

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Sustainable fisheries management in Queensland*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 1

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

Background:

- The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (the Strategy) was released in June 2017 and set's out the government's reform agenda for the next ten years. It is the outcome of a significant consultation exercise in 2016, during which Fisheries Queensland sought views from everyone in the community about where we are now, where we want to be and how we can get there. More than 11,800 submissions were received. The overwhelming message was that all stakeholders want reform in the way we manage fisheries.
- The establishment of fishery-working groups is a key action under the Strategy to provide operational advice and engage stakeholders from all sectors in the development of harvest strategies and day to day management of fisheries. The Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme Working Group has been formally re-established following this model and meeting communiques are available online at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/sustainable-fisheries-strategy/fishery-working-groups/stocked-impoundment-permit-scheme>.
- The Strategy outlines the following principles for fishing rules in Queensland:
 - Fishing rules adequately control catch to meet fishery-specific targets and cover all sectors.
 - Sustainable catch limits are based on achieving at least maximum sustainable yield (around 40-50% biomass) by 2020. Moving to maximum economic yield (around 60% biomass) by 2027.
 - A consistent approach to management arrangements through harvest strategies.
- While the focus is on the coastal fisheries, we equally want a modern, responsive and consultative approach to the management of our freshwater and SIP fisheries. This includes sustainable catch limits, improved stakeholder engagement and managing ecological risks associated with fishing and stocking.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Compliance Update*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 2

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on compliance within the freshwater fisheries of Queensland.

Background:

- The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy has delivered a boost to compliance with the recruitment of 20 additional frontline compliance officers. This includes additional support for the inland QBFP Districts and the reopening of the Gladstone QBFP office.
- QBFP officers will be present from South, Central and North regions to provide an overview of:
 - Where and how QBFP is focussing on freshwater fisheries under the SFS;
 - Recent compliance activities, trends and results;
 - Areas/fisheries of concern and ways in which stocking groups can assist QBFP for mutual benefit;
 - Future challenges for compliance initiatives in freshwater and SIPs.

Note: The 3 QBFP Officers will be in attendance for the entirety of the workshop so participants can further engage with their regional QBFP representative. Please take this opportunity to network with the Officers.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Reflecting on over 30 years of Fish Stocking in Queensland and our vision of the future*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the history of fish stocking in Queensland and DAF's vision for future management of Queensland's stocked fisheries.

Background:

The formal recreational fish stocking program commenced in Queensland in 1986. Since that time more than 50 million fish are estimated to have been released into more than 150 locations across Queensland. This workshop provides an opportunity for participants to reflect on the history of the stocking program in Queensland and consider how the program can be improved in the future.

In this session, Daniel Smith will provide a brief history of the fish stocking program in Queensland and present some ideas to improve management of stocked fisheries into the future. The presentation will set the scene for the workshop and assist participants to focus their thoughts about key issues affecting future management of stocked fisheries.

These issues will then be discussed in subsequent facilitated workshops sessions.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Workshop session 1 – Developing an Action Plan.*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 4

Recommendations:

During this session delegates will separate into regional groups to discuss successes and failures of the fish stocking program, identify issues and suggest ideas on how to improve the program. It is **recommended** that participants discuss this with other association members and bring the feedback and ideas to the workshop to discuss.

Each group will have a DAF representative present to guide the discussion.

The outcomes of this session will guide the development of an Action Plan for Queensland's Freshwater Fisheries.

Background:

The following are some suggested questions/topics for consideration prior and during this workshop session:

- Has stocking improved local fishing opportunities? What types of evidence and indicators are available?
- Which species have been most successful and why?
- Are there species that have not performed well?
- Would new species improve local stocking programs? Which species might be appropriate and why?
- What size fingerlings have worked best in your local programs?
- What environmental or other external influences have reduced the success of local stocking programs?
- What other issues have hindered success of stocking programs?
- Name some current key local issues?
- What are three things that would improve local stocking programs?
- Are there emerging issues that might jeopardise future success of local stocking?
- Does your association still retain a strong membership? If so how have you maintained membership numbers and enthusiasm?
- Does your association have many young members? How have you captured the interest of these younger members?



Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Workshop session 2- Development of a stocking policy for Queensland.*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

Recommendations:

Delegates will separate into regional groups and discuss what a stocking policy for Queensland needs to address (including species suitable for stocking, fingerling sizes, stocking rates, types of fish stocking, locations suitable for stocking, role of fish stocking groups, stocking management plans, rules for stocked fisheries and suggested legislative changes). It is **recommended** that participants discuss this with other association members and bring the feedback and ideas to the workshop

Each group will have a DAF representative present to guide the discussion and present their ideas.

The outcomes of this session will guide the development of a revised Stocking Policy for Queensland.

Background:

The following are some suggested questions/topics for consideration prior and during this workshop session:

- What species should be permitted for stocking (including any new proposed species)?
- Are there species that should not be stocked?
- Are there areas where stocking should not be permitted?
- What types of stocking should be supported (harvest, enhancement, conservation, private etc)?
- Should there be a maximum fingerling size for stocking?
- Is a single stocking rate adequate for all situations?
- If not how should stocking rate be set?
- Is your fishery primarily a catch and release fishery or do anglers still retain the majority of their catch?

Attachments

1. Freshwater Stocking in Queensland (2007), A position paper for use in the development of future ecologically sustainable management practises.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Current status of aquaculture in Queensland*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the current status of aquaculture in Queensland.

Background:

- The Queensland aquaculture industry has grown over the past two decades and so has its importance to seafood production in Queensland.
- The value of aquaculture production in Queensland in 2016-17 was \$119.7 million.
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (the Department) publishes an annual industry performance report. The 2016-17 report is available online at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/aquaculture/investment/industry-performance>.
- Value of fingerlings sold for the state fish stocking program into public impoundments had increased by 13.6%, from \$968,000 in 2015–16 to \$1.1 million in 2016–17.
- The Department's Broodstock collection policy was recently updated to incorporate requirements to tag and retain genetic samples from broodstock used for stocking. This will improve traceability of broodstock and fingerlings.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Queensland Aquaculture Quality Assurance Program* **AGENDA ITEM NO:** 7

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the Queensland Aquaculture Quality Assurance Program.

Background:

- Rod Cheetham is currently working as a private consultant within the Queensland aquaculture industry.
- The Aquaculture Association of Queensland has developed a quality assurance program for hatcheries.
- Rod is currently assisting farmers achieve compliance under the program.
- Rod will explain the Queensland Aquaculture Quality Assurance Program and the benefits to fish stocking.
- More information about the QAQAP is available online at <http://aaq.com.au/>.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *NSW – Hatchery Quality Assurance Program*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the New South Wales Hatchery Quality Assurance Program.

Background:

- The NSW Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme (HQAS) accredits fish hatcheries for the production of Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Silver Perch and Australian Bass fingerlings for recreational fishing enhancement stocking programs. The scheme was developed by NSW DPI Aquaculture and Recreational Fishing Staff with significant industry consultation and input.
- Nathan Reynoldson is The NSW stocking coordinator.
- More information about the HQAS is available online at:
http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/223534/Hatchery-Quality-Assurance-Program.pdf
- A major objective of stocking programs is to maintain genetic diversity. The HQAS is designed to ensure the genetic integrity and health of consignments as well as the absence of non-target species.
- HQAS accreditation for aquaculture production is also available for these species as a quality assurance measure for the production of fingerlings to supply the aquaculture industry.



Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

| | | | |
|---------------|---|------------------------|----------|
| TITLE: | <i>Barramundi origins: determining the contribution of stocking to the barramundi catch on Queensland's east coast.</i> | AGENDA ITEM NO: | 9 |
|---------------|---|------------------------|----------|

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on this research program to determine the contribution of stocking to barramundi catch on Queensland's east coast.

Background:

- Barramundi are stocked into impoundments, rivers and estuaries in Queensland but their contribution to the catch of barramundi on the east coast is unknown.
- Stocking has complicated the fishery assessment of wild stocks.
- Julie Robbins is a Senior Fisheries Scientist with Animal Science Queensland, part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- This project aims to develop technologies to determine the provenance of barramundi (i.e. were they wild or hatchery spawned) in the east coast with an initial focus on the Burdekin river system.
- To do this, methods will be developed using the chemistry and near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) of otolith cores as well as applying genetic techniques (via parentage analysis).
- This will allow for the development and cost a method or methods to determine the proportion of wild caught barramundi that originated in hatcheries.
- The project has been approved by the FRDC and will be undertaken as a collaboration between Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and James Cook University.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Monitoring of stocked fisheries and information gaps* **AGENDA ITEM NO:** 10

Recommendations:

That participants **note** the presentation describing current monitoring of stocked fisheries in Queensland and information requirements for effective management of these fisheries.

That participants **discuss** information required to improve the management of stocked fisheries and how the necessary data could be gathered in a cost effective way under the SIPS funding model. It is **recommended** that participants discuss information requirements and monitoring programs that may be suitable for their local fishery with other association members and bring the feedback and ideas to the workshop.

Background:

Following the inception of Queensland's freshwater stocking program in 1986 a range of monitoring techniques have been used to collect data to inform management of these fisheries.

In this session, Steven Brooks will present on historic and current monitoring programs that have supported management of stocked fisheries in Queensland. The presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion in which participants will define specific information requirements necessary to improve management of stocked fisheries in Queensland. Participants will then be asked to discuss what types of monitoring programs may be suitable to fulfil these information requirements and how the programs can be implemented.

The following are some suggested questions/topics for consideration prior and during this workshop session:

- What is the survival rate of stocked fingerlings in your location?
- How quickly do fingerlings grow in your fishery?
- How many fish are harvested from your fishery? What is the survival rate of released fish?
- What is the stocking rate required to maintain and/ or improve your local fishery?
- Does your local stocking program impact on any local fish species or other native fauna?
- What data is your group collecting, how do you obtain the data and how are you using this data?



Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Impoundment Fish Attraction Project*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on freshwater fish attracting devices.

Background:

- Michael Hutchison is a Principal Fisheries Biologist with Animal Science Queensland, part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. He is leading a project looking at ***Freshwater fish attracting structures: "A new tool to improve fishing quality and access in Australian impoundments"***
- Fish habitat is a major limiting factor in many impoundments within Queensland.
- Most of the habitat within an impoundment is cleared when impoundments are built or where standing and fallen timber is retained this will degrade as the impoundments age. Resulting in low levels of habitat to support stocked fish populations.
- Habitat enhancement and the use of fish attracting structures has been practiced in impoundments around the world, but has rarely been utilised in Australia.
- There is potential to significantly improve the fishing and associated social and economic benefits that go with this by enhancing habitat within our impoundments.



Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *Condamine River habitat enhancement*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 12

Recommendations:

That the participants **NOTE** the presentation on the enhancement of instream habitat at Warwick on the Condamine River.

Background:

- Bob Reid is a member of the Warwick and District Fish Stocking Association.
- The Warwick and District Fish Stocking Association have actively been involved with restoring and enhancing instream habitat within the Condamine River in their district.
- This has involved replacing woody structure and providing suitable spawning habitat for Murray cod.
- The group will discuss how they have achieved this and the improvements that have resulted to the fishery.

Freshwater fishing and stocking workshop

Agenda Paper

3-4 Nov 2018

TITLE: *OzFish Unlimited*

AGENDA ITEM NO: 13

Recommendations:

That the participants **note** the presentation on Ozfish Unlimited.

Background:

- OzFish Unlimited is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping the millions of 'Aussie' recreational fishers take control of the health of their rivers, lakes and estuaries to shore up the future of the sport they love.
- Craig Copeland is the CEO and Founder of OzFish Unlimited.
- OzFish Unlimited partners with fishers and the broader community to invest time and money into the protection and restoration of our waterways, counteracting decades of degradation.
- What Ozfish do:
 - Work with fishers to make local fishing grounds healthy, vibrant and more productive.
 - Share ideas on how to improve, restore and protect fish habitat.
 - Seek grants and support for hands-on habitat restoration.
 - Provide events, resources, education and research that support fishing groups to achieve local outcomes.
- More information about Ozfish is available online at: <https://ozfish.org.au/>