

## **FISHERIES REEF ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FRAC)**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

### **16 and 17 June 2003 – Townsville**

## **SUMMARY DOCUMENT**

### **REPRESENTATIVE AREAS PROGRAM (RAP): UPDATE**

Members were advised that the RAP Community Participation Phase 2 (CP2) and the draft zoning plan was launched by Minister Kemp on 2 June 2003. It was also stated that the Prime Minister referred to the draft plan as historic and visionary.

It was reported that:

- Material was sent to all licensed fishers, bait and tackle shops, local government offices, people who have made submissions and all those who had expressed an interest in receiving information.
- Teams of staff from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) are visiting centres along the coast. These teams will be participating in public information meetings, visiting tackle shops, local governments and stakeholder bodies.
- During the current consultation period there will be scope to modify the boundaries of proposed zones to further reduce potential impacts.
- The GBRMPA's Fisheries Issues Group is engaging with Queensland Seafood Industry Association branches and other key stakeholders along the coast to obtain input on how the draft zoning plan can be improved and to assist in preparing submissions.
- The Basis for Zoning document outlines the rationale for the placement of each of the zones.
- The protection of biodiversity is addressed by the placement of all zones.
- The GBRMPA is aware of the potential impacts and recognises that these are primarily in inshore areas.
- It is important for people to advise the GBRMPA what they like about the draft zoning plan as well as what they do not like.

It was reiterated to the Committee that the legislative process as outlined in Section 32 of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is being

followed. Current zoning will remain in place until all stages of the rezoning process have been completed. The new zoning plan is likely to come into effect at the earliest in mid 2004.

### **QUEENSLAND FISHERIES SERVICE: UPDATE**

Members were briefed on issues being addressed by the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS), including:

#### **Quota Monitoring in Harvest Fisheries**

- A meeting with representatives of QFS and the GBRMPA to discuss improvements in quota management for the harvest fisheries is scheduled in the near future.
- A system that issues statements and letters to fishers regarding their quota levels has been implemented and will be further monitored.

#### **Reef Line Fishery Management Plan**

- It is intended that the plan go to Cabinet in July.
- The Plan has been negotiated with key stakeholders and there have not been any significant changes since those negotiations.
- The priority is to have the plan approved as soon as possible with the timing of its implementation to be decided. This will depend on what Cabinet decides.

#### **Combined Fisheries Risk Impact Statement (RIS)**

- The closing date for submissions was Monday 16 June 2003 (5.00 pm).
- About 1300 submissions have been received.
- An analysis of submissions will be conducted; the results will be presented to the Minister in a couple of weeks. If required, further consultation with stakeholders will be undertaken before a submission is made to Cabinet.

## Trawl General Effort Review

- The review is required under the *Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999* and is to be completed by the end of 2004.

## GBRMPA'S IN-PARK AQUACULTURE POSITION STATEMENT

Members were advised the position statement is available on the GBRMPA's website at [www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp\\_site/key\\_issues\\_fisheries/commercial/documents/position\\_statement\\_aquaculture.pdf](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues_fisheries/commercial/documents/position_statement_aquaculture.pdf). It was reiterated that the paper is a position statement and that a formal policy, to be considered by the Board of the GBRMPA, will be developed. Members were advised that policies being developed by the GBRMPA are provided to the Queensland Great Barrier Reef Inter-Departmental Committee for comment.

## EAST COAST TRAWL

The Committee was advised that the East Coast Trawl Fishery (ECTF) is being assessed by Environment Australia and that the ECTF in the Marine Park has just been audited by the GBRMPA.

### GBRMPA Audit

Members were briefed on the key findings and recommendations of the "Audit of the Management of the Queensland East Coast Trawl Fishery in the GBRMP". They were advised:

- The GBRMPA was directed by the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Ministerial Council to audit the ECTF.
- The report refers only to the management of the ECTF in the GBRMP.
- The audit contains 40 recommendations.
- The GBR Ministerial Council accepted the report at its meeting on 12 June 2003.
- Minister Kemp has requested that the GBRMPA and the QFS work together to respond to the recommendations.

### Environment Australia Ecological Assessment

Members were advised on Environment Australia's assessment of the ECTF:

- Under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Act, all Commonwealth fisheries and all state fisheries with an export component are required to undergo an assessment before 1 December 2003. The fisheries are assessed against the *Commonwealth Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries*.

- Environment Australia has completed the assessment of the ECTF and has developed 28 recommendations.
- In general, the recommendations are consistent with the recommendations developed in the GBRMPA audit.
- The QFS has agreed to 25 recommendations, which have yet to be considered by the Minister.

## GREAT BARRIER REEF WATER QUALITY PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Members received a briefing on the Draft Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (RWQPP), which outlined the status of water quality in the GBR, the actions to date and an overview of the draft RWQPP.

In discussion, members raised the following comments:

- Local governments need to have a role in this process.
- It is a better use of funds if wetlands are protected now, rather than trying to rehabilitate damaged wetlands.
- The community needs to have a better understanding of the values of wetlands in order to gain a commitment to protect them.
- Illegal ponded pastures need to be monitored.
- The intellectual capacity to do the substantial planning in the regional planning exercises is not there.
- There needs to be someone tracking the implementation process.
- Action on the ground is important.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 11 and 12 September 2003.

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr David Bateman .....	Recreational Fishing
Dr Phil Cadwallader .....	GBRMPA
Mr Colin Creighton .....	Water Quality and Coastal Issues
Mr Ian Cresswell .....	Environment Australia
Mr James Gillespie .....	Queensland Fisheries Service
Mr Cliff Greenhalgh .....	Commercial Fishing
Mr Ray Joyce .....	Charter Boats
Ms Rosemary Lea .....	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Ms Margaret Moore .....	Conservation
Mr John Olsen .....	Commercial Fishing
Mr Chris Roberts .....	Indigenous Community
Mr Lyle Squire .....	Commercial Harvest Fishing
Mr Rod Supple .....	Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance
Ms Diane Tarte (Chairperson) .....	Environment
Dr David Williams .....	Scientific Community