



Cape York
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Cairns

Hinchinbrook -
Cassowary Coast

Townsville
Bowen -
Burdekin

Whitsunday

Mackay

Capricorn Coast
Gladstone

Burnett

Local Marine Advisory Committee Meetings

March 2023

*Summary of discussion topics
provided to the Reef Authority
on the fish aggregating devices
(FADs) and artificial reefs*

The following points are a summary of key items discussed through the LMAC network about the FADs and artificial reefs.

A member of the Policy and Planning team attended the meetings to answer any questions the members had about the draft fish aggregating devices and artificial reefs policy.

- Artificial reefs in Western Australia
- Artificial reefs used to reduce storm damage on coastlines
- Artwork installations – existing versus new proposals – permit assessment process
- Applications for underwater adventure parks
- Benefits for fishers having other sites
- Definition of an artificial reef and wording in the policy – clarification and confirmation
- Decision making process after public consultation
- Green Engineering and rock walls for beach protection
- Each artificial reef is reviewed individually
- Examples of bad artificial reefs
- Floating FADs create marine debris and entanglement of fauna
- Future artificial reef structures (eg., by 3D printing) for reef restoration and larval recruitment on new habitats
- Illegal dumping of items as artificial reefs – existing impacts, reporting and removal
- Impacts of FAD and artificial reefs on fish aggregation versus fish production
- Installations adjacent to or outside the marine park - for example in rivers or Marine Parks further south.
- Items that are specifically FADs opposed to items that were not installed for that purpose
- Local projects such as MARRS Stars for reef interventions
- Management needs for FADs and artificial reefs
- Other groups that have been shown the policy
- Reef Intervention Policy and activities that are not artificial reefs and facilities with any other primary purpose
- Research being done in the region
- Risks considered under the GBRMPA Act and obligations under the World Heritage Convention
- Scientific review that was conducted and literature papers on artificial reefs providing habitats
- Traditional Owner involvement, Native Title and culturally significant locations
- Water quality impacts on natural inshore reefs could be similar for artificial reefs
- Wrecks being used as artificial reefs
- Wrecks and incidence of coral disease