson B	Duncan L	Endres T
Davies P	Dickson B	Duncan W	England T
Davis A	Dickson K	Dunfield F	Escuriale J
Davis B	Dickson K	Dunn D	Eussen D
Davis B	Dickson L	Dunn T	Evans A
Davis J	Diggles B	Dunne N	Evans A
Davis J	Dinnie A	Dunstan K	Evans D
Davis P	Dipple J	Dutton A	Evans E
Dawdson S	Dittman F	Dutton A	Evans G
Dawson R	Dixon B	Dutton B	Evans M
Day E	Dixon R	Duucombe E	Evans M
De Battisto G	Dobe M	Dux S	Evans P
De Graaf S	Dobson D	Dyson R	Evans R
Deans I	Doctor R	Eassie W	Evenden D
Deans I	Dodds S	Eastern Trinity	Everett W
Deans W	Dohnt M	Inlet Ratepayers &	Fagg B
Deatloff A	Doless P	Residents Assoc.	Fairbairn Dam
Dech K	Donaghey D	Eaton K	Fish Stocking
Deeny J	Donaldson M	Eckford A	Group
DeKeyser H	Donaldson N	Eddleston J	Faithfull D
Del Manso P	Donnelly J	Edgerton B	Faithfull L
Delamain A	Doohan J	Edmiston M	Fallon B
Delaney H	Dooley B	Edmonds B	Falls A
Delarue J	Dorham W	Edmonds F	Falls A

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry

## Alphabetical List of Submissions

Family Boating & Fishing Club	Fisheries Research Consultants	Fraser Island Fishing Units	Gardner J
Farmer L	Fitzgerald E	Fraser J	Garget G
Farmilo A	Fleming B	Fraser S	Garget J
Farr K	Flessner B	Fray E	Garlando M
Farrell R	Flessner C	Frazer J	Garlick E
Farren R	Flessner J	Freedman J	Garlick V
Farrington G	Flessner J	Freeman A	Garner T
Farrington J	Flessner J	Freeman B	Garner W
Farrington K	Flessner J	Freeman T	Garrett K
Fast B	Flessner J	Freidman S	Gary J
Faulkner N	Flessner W	Freirberg F	Gates P
Fearby J	Fletcher N	French M	Gault D
Featonby G	Flick L	Freindinberg J	Gave T
Federal Amateur Fishing Club	Flinn D	Friend J	Gayndah Anglers & Fish Stocking Association Inc
Fellows G	Flohr K	Friends of Coochiemudlo	Gear V
Fellows R	Florence D	Friske N	Gedde G
Fenlon G	Floyd A	Fry D	Gee J
Fenoglio M	Floyd J	Fry D	Geebill M
Fenoglio M	Flyn S	Fry M	Geissler R
Fensen B	Flynn M	Fuller A	Geldard L
Ferguson G	Flynn M	Fuller B	Gellert M
Ferguson I	Foelz B	Fuller D	Genocchio J
Ferguson J	Follers J	Fuller R	Gent F
Ferguson R	Fondells R	Fuller R	George E
Ferguson S	Fooks P	Furlan I	George G
Ferrero M	Foot R	Furlanis G	George I
Ffrost A	Ford R	Furth C	Gericke J
Fidge C	Ford R	Fyfe J	Gesche H
Field G	Forrester M	Gadd C	Gesche J
Field L	Forum P	Gadd R	Geury C
Fielder L	Foster A	Gadlf D	Giandomenico P
Figgers D	Foster D	Gaffney J	Gibbons W
Filei M	Foster H	Gaggiano M	Gibler C
Files D	Foster T	Galea J	Gibson J
Findlay J	Fox B	Gallagher C	Gibson P
Finiso E	Fox G	Gallagher E	Gidall P
Finlay D	Fox J	Gallagher M	Giddins L
Finlay D	Fox J	Gallagher T	Gilbert A
Finlay J	Fox J	Gallagher W	Gilbey A
Finlay M	Frahm B	Galletly M	Giles D
Finlay M	Frahm D	Galletly T	Gill R
Finnis A	Frakin J	Galligan P	Gillard R
Finocchiario R	Frakin J	Galligan P	Gillet B
Fionello L	Francis K	Galligan R	Gilliland A
Firth L	Francis L	Ganley J	Gilliland A
Fisher A	Franklin C	Ganley K	Gillingham J
Fisher L	Franklin K	Garard K	Gillis J
Fisher M	Franks W	Gardiner G	Gimblett A
	Fraser B	Gardiner R	Gimblett P

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry

## Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Gimblett S	Grant E	Grierson J	Hall D
Girgenti A	Grasnick D	Grierson J	Hall D
Girgenti A	Grassi J	Griffen M	Hall D
Girgenti A	Grasso A	Griffin J	Hall D
Gladstone Port	Grasso A	Griffin S	Hall E
Authority	Graves N	Griffith D	Hall J
Gladstone	Gray A	Griffith P	Hall J
Sportfishing Club	Gray B	Griffiths A	Hall R
Glastoneburi R	Gray J	Griffiths N	Hall R
Gleadhill R	Gray J	Griffiths P	Hall W
Glenmore	Gray M	Griffiths P	Hallet R
Seafoods	Gray P	Grimshaw K	Halling S
Gnezdiloff W	Gray W	Grimstone J	Halsov B
Goddard H	Graydon H	Grobe K	Hambleton S
Godfrey P	Graydon M	Grose R	Hamden B
Godfrey S	Great Barrier Reef	Grosskrewutz W	Hamill D
Goebel J	Marine Park	Gudenswager C	Hamilton G
Gold Coast Game	Authority	Gueho J	Hamilton L
Fish Club Inc.	Greaves N	Guiffinda S	Hamilton R
Gold Coast	Grebert F	Guivarra J	Hamilton S
Sportfishing Club	Green C	Gundry N	Hamlin C
Golden Fleece	Green D	Gunn J	Hammond K
Fishing Club	Green D	Gunning K	Hammond P
Goldenstein C	Green G	Gunning K	Hampson D
Gollan C	Green G	Gunning M	Hancock R
Gonnella C	Green J	Gunton E	Handley M
Gooburru Shire	Green R	Guse W	Hanlon B
Council	Green S	Guy C	Hanlon R
Goodall G	Greenhalgh C	Gympie & District	Hannah W
Goodmanson R	Greenhalgh I	Chamber of	Hansen G
Goodwin D	Greenhalgh K	Commerce	Hansen K
Goodwin R	Greenhalgh M	Haberkern O	Hansen N
Gordon D	Greenhill R	Habler M	Harberger F
Gori F	Greenwood M	Hacking J	Harberger S
Gori L	Greenwood P	Hadley D	Harch R
Gosbell A	Greer J	Hadley K	Hardes P
Gossner A	Greer J	Hadley W	Harding D
Gossner H	Greer L	Hagean K	Harding D
Gottke P	Greer M	Hain A	Harding G
Goudie H	Greer M	Hain A	Harding J
Goudie J	Gregory B	Hain D	Hardy D
Gould G	Gregory M	Hain G	Hargreaves D
Gould R	Gregory R	Haines B	Harlee A
Govey G	Gregory S	Hair W	Harman H
Gower S	Greig A	Hall A	Harman W
Graham D	Greig D	Hall A	Harmes M
Graham J	Greig D	Hall A	Harold T
Graham L	Greig J	Hall B	Harper A
Graham L	Greig M	Hall B	Harris A
Graham P	Greig P	Hall B	Harris B
Grancis T	Grevell A	Hall C	Harris B



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## Alphabetical List of Submissions

Harris B	Hawkins I	Hervey Bay	Hobbs G
Harris R	Hawkswood D	Sportfishing Club	Hobbs G
Harris R	Hawtin C	Inc	Hobbs J
Harris V	Hay E	Heslop J	Hobbs M
Harrison D	Hay J	Hibbs T	Hobbs W
Harrison D	Hayford P	Hibiscus Holiday	Hobbs W
Harrison I	Haynes P	Units	Hobden T
Harrison R	Haysom N	Hicks W	Hoberg G
Harrison R	Hayward M	Hickson P	Hobman R
Harstron E	Healy M	Hiddins L	Hodge R
Hart B	Heather R	Higgins D	Hodgetts B
Hart B	Heaton T	Higham S	Hodgskin K
Hart Fisheries Pty	Hebbard C	Higson K	Hodgson N
Ltd	Hegarty D	Hiley D	Hofer H
Hartfiel K	Hegham G	Hill D	Hofer M
Hartland E	Heile K	Hill E	Hoffmaster T
Hartnett T	Heinstrager A	Hill G	Hogg A
Hartnett T	Heitmann M	Hill P	Hogg E
Hartnett T	Hellier W	Hill S	Hogg W
Harvey B	Hellmuth A	Hill S	Holdcroft W
Harvey B	Helmstedt S	Hill S	Holland C
Harvey B	Hemlon J	Hillman G	Holland C
Harvey D	Henare M	Hills N	Holland C
Harvey E	Henderson A	Hills P	Holland P
Harvey E	Henderson C	Hilton R	Holloway R
Harvey G	Henderson C	Hinchinbrook	Holm R
Harvey G	Henderson J	Adventures	Holman D
Harvey I	Henderson J	Rainforest and	Holmes A
Harvey J	Henderson K	Reef	Holmes E
Harvey M	Henderson L	Hinchinbrook	Holmes G
Harvey M	Henderson M	Sport Fishing	Holmes R
Harvey M	Hendricks J	Club	Holt F
Harvey P	Henebery W	Hincksman K	Holt G
Harvey R	Henki R	Hincksman P	Holt G
Harvey S	Henney W	Hine A	Holt L
Harveyson K	Henricksen H	Hingley R	Holzberger G
Harveyson K	Henry S	Hingst R	Holznagel F
Hasenpusch J	Herbert B	Hinsch R	Holzrichter U
Haskins R	Herbert D	Hintz D	Homer M
Hasted L	Herbert D	Hintz D	Homer T
Hastie P	Herburg J	Hislop G	Honey C
Hatchman G	Herd W	Hitchings E	Honey G
Hatchman R	Heriot J	Hitzke T	Honey K
Hattingh G	Hermann J	Hnoudis S	Honey K
Hattingh G	Hermann J	Hoare B	Honey R
Hattingh G	Herminn G	Hoare D	Honnery G
Hattingh K	Hersburgh J	Hoare K	Hoocsteysn P
Hatton R	Hervey Bay	Hoare R	Hooke M
Haushen E	Amateur Fishing	Hobbelen P	Hooker J
Hawes R	Club	Hobbs D	Hoon R
Hawkes M	Inc	Hobbs D	Hooper B

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## Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Hooper D	Ivory R	Jenner J	Jordan A
Hooper J	Jachhim C	Jensen G	Jordan D
Hooper P	Jackman H	Jensen G	Jordan J
Hooson A	Jackson C	Jensen K	Jordan L
Hooson D	Jackson D	Jensen L	Jordan M
Hooson J	Jackson J	Jensen L	Jordan W
Hooson R	Jackson J	Jensen R	Jorgensen B
Hopton S	Jackson K	Jensen R	Jorgensen E
Horan J	Jackson L	Jenvey R	Jovic P
Hormston F	Jackson L	Jerks P	Joy R
Horne T	Jackson P	Jesse R	Joy R
Horrocks L	Jackson R	Jewell K	Joyce C
Horswill M	Jackson R	Jewell M	Joyce M
Horton G	Jackson R	Jewell N	Joyce P
Hosking P	Jackson R	Jewell S	Jozefowski H
Hoskinson M	Jackson R	Jewell W	Juides C
Houston S	Jackson R	Jewell W	Juides D
Howard G	Jacobs Well &	Johnson B	Junior Anglers
Howe R	District Progress	Johnson D	Inc.
Howe R	Association	Johnson G	Kaandorp J
Howell F	Jacobsen B	Johnson H	Kable J
Howell P	Jacobsen P	Johnson I	Kafoa G
Howlett A	James M	Johnson J	Kaidas T
Hughes R	James M	Johnson P	Kaikkonen T
Hughes T	James P	Johnson R	Kalachoff A
Humphries R	James S	Johnson R	Karathanasopoulos
Hunt H	James W	Johnson R	Karumba Fishing
Hunt K	Jamieson A	Johnson R	Club
Hunt R	Jamieson K	Johnson S	Kavanagh A
Hunt R	Jankovic R	Johnston	Kavanagh P
Hunter N	Jansen R	-De Vere J	Kay A
Hunter S	Janson R	Johnston K	Kay M
Hurley J	Jaquiss L	Johnston P	Kay M
Hurst K	Jarick D	Johnstone P	Kaye J
Hurst K	Jealeus K	Johnstone R	Keddie E
Hutchinson R	Jefferd M	Jokisalo V	Keever R
Hutchison G	Jefferies B	Jolly G	Keevers W
Hutchison G	Jefferies R	Jones G	Keidge L
Ibbotson M	Jeffers L	Jones G	Keller J
Ihle W	Jeffers L	Jones H	Keller K
Illidge K	Jeffers W	Jones J	Kelley F
Imhoff M	Jeffers W	Jones L	Kelley R
Ingham M	Jeffery B	Jones M	Kelly A
Ingrey D	Jeffery M	Jones N	Kelly D
Ireland K	Jeffrey D	Jones N	Kemp T
Irwin A	Jeffrey R	Jones N	Kempser W
Irwin A	Jeffrey S	Jones R	Kenn N
Isakisiris J	Jeffreys L	Jones R	Kennedy B
Isles B	Jeffries R	Jones R	Kennedy D
Isnard J	Jenner D	Jones S	Kennedy J
Ivory R	Jenner F	Jones W	Kennedy W

# Recreational Fishing Inquiry Alphabetical List of Submissions

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Kennrick B	Klumpp J	Langridge G	Lind R
Kenny A	Kluver R	Langton C	Lindberg W
Kent C	Knight A	Lankin W	Lindley R
Kent J	Knight D	Lappalainen R	Lines H
Keppel Bay	Knight G	Lare S	Linning J
Sportfishing Club	Knight J	Larkin K	Linton C
Inc	Knight J	Larkin P	Lintz S
Kerans W	Knorre P	LaRosa J	Lions Y
Kerim J	Knowles K	Laspina R	Lippitt S
Kerkow B	Knuth R	Latt N	Litherland B
Kern K	Kohler G	Laucirica G	Little P
Kerrigan J	Kohler M	Lauga G	Littlemore G
Kerrigan M	Koin B	Lavell M	Livermore D
Kersey B	Koina F	Lavender R	Livingstone A
Kersnovske P	Koppen B	Law J	Livingstone D
Kettle R	Koppen G	Lawbourne L	Livingstone K
Keyzer S	Koppen L	Lawie J	Lizard Island
Kidby R	Korn D	Laws B	Game Fish Club
Kidd J	Kostic M	Laws R	Lloyd A
Kiff E	Kowanicolas N	Lawson D	Lloyd L
Kilcoy Amateur	Krapp G	Lay I	Locastro G
Fishing Club Inc	Kraschnefski	Lay I	Locke R
Kilmister B	Krause R	Lay K	Lockhart K
Kimber R	Krebs G	Lazar E	Lockley T
King A	Kriedeman T	Lazar R	Logan A
King A	Kroll M	Lazzaroni L	Logan J
King D	Kroll P	Le Grady C	Lollo B
King M	Kross B	Lea P	Lollo E
King P	Kruckow F	Leach A	Lomman J
King R	Krueger T	Leach G	Long R
King R	Kunst B	Leach R	Long R
Kingaroy	Kurth R	Lear J	Longland R
Sportfishing Club	Kyle T	Lear S	Longmead T
Kingfishers	Laack G	Lee M	Longson T
Fishing Club	Lacey T	Lee R	Longwill T
Kinghorn R	Ladewig C	Lee R	Look J
Kington G	Lahtwen S	Lee V	Looke B
Kippen D	Lake McDonald	Lee W	Looke J
Kirby M	Fish Advisory	Leis G	Louk H
Kirby S	Committee	Lems D	Louk N
Kirk G	Lakeland Cash	Lennox J	Lound P
Kirkby G	Store	Lenton G	Lounds Fresh
Kirkwood D	Lamb W	Leonard S	Seafoods
Kiss G	Lambert J	Leonard W	Love B
Kitchener S	Lambert J	Leonardi J	Love K
Kitching K	Lambeth P	Lerre J	Loveridge L
Klein G	Lane J	Letcher R	Lovi K
Kleindienst P	Lane R	Lewis G	Low H
Klenschmidt L	Lane R	Lewis J	Low T
Kliese E	Lane R	Lewis T	Lowden K
Klimek W	Lang R	Licchino A	Lowden R

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Loweke G	Maguire M	Maryborough	McCrae T
Lowth G	Maher D	Sportfishing Club	McCulloch J
Lowth G	Maher J	Inc	McCullough B
Lucas C	Maher K	Mason A	McCurley A
Lucke B	Mahon M	Mason J	McDonald G
Lucke W	Mair A	Mason M	McDonald G
Ludbrook M	Maker B	Mason P	McDonald K
Ludwig A	Maker S	Mason S	McDonald R
Luff J	Malan L	Mason S	McDonald W
Lund D	Malcolm R	Mason T	McDonald W
Lund N	Malcolmson L	Mason V	McDonnell B
Luxford L	Malcomson K	Massoud R	McDonnell G
Luxton J	Mallett K	Mate J	McDougall L
Lynch A	Maloney A	Mathieson I	McFarland D
Lynch J	Maltby P	Matsen B	McGahan G
Lynch M	Maltby R	Matteson D	McGarry N
Lynch R	Manaway R	Matthews D	McGarry N
Lynch T	Mankowski M	Matthews F	McGarry W
MacDonald D	Manley M	Matthews F	McGhee M
MacDonald R	Manning A	Matthews J	McGill B
MacDonald T	Manning A	Matthews P	McGiluram E
MacDonald T	Manning R	Matthews R	McGoah R
Mace P	Manskie L	Matthews R	McGowan L
MacFarlane A	Mantgaris M	Mattingly T	McInnes C
Mackay & District	Marajason A	Mattz M	McIntyre C
Amateur Fishing	Marbelli P	Mau R	McIntyre R
Clubs Assoc	Marburg Amateur	Mau R	McIvor F
Mackay & District	District Fishing	Maughan J	McKay H
Buffalo Memorial	Club	May E	McKay J
Club	Marchant P	Mayer D	McKenzie C
Mackay B	Marchant V	Maynard E	McKenzie G
Mackay J	Marchant V	McAlistar R	McKenzie G
Mackay K	Margrie J	McAlister L	McKenzie I
Mackay Post	Marinus S	McAllister C	McKenzie I
Office Amateur	Marinus S	McAnalen P	McKenzie R
Fishing Club Inc	Marolla F	McArthur K	McKenzie R
Mackay	Marolla N	McArthur R	McKeown J
Sportfishing Club	Maroochy River	McAteer N	McKoand S
Inc	Catchment Area	McAuliffe E	McLachlan M
Mackay T	Network	McCallum D	McLaughlan F
Mackay Trailer	Marrinon K	McCallum J	McLaughlin J
Boat Club	Marriott N	McCann G	McLean C
Mackay W	Marsh D	McCarthy J	McLean D
Mackenzie A	Marsh J	McCarthy J	McLeish C
Mackenzie G	Marshall D	McCloy I	McLennan K
MacLeod L	Marshall J	McCloy N	McLennan T
MacLeod S	Martin B	McColl H	McLeod G
MacPherson S	Martin P	McConnell D	McLeod S
Madigan G	Martin R	McCook A	McLucas R
Magnall B	Martin S	McCook A	McLucas R
Maguire K	Martini F	McCosker S	McMann R

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McMillan A	Milani A	Moore Park &	Mr Doutre
McMillan W	Miles A	District	Mr Stokes
McMullen H	Millard M	Ratepayers &	Mr Stone
McNamara K	Miller B	Residents Assoc.	Mr Thurlby
McNamara K	Miller B	Moore R	Muir G
McNamara P	Miller D	Moore R	Muir J
McNamara P	Miller F	Moorhead C	Mulcahy J
McNeill G	Miller F	Morain M	Mulgrave Shire
McNeven I	Miller M	Moran P	Council
McNeven I	Miller P	Moran V	Muller D
McNichol D	Miller P	Morehead B	Muller G
McNichol E	Miller S	Moreton Bay Boat	Muller R
McNichol M	Miller S	Club	Muller S
McPhee D	Millet R	Moreton Bay	Mundt G
McQuillan G	Milligan W	Trailer Boat Club	Mundt J
McShane A	Mills N	Inc	Munns R
McShane R	Mills P	Moreton Fishing	Munro P
McShane S	Milne L	Club	Munroe T
McTaggart K	Milner R	Morette V	Murphy D
McTaggart T	Milosevie L	Morgan V	Murphy J
McTaggart T	Milosevie L	Morley E	Murphy P
McTigue P	Milson K	Morley E	Murphy P
Mead A	Minchgo A	Morley J	Murray A
Meade J	Mischlewski H	Morrall R	Murray C
Meal R	Misselbrook D	Morrell R	Murray D
Mears B	Mission Beach	Morris W	Murray G
Meary B	Game Fishing	Morrison B	Murray H
Medland J	Club Inc	Morrison M	Murray P
Mee A	Misson T	Morrison R	Murray S
Meeak J	Mitchell B	Morrissey D	Murray T
Meehan C	Mitchell C	Morrissey J	Murry P
Meier K	Mitchell F	Morrow R	Musumeci A
Mellini J	Mitchell M	Morton K	Mykytowych L
Mellor D	Mitchell W	Morton R	Mykytowych M
Mellor K	MITEC Limited	Mory P	Myles P
Melxin O	Mithen	Mosan P	Nahrung C
Mencia H	Moccano J	Moshey H	Nai G
Mendef S	Moetara B	Moss R	Nalinsti S
Meredith A	Moetara J	Mossman Boat	Namot D
Mergler S	Moffat H	Club	Narratone K
Merker T	Moldrich R	Mostachetti B	Nash F
Merriman M	Moller C	Mostachetti S	Nash L
Merritt R	Moller J	Mouilpied D	Naughton F
Metcalf A	Monks R	Mouilpied M	Naughton F
Metford N	Monro S	Mounsey W	Naughton L
Meyer K	Monro S	Mount Gravatt	Neal C
Michel J	Moon E	Amateur Fishing	Neal G
Michel W	Moore C	Club	Neave D
Middleton V	Moore O	Mount Isa	Negri K
Midgley D		Sportfishing Club	Neill C
Mied E		Mr Connor	Neilsen T

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Neilson M	Norsland A	Oswin C	Pearce R
Neilson M	North C	Oswin D	Pearce T
Neilson V	North G	Oswin E	Peard B
Nelson P	Norton S	Oswin N	Pearson P
Nemeth L	Noume M	Oswin P	Pearson T
Nemeth L	Nowland V	Owen J	Peczeli R
Neumann R	Nutt P	Owen R	Pedley R
Newby J	O'Brien B	Paap D	Peeters J
Newell D	O'Brien G	Pace M	Pelinba J
Newell D	O'Brien J	Packwood R	Penda C
Newham R	O'Brien J	Paddockmist Pty	Penhallurick J
Newman B	O'Brien L	Ltd	Pennisi G
Newman D	O'Brien M	Page B	Pennisi R
Newsham W	O'Brien R	Palmer D	Penny E
Newton C	O'Brien R	Pankhurst C	Pensini C
Newton G	O'Brien V	Pankhurst E	Pepper A
Nichols V	O'Bryan P	Pankhurst G	Pepper B
Nicolson M	O'Connell M	Papadimitridu N	Pepper E
Nielsen B	O'Connor J	Parker B	Pepper V
Nielsen M	O'Connor M	Parker R	Perham F
Nielsen N	O'Connor T	Parkin D	Perkins B
Nielsen T	O'Dempsey B	Parnell N	Perkins B
Nielsen T	O'Donnell K	Parry R	Perkins D
Nielson R	O'Donnell S	Parsons A	Perkins M
Nihill J	O'Driscoll D	Parsons B	Pernici W
Nilsen L	O'Driscoll J	Parsons C	Perrin A
Nilsson M	O'Driscoll P	Parsons G	Perry G
Nilsson R	O'Keefe D	Parsons K	Perry K
Nilsson R	O'May L	Parsons T	Perry P
Niotakis B	O'Neill A	Partlett K	Perry S
Nissen V	O'Reilly L	Parwell R	Perry S
Niukkanen A	O'Reilly T	Patane F	Perry W
Niven R	O'Shaughnessy P	Patchett S	Perticato L
Niven R	O'Shea M	Pattel N	Pertot G
Niven T	O'Sullivan D	Patterson G	Peters B
Niven T	O'Sullivan N	Patton S	Peters D
Noonan R	Oates J	Pavettp J	Peters G
Noonan T	Oceanic Amateur	Payne A	Peters G
Noordermeer A	Fishing Club	Payne A	Peters T
Noordermeer E	Ogden K	Payne G	Peterson R
Noordermeer J	Ohl G	Payne M	Peterson R
Noosa North	Ohman B	Payne R	Peterson T
Shore Fish	Ohman M	Payne W	Petterson S
Conservation	Olds D	Pearce C	Peverill D
Society	Olen M	Pearce C	Peype P
Norling J	Oliver R	Pearce C	Phillips A
Norman D	Ollermann C	Pearce G	Phillips A
Norman L	Oppermann E	Pearce N	Phillips B
Norris M	Oriszenko P	Pearce P	Phillips D
Norris P	Orr A	Pearce R	Phillips D
Norris P	Ost R	Pearce R	Phillips M

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Phillips W	Powell C	Q.C.F.O.	Randell A
Phillips W	Powell G	Jumpinpin Branch	Randolph B
Phipps A	Powell G	Q.C.F.O. Urangan	Raptis A. & Sons
Phipps K	Powell M	Branch	Rasby R
Pickering B	Power Boat	Q.C.F.O. Wynnum	Rasby R
Pickering G	Anglers Inc	Branch	Rashleigh J
Pickering P	Power C	Q.C.F.O. Yeppoon	Rasmossen R
Pickering W	Power J	Branch	Rasmussen I
Pickup B	Pozza R	QCFO - Branch	Rasmussen I
Pidgeon R	Pozzey J	21	Rasmussen L
Pieper R	Pozzey J	QCFO - Branch 6	Raspopin W
Pietzner C	Prain D	QCFO - Karumba	Rattray C
Pike J	Pratt C	Branch	Rayment B
Pitcher A	Preedy M	Qld Sport &	Rayment M
Pitts D	Preston G	Recreational	Rayment P
Plath A	Price M	Fishing Council	Raymond J
Plath E	Price R	Mackay	Raymond P
Plath R	Price S	Quathomaine D	Rayner R
Plath W	Prickett P	Quathomane C	Read D
Platten J	Prickett P	Queensland	Read J
Plummer D	Prince G	Amateur Fishing	Reading W
Pohlman J	Prince W	Club Association	Real S
Pole R	Pritchard C	Inc	Reberger D
Pollitt B	Pritchard C	Queensland	Rebetzke J
Polzin A	Prizeman D	Association of	Redcliffe
Pommoy A	Probert R	Four Wheel	Peninsula Game &
Pool R	Proctor M	Drives Club	Sportfish Club Inc
Poole R	Progressive	Queensland Game	Redlands
Pope D	Resident's	Fishing	Preservation
Pope L	Organisation	Association	Council
Poppell W	Project Ocean	Queensland Sport	Redshaw N
Porter D	Pronk A	and Recreational	Reed A
Porter G	Prowse J	Fishing Council	Reichard C
Porter H	Prowse N	Quinn D	Reid Industries
Porter H	Pryor M	Quinn I	Pty Ltd
Porter I	Przesmycki L	Quinn L	Reid K
Porter J	Przesmycki S	Quinn R	Reid L
Porter J	Puckering J	Quinn V	Reid M
Porter J	Purcell J	Rabjohns N	Reid M
Porter L	Purcell J	Raciti D	Reid R
Porter P	Purcell S	Raddatz G	Reilly J
Pott A	Putzka U	Radford D	Reilly L
Pott B	Putzka W	Radid T	Reinhardt G
Pott S	Pye L	Raffen G	Relia M
Potter B	Pyke N	Raggam E	Remedio D
Potter K	Pyne T	Rainbow Beach	Retschlag E
Potter M	Q.C.F.O. Head	Commerce	Retschlag M
Potter N	Office	Association	Retschlag S
Potterill R	Q.C.F.O. Burdekin	Ramensky N	Reynolds R
Pouchaeff W	Branch	Ramsay S	Reynolds R
Poultney K		Randall P	Richards G

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Richards S	Roe P	Ryan D	Schrock A
Richardson D	Rogash R	Ryan D	Schubert W
Richardson D	Rogers A	Ryan G	Schuh A
Richardson F	Rogers B	Ryan G	Schuh J
Richardson J	Rogers D	Ryan J	Schuh R
Richardson K	Rogers G	Ryan J	Schuh T
Richardson P	Rogers J	Ryan P	Schultz G
Richardson T	Rogers K	Ryan T	Schulz C
Richardson T	Rogers K	Ryder N	Schulz K
Riches W	Rogers N	Rye D	Schumacher B
Rick's Bait and Tackle	Rogers N	Salaner G	Schurvi G
Riddle E	Rogers R	Salau D	Schwarzrock L
Ridge L	Roginer B	Salmon D	Sciacca S
Ridge L	Rolph G	Salmon R	Sciegghi D
Riethmuller K	Romud T	Sanders B	Scipilliti A
Rigby I	Roob J	Sanders D	Scipilliti I
Riley H	Rooks K	Sanders G	Scmidt J
Riley J	Rooney P	Sanders S	Scoffell D
Riley R	Rosadi L	Sanders V	Scorer W
Ringelstein K	Rose D	Sanderson S	Scorey M
Ringuet D	Rose D	Sandilands F	Scott A
Ringuet M	Rose V	Sant A	Scott B
Rippingale M	Roselt B	Saron B	Scott D
Ritchie P	Roser P	Saul D	Scott J
Robb I	Rosmusse D	Savage A	Scotton F
Roberson B	Ross A	Savige G	Searle A
Roberson R	Ross A	Sawynok W	Searle G
Roberts C	Ross D	Sbeghen J	Searle T
Roberts C	Ross D	Scanlon B	Searles S
Roberts L	Ross G	Scanlon M	Seawright A
Roberts L	Ross P	Scarborough	Seawright B
Roberts L	Rossi J	Amateur Fishing	Seay K
Roberts R	Rossiter W	Club	Seccombe K
Robertson A	Roth K	Scarborough Car	Seeds G
Robertson V	Rowe A	Doctor	Seeman G
Robino D	Rowland J	Schaffer R	Seeto J
Robino R	Rowling K	Schesky N	Seeto J
Robinson C	Rowlingson J	Scheveling S	Seeto J
Robinson G	Roy C	Schiappadori M	Seigys A
Robinson L	Rozis M	Schieghi J	Seinli J
Robinson M	Ruddick T	Schirmer J	Selby G
Robinson R	Ruhland R	Schirmer M	Selby R
Robson M	Ruhle K	Schloss W	Selman P
Roche P	Russell C	Schmidt J	Senden M
Rock Oysters and Fish Factory	Russell G	Schmidt J	Sengstock C
Rodgers B	Russell P	Schmidt M	Sewell P
Roduner R	Russell P	Schmidt N	Seys I
Roe C	Russo A	Schneider A	Shackleton J
Roe J	Rutledge K	Schoeck M	Shailand R
	Ryan A	Schol M	Shailer F
	Ryan D	Scholl K	Shape R



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Shard P	Skidmore R	Soldatenko B	Stanley L
Sharman J	Skinner D	Sommerfeldt A	Stanton K
Sharp D	Skirving D	Sorbello J	Staples G
Sharp S	Slade S	Sorbello J	Stapleton D
Sharpe B	Slaney K	Sorbello N	Stark D
Sharpley W	Slater R	Sorbello P	Starkey C
Sharry P	Slessaer E	Sorensen D	Starkey M
Sharry V	Smalley G	Sorenson H	Starkie T
Shaw D	Smart B	Sorrell J	Stebbing T
Shaw D	Smart J	Sorrell J	Stebbings L
Shaw H	Smink P	Sorrell J	Steel D
Shaw J	Smith B	Sorrell J	Steel D
Shaw R	Smith B	Soudy F	Steel J
Shaw R	Smith B	Souter D	Steel K
Shaw R	Smith C	South East	Steele J
Shaw R	Smith C	Queensland Bait	Steele K
Shaw S	Smith C	Processors	Steele S
Shaw V	Smith C	Association	Steer D
Shayne J	Smith D	South Molle	Stehbens G
Sheach J	Smith F	Island Resort	Steiner C
Sheahan M	Smith F	South Queensland	Steinhardt E
Shearer A	Smith G	Amateur Fishing	Steinhardt R
Shearsmith C	Smith G	Clubs Assoc. Inc.	Steinhardt R
Sheathes C	Smith G	Southport	Stengov G
Sheehan R	Smith H	Amateur Fishing	Stengov G
Sheehy P	Smith H	Club	Stepanoff J.
Shepherdson M	Smith J	Southport Marine	Stephan C
Shields A	Smith J	Centre Pty Ltd	Stephans C
Shields A	Smith K	Southwood A	Stephens E
Shields P	Smith L	Sowden C	Stephens L
Shields P.	Smith M	Spencer B	Stephens L
Shields R	Smith M	Spindler P	Stephensen G
Shields T	Smith N	Spinner P	Stevens K
Shinnie P	Smith P	Spiteri M	Stevens S
Shire of	Smith P	Spiteri P	Stevenson A
Carpentaria	Smith P	Spoto S	Stevenson C
Shire of	Smith R	Sprester F	Stevenson G
Hinchinbrook	Smith R	Staats J	Stevenson M
Shockley V	Smith S	Staatz B	Stevrett S
Short D	Smith S	Stacey G	Stewart C
Short H	Smith S	Stacey W	Stewart D
Sidey C	Smith T	Stacey W	Stewart I
Simons M	Smith T	Stacey W	Stick G
Simpson E	Smith V	Staff I	Still R
Simpson H	Smith W	Stafford T	Stitt K
Simpson T	Smith W	Stafford V	Stockley F
Sinclair A	Smuck J	Staines L	Stockley T
Singh C	Smythe L	Stallard W	Stockwell J
Sippel N	Snelgar B	Stanaway L	Stoddart S
Skafflebothan S	Sneyd R	Stanaway R	Stokes H
Skidmore K	Soden R	Stanley L	Stokes R

## Recreational Fishing Inquiry

### Alphabetical List of Submissions

Stokes R	Tag and Release	Stocking	Thorburn S
Storey D	Sportfishing Club	Committee	Thorn M
Storey J	Tappenden K		Thorn M
Stothard G	Tardiam D	The Mundubbera	Thorne C
Stott K	Taroent T	Anglers & Fish	Thorne G
Stout M	Tarong Power	Stocking	Thorpe L
Stowers L	Station	Association	Thwaite M
Strasser S	Tars I	The Queensland	Tillyard N
Strathearn A	Taske P	Repatriation	Timms D
Strathearn A	Tasker B	Fishing Club	Timms D
Stringer M	Tatters B	The Redcliffe	Timms M
Stringfellow D	Taudevan A	Peninsula Game &	Tobin P
Studders L	Taylor C	Sports Fish Club	Todd A
Stumin C	Taylor C	The Underwater	Todd N
Sugden P	Taylor J	Adventurers Club	Todd R
Sullivan G	Taylor J	The Wildlife	Togo V
Sullivan J	Taylor L	Preservation	Togo Z
Summers D	Taylor M	Society of Qld	Toigo G
Summers R	Taylor R	Theodor F	Tomes R
Sutherland A	Taylor W	Theodore C	Tomlinson C
Sutherland B	Teetzel L	Theodoreen J	Tompkins R
Sutherland C	Teitzel K	Theodorou C	Tooker A
Sutherland C	Teitzel K	Theodorou P	Tooker M
Sutton D	Teitzel L	Theofanes S	Toombul Progress
Sutton G	Teitzel P	Theofanes S	Association
Sutton M	Terblanche L	Thiedecke H	Toorbul Water
Sutton P	Terrett P	Thiess Contractors	Sports Club Inc.
Sutton R	Teske J	Thift K	Toorbul Water
Swadling T	Tew C	Thistlethwaite J	Sports Fishing
Sweeney B	Teys B	Thomas C	Club
Swinbourne T	The Bay Sporties	Thomas G	Toowoomba &
Swindells N	Amateur Fishing	Thomas S	Golden West
Swindles D	Club	Thomas S	Regional Tourist
Syecheil J	The Burnett	Thomas W	Assoc Ltd
Sylvester B	Fishing Club	Thompson A	Topp M
Sylvester B	The Cairns Rod &	Thompson C	Torquay State
Symons W	Reel Club	Thompson C	School
Symons W	The Commercial	Thompson D	Toscano I
Synadinos D	Hotel Sportfishing	Thompson F	Toscano R
Szabo J	Club Inc	Thompson G	Townsville
Szabo J	The Concerned	Thompson G	Saltwater
T/A David Smith	Fishermen of	Thompson G	Sportsman's Club
Fisheries	Cairns Assoc. Inc.	Thompson J	Townsville
Tableland Fish	The Council of	Thompson M	Sportfishing Club
Stocking Society	the Shire of Burke	Thomsen W	Inc
Inc	The Maroon	Thomson G	Toye P
Tabone L	Moogerah Fish	Thomson J	Tracey B
Tabone L	Management	Thomson M	Tratt M
Tabone L	Association	Thomson R	Trawler &
Tack M	The Mulgrave	Thomson W	Boating
Tack M	Shire Fish	Thorburn J	Treloar C

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Treloar T	Vallente P	Wain N	Ware P
Trembath G	van Lint B	Wakefield B	Ware R
Tretheway P	Van Dijk H	Walden F	Warher P
Trevethan P	Van Hout C	Walden F	Wark P
Trewick M	Van Leeuwen M	Waldock L	Warner K
Trewick N	Van Lonkhoyzen R	Waldon J	Warren A
Tribe R	Van Peype L	Walker D	Warren L
Trickey R	Van Tinteren J	Walker D	Warren P
Triggs S	Vanderheiden M	Walker D	Warrick F
Trim R	Vandiest T	Walker D	Warrington B
Trinity Bay and Inlet Society	Vanhaaren A	Walker D	Warwick District Recreational Fish Stocking Assoc
Tripp L	Vari G	Walker D	Wasly D
Tropical	Vater C	Walker G	Wass M
Sportfishing	Vaughan K	Walker G	Wassell G
Safaris	Vebel L	Walker J	Watchman A
Tropical	Vellwager N	Walker K	Waters G
Sportfishing	Venables J	Walker L	Waterside
Safaris	Venables L	Wall B	Amateur Fishing Club Inc.
Truman P	Venning K	Wall B	Watkins T
Truscott R	Vere J	Wallace G	Watson P
Tsakisiris G	Verner D	Wallen D	Watson P
Tsakisiris J	Vickers A	Wallin S	Watson P
Tsakisiris S	Vickers R	Wallis R	Watson S
Tucker E	Vieth E	Wallman A	Watt B
Tuckerman T	Vietheer R	Wally L	Watts D
Tuckett P	Vietheer R	Walsh J	Wease L
Tuckey V	Vigliante G	Walsh S	Weatherley R
Tuesley H	Vine C	Walters G	Weaver K
Turnbull G	Vine M	Walters R	Webb H
Turnbull K	Vine R	Walton J	Webb H
Turnbull L	Vine R	Wamuran	Webb J
Turnbull P	Vine V	Seafoods	Webb J
Turner D	Vines R	Wanderer's	Webb L
Turner G	Vinter J	Fishing Club	Webb R
Turner N	Vinter N	Wang Y	Webb S
Turner R	Virgin R	Ward A	Weber K
Turvey R	Virginia, Nundah & Districts	Ward E	Webster B
Tutt C	Amateur Fishing Club	Ward G	Webster D
Tutt S	Vogel B	Ward G	Webster L
Twaits R	Vogel M	Ward I	Weekes W
Twiner R	Vogel W	Ward K	Weeks J
Tyrie S	Volp V	Ward M	Wegner A
Uhlmann T	Voolstra J	Ward N	Weier K
Ulores J	Voss C	Ward S	Welham R
Unwin B	Voysey R	Ward T	Wellis M
Urangan Fisheries	Wadsworth F	Wardell M	Wells A
Vacher J	Wai-Piro Acacia	Wardle D	Wells D
Vahry C	Ridge Amateur Fishing Club	Wardle M	
Valinoti B		Ware P	
Vallance G		Ware P	

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Wells R	Williams D	Winkel D	XL Sound
Wells R	Williams D	Winkleman P	Systems
Wensley C	Williams G	Winklemann P	
West D	Williams K	Winter L	Yandaran Fishing
West G	Williams M	Winterton S	Club
West G	Williams M	Wintle I	Yarrow B
West G	Williams N	Winton J	Yarrow G
Weston J	Williams N	Wise G	Yemmatt G
Weston J	Williams P	Withers A	Young D
Whereat R	Williams P	Withnall A	Young M
Whitby E	Williams P	Witworth P	Young R
Whitby M	Williams R	Wong E	Young W
White A	Williams R	Wongung M	Zagami L
White A	Williams R	Wood A	Zahra W
White H	Williams S	Wood J	Zallo P
White I	Williams T	Wood M	Zanetti R
White P	Williams W	Wood M	Zappala G
Whitehead N	Williamson A	Wood M	Zappala S
Whitely R	Williamson A	Woodgate Fishing	Zappulla S
Whitestyles L	Williamson B	Club Inc.	Zaraslia V
Whitford N	Williamson R	Woodgate	Zarb L
Whitshead N	Willis A	Progress	Zemek A
Whittaker D	Willis B	Association	Ziebarth B
Whittaker T	Willis R	Woodland P	Zillmann H
Whittington B	Willmer D	Woodley L	Zillmann H
Whittington D	Willmer R	Woodnutt A	Zillmen N
Whittington F	Wills L	Woods A	Zipf R
Whye M	Wills L	Woods H	Zullo S
Wickbold R	Wills R	Woolford G	Zumbansen D
Wicks M	Wills S	Woolland E	
Widdas B	Wills S	Woolnough G	
Widgee Shire	Wilska H	Wotherspoon R	
Council	Wilson A	Wright A	
Wiffen D	Wilson C	Wright D	
Wiffen R	Wilson H	Wright D	
Wilcox K	Wilson I	Wright F	
Wildersmith A	Wilson J	Wright F	
Wildlife	Wilson J	Wright K	
Preservation	Wilson J	Wright P	
Society of Qld	Wilson K	Wright P	
(Innisfail)	Wilson L	Wright V	
Wildlife	Wilson L	Wright W	
Queensland	Wilson R	Wrigley G	
Wilkes A	Wilson S	Wuruma Dam	
Wilkes A	Wilson S	Fish Stocking	
Will D	Wimberley B	Association	
Williams A	Windsor B	Wyatt D	
Williams A	Winfield	Wyatt H	
Williams B	Conservation Pty	Wyatt M	
Williams C	Ltd	Wyvill D	
Williams C	Wingpud L	Wyvill W	

