

Port Lincoln (MFA meeting) – 24 August (n=~50)

- The reform should be focussing on recreational sector and implementing a recreational fishing licence; how can you manage a fishery without knowing the recreational catch.
- Commercial sector shouldn't be burdened with the majority of management, science and compliance costs
- Concerns raised with 80:20 allocation formula – significant impost on new entrants. Suggest it should at last be 50:50, if not equal allocation.
- Need efficient and effective trading platform initially to allow quick trading of fragmented quota.
- Request extension of timeframes given delays in releasing information.

Port Lincoln – 25 August (n=25)

- Issues regarding timing of Dec 2017 Investment Warning referring to Jun 2016 catch history cut-off date. Request catch history period extend to Dec 2017, and consider best 5 years of 10-year period Jan 08 to Dec 2017.
- PIRSA should have implemented a 'freeze' on licence transfers at the same time the Investment Warning in Dec 2017; that would have prevented new entrants.
- Concerns regarding 80:20. Should at least be 50:50, or an adjustment over 3-4 years to equal allocation, similar to SZRL/NZRL.
- Need to look after the new generation of fishers. Suggest 3rd pool of quota (from those that surrender their licence) to be allocated to new entrants – base, catch history and surrendered catch).
- Some expressed support for proposed allocation formula – discussion around why different base allocation to amalgamated and un-amalgamated licences. Should reflect the values used for licence surrender process.
- Separate vongole and sardines from MSF – allowing these licence holders to surrender their MSF licence.
- Should impose a maximum quota holding on any licence and maintain owner-operator rule (to prevent large accumulation of quota on single licences)
- Surrender prices too low, and insufficient incentive to surrender
- Need a facility for the rapid trading of (fragmented) quota
- Allow RLF to trade within their sector – why limit trade back to MSF
- Ensure provision of support services (mental health, financial), and funding support to re-adjust (government guaranteed loans)
- Extend the catch history to Dec 2017 – and extend it back to 10 years
- Concern around future licence fees – not viable for anybody. Should be more on user pays system.
- Need more information on recreational catch and participation – priority should be to fix them up first before commercial sector
- Implement measures to prevent investors and corporatisation of fishery (maintain owner-operator, limit quota holdings)

Streaky Bay – 25 August (n=7)

- Extend catch history period to Dec 2017 (date of Investment Warning). Should consider previous years to assist the long-term fisher with extended participation in the fishery.

- Mixed opinion on allocation formula and the period and the assessment of catch history component.
- Require support to establish a rapid quota trading platform.
- Licence fees are going to be too high – already 13% of GVP
- Recreational fishers should contribute to costs of management; need good estimates of rec catch and more control of that sector.
- Require quota holding cap, and support owner-operator
- Concerns about quota reporting, monitoring and compliance systems and costs

Ceduna –26 August (n=21)

- Government not listening to local advice. Clear messages that they don't support a quota fishery on the west coast. It's been a waste of time consulting if local agreement is not adopted.
- Weather and oceanographic conditions constrain total catch and fishing effort. KGW and snapper stocks are sustainable and do not require further management.
- Local fishers challenge scientific opinion that west coast and Spencer Gulf share the same snapper stock.
- The 80:20 (catch history:equity) allocation method is not fair. If anything, quotas should be distributed equally. Suggest that each licence holder should be allocated at least 4 tonne of KGW, but don't want to pay for quota unit costs if the quota is not caught.
- Concern that there will be a transfer of effort to secondary species, and that quota will be a disaster and cannot apply in a multi-species fishery as evidenced by other failed example internationally.
- Concern a quota managed fishery will attract investors and speculators that will eventually dominate the fishery and price the small fisher out of business. Suggest maintaining strong owner-operator policy and cap on the quantity of units held on an individual licence.
- Social benefits of maintaining the MSF are not being considered.
- Very worried over the possible increase in licence fees driving small fishing businesses broke
- Need to focus more on constraining the recreational sector – no point in reforming the commercial sector if nothing is done to the recreational sector.
- Get rid of the Licence Amalgamation Scheme
- Should relax on the shark fishery and daily bycatch limit – too many fish being discarded and wasted.
- Don't relax current net closures on the west coast; forefathers worked hard getting the area closes to net fishing.
- Small family owned businesses with high stewardship of the resource, and limited naturally by weather and oceanographic conditions.

Whyalla – 27 August (n=3)

- Future fees should be based on quota holding
- Concerns around 80:20 – need indicative allocations to understand what it means
- How and when are exceptional circumstances to be considered
- Should consider further zoning (eg split Spencer Gulf) and open areas to net fishing
- Offer prices too low to attract surrenders
- Concerns for SAFCOL and local fish processors

- Recreational catch is a major uncertainty, and they should be contributing to costs of management, science and compliance.
- Maintain owner-operator rule and restrict investors entering the fishery.
- Relax on some rules around use of net (eg mesh size) and other regulations.

Port Broughton – 27 August (n=21)

- Strong support of proposed allocation method and management – other than the differentiated values used in base allocation. Needs to be consistent with surrender offer values. Look after the long-term fishers with history.
- Need to have some idea of future cost recovery principles – it should be based more on quota units. Concerns around compliance program and costs.
- Need to quantify recreational catch and how to manage it within sector shares. That sector should be cost recovered with a licence fee.
- Need to extend time frames given the delays in releasing information.
- Need maximum quota units on licences – maybe use highest allocation using proposed formula.
- Support owner-operator – but could relax it to allow licence holders to ‘work on the business’
- Concerns around ITQ and net fishing. Need to manage ‘overs and unders’.

Minlaton – 28 August (n=19)

- Mixed support for proposed allocation formula, with concerns about new young entrants that won’t have catch history. Also need to apply same value for base allocation regardless of amalgamation status. Extend catch history period to include 2017.
- Concerns around future licence fees and costs of quota management. Need to have some idea of future cost recovery
- Recreational catch needs to be quantified and managed better; and they need to contribute to costs of management
- Why impose a licence freeze – although concerns around investors buying licences.
- Need to restrict investors taking over. Maintain owner-operator and cap quota holdings.
- Need to review quantity of fishing gear and allow trading of special gear types.
- Need to facilitate rapid trading of (fragmented) quota and allow current fishers to adjust before allowing new entrants.
- Government needs to develop a 5/10-year strategic plan for the fishery
- Extend timeframes to account for delayed delivery of information.
- Need information on exceptional circumstances process.

Cape Jervis – 3 September (n=17)

- Strong support for proposed reform and allocation formula. 80:20 rule accounts for the rights of full time fishers. Investment warning was unequivocal and should be applied.
- Suggest proof of catch history through sale receipts.
- Base allocation shouldn’t consider amalgamation status.
- Surrender offer values too low.
- Need more information around future licence fees and how it will be structured.
- Question the validity of snapper science
- Reduce red tape, and provide greater flexibility in operations

- Support licence freeze and state-wide licence
- Support for owner operator fishery, but allow greater flexibility on the use of relief skippers.
- Support cap on quota holdings and restrict monopolising the fishery
- Quantify and better manage recreational catch, and have them contribute to costs of management
- QMS (compliance) costs need to be practical and cost effective.

Adelaide – 4 September (n=33)

- Mixed response to allocation formula – some agree to 80:20, others want 50:50.
- Strong representation from new entrants who suggest at least 50:50 share, or consider allocating proportion surrendered from those exiting the fishery. Govt shouldn't be rewarding those who have caused the damage.
- Suggestions that initial allocation should be 70:30 and transition to equity over 3 years.
- What method will be used if other species go to quota
- Catch history period should be extended back to 2007, and consider best 3 years over longer period.
- Need to quantify recreational catch and manage appropriately, and have a licence fee.
- Support for owner operator – although want flexibility in using relief skipper or a registered master even if only one licence.
- Support for cap on quota holding on one licence.
- Sentiment that investors are required particularly if they can support young new entrants to restructure and invest.
- Concerns around affordability of future licence fees.
- Surrender values too low to attract surrenders
- Need to consider the impact on processors and supply of fish to local markets.
- How to manage discards if insufficient quota for the net fishers.
- PIRSA needs to be honest, transparent and accountable for its advice, information and feedback. Provide all information on its webpage.

Kingscote – 9 September (n=17)

- General opinion not supportive of quota in a multi-species fishery, but agree reform is necessary in the MSF.
- There are other reasons for the decline in fish stocks (recreational sector, pollution, cormorants). Recreational sector should be reformed first and contribute to costs of management.
- Proposed major buyback of 200 licences. Current offers are too low and should be \$750K for nets and \$400K for lines licences.
- Mixed views on proposed allocation formula; base allocation should discriminate on amalgamation status of a licence. Licence amalgamation scheme no longer required.
- Need to open areas for more net fishing; too hard to manage ITQ in net fishery.
- Concerns around future licence fees, and compliance.
- Snapper management; question the science, ban longlines, maintain spatial closures.
- Extend licence freeze for further 6-12 months to allow existing licences to undertake initial trading of ITQ.
- Extend timeframes to recognise delays in providing information.