



Regional marine planning

for the south coast

South Coast Regional Marine Planning Commercial Fisheries Workshop Series Report 15 January 2008 – 24 January 2008



March 2008



Executive Summary

This report summarises the feedback from a series of commercial fisheries workshops held across southern Western Australia as part of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning (SCRMP) process. The workshops sought to engage commercial fishers of the south coast and give them the chance to have their say about planning for the future of south coast marine waters. The workshops were held at four locations during January 2008. Workshops were open to all involved in commercial fishing on the south coast.

The workshops had three objectives:

- 1) To inform commercial fishers about SCRMP; the objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required;
- 2) To allow commercial fishers to have their say and ensure the values and issues of importance to them are addressed constructively in the South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan (SCRMSP); and
- 3) To inform commercial fishers of the geographic information system (GIS) being constructed for the south coast, and to offer commercial fishers the chance to provide input into the current state of knowledge of commercial fishing activities and environmental values or features.

To meet these objectives the workshops involved three parts.

- 1) A presentation by Mr Ian Herford gave an overview of the SCRMP process and was followed by a question and answer session.
- 2) Following the question session small workshop groups were formed to further detail the issues and values of importance to, and from the perspective of, local commercial fishers. Commercial fishers identified and then prioritised the issues most important to them. A summary of the priority issues raised is presented in this document. Details regarding issues raised and why they were of importance to community members is contained in Appendix 2.
- 3) A presentation by Mr Ewan Buckley gave an overview of the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP) which is developing a GIS for SCRMP. A draft commercial fisher usage survey was handed out for discussion, with the aim of adding to the GIS for the south coast.

The body of this report contains a summary of the priority issues identified during the commercial fisheries workshop sessions. Issues from each workshop group were collated into a single list and presented to all commercial fishers present. Commercial fishers were asked to mark the three issues most important to them on this list. This allowed a general indication of what issues were of highest priority to various commercial fishers across the south coast region. Prioritisation scores are determined by the number of "votes" per issue relative to the total number of "votes" (expressed as a percentage).

The range of issues, values behind them and priority ranking varied at different workshops. The priority issue for all workshops regarded the maintenance of livelihoods through continued and secure access to fishing resources and areas. The most common priority issues raised across the workshop series can be grouped under the following broad headings:

- access to the coast and fishing grounds;
- biosecurity;
- compensation for loss of access and resources through management actions;

- current fishery management actions, their implications for commercial fishers and associated social impacts;
- impacts of, and justification for, marine parks;
- information security;
- lack of communication from management authorities;
- lack of consultation with commercial fishers on marine management issues;
- need for balance between stakeholders, particularly recreational and commercial fishers;
- need for integration of Government marine/ fisheries management;
- public education on commercial fishing;
- research/ data requirements for fisheries management; and
- resourcing for management.

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1 Introduction

This report summarises the commercial fisher feedback from a series of commercial fisheries workshops held across southern Western Australia as part of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning (SCRMP) process. Table 1 lists the location, venue, date and number of attendees for each workshop. The workshops sought to engage commercial fishers of the south coast and give them the chance to have their say about planning for the future of south coast marine waters. The workshops were held at four locations during January 2008. Workshops were open to all involved in commercial fishing on the south coast.

The workshops involved three parts:

- 1) A presentation by Mr Ian Herford gave an overview of the SCRMP process, followed by a question and answer session.
- 2) Following the question session small workshop groups were formed to further detail the issues and values of importance to, and from the perspective of, local commercial fishers. Commercial fishers identified and then prioritised the issues most important to them. A summary of the priority issues raised is presented in this document. Details regarding issues raised and why they were of importance to community members is contained in Appendix 2.
- 3) A presentation by Mr Ewan Buckley gave an overview of the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP) which is developing a geographic information system (GIS) for SCRMP. A draft commercial fisher usage survey was handed out for discussion, with the aim of adding to the GIS for the south coast.

The following section provides some background on the SCRMP process. Following this the objectives and methodology of the workshops are detailed. The body of this report contains a summary of the priority issues identified during the commercial fishers' workshop group sessions. Issues from each workshop group were collated into a single list and presented to all commercial fishers present. Commercial fishers were then asked if they were happy with the issues identified and the way they were presented. Commercial fishers were asked to mark the three issues most important to them on this list. This provided a general indication of what issues were of highest priority to various commercial fishers across the south coast region. Prioritisation scores are determined by the number of "votes" per issue relative to the total number of "votes" (expressed as a percentage). Not all participants voted.

Table 1: Commercial fisher workshop location and attendance details.

Workshop location	Venue	Date	No. of community attendees
Esperance	Traveller's Inn	Tuesday 15 January 2008	11
Bremer Bay	Bremer Bay Sports Club	Thursday 17 January 2008	0
Albany	Stirling Club	Tuesday 22 January 2008	26
Augusta	Augusta Telecentre	Thursday 24 January 2008	11

1.1 Background to SCRMP

The Regional Marine Planning (RMP) initiative, covering State waters from Cape Leeuwin to the South Australian border, was announced by the Western Australian Government in 2006. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has been designated lead agency. SCRMP developed because the diversity of uses of the marine environment lacked an integrated planning and management approach. SCRMP will promote increased coordination and cooperation among marine sectors and will help ensure that we can continue to obtain recreational, social, cultural and economic benefits from the marine environment, while protecting the unique habitats and biodiversity of its marine ecosystems. A draft South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan (SCRMSP) is due to be released for public comment in mid 2008.

In parallel with the SCRMP process, the Commonwealth Government is undertaking Marine Bioregional Planning (MBP) for the South West Bioregion, an area encompassing all Commonwealth waters (between 3 and 200 nautical miles from the coast) from Kangaroo Island off South Australia to offshore Shark Bay in Western Australia (WA). The primary differences between the State and Commonwealth marine planning processes relate to marine jurisdiction and that the State process does not involve the designation of marine conservation reserves (MCRs) unlike the Commonwealth process which does designate MCRs. A summary of similarities and differences between the two processes is given in Table 2. Both processes encompass extensive areas of the marine environment.

Table 2: Similarities and differences between State and Commonwealth Government Regional Marine Planning processes.

Role	State Regional Marine Planning	Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning
Consolidate available information and identify gaps	Yes	Yes
Designate marine conservation reserves	No	Yes
Facilitate ecologically sustainable development	Yes	Yes
Guide marine planning and management, integrating marine user groups	Yes	Yes
Identify marine issues of priority to local communities	Yes	Yes
Integrate community input into the plan	Yes	Yes
Marine jurisdiction (area covered)	State waters (out to 3 nautical miles)	Commonwealth waters (3 to 200 nautical miles)

A unique assemblage of flora and fauna has evolved in the waters of the south coast including; large and spectacular marine animals such as the blue groper, the threatened great white shark; and other iconic species including the leafy seadragon, whales, seals and migratory birds. The south coast marine environment includes spectacular granite reefs, sponge gardens, limestone reefs, seagrass meadows, kelp gardens, rhodolith beds and communities of filter feeders in deeper waters. New species are still being found as research in the marine environment continues.

The marine environment of the south coast and the life within it has been utilised for thousands of years by Indigenous people, and more recently by the many newer arrivals. Today the marine environment is used by a diverse range of organisations and individuals for many recreational, cultural and commercial activities. These include; aquaculture, boating, charters, conservation, diving, education and research, fishing, global trade (ports and shipping), Indigenous and maritime heritage, petroleum and mineral development, recreation, sailing, surfing and tourism. SCRMP must consider an extremely diverse set of uses over a significant area of the WA marine environment.

For a successful SCRMP process, the integration of planning and management for all marine sectors and uses is essential. This involves engagement with and input from a wide range of community members and stakeholders with an interest in WA's south coast. To help engage with commercial fishers of the south coast a series of workshops were held. The workshops provided a platform to allow the big issues from the perspective of local commercial fishers to be put forward and ensure they are addressed constructively in the SCRMP. The following section details the objectives and methodology of the workshop series.

2 Commercial fisheries workshops

2.1 Commercial fisheries workshop objectives

The workshops had three objectives:

- 1) to inform commercial fishers about SCRMP; the objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required;
- 2) to allow commercial fishers to have their say and ensure the values and issues of importance to them are addressed constructively in the SCRMP; and
- 3) to inform commercial fishers of the GIS being constructed for the south coast, and to offer commercial fishers the chance to provide input into the current state of knowledge of commercial fishing activities and environmental values or features.

2.2 Achieving the objectives

The workshops utilised a number of approaches to ensure the objectives were successfully met. The workshop series methodology involved:

- 1) **Advertisement of the workshop series:** Invitation letters were sent to all licensed fishers along the south coast by the Department of Fisheries (DoF).
- 2) **Registration and orientation:** Commercial fishers were greeted at the door by Government representatives for SCRMP. Commercial fishers were asked to sign in and provide contact details should they wish to receive updates on SCRMP and a summary of the workshop series. Attendees were then given a name tag, agenda and feedback form with the option of taking a background brochure and business card.
- 3) **Process information and audiovisual display:** Some members of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning Advisory Group (PAG) and Planning Working Group (PWG) were available before and after the workshops for general discussion. A brochure entitled *Regional Marine Planning for the South Coast*, marine information videos, and three banners identifying the key messages of SCRMP also provided general background information on the process.
- 4) **Workshop facilitation:** Mr Phil Shaw, Regional Manager - South for DoF, based in Albany, hosted each workshop.

- 5) **Presentation on SCRMP:** Mr Ian Herford, Principal Marine Policy Officer in DEC's Marine Policy and Planning Branch (MPPB), based in Albany, delivered a presentation highlighting RMP's objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required.
- 6) **Question and answer session on SCRMP:** The floor was opened for questions and comments which were addressed by Mr Herford and other key agency representatives present at the workshop.
- 7) **Commercial fisher group issue workshop:** A workshop which involved small groups of commercial fishers identifying the south coast marine issues most important to them. The focus was on priority issues within a regional and strategic level context. Each group was provided with a scribe recording the details of the discussion. The issues raised were recorded as worded by the group. This means that the same or similar issue raised at one workshop (e.g. maintenance of livelihood) may be worded differently in another workshop (e.g. security of access/ continuity for fishing industry).
- 8) **Issue summary and prioritisation:** The priority issues identified by each workshop group were integrated into a single issue list. Where possible the wording agreed upon by commercial fishers was maintained. In a number of cases the same issues raised by different workshop groups were worded differently and dealt with similar sub-issues. In these cases the issues were reworded in an attempt to encompass the breadth of discussion. This sometimes required pooling and separating sets of issues under common headings. Commercial fishers were then asked if they were happy with the issues identified and the way they were presented. Each participant was then asked to identify the three issues most important to them. The result was a general indication of the issues most important to commercial fishers across the south coast (results in section 3.1).
- 9) **Presentation on the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP):** Mr Ewan Buckley, Marine Information Officer for DEC MPPB, based in Fremantle, delivered a presentation demonstrating the south coast GIS, some of the data available, gaps in the knowledge, particularly relating to commercial fishing values, and the capacity for GIS applications. Included in the presentation was an overview of a draft commercial fisher usage survey being proposed as part of the project.
- 10) **Question and answer session on MIRCP:** The floor was opened for questions and comments which were addressed by Mr Buckley.
- 11) **Commercial fisher usage survey for MIRCP:** A draft commercial fisher usage survey was handed out for discussion with the aim of adding to the GIS for the south coast. Extra copies were available for wider distribution.
- 12) **SCRMP commercial fisheries workshop feedback form:** Completed copies of the feedback form, provided at the registration table, were collected. A copy of the feedback for is provided in Appendix 3. The results provided guidance on improving the workshops throughout the series. A summary of commercial fisher feedback and comments is presented in section 3.2.
- 13) **Additional input:** Continued input from commercial fisher was encouraged, with participants being asked to contact the Department of Fisheries Albany office on (08) 9841 7766. Further queries regarding SCRMP were to be directed to Peter van Schoubroeck at DEC's Albany office on (08) 9842 4500, or email peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au. The RMP website, which can be found at <http://rmp.naturebase.net/> was also promoted.

3 Results

3.1 Issue identification and prioritisation

The workshop series took place in four locations and was attended by 48 commercial fishers and industry representatives. A wealth of information was communicated to, and put forward by, local commercial fishers. The following section summarises the issues raised, and the priority value assigned by local commercial fishers at the workshops. Figure 1 provides a summary of the geographic coverage of the workshop series and lists all the priority issues that received a score of 5% or greater for each workshop. Tables 3 – 5 show the priority ranking of the issues identified at each of the workshops, in chronological order. Due to the fact that there was no turn out at Bremer Bay, no issue list was generated. Detailed comments put forward by commercial fishers on the issues raised are listed in Appendix 2.

Table 3: Esperance commercial fisheries workshop issue identification and prioritisation.

Issue No.	Issues raised in discussion groups	Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)
1	Maintenance of livelihood	19.0
2	Lack of information communication (e.g. DoF and DPI)	19.0
3	Balance for all stakeholders in any legislation/ plan	19.0
4	Information security	9.5
5	Biosecurity	9.5
6	Imposition of restrictions (e.g. marine parks)	9.5
7	Maintenance of coastal access (tracks and boat launching)	4.8
8	Management of recreational fishing	4.8
9	Need more research	4.8
10	Public education (about commercial fishing)	
11	Aquaculture development	
12	Expanding ports	
13	Adjacent fishery impacts (e.g. Commonwealth)	
14	Fishery infrastructure/ capacity development	
15	Coastal litter: maintenance of pristine environments	
16	Marine parks – need is warranted	

Table 4: Albany commercial fisheries workshop issue identification and prioritisation.

Issue No.	Issues raised in discussion groups	Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)
1	Continued/ secured access to resources and areas	28.9
2	Consult commercial fishers on marine park location	21.1
3	Public education (changing perceptions)	15.8
4	Seafood consumers need to be included in commercial fisher issues	7.9
5	(No) Political influence in fisheries management	7.9
6	Resource sharing between commercial and recreational fishers (current inequality)	5.3
7	Need for one department managing marine waters	5.3
8	Lack of Government support and consultation for commercial fishers	5.3
9	Research baseline data to establish effect of management on food stocks	2.6
10	Resources for compliance and management	
11	Reject Wilson report and review need for marine parks on the South Coast	
12	Recreational fisher management (need more)	
13	Ports (no more on South Coast due to environmental damage)	
14	Being apart of the process gives the impression we endorse it (name is on the report)	

Table 5: Augusta commercial fisheries workshop issue identification and prioritisation.

Issue No.	Issues raised in discussion groups	Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)
1	Security of access/ continuity for fishing industry	33.3
2	Lack of science in current fisheries management actions (e.g. West Coast and Geographe Bay closures)	22.2
3	Social implications of fisheries management actions (recognition)	16.7
4	Marine park placement (need commercial fisher input)	11.1
5	Compensation for loss of access/ resources	5.6
6	Maritime/ fisheries heritage (significance and public education of)	5.6
7	Research/ data for marine park placement (need to justify scientifically)	5.6
8	Integration of Government agency planning/ management processes (e.g. DEC and DoF)	
9	Politics is overriding fisheries policy (need to implement IFM)	

3.2 Eucla commercial fishers

A small workshop was held for Eucla based commercial fishers on the 14th February 2008. The following issues were identified:

- Security of Access
 - Commercial fishing should be recognised for its contribution to the economy and access to fisheries by commercial licence holders needs to be secured.
- Marine Parks
 - Research needs to be conducted to justify and identify the locations of sanctuary zones and Marine Parks.
 - Commercial fishers need to be consulted when Marine Parks are being considered.
 - Compensation should be paid for any loss of access from the implementation of Marine Parks.

3.3 Commercial fisher feedback

Feedback from commercial fishers was generally positive. Out of 48 attendees, 7 feedback forms were received; a return of approximately 15%. Tables 6 – 8 summarise the general opinion of commercial fishers regarding the content, pace and level of information in the workshop series.

4 Continued commercial fisher engagement

Continued engagement with commercial fishers and stakeholders is sought and welcome. Input from commercial fishers can be directed to the Department of Fisheries Albany office on (08) 9841 7766. Queries and comments on the SCRMP process can be directed to Peter van Schoubroeck at DEC's Albany office on (08) 9842 4500, or email peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au. The RMP website can be found at <http://rmp.naturebase.net/>. The Draft SCRMP is due to be released for public comment in mid 2008.

Submissions regarding RMP and relevant issues received subsequent to the commercial fisheries workshop series are being collated into an additional stakeholder comments report. This report will form an attachment to the stakeholder engagement report series when it is considered by the PAG and PWG.

5 Conclusion

The commercial fisher workshop series has proved a valuable source of information and input to the SCRMP process. While the range of issues, the values behind them and priority ranking varied, some key themes emerged. The priority issue for all commercial fisher workshops concerned the maintenance of livelihoods through continued and secure access to fishing resources and areas. The most common priority issues raised across the workshop series can be grouped under the following broad subject areas:

- access to the coast and fishing grounds;
- biosecurity;
- compensation for loss of access and resources through management actions;
- current fishery management actions, their implications for commercial fishers and associated social impacts;
- impacts of, and justification for, marine parks;
- information security;
- lack of communication from management authorities;

- lack of consultation with commercial fishers on marine management issues;
- need for balance between stakeholders, particularly recreational and commercial fishers;
- need for integration of Government marine/ fisheries management;
- public education on commercial fishing;
- research/ data requirements for fisheries management; and
- resourcing for management.

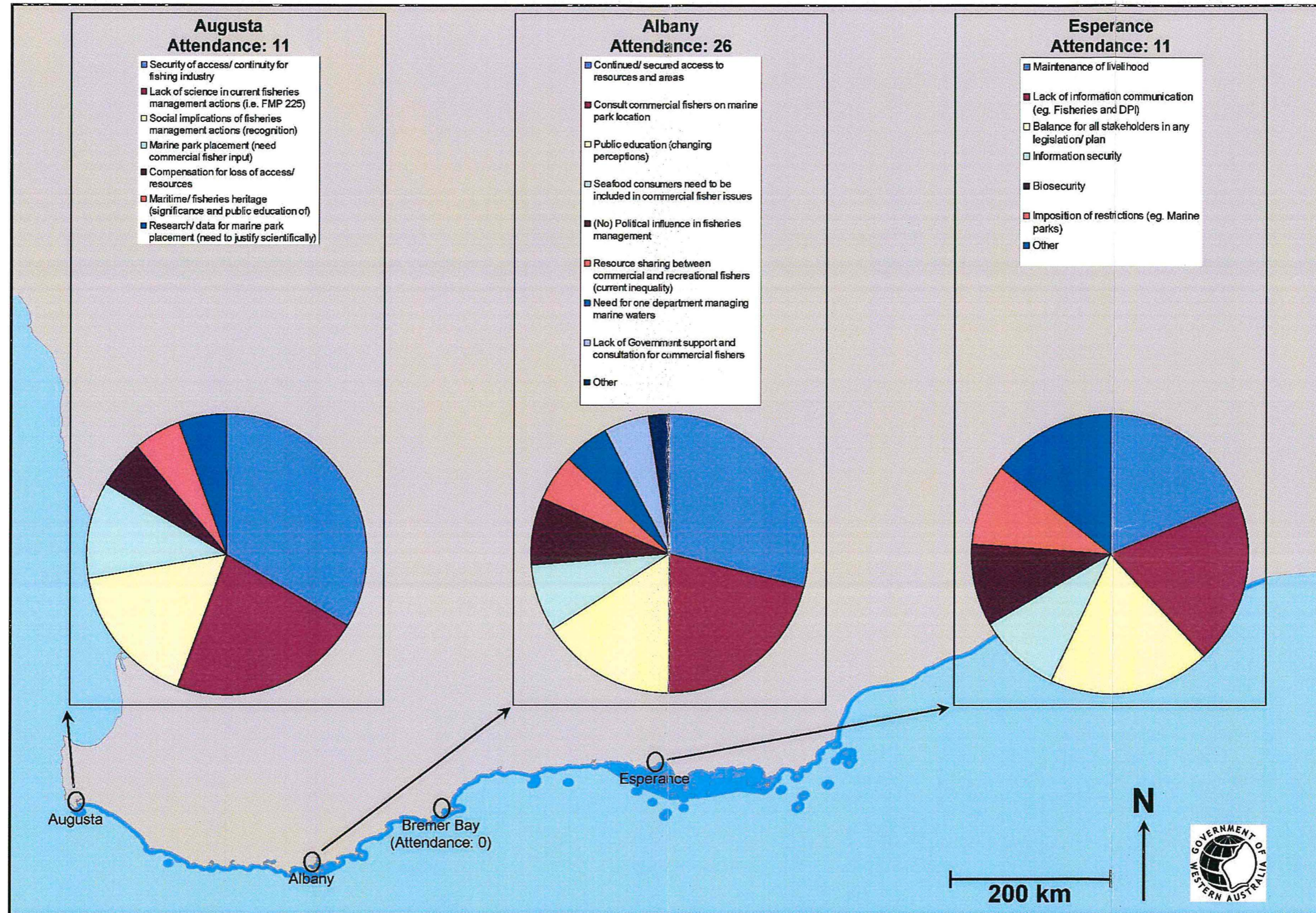


Figure 1: Summary chart of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning workshop series, workshop location and priority issues ranked 5% or greater for each commercial fisher workshop. Area in dark blue indicates the planning area covered by South Coast Regional Marine Planning.

Table 6: Community feedback summary for the Esperance commercial fisheries workshop, 15 January 2008.

Attendees: 11. Number of feedback forms received: 5.								
Content			Pace			Level of Information		
Too much	About right	Too little	Too fast	About right	Too slow	Too high	About right	Too low
0	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0

Table 7: Community feedback summary for the Albany commercial fisheries workshop, 22 January 2008.

Attendees: 26. Number of feedback forms received: 0.
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Table 8: Community feedback summary for the Augusta commercial fisheries workshop, 24 January 2008.

Attendees: 11. Number of feedback forms received: 2.								
Content			Pace			Level of Information		
Too much	About right	Too little	Too fast	About right	Too slow	Too high	About right	Too low
0	1.5*	0.5*	0	2	0	0	1.5*	0.5*

* tick on line between rating options

Appendix 1: Glossary

DEC:	Department of Environment and Conservation
DoF:	Department of Fisheries
DPI:	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
GIS:	Geographic information system
IFM:	Integrated Fisheries Management
MBP:	Marine Bioregional Planning
MCR:	Marine Conservation Reserve
MIRCP:	Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project
MPA:	Marine protected area
MPPB:	Marine Policy and Planning Branch
PAG:	Planning Advisory Group
PWG:	Planning Working Group
RMP:	Regional Marine Planning
SCRMP:	South Coast Regional Marine Planning
SCRMSPP:	South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan
WA:	Western Australia

Appendix 2: Details of issues raised at commercial fisheries workshops

The following section provides details of all the issues and comments that were able to be recorded during the commercial fisheries workshop issue discussion sessions (given the limited time available). These are not necessarily a comprehensive record of all the issues and comments put forward by commercial fishers. The workshops are listed in chronological order with issues listed on order of priority as determined by the issue prioritisation exercise. Additional issues are listed in alphabetical order after the priority issues.

Please contact Department of Fisheries Albany office on (08) 9841 7766 if you wish to comment further or if you feel any issues and comments were missed or misinterpreted by the scribes. Additional issues and comments raised by commercial fishers will be put forward to the PAG and PWG in a summary report.

Queries and comments on the SCRMP process can be directed to Peter van Schoubroeck at DEC's Albany office on (08) 9842 4500, or email peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au.

1) Esperance:

- a. Maintenance of livelihood
- b. Lack of information communication (e.g. DoF and DPI)
 - i. Want to know what is happening (e.g. marine parks and fishery restrictions)
- c. Balance for all stakeholders in any legislation/ plan
- d. Information security
 - i. Research, locational information, etc
- e. Biosecurity
 - i. Disease risk
 - ii. Highly mobile populations
- f. Imposition of restrictions (e.g. Marine parks)
 - i. And other kinds of planning
 - ii. MPA impact access to boat launching (Eucla currently only beach access)
- g. Maintenance of coastal access (tracks and boat launching)
 - i. Two anchorages in the east: Eucla roads and just before Twilight Cove
- h. Management of recreational fishing
 - i. Improved data on recreational take
 - ii. Compulsory log book for recreational fishing
 - iii. No issue with increased recreational fishers in remote eastern Eucla – is still productive close in
- i. Need more research
- j. Public education (about commercial fishing)
 - i. About the real effects of commercial fishing (e.g. trawling)
- k. Aquaculture development
 - i. Must be sustainable and minimise impact on the marine environment

- I. Expanding ports
 - i. Dredging
 - ii. Biosecurity risks: ballast water and hull fouling
- m. Adjacent fishery impacts (e.g. Commonwealth)
 - i. Trawlers from eastern states: out wide near shelf, no recognised impact on inshore
- n. Fishery infrastructure/ capacity development
 - i. Remote fisheries (e.g. Eucla): what is the point of restrictions given the remoteness? Don't diminish development (e.g. via MPA)
 - ii. Eucla area fisheries, lack infrastructure development (e.g. refrigeration and transport) limiting fishery development
 - iii. East is undeveloped, MPA represents access threat: leave as it is until the fishery is developed
 - iv. Limited boat launching sites in east (tracks and beaches)
 - v. Takes time to establish a fishery, don't cut it off at the knees before it is established
- o. Coastal litter – maintenance of pristine environments
 - i. Recreational users
 - ii. Lack of facilities to handle
 - iii. Maintain remoteness
- p. Marine Parks – need if warranted
 - i. Warranted vs unwarranted marine parks

2) Bremer Bay: (N/A – unattended)

3) Albany:

- a. Continued/ secured access to resources and areas
 - i. Threat of west coast management plan implications
 - ii. Loss of access through marine reserves, sanctuary and recreational zones
- b. Consult commercial fishers on marine park location
 - i. Relocation of user pressure
 - ii. Locating: high vs low use areas
- c. Public education (changing perceptions)
 - i. Salmon fishery: on the beach, builds local community bonds, people help and get free fish
 - ii. Economic acknowledgement: commercial fishers right to a livelihood
 - iii. Need for a balance: resource sharing
- d. Seafood consumers need to be included in commercial fisher issues
 - i. 80% of population are seafood consumers (e.g. buy fish and chips)
 - ii. Need to tap into consumer opinion for this plan
 - iii. General public who buy fish are silent; vocal groups are heard more in the decisions; those consumers need a voice/ mechanism for a voice
- e. (No) Political influence in fisheries management
 - i. Fisheries management decisions should not be politically driven (e.g. metro west coast closures)

- f. Resource sharing between commercial and recreational fishers (current inequality)
 - i. Need for a balance: in favour of the recreational fishers
 - ii. Weekend closures of estuaries to commercial fishers, why not vice versa (weekday closures to recreational fishers)
 - iii. Commercial fishing is stringent, recreational does not have enough
 - iv. Recreational fishers should have logbooks
- g. Need for one department managing marine waters
 - i. Streamlined management
 - ii. Too much red tape
 - iii. Poor communication within and between Government agencies
 - iv. Integration between DoF, DEC and all marine agencies
- h. Lack of Government support and consultation for commercial fishers
 - i. DoF making changes before telling fishers
 - ii. Communication between DoF and fishers
 - iii. Minister's department to listen to commercial fishers
 - iv. Impacts of west coast decision, implications to south coast
 - v. Commercial fisher input into own management, not recreational dominance of decision making
 - vi. Financial support for crashes, and other potential impacts; viruses (e.g. pilchards)
 - vii. Importation of pilchards for aquaculture; no input from local fishers
- i. Research baseline data to establish effect of management on food stocks
- j. Resources for compliance and management
 - i. Vessel monitoring systems should be funded by DoF, not commercial fishers
 - ii. Not enough policing: compliance resourcing
- k. Reject Wilson report and review need for marine parks on the south coast
- l. Recreational fisher management (need more)
 - i. Need more of a focus on rules and policing
- m. Ports (no more on south coast due to environmental damage)
 - i. Dredging issues
- n. Being a part of the process gives the impression we endorse it (name is on the report)
 - i. Our names are on it even if we don't endorse the final outcome
 - ii. What happens in the future of this process?
- o. Additional comments
 - i. [Catchment management] boat is stuck up the river (after maintenance) and needs dredging to get out again: DPI inaction
 - ii. Compensation: needs to be fair, timely and negotiated
 - iii. Local knowledge needs more weight in decisions: experts often wrong, locals often right (e.g. Emu Point and Whaleworld)

4) Augusta:

- a. Security of access/ continuity for fishing industry
 - i. Resources
 - ii. Homes are on the line (e.g. Windy Harbour)
 - iii. Allocating areas to other groups and taking away from commercial fishers; breaking the back of commercial fishers

- iv. Especially Windy Harbour where land lease is dependant on fishing activity/ licence
 - v. Where financial arrangements are tied to fishing industry (e.g. superannuation, mortgage, loans, etc)
 - vi. Fish processing infrastructure is expensive
 - b. Lack of science in current fisheries management actions (e.g. West Coast and Geographe Bay closures)
 - i. Need scientific information to back fisheries management, systematic research, less political influence
 - c. Social implications of fisheries management actions (recognition)
 - i. Effects of fishery management actions in social spheres
 - ii. Commercial fishers provide sea rescue services
 - iii. Targeting of Blackwood River bream commercial fisher by recreational fishers
 - iv. Augusta once had ~82 fishers (~170 directly involved in industry), now there are ~6; rationalisation and move to a tourist town)
 - v. Reduction in commercial fishers affects processing and other infrastructure which in turn affects those fishers left
 - vi. Taking away fishing industry affects the culture of the region
 - vii. Can cause angst between sectors
 - viii. Changes usage
 - ix. Removes key roles (e.g. sea rescue)
 - d. Marine park placement (need commercial fisher input)
 - i. On sanctuary zone placement
 - e. Compensation for loss of access/ resources
 - i. Fisheries legislation is enacted without compensation to commercial fishers: act of grace
 - ii. Fisheries management legislation doesn't pay compensation, marine park legislation does
 - iii. A bucket of gold
 - f. Maritime/ fisheries heritage (significance and public education of)
 - i. South coast fishing is generational
 - ii. Concern over continuity of commercial fishing; acknowledging heritage value can protect and engage (e.g. salmon fishery museum – education point)
 - iii. Fishing industry is an extension of maritime heritage
 - g. Research/ data for marine park placement (need to justify scientifically)
 - i. Research based management
 - ii. Need research before implementation
 - iii. Value of areas researched should be put on the table and data deficient areas identified
 - iv. Need local knowledge
 - v. If livelihoods are affected, there needs to be defensible information to support management actions
 - vi. Local experts (fishers) have detailed knowledge that should be used
 - vii. Need more research (e.g. Marine Futures)
 - h. Integration of Government agency planning/ management processes (i.e. DEC and DoF)
 - i. DoF and DEC regulations and timing of processes (e.g. Geographe Bay DEC process starts first, then DoF regulations

- come in before DEC process and regulations are put in place;
leads to double up, double loss)
- ii. Shouldn't declare marine parks which allow commercial fishing
and then declare DoF policy which restricts/ closes it
- iii. Timing is imperative
- iv. Aim to avoid ad hoc planning decisions
- i. Politics is overriding fisheries policy (need to implement IFM)
 - i. IFM is a means to resolve resource allocation; is being overruled
by politics; is RMP going to have a set of principles for
determining resource allocation?
 - ii. IFM exists as policy but is not used in practice (e.g. west coast
metro closures)
 - iii. Changes without proper process

Appendix 3: Commercial fisher feedback form

COMMERCIAL FISHER WORKSHOP FEEDBACK Albany 22nd January 2008		
Content		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
Pace		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
Level of information		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
What was the most beneficial aspect to you?		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
What could have been improved?		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
Any other comments?		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

Figure 2: Commercial fisher workshop feedback form.