

# Western Rocklobster Fishery Industry Congress

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Western Rock Lobster Council  
PO Box 55 Mt Hawthorn WA 6915



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*October 2009*



**Australian Government**

**Fisheries Research and  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Government of Western Australia – Fisheries Department and the FRDC were the Principal Sponsors of the Western Rocklobster Conference and Workshop. Other sponsors included Western Australian Fishery Industry Council, Wild Oceans and the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op.

Staff from 4HR, Peter James and Elana Kleviansky, provided advice, assistance and facilitated the Conference and Workshop.

The staff at the Fremantle Sailing Club, Michael Deleanu in particular, provided much needed assistance with the organisation, floor plan and food preparation over the two days.

All delegates are thanked for their enthusiastic contributions over the 2 days, which in turn made the conference and workshop a success.

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

<b>2009/313</b>	<b>Western Rocklobster Fishery Industry Congress</b>
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**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dexter Davies  
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### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Increased levels of cohesion amongst all industry stakeholders and peak body representatives in the Western Rocklobster Fishery.
2. Effective communication amongst all sectors of industry i.e catching, processing, marketing.
3. New direction sought for major issues such as management regime, marine parks and marketing of the Western Rocklobster.

### **OUTCOMES ACHIEVED:**

The Congress was held on Friday July 24 and consisted of 6 sessions. Expert speakers representing Research, Management and Industry for the Rocklobster gave a total of 11 presentations. The workshop was held on Saturday July 25 with the main focus on 2 subjects - Working through the Management options for 2009/10 and the Input vs Output debate.

The Congress and Workshop provided Industry, Research, Policy and Financial Institutions a forum to exchange ideas and challenges concerning all aspects of the Rocklobster commercial Fishery research and management. This resulted in a greater appreciation of current issues and will lead to better collaboration and management for commercial Rocklobster fishing in Western Australia.

One of the main issues at that stage were the debate between Input vs. Output. An industry vote has taken place since and the outcome was in favour of Output. The Minister has since decided to change the Fishery to a Quota Managed System

### **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY:**

The 2009 Western Rock Lobster Council Fishermen's Congress was held at the Fremantle Sailing Club on Friday July 24, 2009 and Saturday July 25, 2009. A total of 160 delegates attended the event. The Conference featured 6 sessions

- *Session 1 - Management update*
- *Session 2 - Management Options for Next Season*
- *Session 3 - Marine Parks*
- *Session 4 - Input vs. Output*
- *Session 5 - Financial Update*
- *Session 6 - Marketing & Processing*

The Workshop featured 2 sessions

- *Management Options 2009/10*
- *Input vs. Output*

**KEYWORDS:** Western Rocklobster, Council, Congress, Management, Input, Output

# WESTERN ROCKLOBSTER FISHERY INDUSTRY CONGRESS

## 1. Background

To satisfy the constitution of the WRLC, a Western Rocklobster Fishery Industry Congress must be held every two years. There is a large degree of uncertainty around a few issues in the Western Rocklobster fishery and the Congress was the way to alleviate the extreme degree of uncertainty around issues like sustainability of stock and fishermen, management regime, marketing and marine parks. It all needed to be addressed in a public forum where informed discussion could occur.

## 2. Need

To provide a forum which will allow for Industry consultation to occur regarding the best management regime for the WRLF i.e. input versus output debate. This will assist the WRLC as the industry peak body representative to put forward an industry consensus to RLIAC which will then allow the Minister for Fisheries to make a decision which will be supported by the great majority of MFL holders in the WRLF.

There was a strong need to address and improve upon the lack of cohesion across all sectors of the Western Rocklobster fishery; the Congress brought these sectors together.

## 3. Objectives

- 1 Increased levels of cohesion amongst all industry stakeholders and peak body representatives in the WRLF
- 2 Effective communication amongst all sectors of industry i.e. catching, processing, marketing, government
- 3 New direction sought for major issues such as management regime, marine parks and marketing of WRLF

## 4. Methods

Purpose:

The purpose was to update fishers and managers in the lobster industry on the nature of challenges facing the lobster industry in the short and medium term. It also needed to develop appropriate and realistic courses of action to effectively respond to these and to position the industry to be best able to develop and take up new opportunities. The general response was that it achieved exactly that.

Structure:

The workshop was held over two days with an independent facilitator for both days. Basic structure:

Introduction, Information and Briefing sessions on Day 1.

Workshops, Reports on Outcomes, Conclusions and Recommendations on Day 2.

#### Congress & Workshop Organisation:

The organising committee of the 2009 WRL Congress comprised of Dexter Davies and Vicky Kerr. The Congress and Workshop program was specifically developed and organised by the WRLC and PFA input.

The event was advertised in local papers along the coast from Mandurah up to the Mid-West. It was also advertised on the following websites, Western Rocklobster Council Website and Crayzone and a Congress and workshop flyer was produced and distributed widely (Appendix 1).

#### Sponsorship:

A prospectus of sponsorship was developed (Appendix 2). Sponsors of the 2009 Western Rocklobster Congress and Workshop were:

- Department of Fisheries WA (\$10,000)
- Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (\$10,000)
- Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (\$5,000)
- Wild Oceans (In Kind)
- Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op (\$2,000)

## **5. Congress & Workshop**

The Congress was held on Friday July 24 and consisted of 6 sessions. Expert speakers representing Research, Management and Industry for the Rocklobster Fishery were invited from all over Australia and New Zealand. A total of 11 presentations were given during the Congress.

The workshop was held on Saturday July 25 with the main focus on only 2 subjects. Working through the Management options for 2009/10 and the Input vs Output debate. (Appendix 3)

### **5.1 Overview of Program**

Western Rock Lobster Council Fishermen's Congress

Date: Friday, 24 July 2009 and Saturday, 25 July 2009

Location: Fremantle Sailing Club

Brief Rundown of Congress Sessions

#### Session 1

Address by Stuart Smith CEO of the Department of Fisheries (Appendix 3.1)  
Caleb Gardner Fishing For Profits (Appendix 3.2)

#### Session 2

Presentation done by Simon de Lestang, prepared by Adrian Thomson, Peter Stevenson, Nick Caputi and Simon. Presentation included but not limited to subjects on Puerulus Settlement, Recruitment relationships, egg production, efficiency creep and catch predictions. (Appendix 3.3)

#### Session 3

Presented by Guy Leyland, Executive Officer of the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council. The presentation was on Marine Parks (Appendix 3.4)

#### Session 4

Session four had a variety of different speakers, all speaking about Input Vs Output. Dr Caleb Gardner is from the University of Tasmania (Appendix 3.5), Roger Edwards is from the Southern Rocklobster Council (Appendix 3.6), Neville Perryman is a Tasmanian Rocklobster Fisher (Appendix 3.7)

Daryl Sykes from the NZ Rocklobster Council had to pull out from the Congress at the last minute, but was kind enough to send through his ideas on the subject to add to the Congress pack provided. (Appendix 3.8)

#### Session 5

John Thompson from RSM Bird Cameron came to give the Fishers a Financial Update (Appendix 3.9)

#### Session 6

This session was on Marketing and processing and was given by Greg Hart from Wild Oceans (Appendix 3.10)

#### Brief Rundown of Workshop

There were only two workshops held. The morning session we had a workshop on the Management options for 09/10 and in the afternoon the Input vs Output debate was under way after all the information given the day before. (Appendix 4)

## **5.2 Attendance**

Registration and attendance for both the Congress and the Workshop was excellent. There were a total of 160 delegates on the first day, consisting out of Fishermen, Industry representatives, Financial Banking Institutions, Department of Fisheries staff, Investment agencies, staff from the Ministers Office and the chairman of RLIAC. A special mention will go the Hon Min Moore for opening the Congress and staying all day for the proceedings.

On the second day for the workshop there was an attendance of 106 delegates to work through the information given the day before.

## **5.3 Proceedings**

The proceedings were summarised by the Facilitators from 4HR (Appendix 5)

## **6. Results/Discussion**

The constitution of the WRLC states a bi-annual industry congress must be held.

Input was sought from the WRLC Board of Directors, Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC Board and staff), Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Council (RLIAC), Professional Fishermen's Associations (PFA's), processors and government authorities such as the Department of Fisheries WA in regards to the most appropriate programme, format & location for the congress, facilitator and guest speakers to ensure a positive environment with positive outcomes for all those who attend.

The WRLC also called upon sponsors from previous congresses to provide financial assistance to keep costs for those who attend to an absolute minimum and to encourage maximum participation from all sectors of industry.



## **7. Benefits and adoption**

The Congress and Workshop provided Fishermen, Scientist, representatives from industry and government organisation representatives a forum to exchange ideas, review studies concerning commercial Rocklobster research and management.

## **8. Further Development**

The subject on Output vs Input was a main talking point of the Congress and from there the WRLC sent out voting slips to all Managed Fishery Licence (MFL) holders for them to decide on their preference between Input or Output. The response outcomes to the vote for Input or Output were as follows:

- There were a total of 612 ballot forms sent out to all MFL holders and we received 302 responses to the vote. A response rate of 49.35% for the whole fishery.
- Of the 302 responses, 49.34% voted for output, 33.44% voted for Input, 6.63% were undecided and 10.59% of the total returns were considered to be informal votes by the scrutiniser due to alterations, or errors in completing the form and therefore were not considered valid votes.

The Minister has since decided to change the Western Rocklobster Fishery to a Quota Managed System

The information that came out of the Congress was also passed on to Roger Edwards to assist in the preparation for the 6<sup>th</sup> National Rocklobster Congress that was held in Adelaide 14-16 September 2009 and hosted by Southern Rocklobster Limited.

## **9. Planned Outcomes**

All WRL stakeholders and MFL holders have benefited from their attendance at the WRLC Congress. They will be updated on issues affecting themselves and their industry both now and in the future as well as having the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from related industries. The congress provided an opportunity for all MFL holders to discuss the benefits and drawbacks associated with each management regime in an open forum.

It was thought that the WA congress also had a significant role in increasing interest and participation from WA delegates in the National Rocklobster Congress. The congress also allowed WRLF peak body representatives to engage with industry stakeholders in a bid to keep them informed on all issues currently facing the WRLF.

While the planned outcomes are not quantifiable, we believe the industry has become more informed as a result of a greater information sharing capacity.

## **10. Conclusion**

The 2009 Western Rocklobster Council Fishermen's Congress and Workshop was deemed a success. It involved 160 delegates representing industry, research, management and other interest groups. While the workshop only focussed on input, output and management options, the congress provided an array of presentations spanning across the Rocklobster fishery. The congress and workshop provided an avenue for current practices to be reviewed and new ideas to be developed, all which will help the Western Rock Lobster Fishery meet its future needs.

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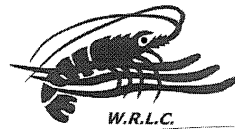


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Web: [www.wrlc.com.au](http://www.wrlc.com.au)



**THE WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER  
COUNCIL FISHERMEN'S CONGRESS**

**Friday July 24, 2009  
&  
Saturday July 25, 2009**



**FREMANTLE SAILING CLUB**

151 Marine Terrace  
Fremantle WA 6959



## PROGRAM—Friday 24 July

*First day is for presentation of information*

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome—Dexter Davies
- 9:10 Opening—Minister for Fisheries Hon Norman Moore
- 9:30 Session 1
  - FRDC—Patrick Hone
  - Management update—Stuart Smith
  - Maximum Economic Yield—Caleb Gardner
- 10:30 Morning Tea
- 11:00 Session 2—Discussion on Management Options for Next Season—Simon DeLestang
- 12:00 Session 3—Marine Parks — WAFIC
- 1:00 Lunch
- 2:00 Session 4—Input vs. Output
  - Caleb Gardner, John Hammond Jnr, John Hammond Snr, Daryl Sykes, Roger Edwards,
- 3:30 Afternoon Tea
- 4:00 Session 5 — Financial Update—John Thompson
  - RSM Bird Cameron
- Session 6—Marketing & Processing— Greg Hart
- 5:00 Close of Day
- 6:00 Sundowner

## PROGRAM—Saturday 25 July

*Second day is your opportunity to work through, and get a better understanding of Management Options for next season and Input and Output controls*

- 8:30 Arrive for Morning Tea
- 9:00 WORKSHOP
  - Management Options 2009/10
- 12:00 Conclusion
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 WORKSHOP
  - Input vs. Output
- 4:30 Conclusion
- 5:00 Close of Congress

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Important Information**—Please take the time to read before completing your registration form

#### CONGRESS & MEALS

This fee includes entry to all sessions, lunches and tea breaks for both days, Name Badge Pad and Pen. The Congress Organisers recognise that some delegates may have special dietary needs. Please advise the Council in writing if you wish them to make alternative arrangements for you.

#### SUNDOWNER

This fee includes entry, food & drinks to the Sundowner.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

Should you be unable to attend a substitute delegate is welcome. All cancellations or alterations must be notified in writing to the Western Rock Lobster Council.

All registration forms will be accepted in good faith and processed as registered. Cancellations and 'No Shows' that have paid will be charged the full registration fee. No Refund. Application for refund will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

#### VENUE

Fremantle Sailing Club, 151 Marine Terrace

#### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel close to the Congress:  
Esplanade 08 9432 4000 from \$219 pp/pn  
Quest 08 9430 3888 from \$223 pp/pn  
Tradewinds 08 9339 8188 from \$175 pp/pn

#### COMMUNICATION

All communication with registered delegates will be by email wherever an email address is provided, or by fax. If you register and do not receive a confirmation either by email or fax within 3 working days please contact Vicky Kerr on 9340 5001

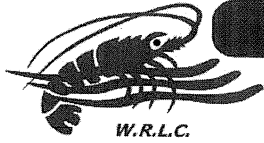
#### WEBSITE

[www.rocklobsterwa.com](http://www.rocklobsterwa.com)

This site will be updated regularly and we urge those interested to view the site for further details.

#### CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

WRLC  
PO Box 55 Mt Hawthorn WA 6915  
Phone: 08 9340 5001 Fax: 08 9340 5099



**Western Rock Lobster Council Inc.**



**WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER COUNCIL FISHERMEN'S CONGRESS  
FREMANTLE, JULY 24-25, 2009 SAILING CLUB**

Please print clearly and return completed form with payment to  
Western Rock Lobster Council  
PO Box 55, Mt Hawthorn WA 6915

*For more than one registration please photocopy this form*

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS REGISTRATION FORM IS A TAX INVOICE.**  
**ABN 25938881829**  
PLEASE KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

**DELEGATE INFORMATION:**

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TEL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (dietary or otherwise) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES:**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FEES INCLUDE A GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST) OF 10% AND ARE SHOWN IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

Congress	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
Sundowner	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
Total		\$ _____

**CONGRESS PAYMENT:**

Please Transfer the Total amount Online into our account  
 BSB: **306-031**  
 ACC/Number: **0425760**  
 Description: **09[Initial]space[Lastname]**  
 (example: if you are John Smith your description would be: **09J Smith**)

Cheques should be made payable to  
**'WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER COUNCIL'**

*I understand and accept the conditions of the cancellation policy (See Brochure)*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print clearly and return form with payment to:** Western Rock Lobster Council,  
PO Box 55, Mount Hawthorn WA 6915. Phone 08 9340 5001 Fax 08 9340 5099

## **APPENDIX 2: SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS**

# **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

In order to stage this event, the Western Rock Lobster Council is seeking sponsorship from businesses and organisations. This is your opportunity to gain exposure to more than 200 people directly involved in the fishery.

## **A NUMBER OF SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE OFFERED:**

### **Gold Sponsor - Naming rights**

This one off sponsorship of \$10,000 will buy the organisation naming rights to the Congress. From the point of signing on, all communications put out by the Council will refer to the Congress with the sponsors name first, ie Your Business Western Rock Lobster Council Fisherman's Congress.

#### **Along with the naming rights comes:**

- The opportunity to display signage and/or banners at the Congress
- Four complimentary tickets to the Congress
- First presentation of the organisation logo on all promotional material, advertisements, banners and multimedia
- Acknowledgement of being the major sponsor in all media releases and speeches

### **Silver Sponsor**

For \$5,000 you can become a silver sponsor and be recognised as a supporting partner in all communications regarding the Congress.

#### **The sponsorship includes:**

- Naming rights to a session
- Two complimentary tickets
- Inclusion of the organisation logo on all presentation material, advertisements, banners and multimedia
- Acknowledgement as being a supporting partner in for a session

#### **The sessions you can choose from to sponsor are:**

- Management 2009-10 opportunity for input for next season
- Marketing and Processing
- Management options Input vs. Output
- Marine Parks
- Workshop – Management options 2009-10
- Workshop – Management options Input vs. Output

## APPENDIX 3: CONGRESS PROGRAM



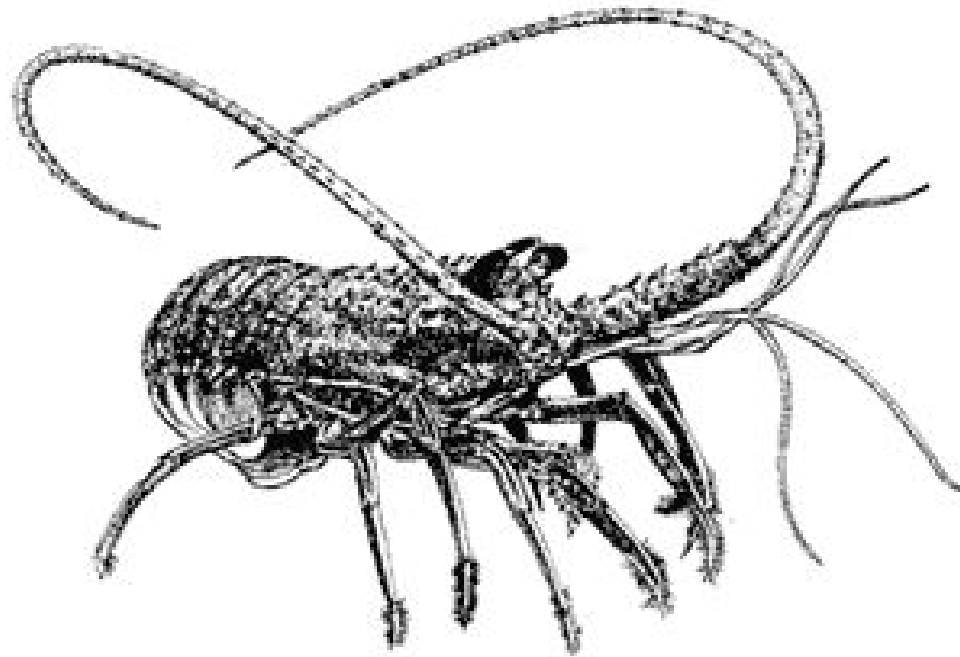
### **PROGRAM—Friday 24 July, 2009**

The First day has been set aside  
for presentation of information

- 8:30 Registration  
9:00 Welcome—Dexter Davies  
9:10 Opening—Minister for Fisheries Hon Norman Moore
- 9:30 Session 1  
Management update—Stuart Smith  
CEO of Department of Fisheries  
Maximum Economic Yield—Caleb Gardner  
Resource Security and Future Harvest - TAFI  
Walter Stark
- 10:30 Morning Tea  
11:00 Session 2  
Discussion on Management Options for Next Season  
Simon DeLestang, Department of Fisheries Research
- 12:00 Session 3  
Marine Parks — Guy Leyland  
Executive Officer - WAFIC
- 1:00 Lunch  
2:00 Session 4—Input vs. Output  
Caleb Gardner, John Hammond,  
Roger Edwards, Neville Perryman
- 3:30 Afternoon Tea  
4:00 Session 5 — Financial Update  
John Thompson - RSM Bird Cameron  
4:30 Session 6—Marketing & Processing  
Greg Hart – Wild Oceans  
5:00 Close of Day
- 6 – 8 Sundowner



# Address by Stuart Smith to WRLC Congress 2009



**Stuart Smith CEO, Department of Fisheries**



# History

- For the last 25 years, the proportion of the stock taken has generally been high.
- As puerulus settlement went up and down catch went up and down 3-4 years later.
- The variations in settlement from year to year meant that on average, enough lobsters made it into the breeding stock to maintain it at acceptable levels.







# Low settlement implications (1)

- 2006-07 Low settlement.
- 2007-08 Very low settlement (second lowest on record).
- 2008-09 Lowest on record.
- Less catch available 3-4 years after settlement (starting 2009-10).
- Less lobsters entering the breeding stock stock 4-5 years after settlement.
- This will happen, even if there is good settlement this year.



## Low settlement implications (2)

Breeding stock is likely to decline to unacceptable levels in Zones A and C in medium term if further action is not taken.



# Low settlement implications (3)

As the cause of low settlement is unknown:

- Need additional protection for breeding stock in areas believed to be of particular importance (e.g. Big Bank).
- Adopt precautionary approach.

# Proposed management objective

*“Ensure the breeding stock is above the threshold, and there is a high probability of it still being above this level in five years time.”*





# Achieving reductions

- Reducing the number of pots.
- Reducing days fished.
- A combination of the above.



# RLIAC preliminary package

- 0.42 pot use all zones.
- Four consecutive days off (Fri – Mon) during the peaks (15 November – 14 January and 15 March – 14 April).
- Three consecutive days off during the remainder of the season.
- 77 mm minimum “whites” gauge (15 November – 31 January).
- 55 mm escape gaps throughout the entire season;
- 15 November season start.
- No summer closure in Zone B.
- Big Bank to remain closed.
- Review of management arrangements to take place in late January 2010 to determine the need for any changes to the above package.





# Determining 2009-10 management arrangements

- 31 July close of stakeholder submissions.
- 4 August RLIAC finalises advice.
- Minister to make decision following consideration of advice.



# Quota vs input controls

- Ongoing debate.
- Important issue but independent of sustainability.
- Expert panel reports commissioned by RLIAC and available on the DoF website

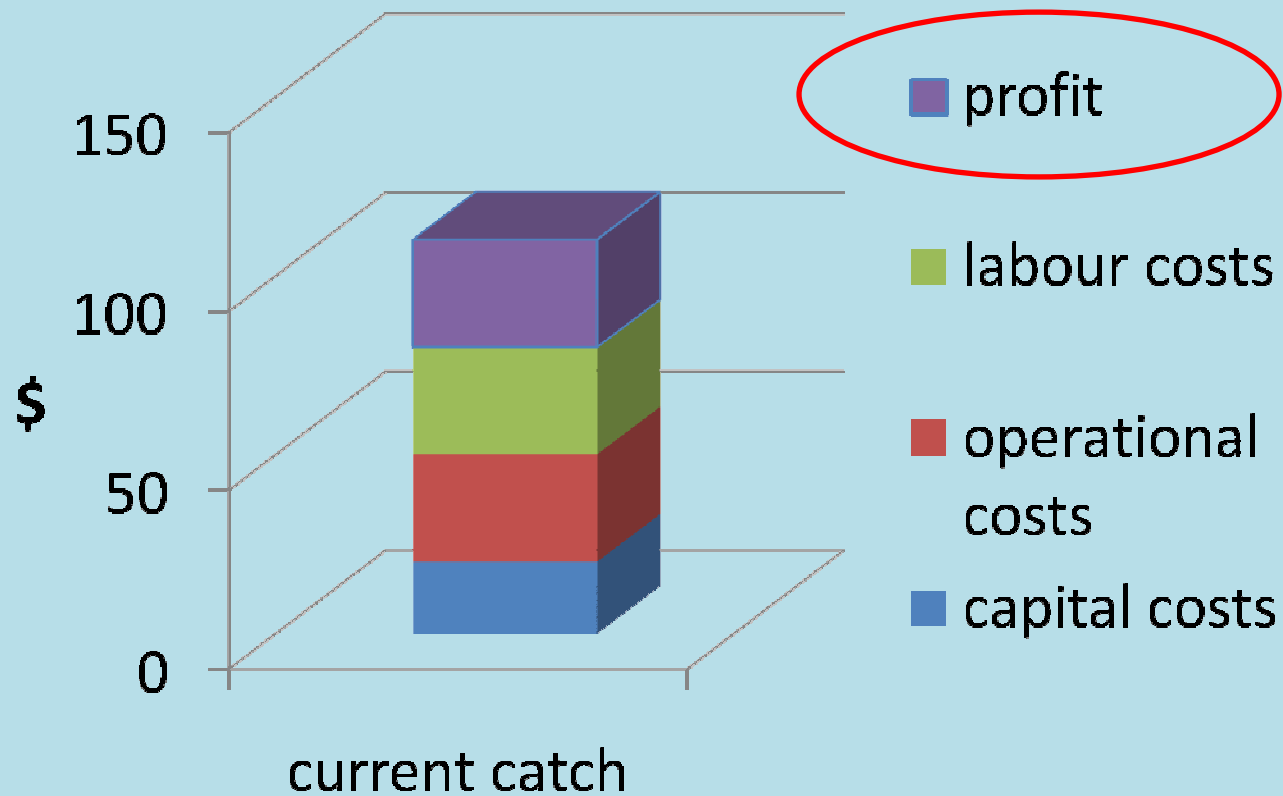


# Fishing for profits

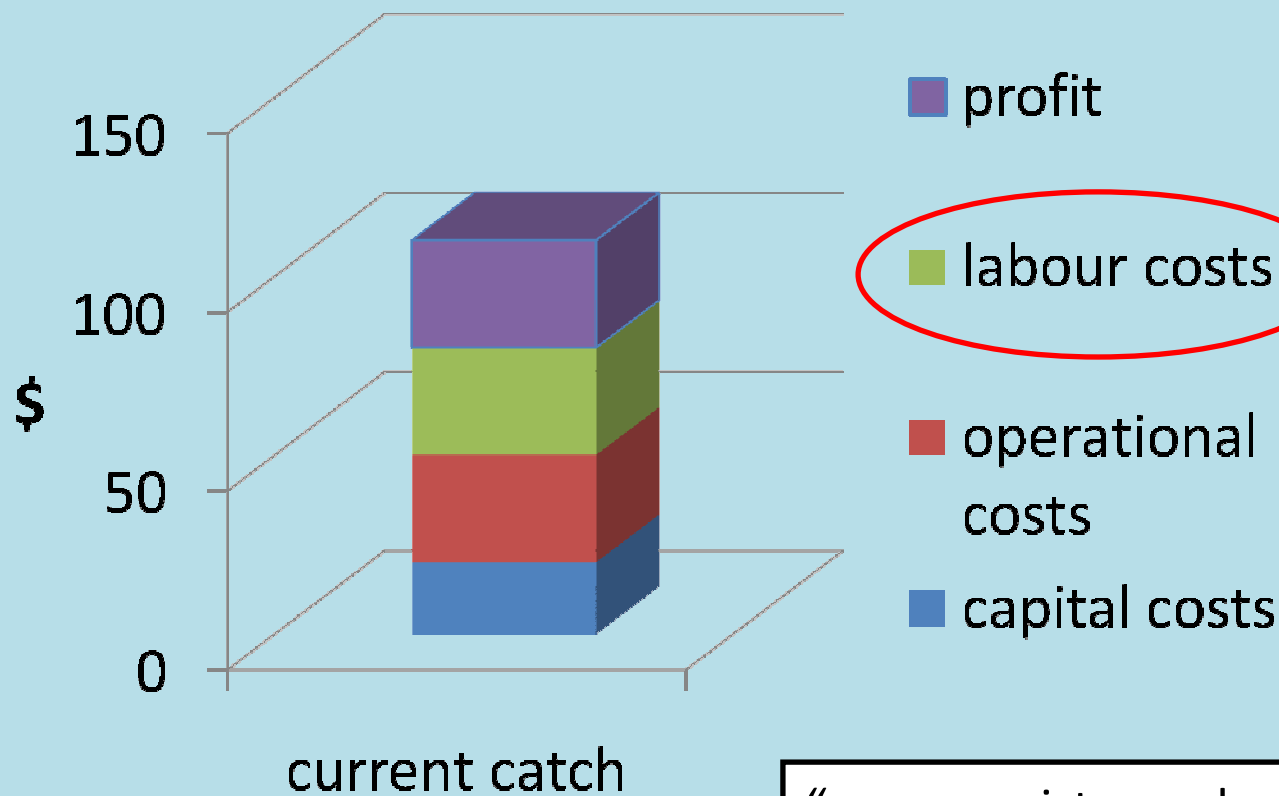
Caleb Gardner



# Why fish? For the individual it's all about profit



# Why fish? For the community it's more complex.....(eg GDP)



Not as simple  
as more fish  
= more jobs  
= better for  
communities

“...economist mumbo-jumbo” D. Sykes, 2009.

# Why fish? For the community it's more complex....

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## The Benefits of Rationalization: The Case of the American Lobster Fishery

SCOTT R. STEINBACK  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
RICHARD B. ALLEN  
University of Rhode Island  
ERIC THUNBERG  
NOAA Fisheries Service

**Abstract** *The American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishery is currently the most valuable fishery on the Atlantic coasts of both the USA and Canada based on ex-vessel value. Lobster conservation policies have traditionally focused on technical restrictions such as minimum size requirements, r-notching, and a prohibition on taking egg-bearing females to protect the resource, rather than direct controls on fishing effort or catch. However, in 2005 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission adopted a plan for the southern New England lobster management area (Area 2) that establishes a structure for limiting the number of license holders and the number of traps each lobsterman can have in the water. In this article, a bio-economic modeling exercise is employed to examine the biological and economic impacts of reductions to the level of fishing effort in a fishery that is modeled to represent the full-time lobster fishing fleet in Area 2. Model results show that a reduction in fishing effort has the potential to: (i) improve the sustainability characteristics of the lobster resource and, in contrast to popular belief, (ii) actually stimulate economic growth in the coastal economy.*

**Key words** Bio-economic simulation model, economic efficiency, lobster, rationalization, regional input-output model.

**JEL Classification Codes** C15, C67, Q22.

### Introduction

The American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishery is currently the most valuable fishery on the Atlantic coasts of both the USA and Canada in terms of ex-vessel value. Historically, lobster conservation policies have focused on technical measures such as those affecting the size or condition of lobsters taken in the fishery rather than direct controls on fishing effort or catch. Area management and uniform trap limits across areas were adopted along the Atlantic coast of the USA in the late

---

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Fewer, more profitable  
fishers is better than many  
unprofitable

... shrinking fleet in Tasmania (344-203 vessels in 12 years)



The point here?...both the state and industry are well served to target maximum economic yield

# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

## 1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks



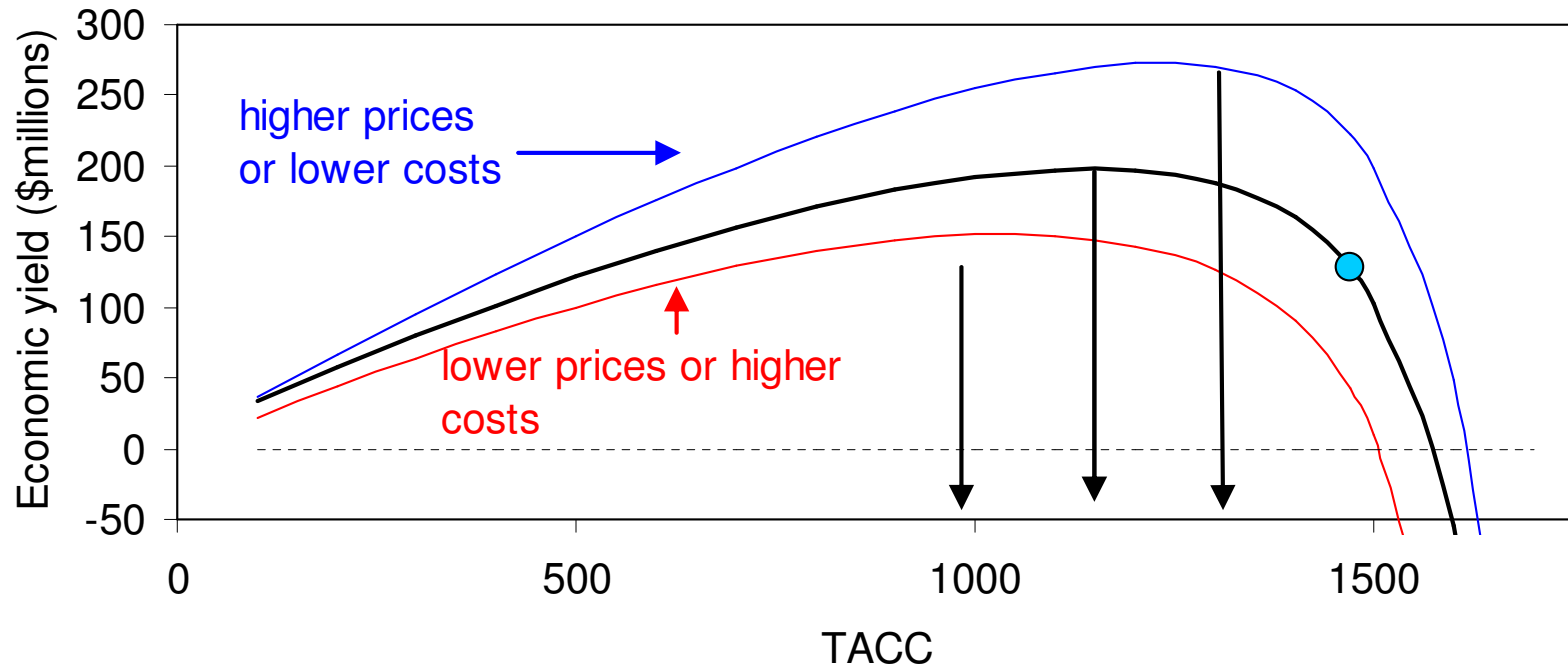
## RLIAC needs Goldilocks

How much catch to take? Not too much, not too little.

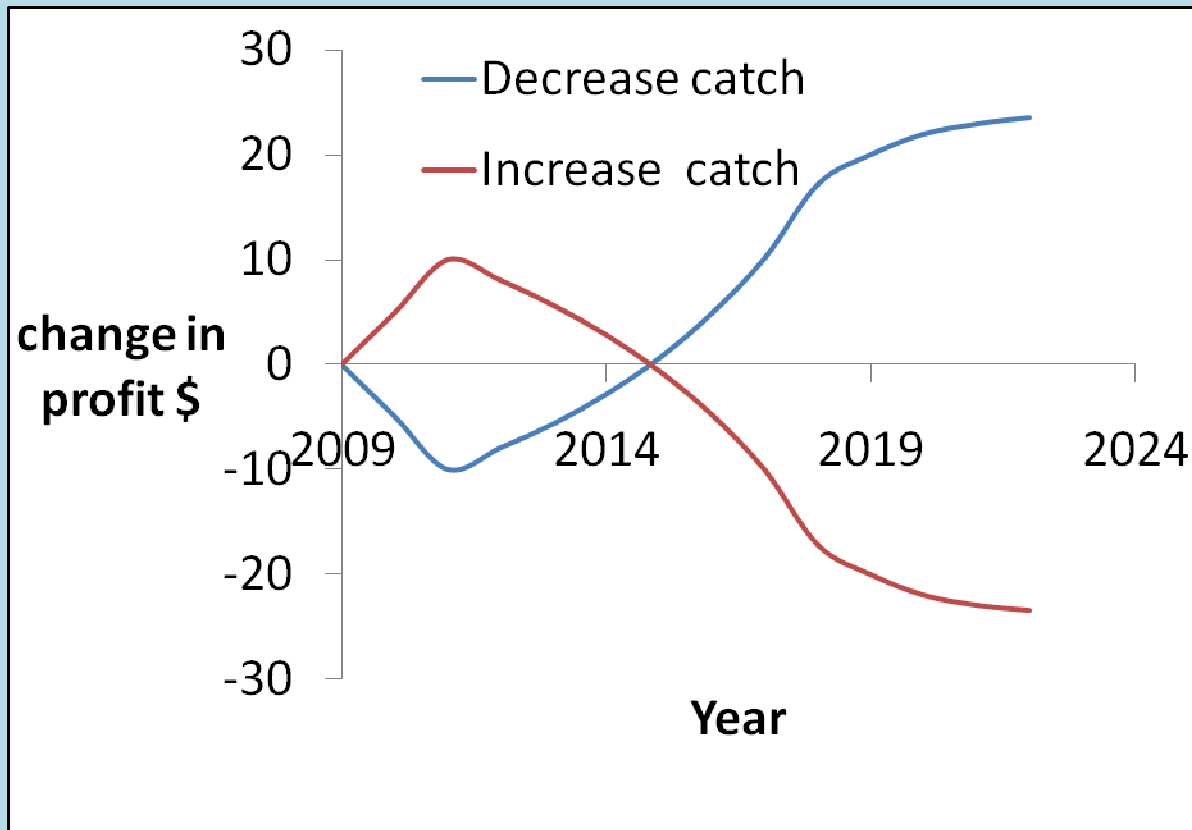
SRL Zone	2008 CPUE (Kg/potlift)	2008 profit / kg (lease price)
SA – (southern)	1.1	19
Victoria (western)	0.4	5
TAS (north west)	1.1	18



# RLIAC needs Goldilocks



## RLIAC needs Goldilocks



An aside....  
The future  
cash flows  
of the  
industry  
complicate  
“MEY”

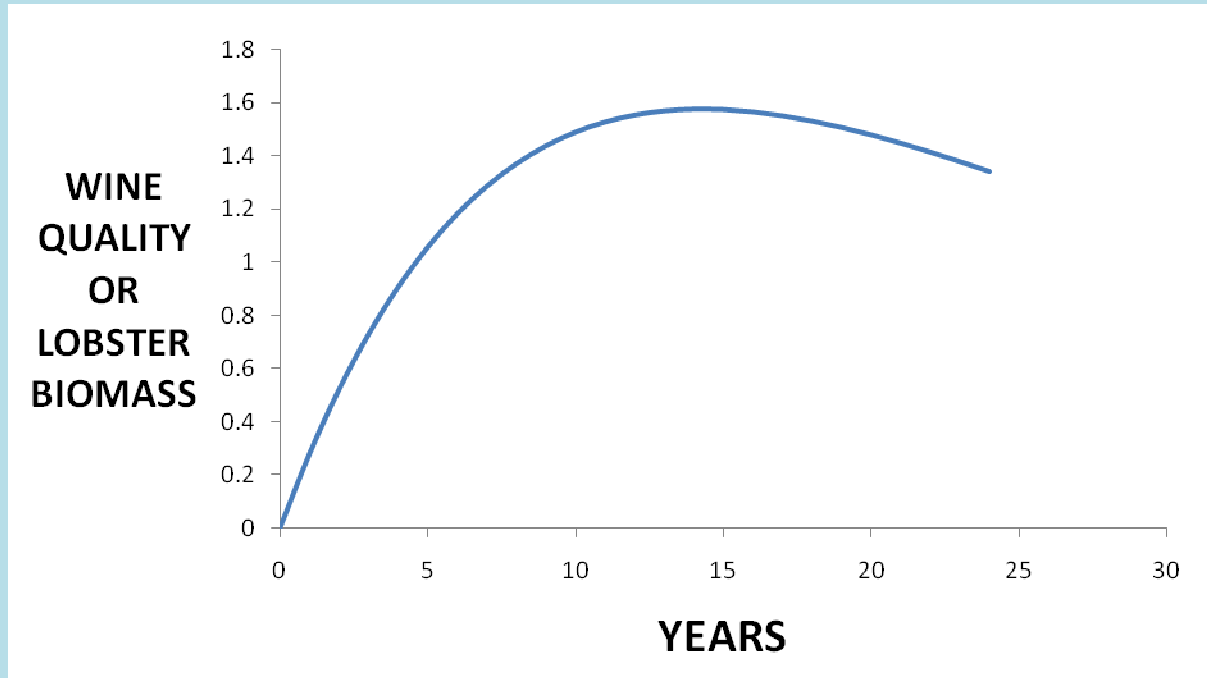
# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar



this is 1<sup>st</sup>  
reason  
why  
profits can  
rise with  
lower  
catch

# Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar



Wine and lobsters grow in value if left a few years – there's an optimal point

Best managed with harvest rate, not size limits

## Symptoms of teenagers in the wine cellar

- Reliance on recruits / minimum size limits
- Volatile catches (revenue) from year to year
- Recreational catch increases as commercial catch is constrained



# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar
3. Moose don't need big antlers, but they've got them





## Moose don't need big antlers



Taking more fish is good for the individual, but collectively raises costs

2<sup>nd</sup> reason why profits can rise with lower catch

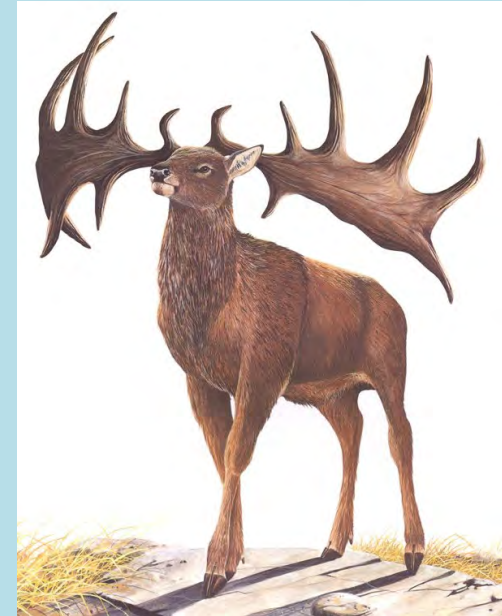
# Are you competitors or collaborators?





# Causes & symptoms of moose-like arms races

- management systems that reward inter-fisher competition but harms the collective
- increasing effective effort year after year
  - focus on volume not value
- Rush to fish at season opening
  - fixed costs rise, profits fall
- Low diversity



# Causes & symptoms of moose-like arms races

- high fixed costs (large investment in equipment that's used for short periods)



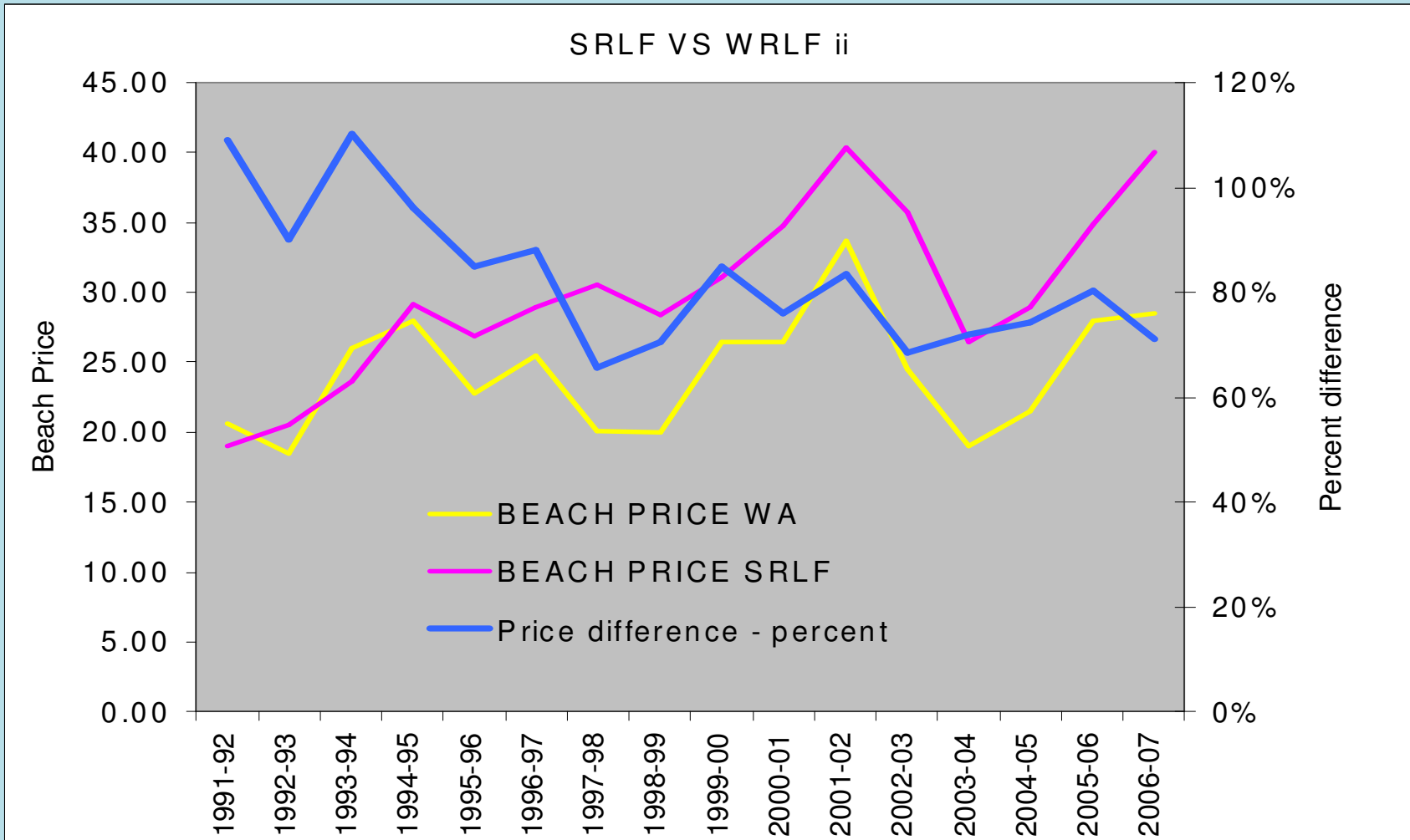
# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar
3. Moose don't need big antlers, but they've got them
4. Supermodels drive better cars than potato diggers

3<sup>rd</sup> reason why profits can rise with lower catch



# Supermodels drive better cars than potato diggers



# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

1. RIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar
3. Moose don't need big antlers, but they've got them
4. Supermodels drive better cars than potato diggers
5. Gold miners don't build mansions on site

Revenue > costs ... mining occurs

Revenue < costs...mining stops  
...and moves to a different site





## Symptoms of goldmine mansions in WRL

- Zones prevent efficient shift of catch (but could have other benefits)
- Few fishers stop fishing when catch rates fall late in the season

# Key points for maximising economic yield in the WRLF...

1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar
3. Moose don't need big antlers, but they've got them
4. Supermodels drive better cars than potato diggers
5. Gold miners don't build mansions on site
6. Airlines have 14 price categories on international flights





## Opportunity for 1<sup>st</sup> class pricing in WRL

- Reward for quality / penalty for peaks
  - Shorter (no?) closed season
- Greater control on timing of supply by business owners, not government
  - Harvest models incorporate price differences

# THANK YOU!

1. RLIAC needs Goldilocks
2. Lock the teenagers out of the wine cellar
3. Moose don't need big antlers, but they've got them
4. Supermodels drive better cars than potato diggers
5. Gold miners don't build mansions on site
6. Airlines have 14 price categories on international flights



# Western Rock Lobster Fishery

**WRLC Congress  
24 July 2009**

**Simon de Lestang  
Nick Caputi  
Peter Stevenson  
Adrian Thomson**





# Outline:

- Puerulus Settlement

- Risk assessment workshop
- Monitoring offshore settlement
- Web site graphs
- Five FRDC projects

- Recruitment prediction from low settlement

- Current estimates of efficiency creep

- Model outputs

- Tracking the 2008/09 season
- Effort levels for 2009/10 onwards
  - Breeding Stock
  - Catch
  - Catch rate

# Puerulus Settlement

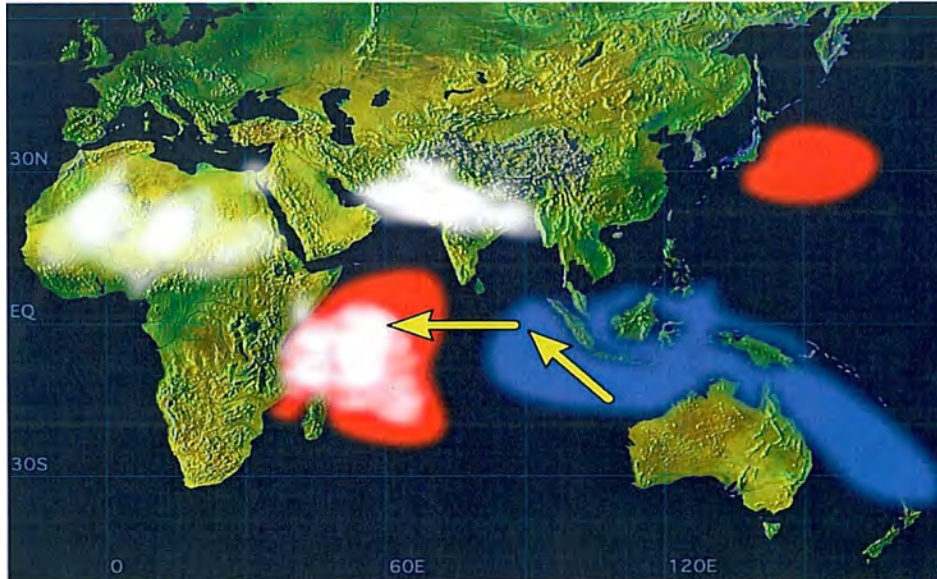
- Risk Assessment held with expert panel (April 2009)
- Covered all potential causes and their implications
- Report released to stakeholders for comment in July
  - Short-term environmental factor
    - (10-35% probability)
  - **Long-term environmental factor**
    - (35-75% probability)
  - Breeding stock in particular parts (e.g. Big Bank/North Abrolhos)
    - (20-50% probability)
  - **Environmental factor + breeding stock**
    - (35-75% probability)



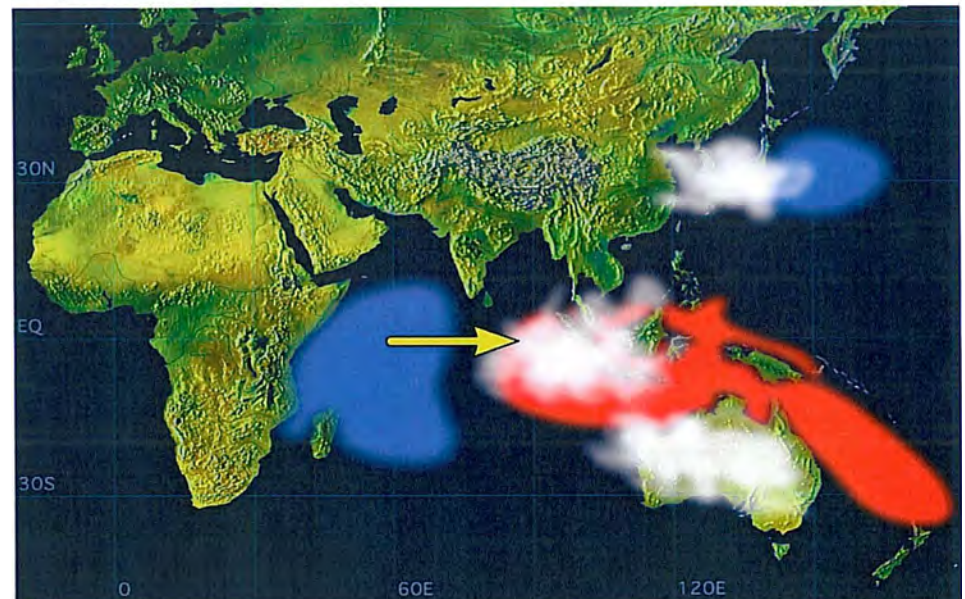


# Indian Ocean Dipole

Positive Dipole Mode



Negative Dipole Mode

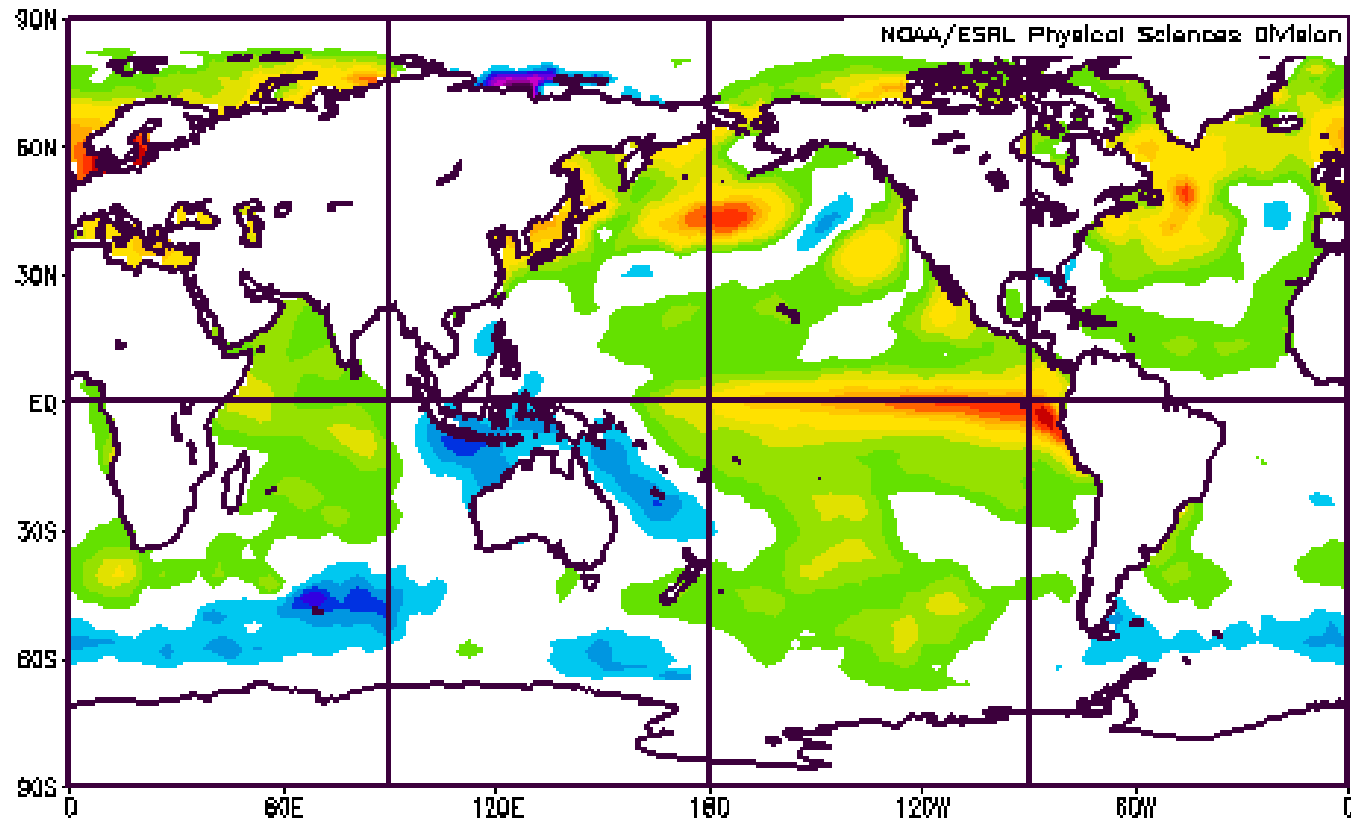




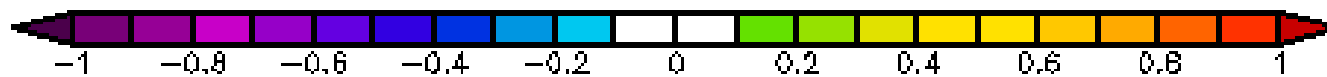
# Sea surface water temperature anomalies during +ive Dipole Years

NOAA Extended SST

Surface SST (C) Composita Anomaly 1971-200 clima

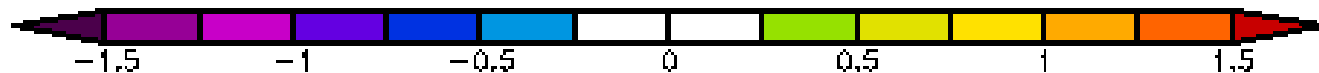
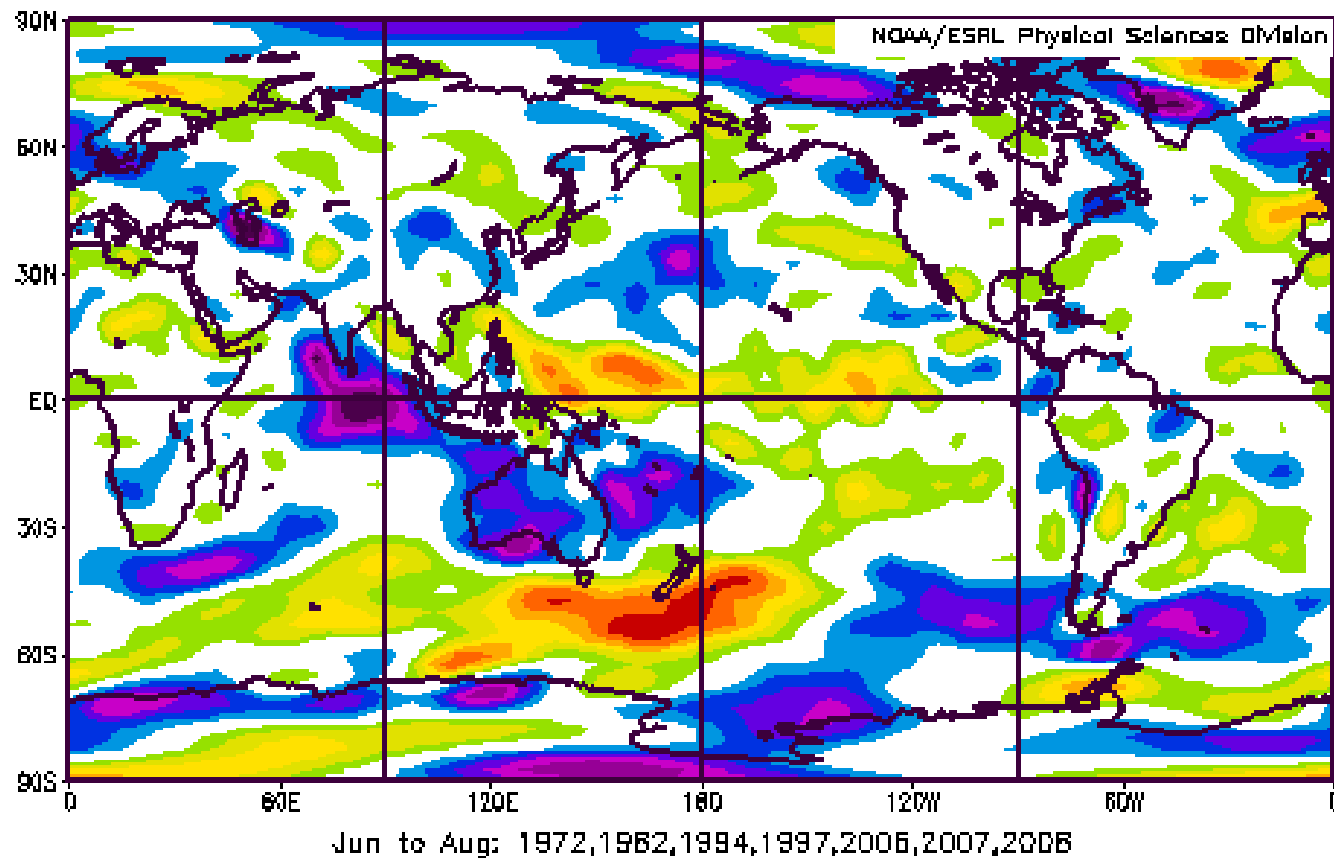


Jun to Aug: 1972,1982,1994,1997,2006,2007,2008

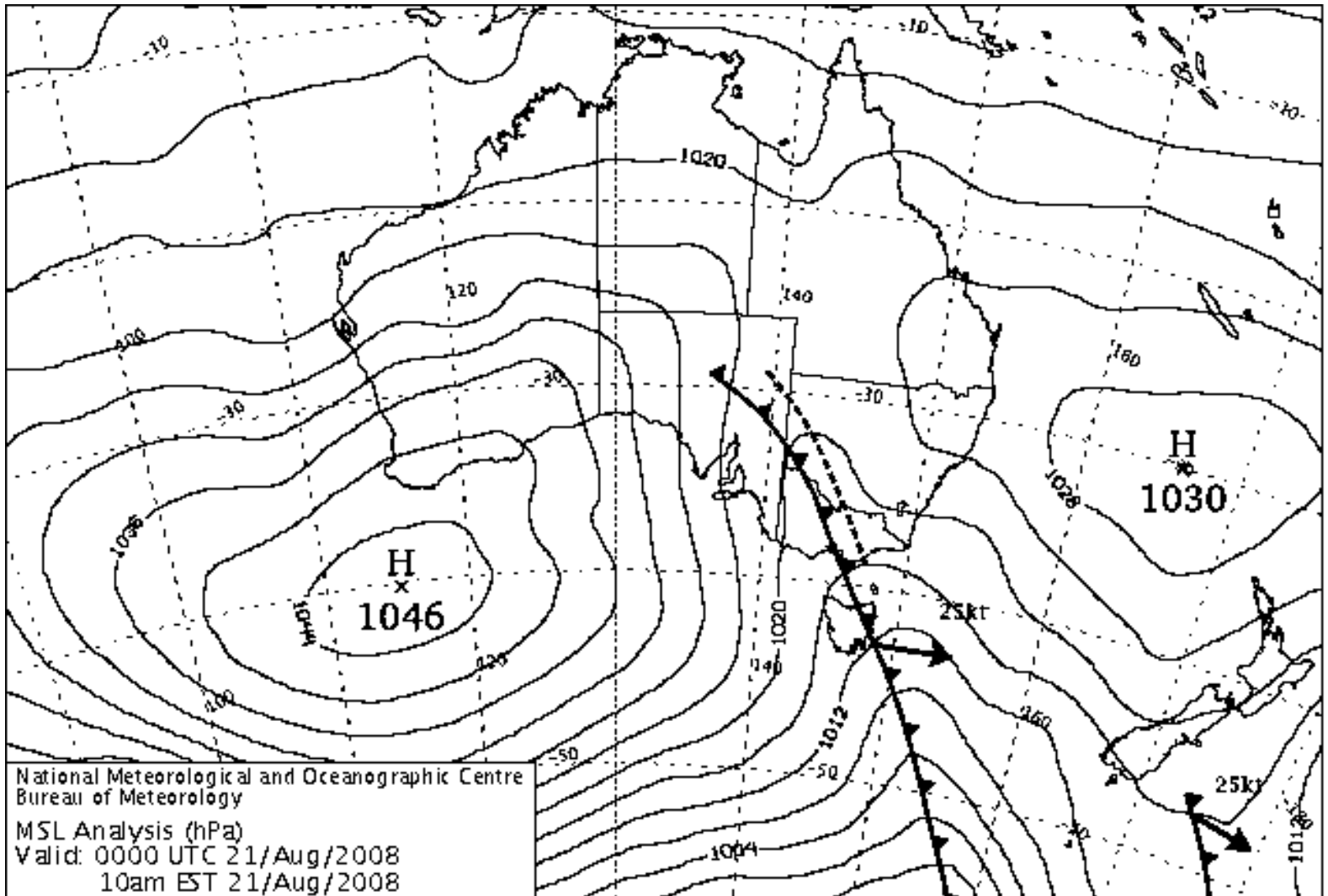


# Zonal wind anomalies during +ive Dipole Years (Jun – Aug)

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
1000mb Zonal Wind (m/a) Composite Anomaly 1988–1998 clima

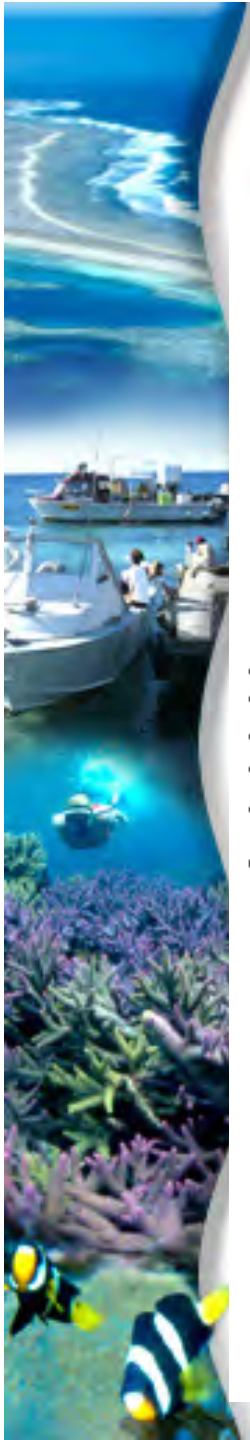
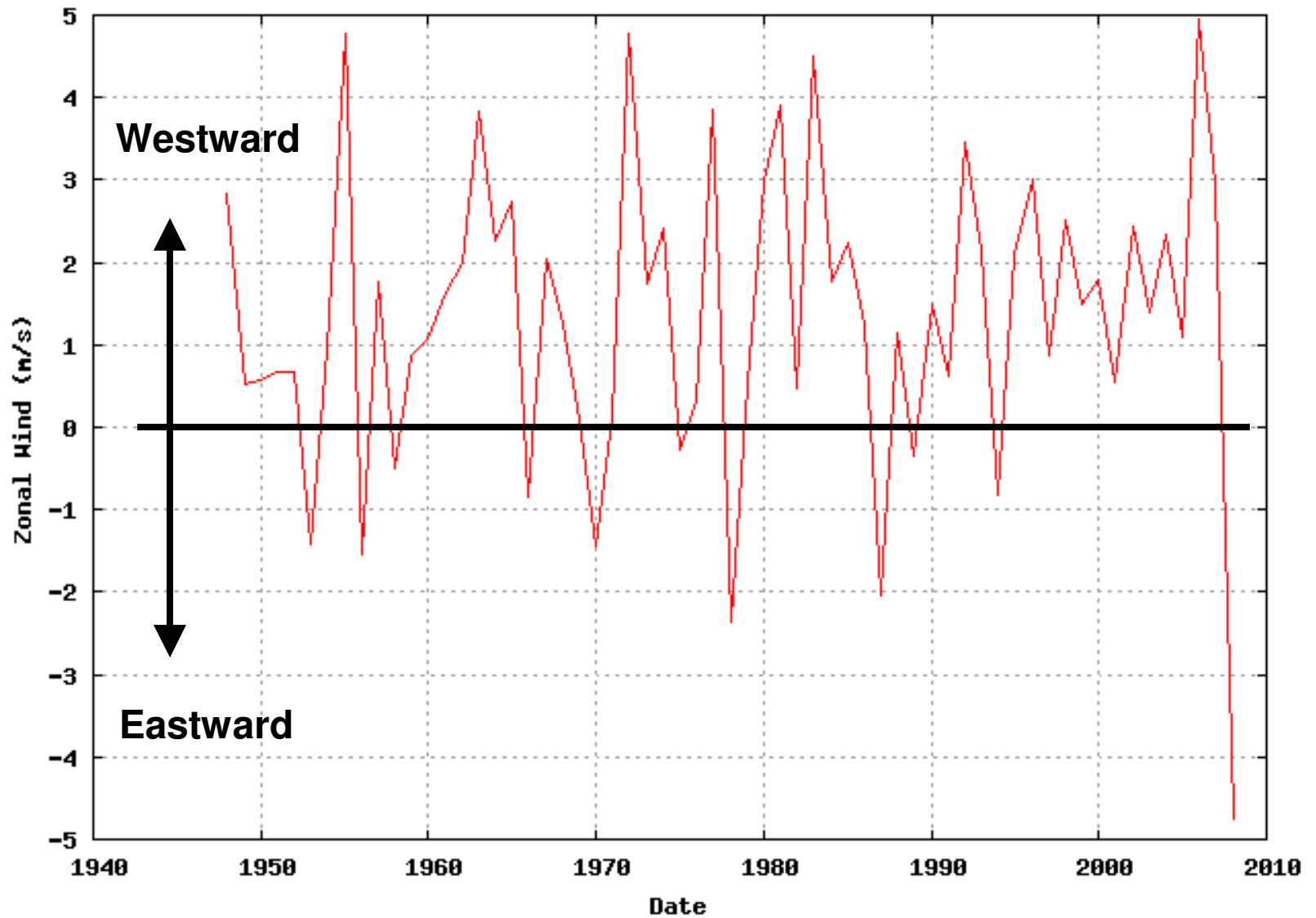


# Persistent High off SW Coast in August 2008



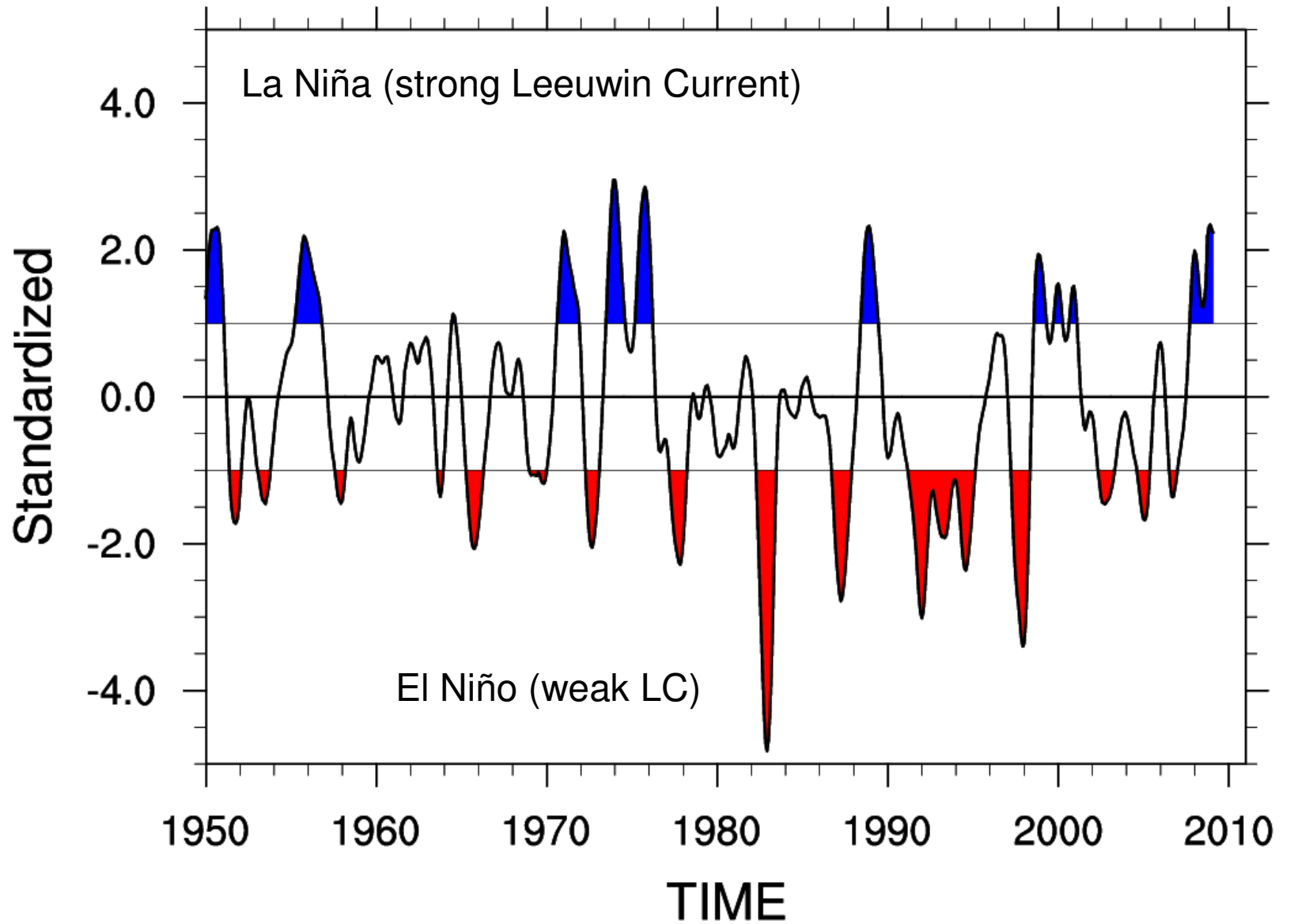
# Zonal winds off coast in Jun – Aug

Zonal Wind (NCEP Reanalysis) Aug: -27S to -32S and 105E to 115E





# Southern Oscillation Indices





## Years of **High** and **Low** Puerulus Settlements

	Negative IOD	Neutral			Positive Indian Ocean Dipole
El Nino		<b>1969</b> 1987 2002	1977 1991 2004	1983 1992	1994 <b>1982</b> 1997 <b>2006</b>
Neutral	<b>1996</b> 1998	1968 1973 1979 <b>1984</b> 1990 <b>2001</b>	<b>1970</b> 1976 1980 1986 1993 2003	1971 <b>1978</b> 1981 1988 <b>1995</b> <b>2005</b>	<b>1972</b> <b>2007</b>
La Nina		<b>1974</b> <b>1989</b>	1975 <b>1999</b>	<b>1985</b> <b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>

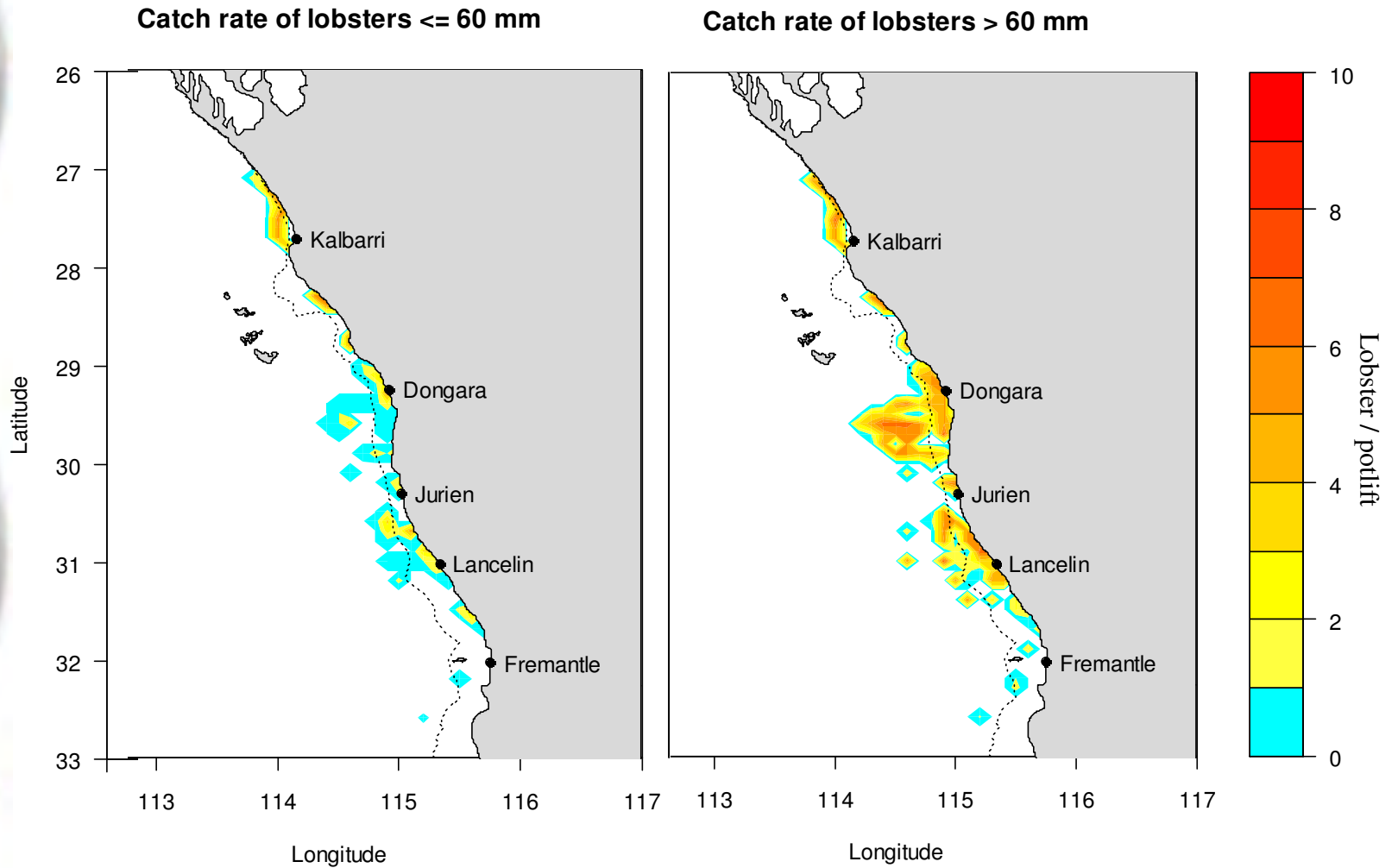




# Deepwater settlement?

## Meshed Pot sampling

No indication of deepwater settlement (Kalbarri?)



# Meshed Pot sampling proposal

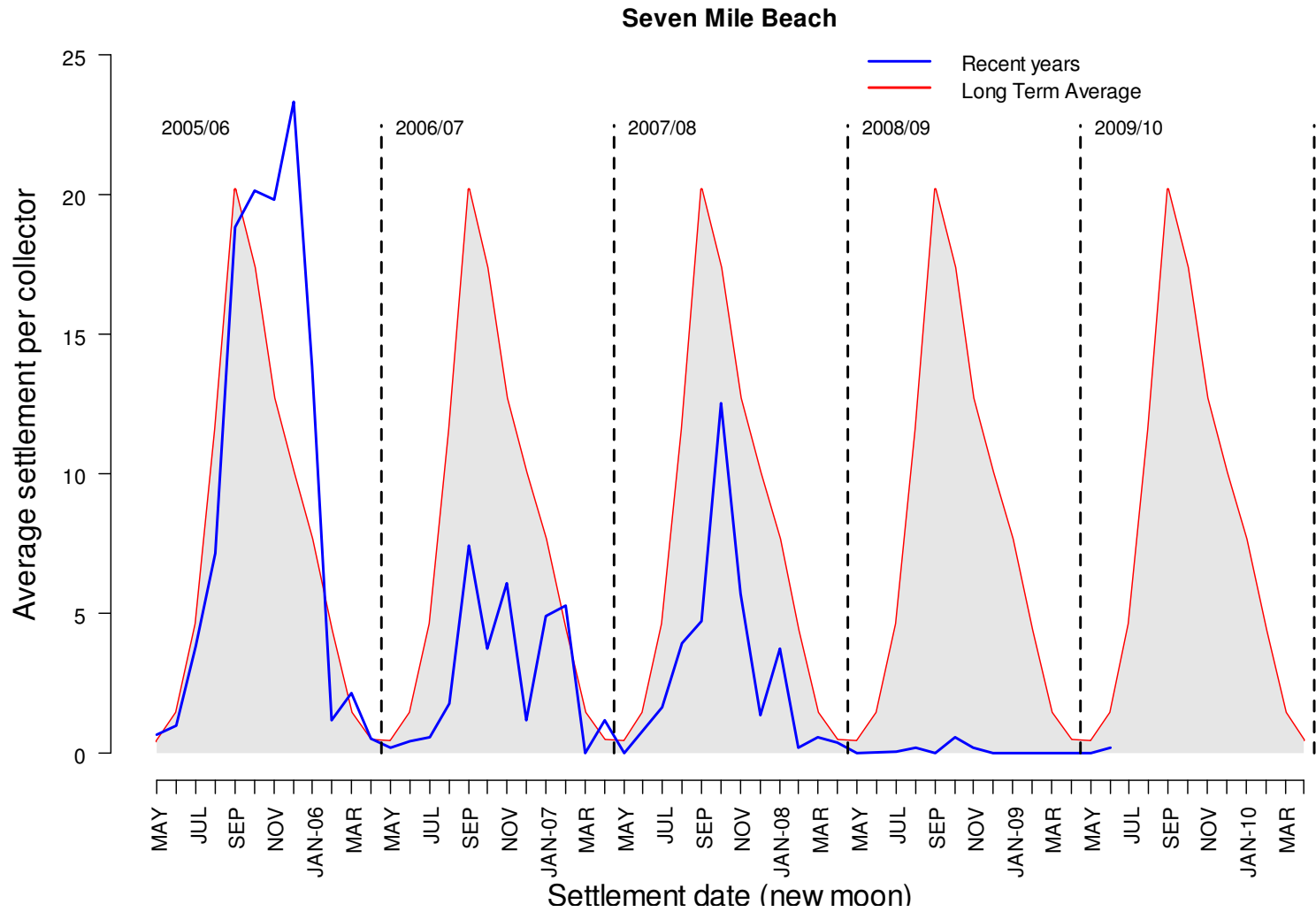
- Continue next season
- Five fishers per 1° Latitude
- All participants will receive an **extra pot** (meshed)
  - Must fill in a log book
  - Must measure the catch within the pot twice/week
  - Must measure the catch within adjacent pot twice/week
- Keen?

Call Eric “Sticks” Barker 9203 0111



# Puerulus settlement

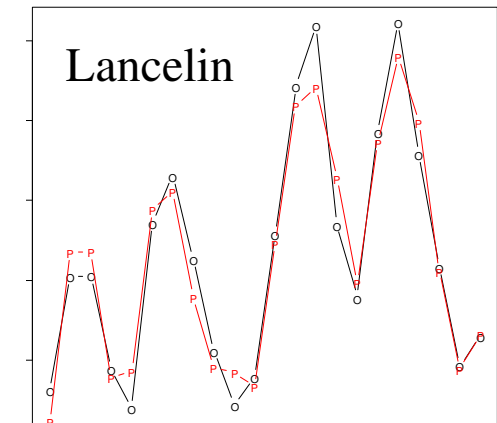
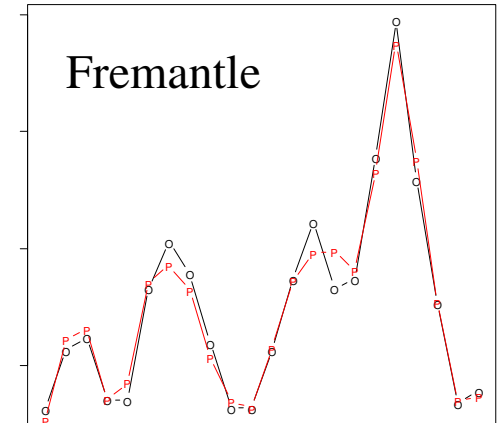
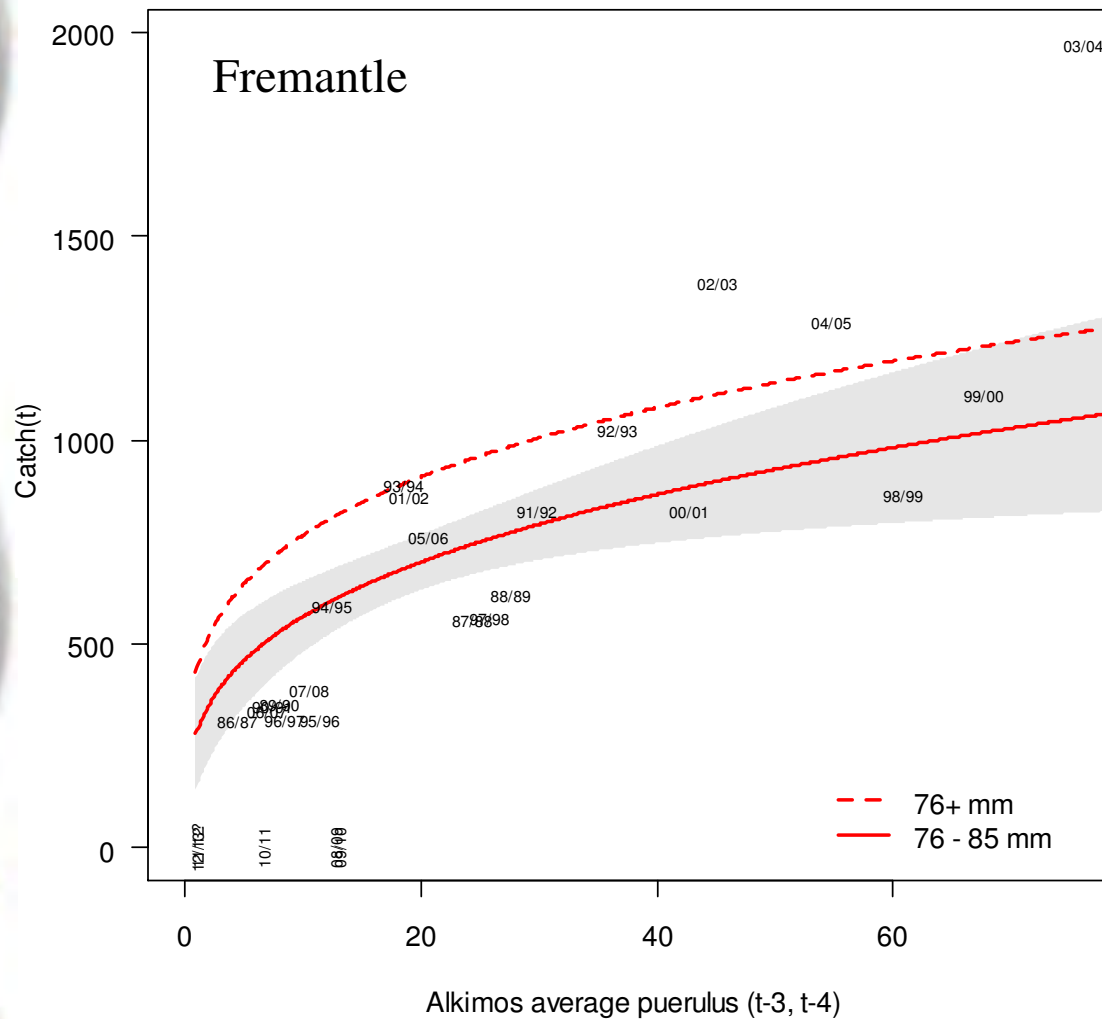
## Website trends



# Puerulus – Recruit relationship

## Fremantle and Lancelin:

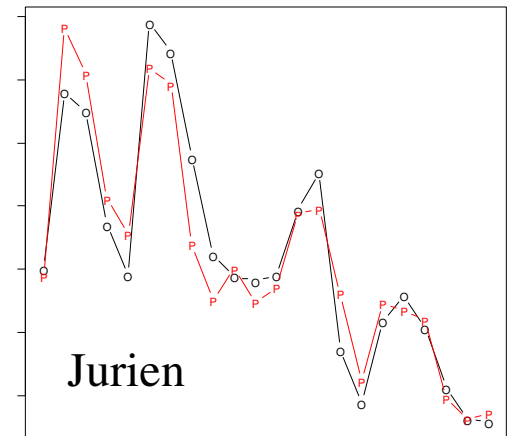
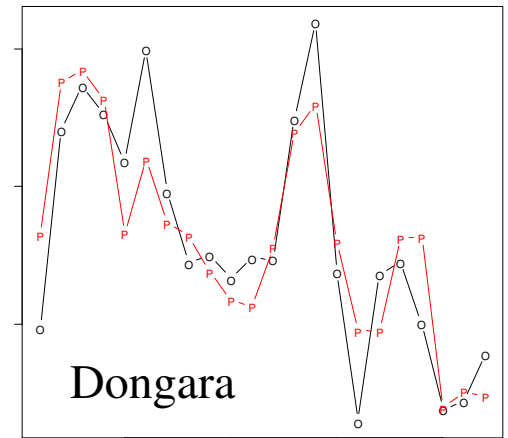
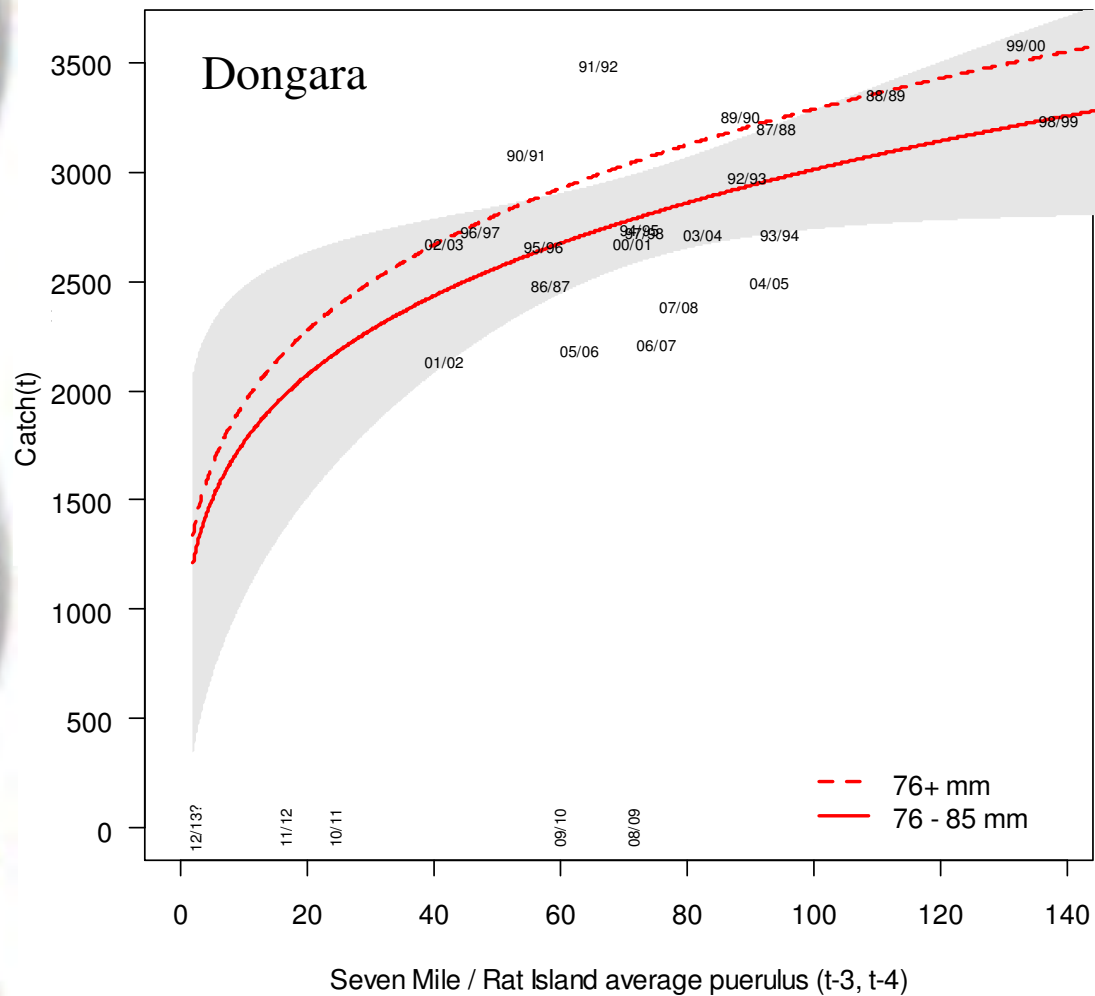
- 10/11 within historical range (reasonable error)
- 11/12 not far below (reasonable error)



# Puerulus – Recruit relationship

## Jurien and Dongara:

- 10/11 below historical range
- 11/12 well below (error increasing)

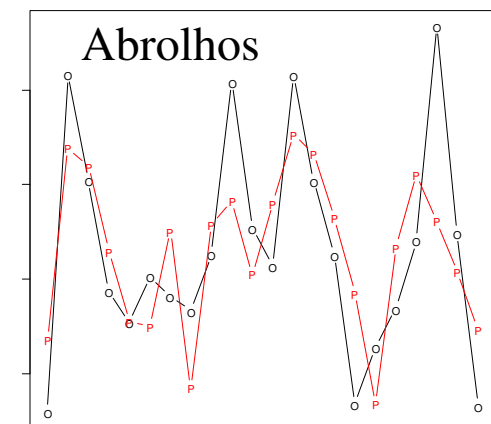
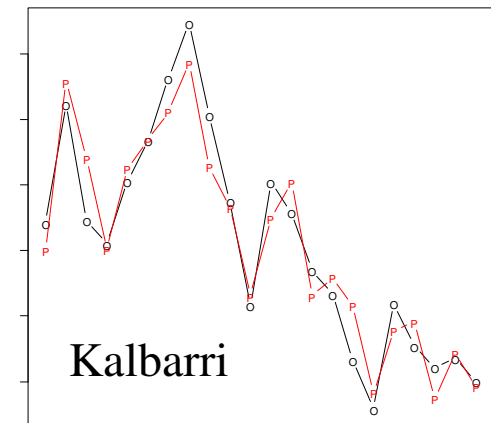
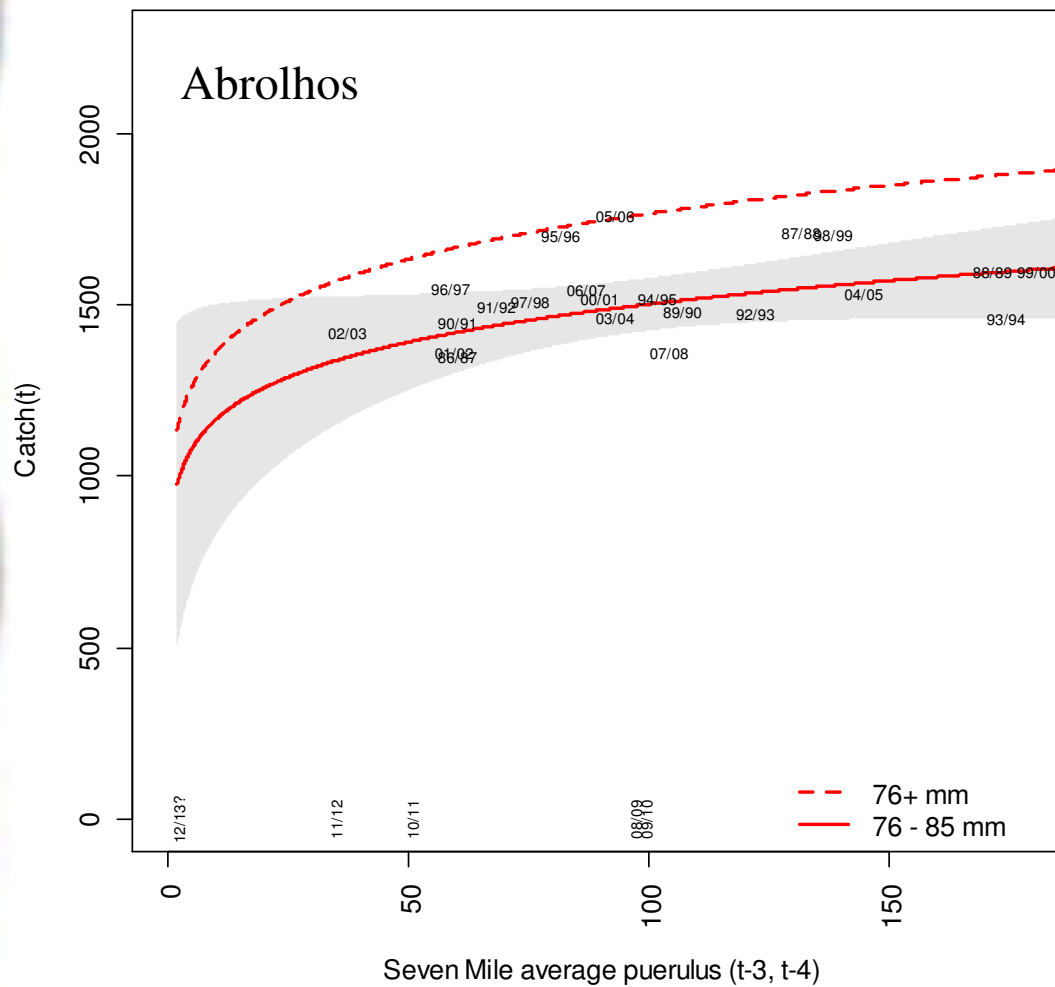




# Puerulus – Recruit relationship

## Kalbarri and Abrolhos:

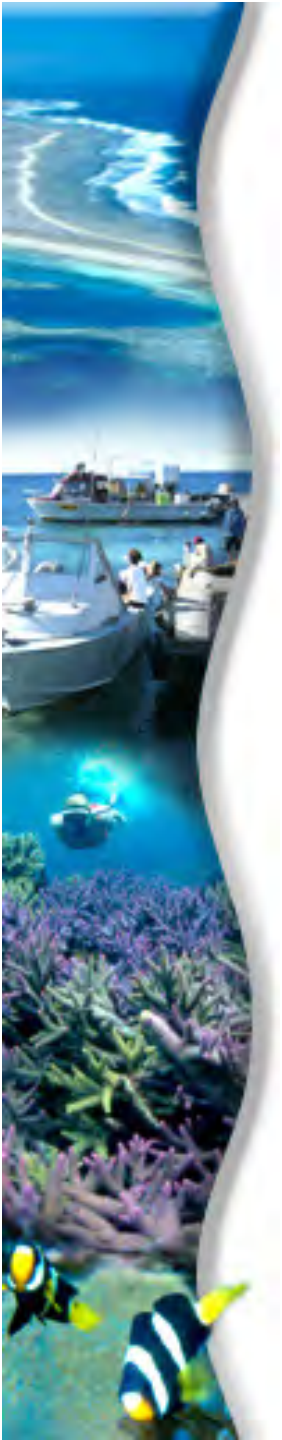
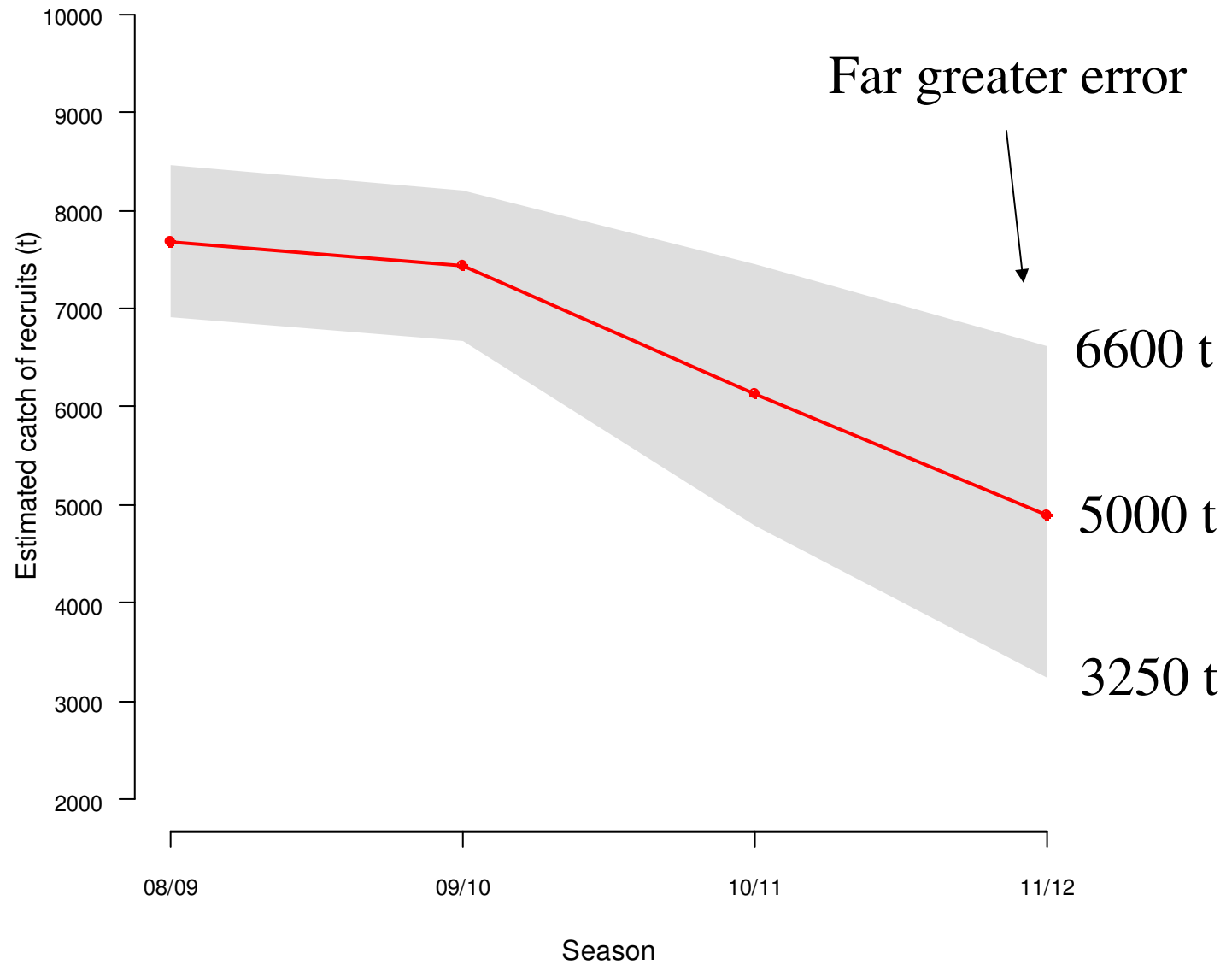
- 10/11 within historical range (reasonable error)
- 11/12 not far below **but** error starting to increase rapidly





# Puerulus – Recruit relationship

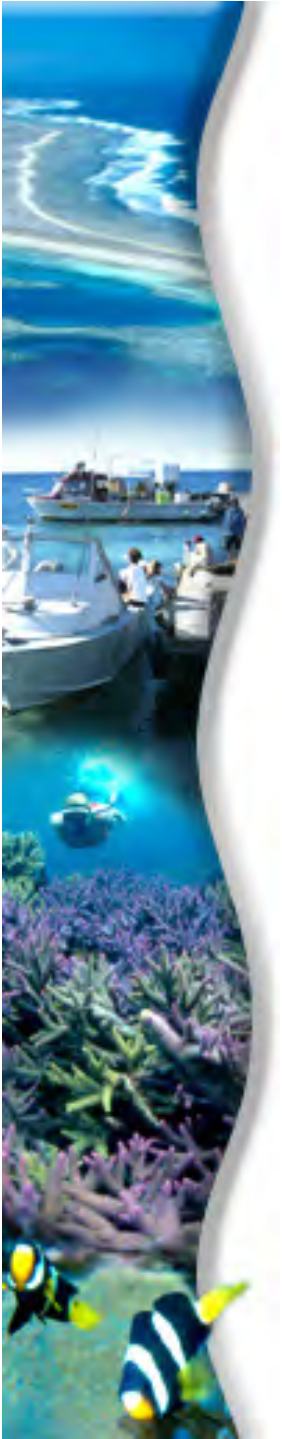
## Whole fishery



# Current estimates of efficiency creep

## Legal catch rate comparisons with standardised IBSS

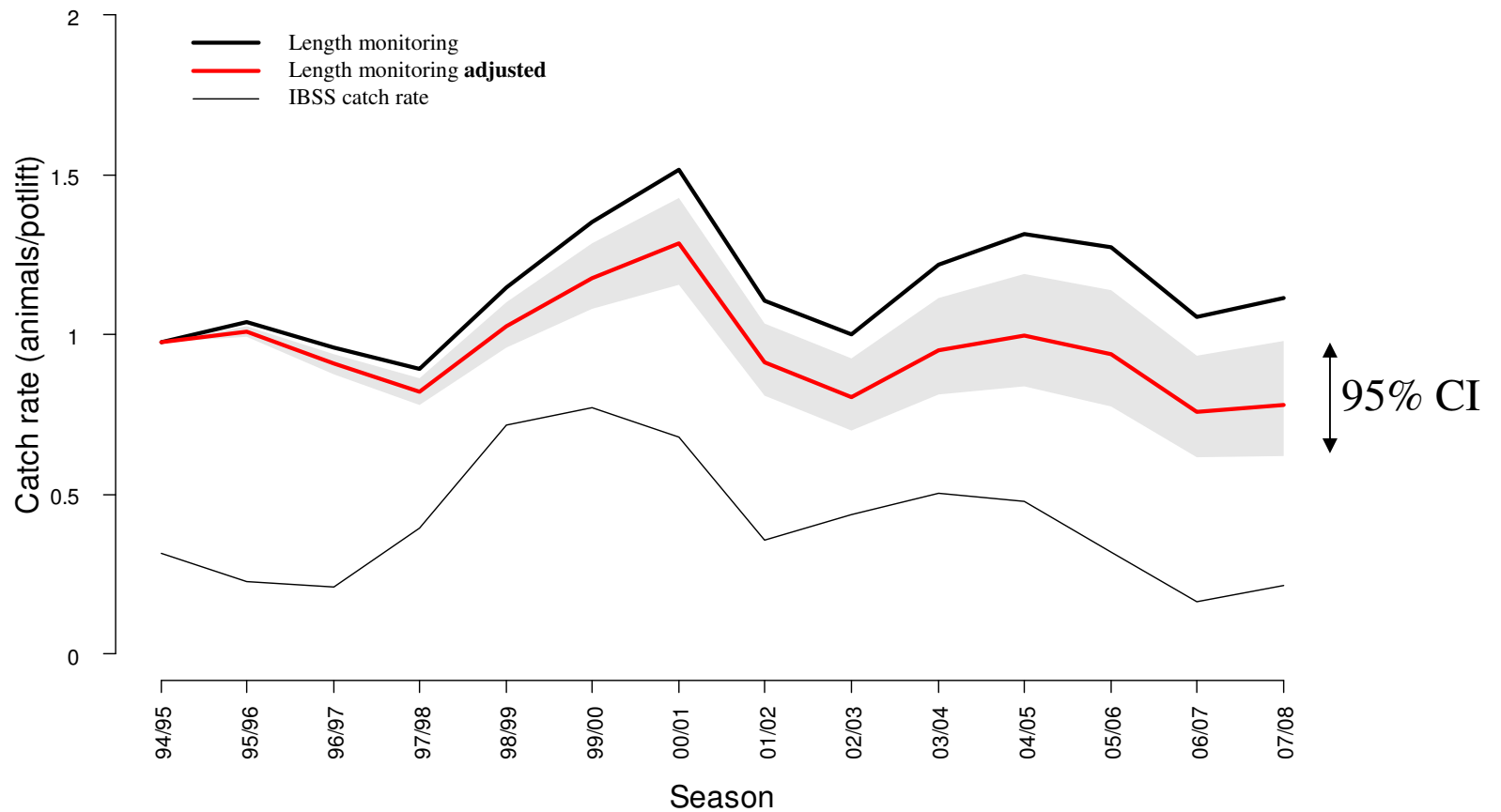
- Compare with both length monitoring and logbook reds legal catch (four months before IBSS)
- Areas / depths used same as IBSS (Coastal Deepwater, Abrolhos all depths)
- Difference in catch rate trend ~~ Efficiency
- Measures the period 1991 – 2007



# Current estimates of efficiency creep

Catch rate comparisons with standardised IBSS

- Length Monitoring
- Lancelin  $\sim 2.8 \pm 1.8\%$



# Fishing Efficiency Estimates

Deep water efficiency estimates 1990 onwards:

- 3 – 4% for the coastal sites
- 1 – 2% at the Abrolhos Islands

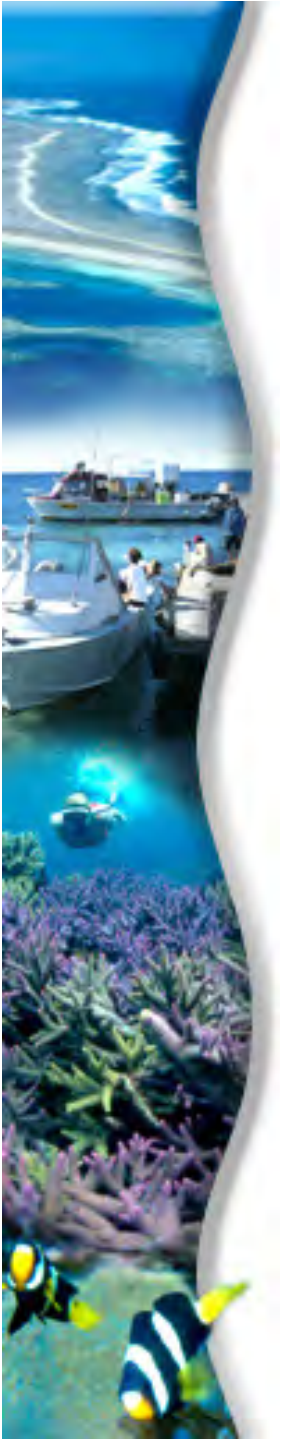
\*\* Lower in shallow waters

	Length Monitoring %	Logbook %	<b>Average</b> %
Fremantle	-	-	-
Lancelin	2.8	3.2	<b>3.0</b>
Jurien	2.9	3.8	<b>3.4</b>
Dongara	4.4	4.2	<b>4.1</b>
Kalbarri	-	-	-
Abrolhos	1.6	1.4	<b>1.5</b>



# Model Outputs

- Key assumptions
- Tracking the 2008/09 season
- Harvest Strategy Evaluation 2009/10
  - Egg production
  - Catch
  - CPUE



## Key Assumptions for modelling

- Uncertainty surrounding recruit predictions
  - “Outside of historical range”
- Efficiency jumps from pot reductions
  - Pots moving to better boats
  - More pots going onto “premium ground”
  - Reduction in pot saturation
- Uncertainty in estimating effort under new management regime
  - No 2008/09 effort statistics
- Need mid-year review to adjust management
  - (actual data available then)

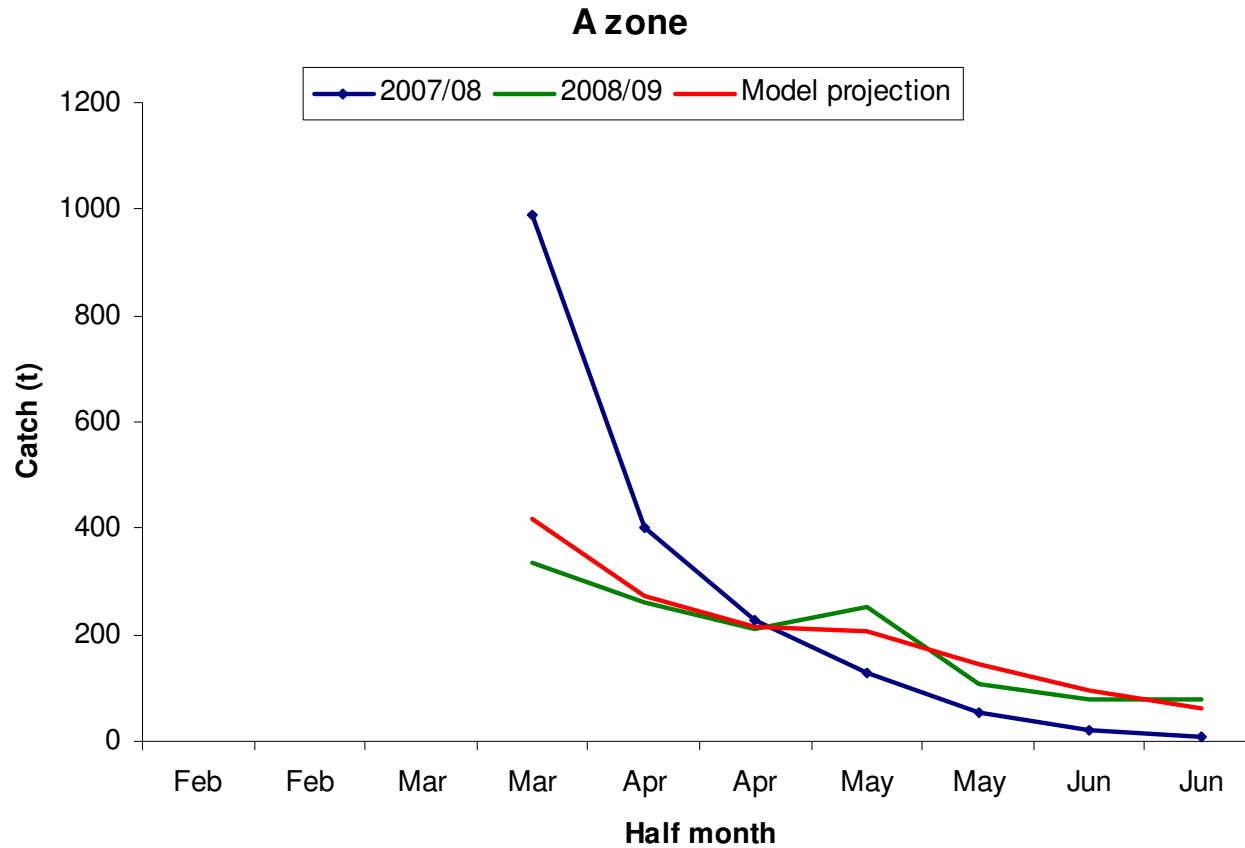




# A Zone

## Catch estimates:

- Predicted with 2007 effort – 2000 t
- Actual – 1350 t
- “Difference” ~ 650 t

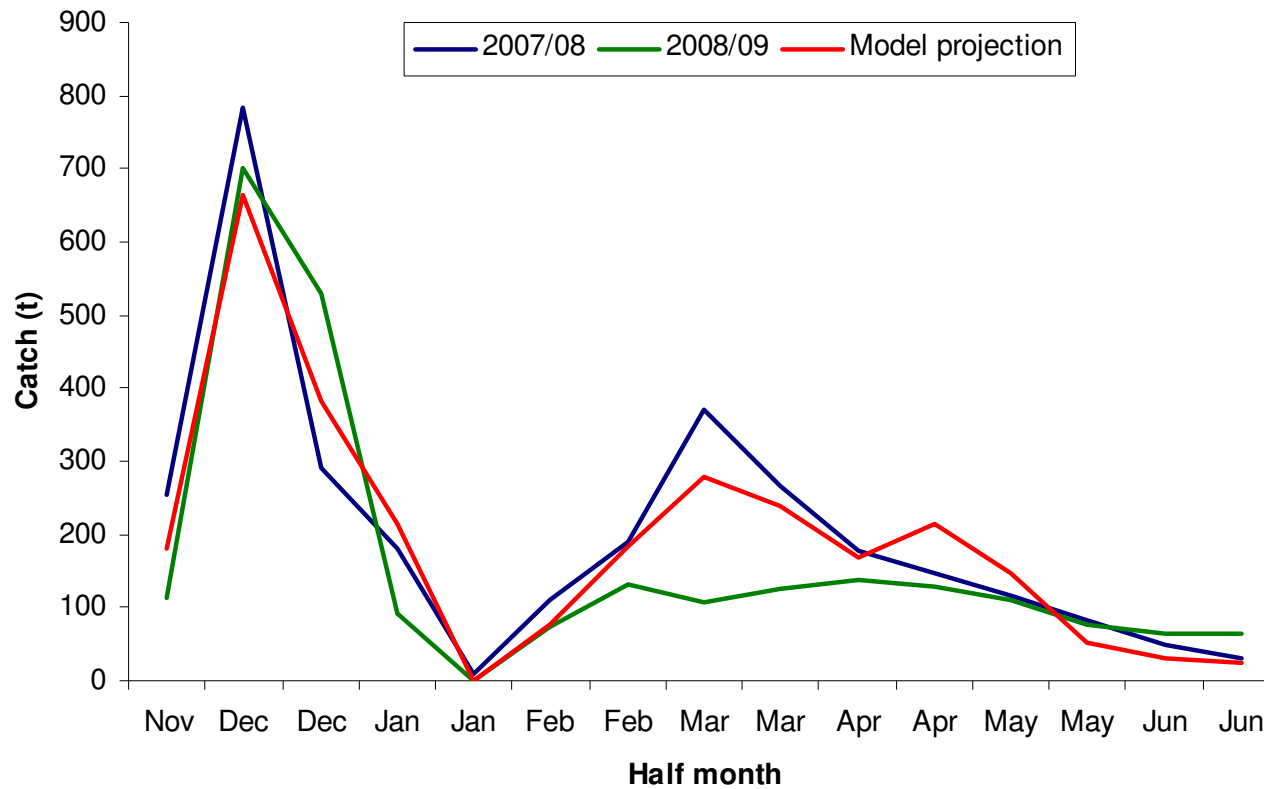


# B Zone

## Catch estimates:

- Predicted with 2007 effort – 2900 t
- Actual – 2600 t
- “Difference” ~ 300 t

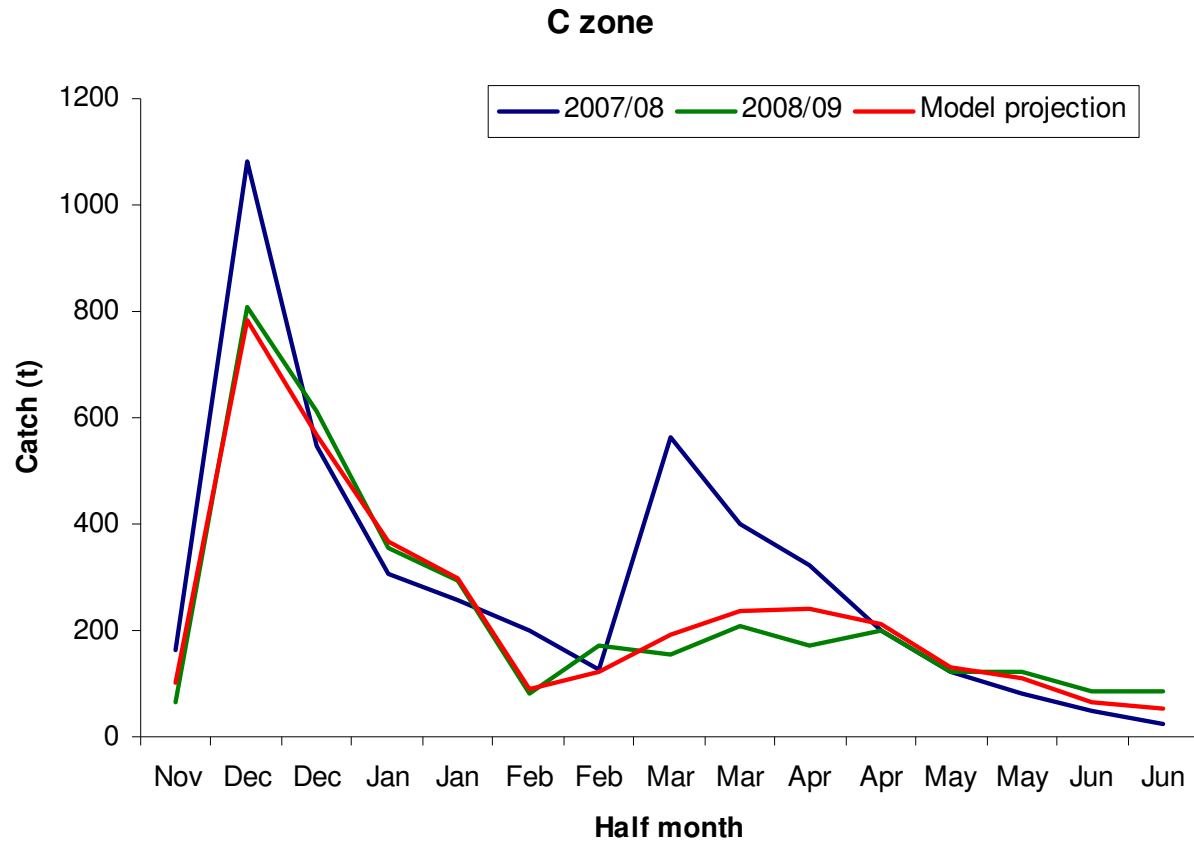
B zone



# C Zone

## Catch estimates:

- Predicted with 2007 effort – 4300 t
- Actual – 3550 t
- “Difference” ~ 750 t



# Total 2008/09 seasons catch (Nov – June)

	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Season Total
Prediction using 2007/08 effort	2000	2900	4300	9200
Catch + model projection to June	1350	2600	3550	7500



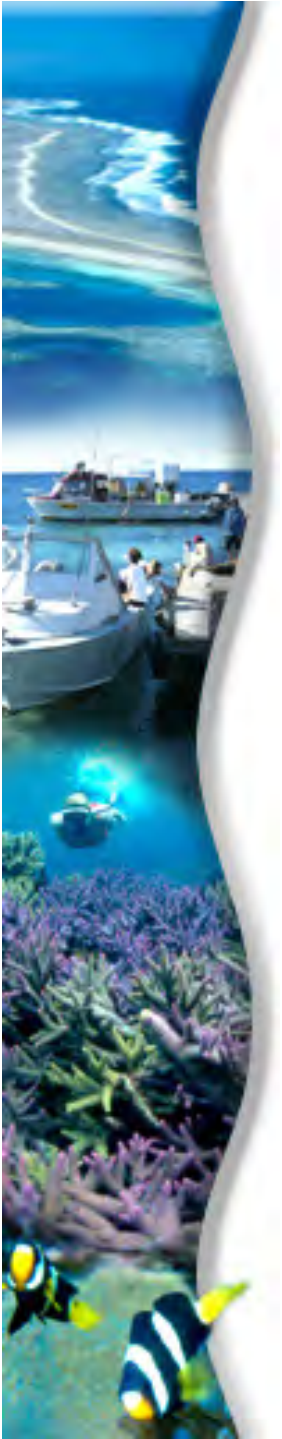
## Next season and beyond

Main objective:

Ensure with a high degree of certainty that the breeding stock remains above the threshold over the next five years

Specifics:

- 75% confident above threshold in five years time
- 90% confident above limit in five years time



# Next season and beyond

Two future puerulus scenarios:

1. **Very low settlement (2008/09 level)**
2. **Low settlement (25<sup>th</sup> percentile, i.e. Don av. = 92, 25<sup>th</sup> = 61)**

Two effort scenarios:

1. **Effort at last years reds (3/2)**
2. **Effort at “RLIAC preliminary package (4/3)**

Nominal effort reduction for 2009/10 whites

	Scenario 1		Scenario 2	
	B Zone	C Zone	B Zone	C Zone
<b>2007/08</b>	52%	53%	62%	68%
<b>2008/09</b>	22%	40%	38%	60%

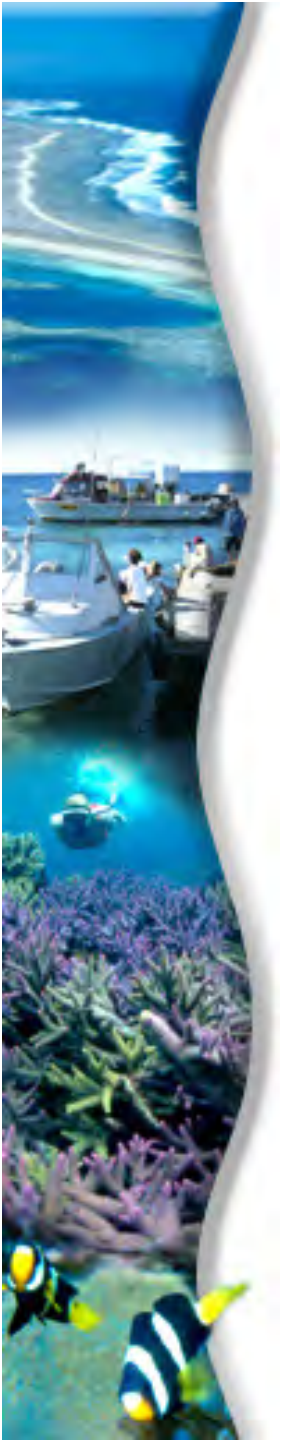
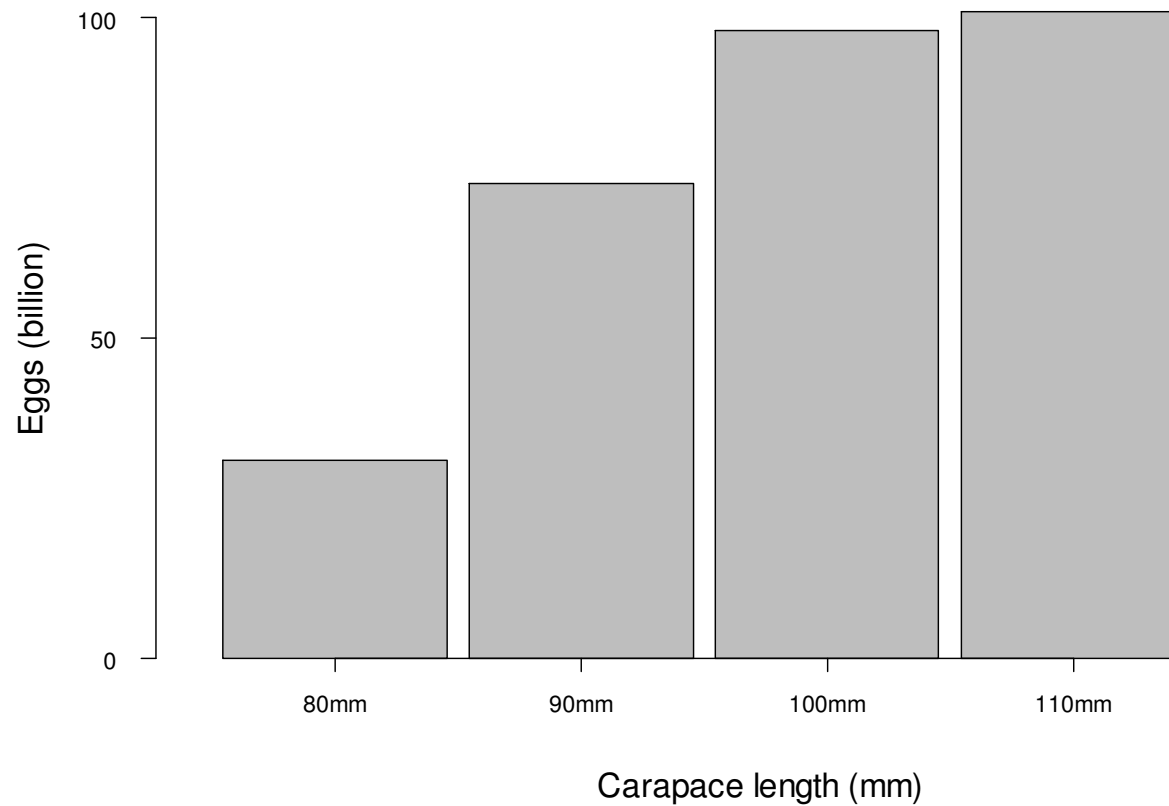




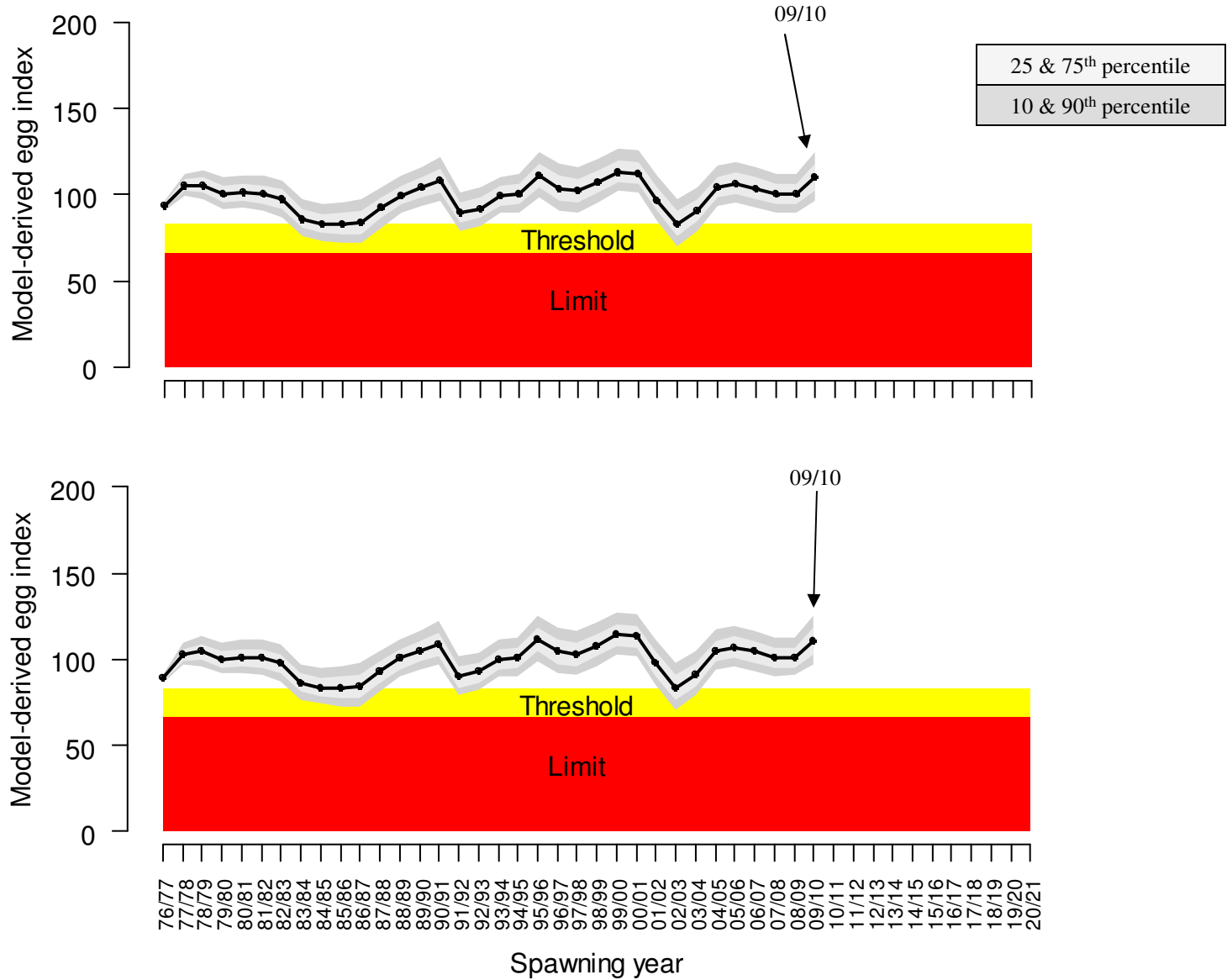
# Egg production

Egg index or spawning biomass?

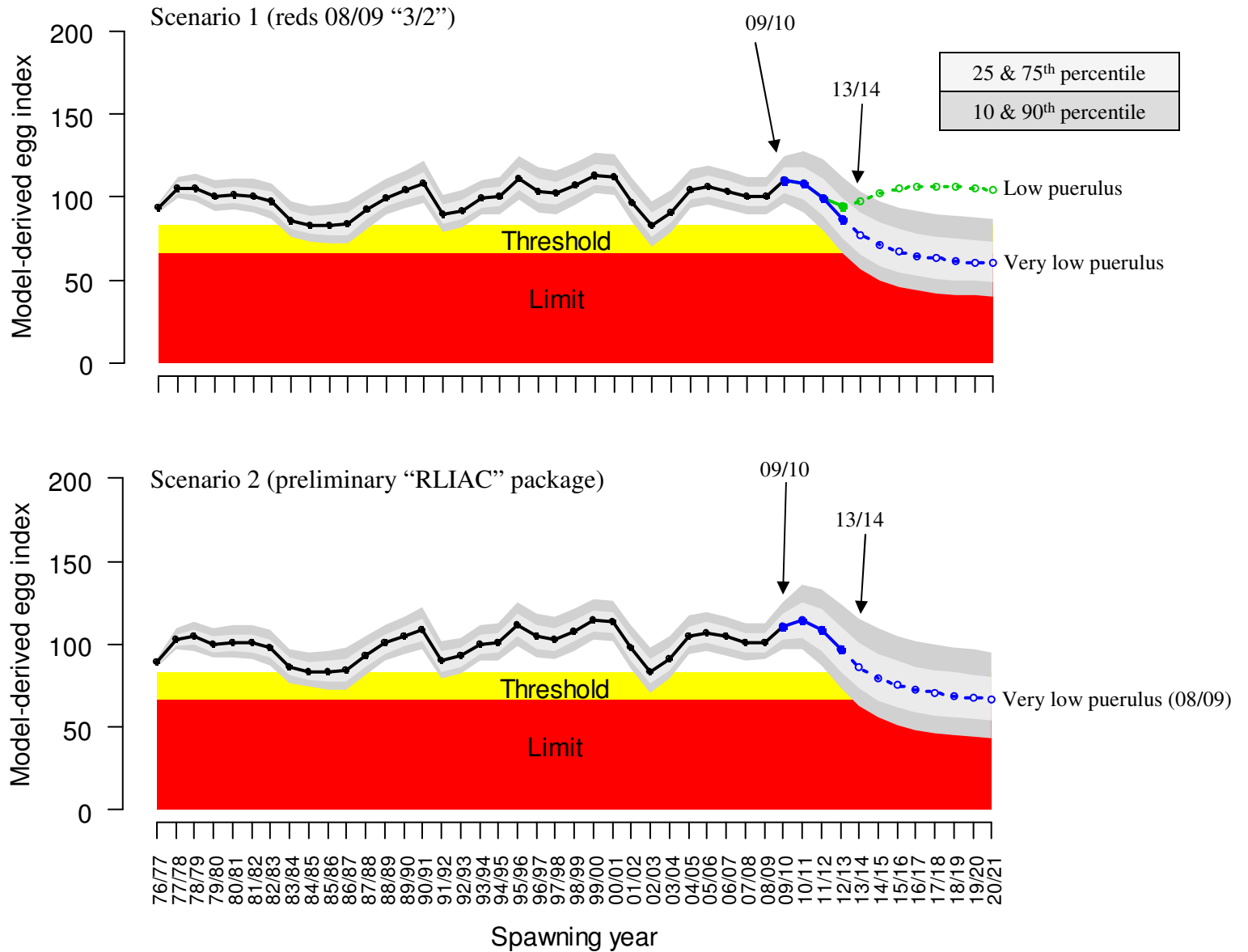
What egg index does 100 t of lobsters equal?



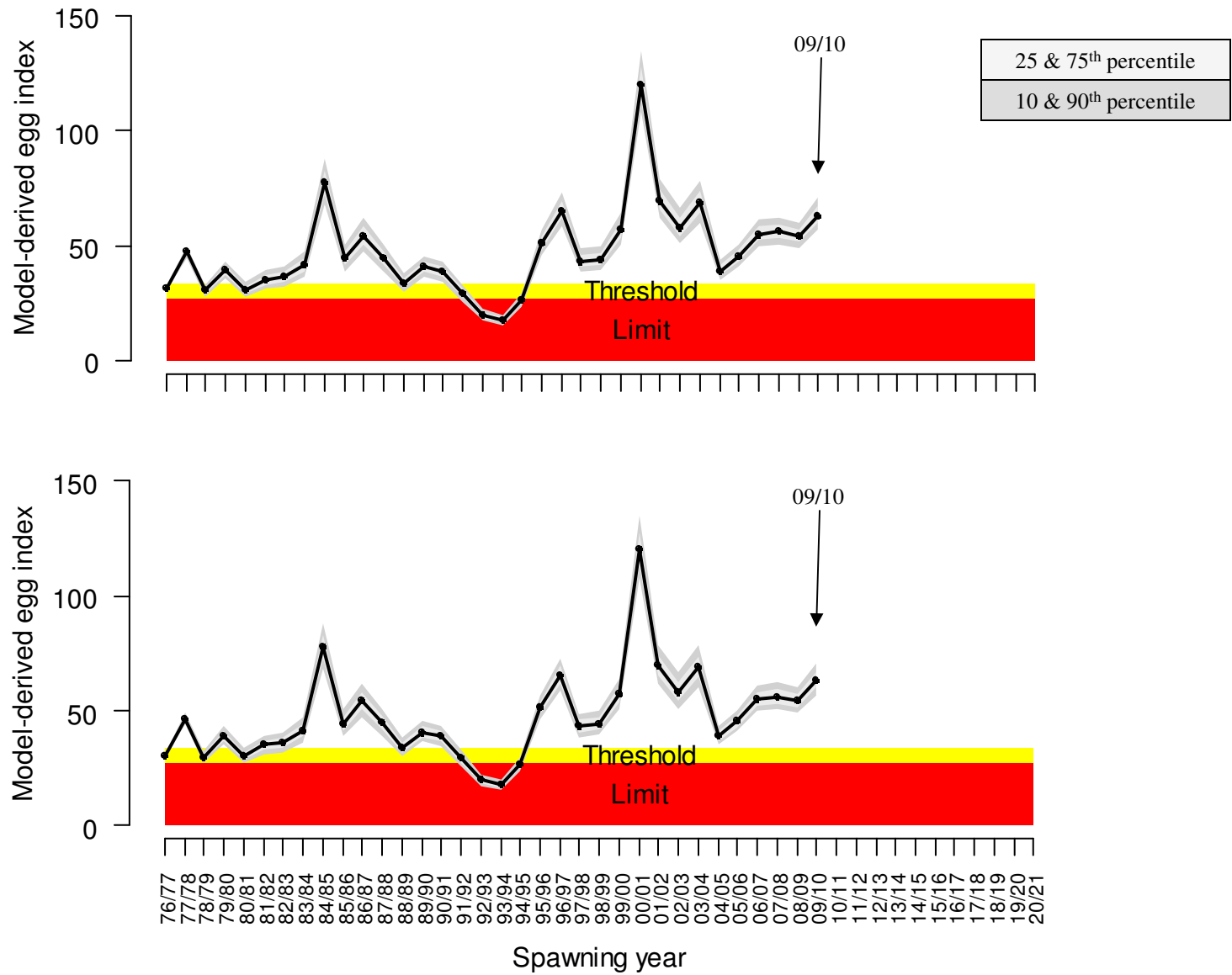
# A Zone – Egg production



# A Zone – Egg production

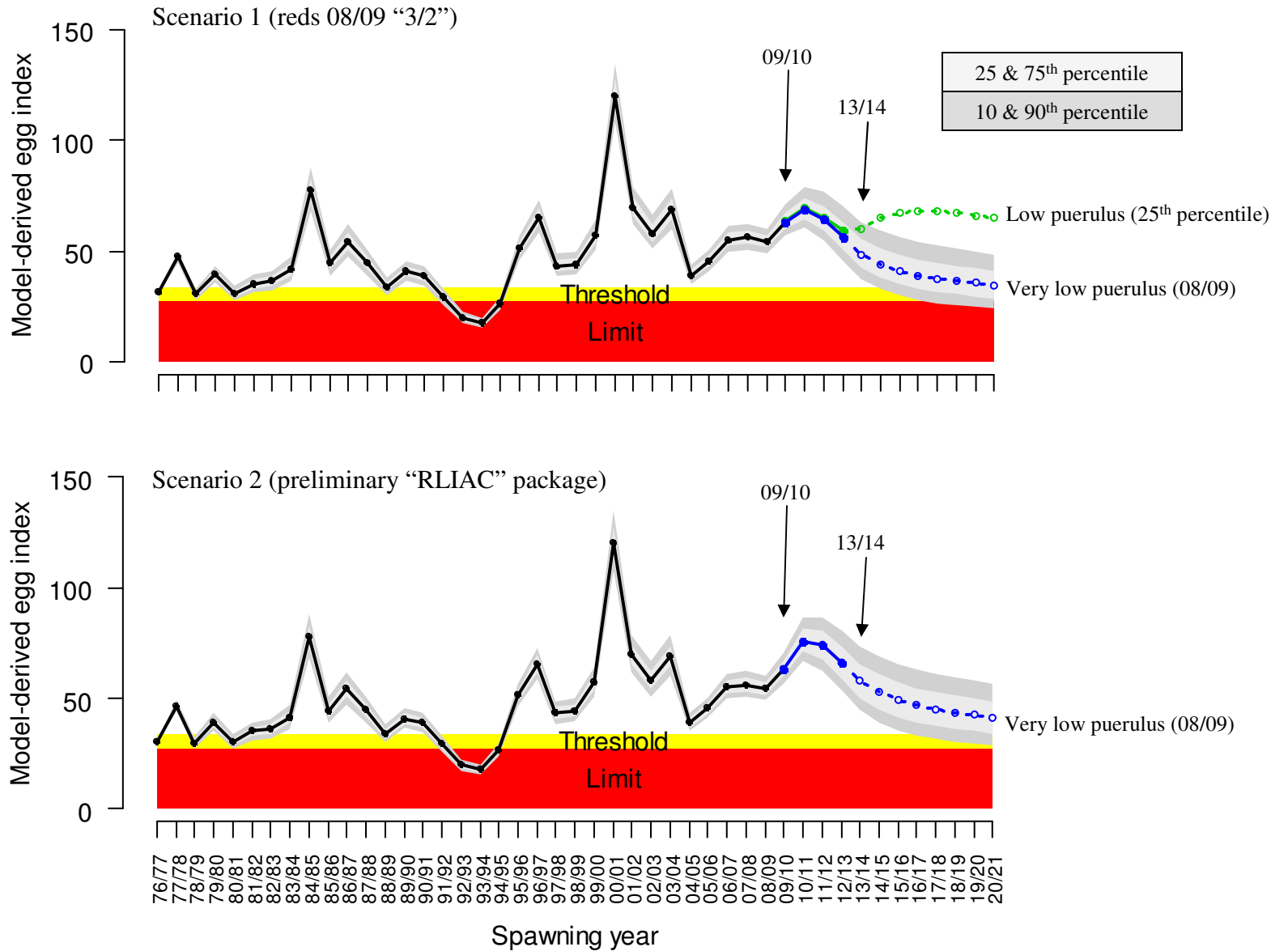


# B Zone – Egg production



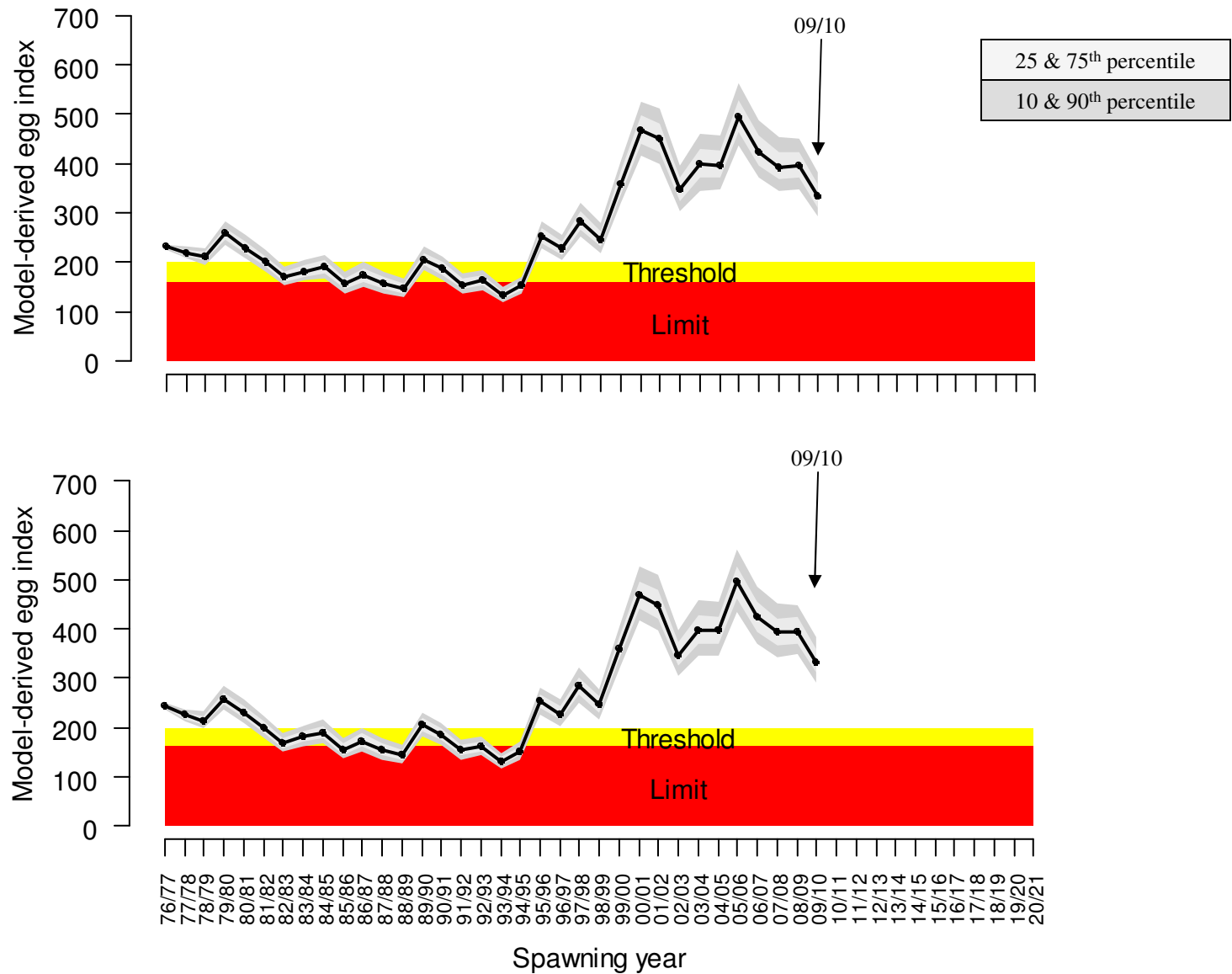


# B Zone – Egg production



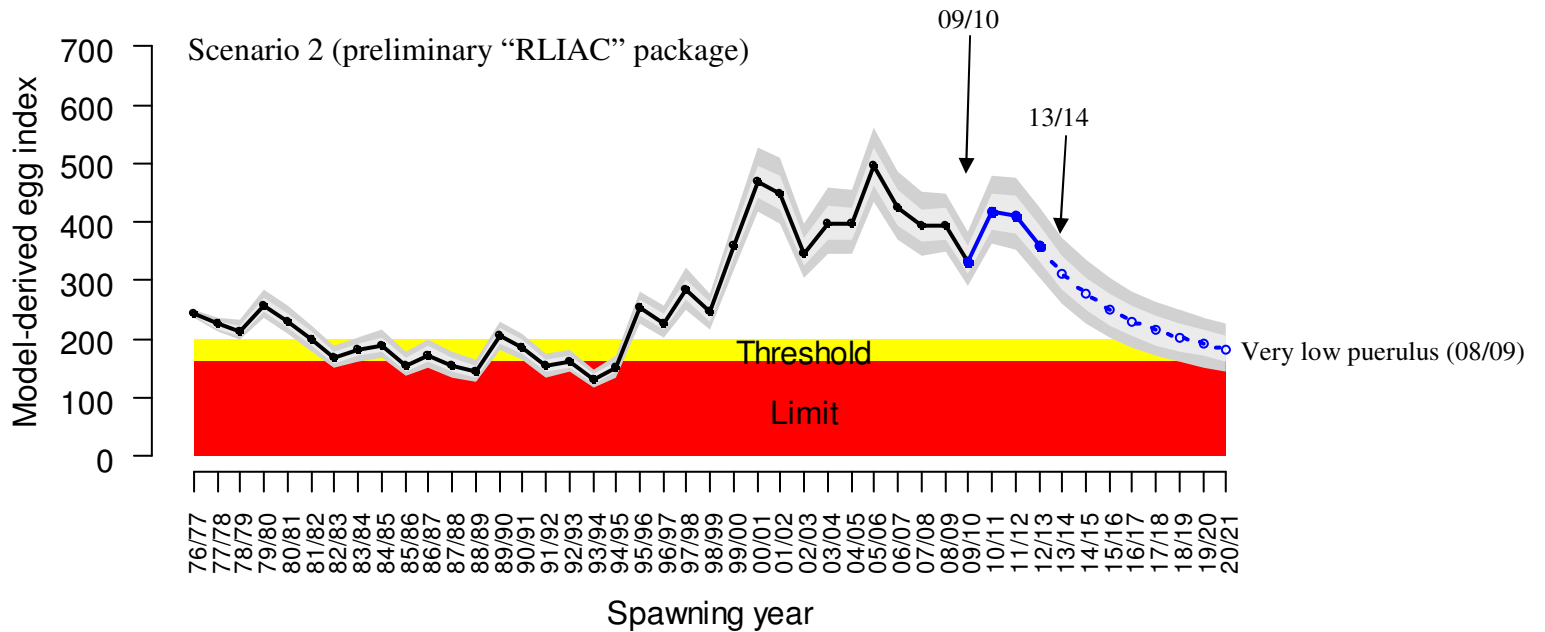
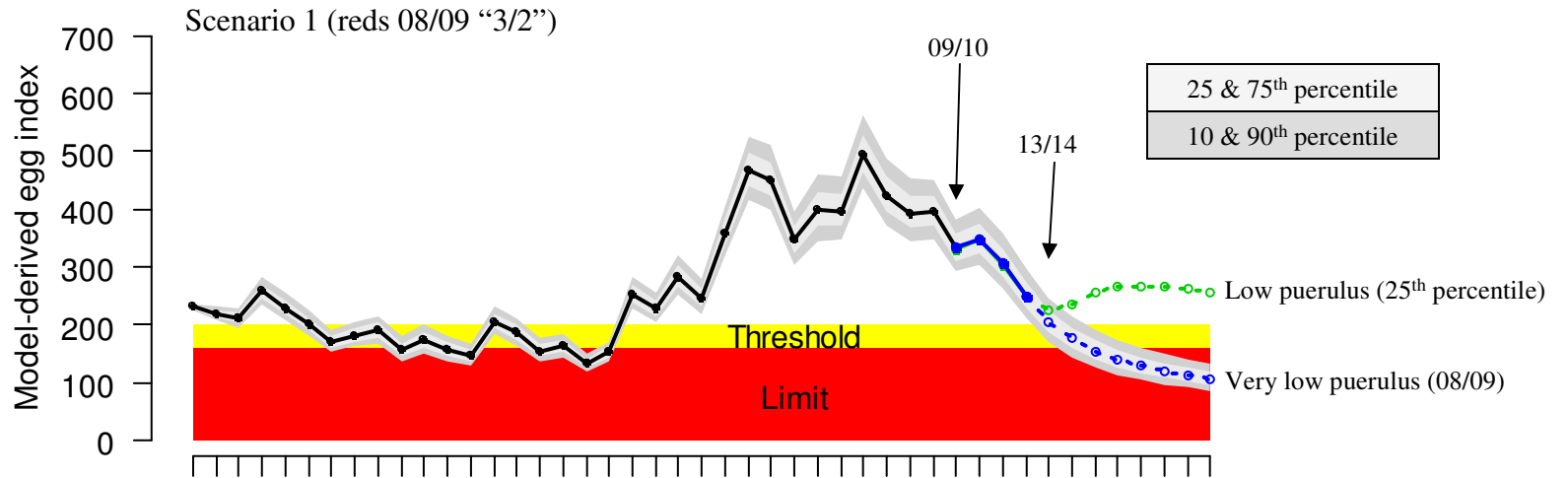


# C Zone – Egg production



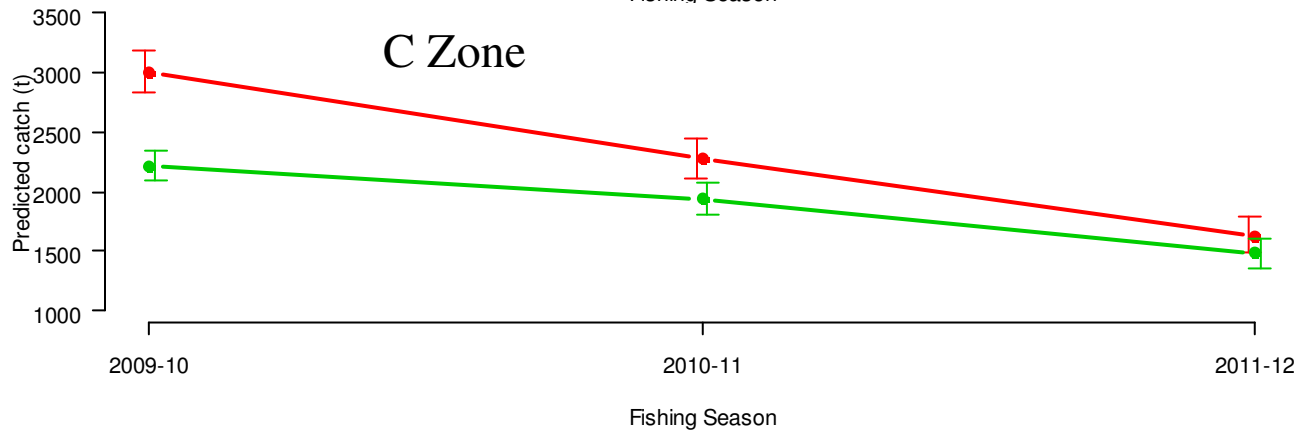
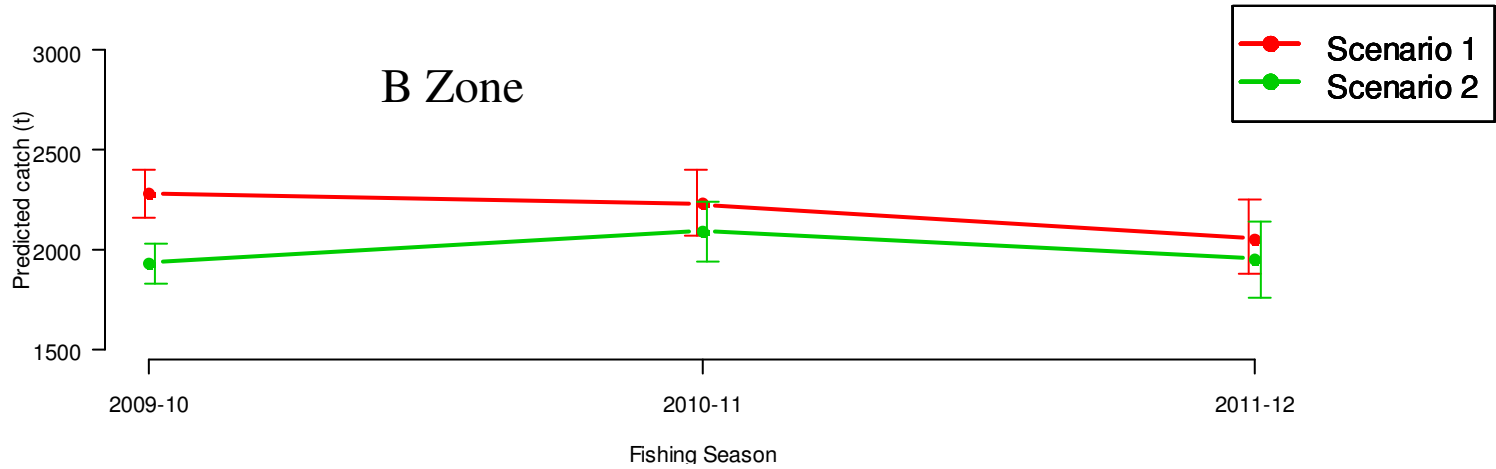
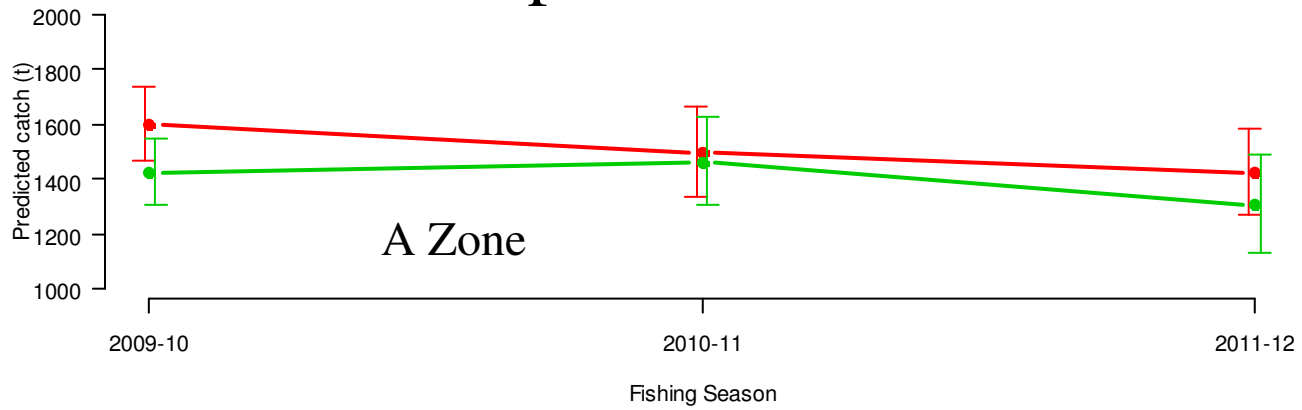


# C Zone – Egg production

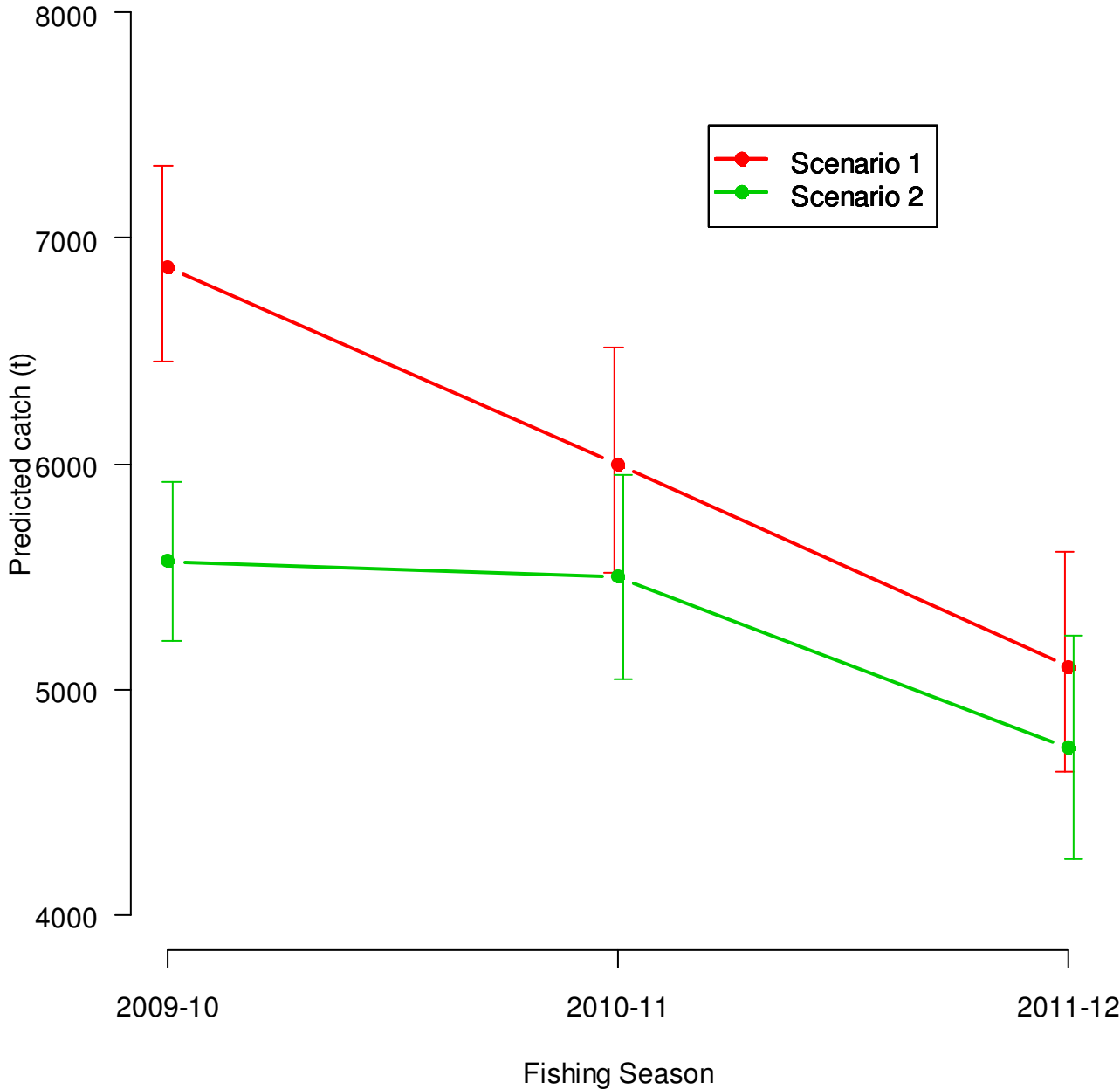




# Catch predictions 2009/10 +

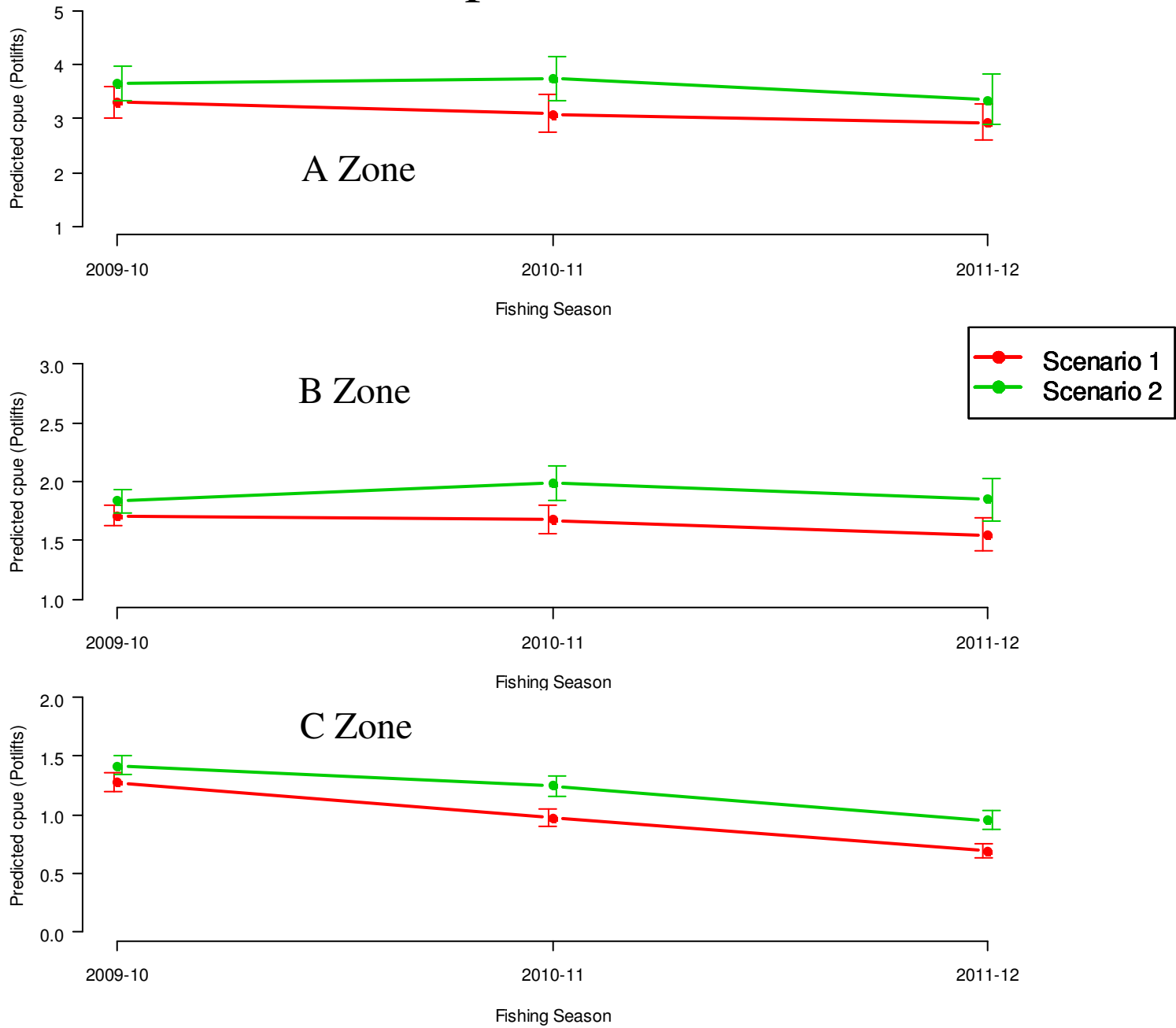



# Catch predictions 2009/10 +





# Catch rate predictions 2009/10 +





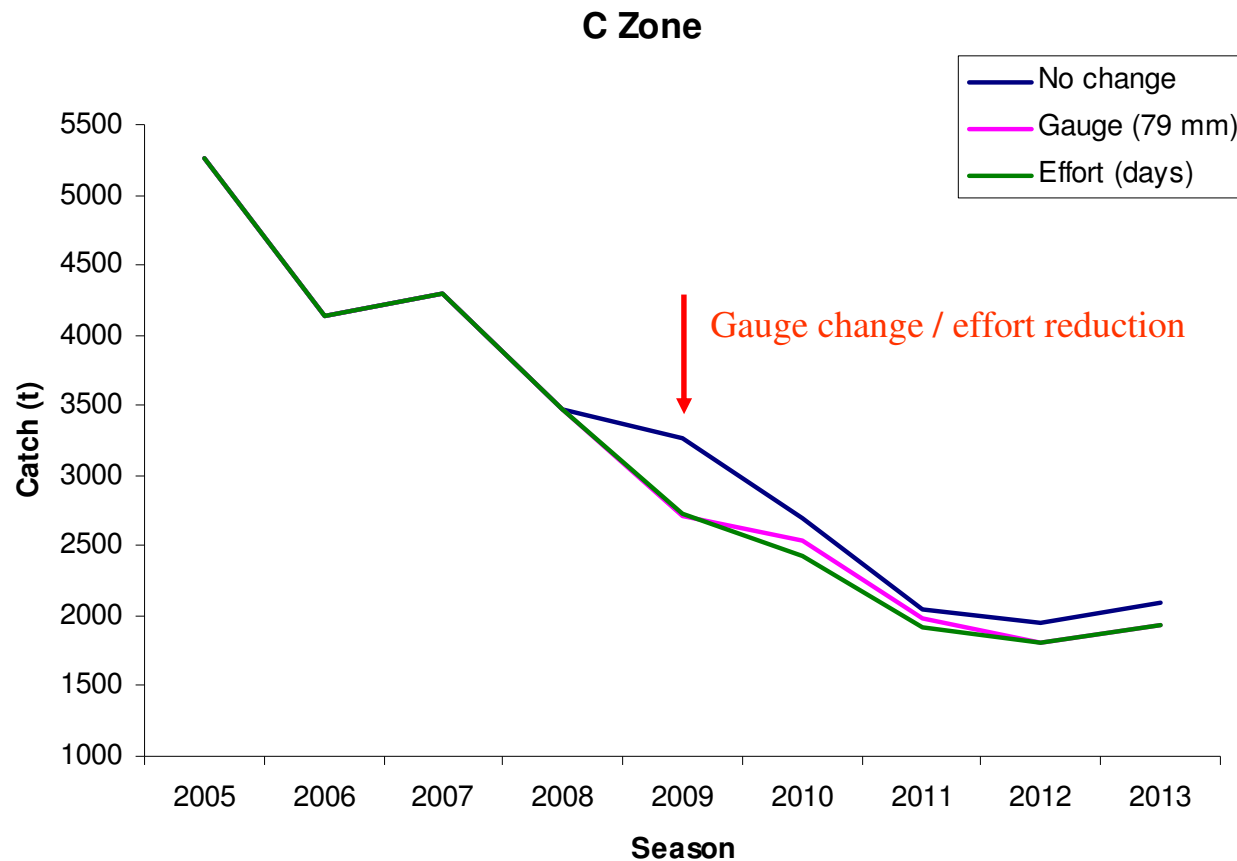
# Reducing catch with effort or a gauge change (C zone example)

Compare reducing catch using two different tools “Minimum gauge and Potlifts”

- Estimate impact of 79 mm gauge on 2009/10 catch
- Replicate by reducing potlifts
- Continue both changes into the future

# Reducing catch with effort or a gauge change (C zone example)

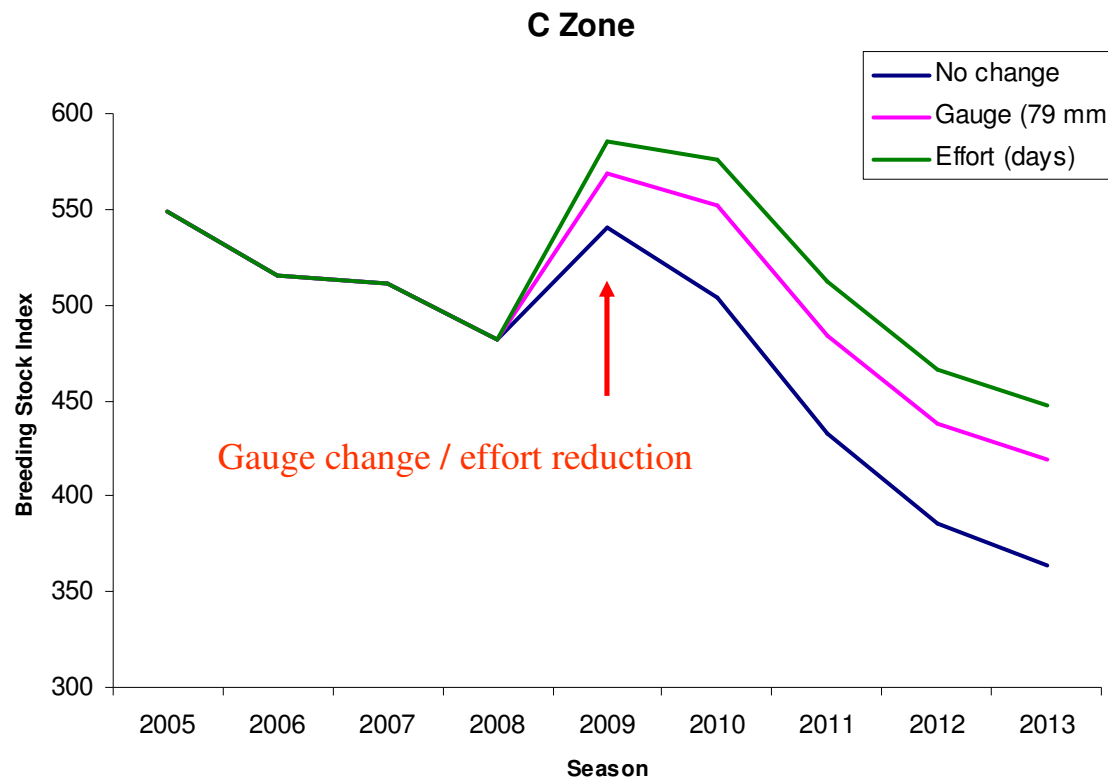
- Effort reduces catch more in second year
- Much of saved catch from gauge in 09/10 available for capture in 10/11





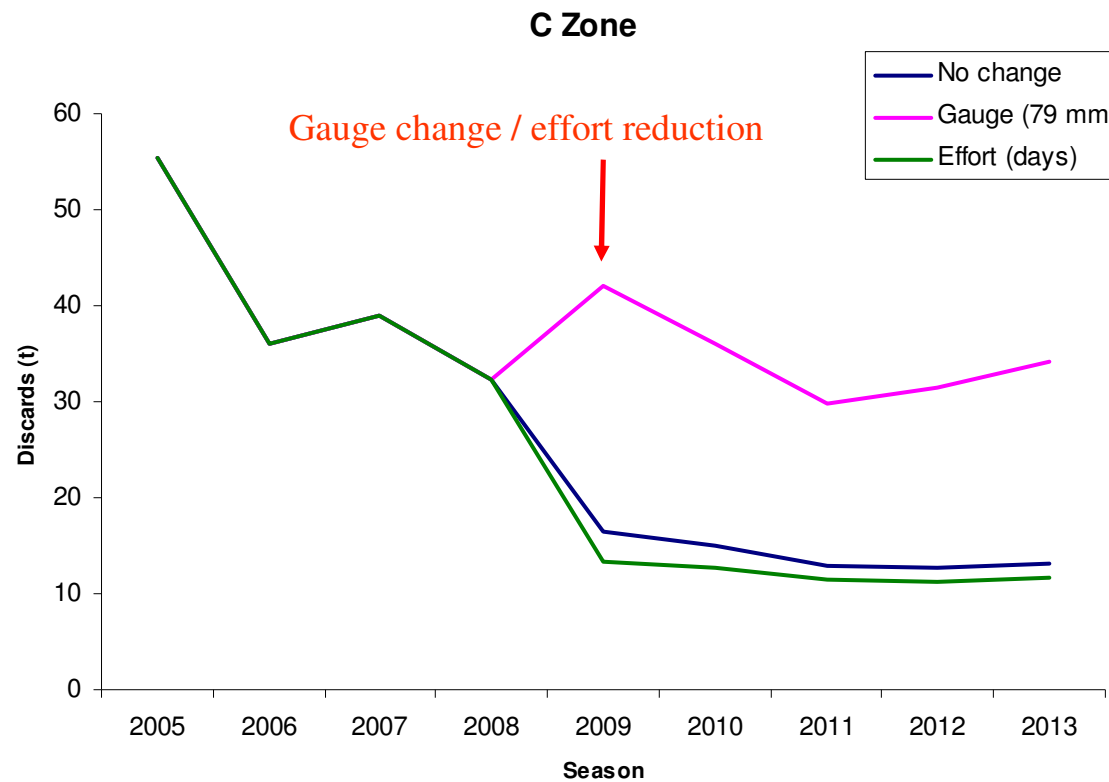
## Reducing catch with effort or a gauge change (C zone example)

- Effort reduction saves small and large females – direct BS response



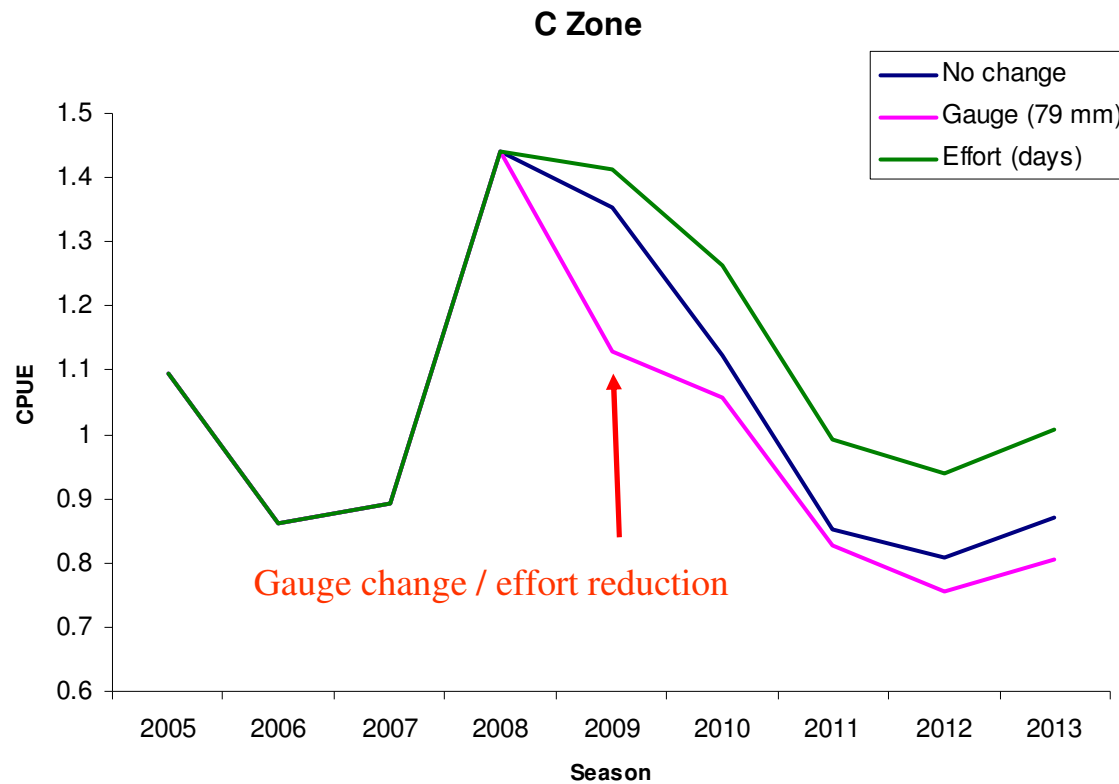
## Reducing catch with effort or a gauge change (C zone example)

- Handling increases with raising the gauge
- Handling decreases with effort reduction



## Reducing catch with effort or a gauge change (C zone example)

- Effort reduction is far greater than catch reduction = increase catch / pot
- Increased gauge = less catch and same pot lifts = reduce catch / pot





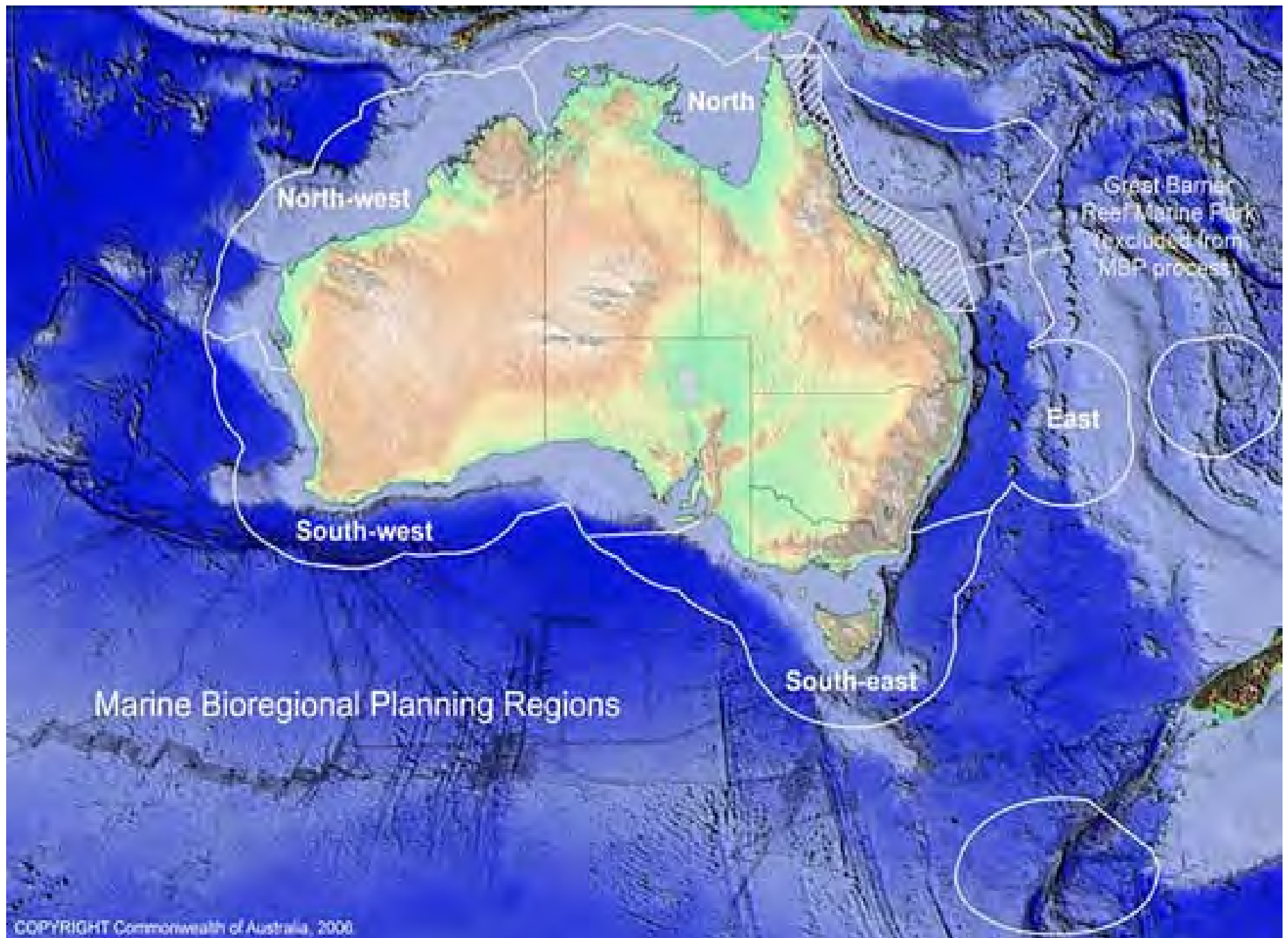
# Marine Bioregional Planning in the South-West Marine Region

## Issues for industry

# What is it?

- The development of the Commonwealth's marine bioregional planning started in 2006
  - Provided for under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- The establishment of regional networks of Commonwealth marine reserves by 2012 is part of an international commitment agreed by all Australian governments in 2006
- Bi partisan support





# Indicative Timelines

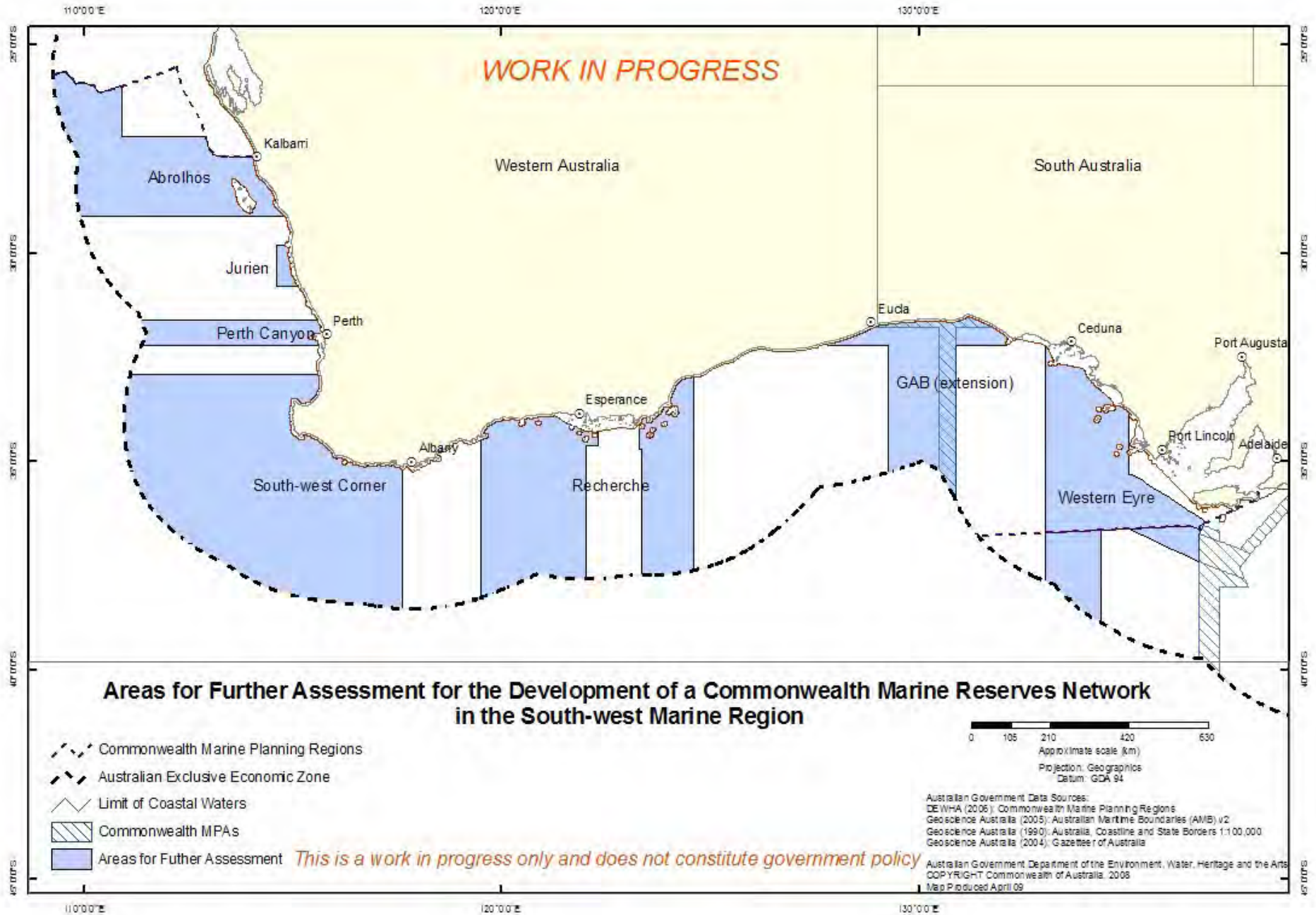
## SW Process:

- Draft Marine Bioregional Plan – end 2009
- Final Network Proposal - mid 2010
- Network proclaimed – early/mid 2011  
(when closed areas will come into effect)
- (*NW process 3 months behind SW process*)

# Areas for Further Assessment

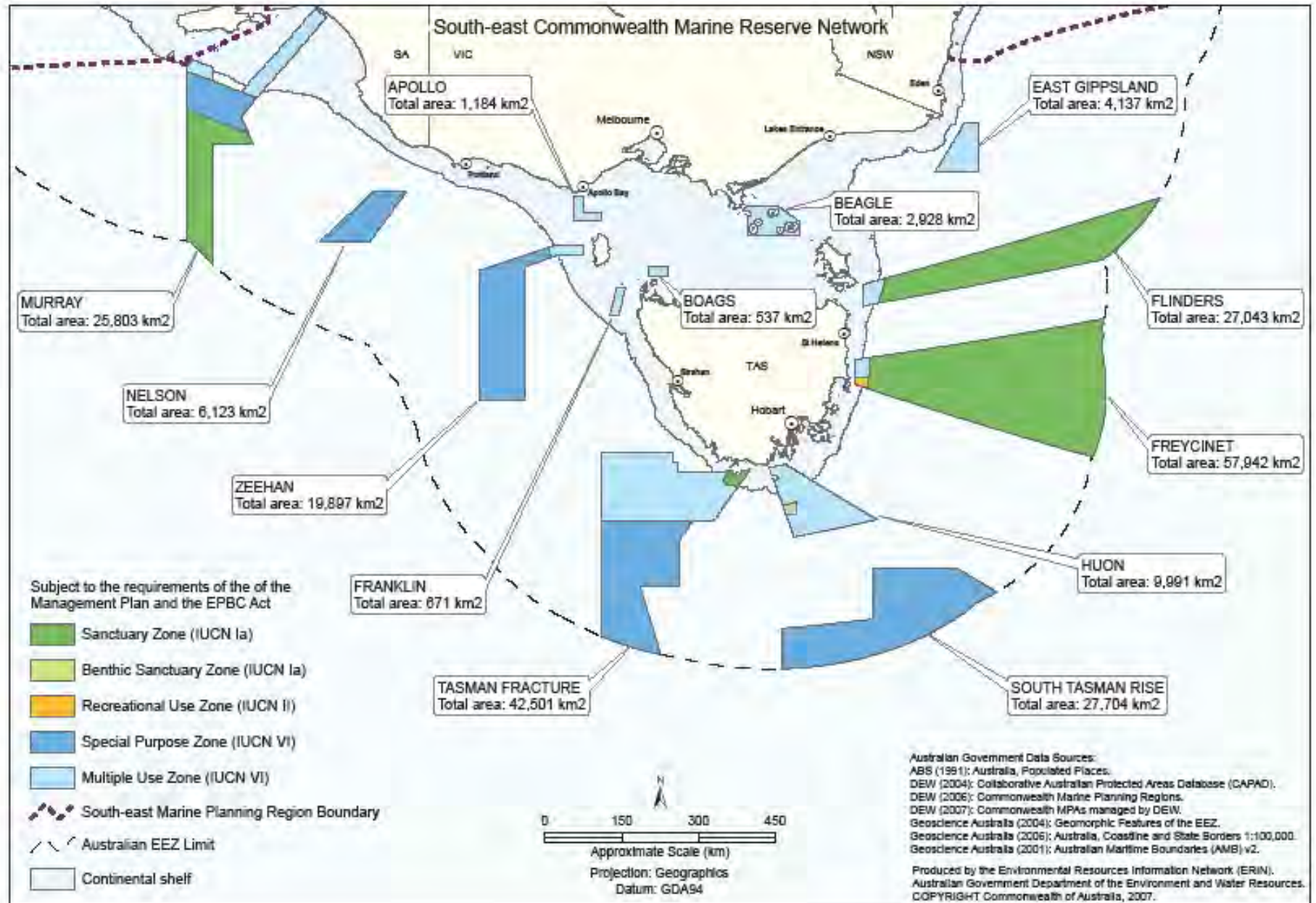
- For the SW area, these were released in May 2009
- 8 areas have been identified based on 7 'provinces' of biodiversity
- Commonwealth waters only – beyond 3 nm

# Areas for Further Assessment





# SE Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network



# Lessons from the South east process

- Industry Cohesion- work together- One Industry Working Group with sectors feeding in
- Agreed Timelines & Processes
- Industry Policy Document with principles that underpin engagement- This has been adopted by industry for roll out of plans around Australia- see next slide
- Adequate resources to enable industry to effectively engage including capability to generate various alternative zoning schemes for internal discussion (GIS-Ian Knuckey)
- Capability to generate socio-economic assessments in response to preliminary zoning schemes & generate alternative zoning schemes (Colin Buxton- FRDC/TAFI funded)



# Key Principles underpinning Fishing Industry engagement in Marine Bioregional Planning

- Enunciate proposed park's biodiversity & conservation objectives
- Any overriding national policy considerations
- Comprehensive & adaptive socio-economic impact assessment undertaken as soon as draft boundaries established
- Full engagement by Industry in design of zoning & operating rules
- Comprehensive transparent risk assessments to guide activities in no-take & multi use areas
- Impacts on industry minimised
- Compensation for unavoidable impacts
- All MPA development & operational costs must be met by government & not included in fisheries management agencies levy base
- Operations of MPA network subject to periodic review, monitoring and evaluation to ensure stated objectives are being met.

# South west planning: industry approach

- Obtain commitment for adequate resources
- Get our own socio-economic study of potential impacts now
- Get the timelines extended so that we can properly engage
- Obtain clear commitment on displacement policy
- Form industry institutions to ensure consistent approach
- Activate political support

# WAFIC letter to Garrett & Response

- Written with support of Wildcatch SA and CFA highlighting:
  - Industry willing to be engaged in the process but timeframe needs to be extended and we need clear commitment on displaced fishing
  - Letter copied to Ministers Burke and Moore
- Response:
  - Extended time frame- end of September for data
  - Commitment for resources
  - Wants negotiations over zones after release of draft plan & release of displacement policy

## What do we need to do

- Get the data – industry verification
- Overlay catch data with Biodiversity hot spots to generate internal zoning options for industry discussion (GIS capability)
- Generate socio-economic assessments (FRDC)

# Potential allies

- Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA)
  - Already in discussions with WAFIC about developing a collective strategy
  - Has identified many parts of the ‘Areas for Further Assessment’ as ‘prospective’ for gas
- Other State fishing industry organisations and the CFA
  - Already working with them as part of a National Alliance on marine bioregional planning. All State bodies and the CFA have agreed that this is our number one priority

# Potential allies (cont'd)

- Mid West Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- State Minister for Fisheries
- Premier
- Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Other WA Federal MP's and Senators



# The “Opposition”

# Greta Scacchi poses nude to help save the fish

From Sydney Confidential | The Daily Telegraph | June 11, 2009 07:42am

A+ A- Print Email Share

- Cod peace: stars pose with threatened fish
- Plan to ban free-for-all plundering of the sea
- Pictures: Stars strip for animal rights
- Shooting Stars: Hottest celebrity photos

AT the height of her career she was known as "Scorchy Scacchi" for her penchant for peeling off onscreen.

And the London-based Australian actress is proving she's as brave as ever at 49 - and why not, judging by this stunning photograph which we would like to believe has not been air-brushed.

As we reported on Tuesday, *Looking For Alibrandi* star Greta Scacchi has enlisted celebrity friends to pose with dead fish for a poster campaign imploring UK restaurants to only use seafood sourced from sustainable stocks. But we didn't know she'd be leading the charge with this provocative image of herself with a particularly splendid cod.

"We have to put a stop to this free-for-all plundering of the sea," Scacchi said yesterday. "As a mother and an actress I implore everyone to boycott restaurants that don't support sustainable fishing."



Campaign ... Greta Scacchi asks UK restaurants to only use seafood sourced from sustainable stocks / Rankin

**your say**

Richard E. Grant, Emilia Fox, Terry Gilliam, Lenny Henry and O.T.

Advertisement



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**Video** >

**Balls in the air**

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# SAVE OUR MARINE LIFE

An unprecedented alliance of Australian and international conservation groups working to protect our unique marine life



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Less than 1% of my home is protected!

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Minister Garrett accepts thousands of signatures from Save Our Marine Life

Peter Garretts got the message...

Now, ask your federal MP to support large marine sanctuaries

**TAKE ACTION!**  
Ask your federal MP here

Less than 1% of Australia's South West marine environment is protected, despite being home to a far greater level of unique species than the Great Barrier Reef.

The federal government is considering the future of these waters right now - we need to tell our Prime Minister - **1% protection is not enough.**

Do your bit for our magnificent marine life. Join us in calling for a network of large marine sanctuaries in Australia's South West. Our marine life is unique - but unprotected. » [Find out more...](#)



This site is maintained by The Conservation Council of WA for the Save Our Marine Life collaboration

Save Our Marine Life | [Contact us](#)







# SAVE OUR MARINE LIFE

An unprecedented alliance of Australian and international conservation groups working to protect our unique marine life



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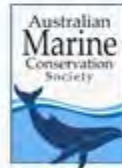
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## Who are we?

**Save Our Marine Life** is an unprecedented collaboration of Australian and international conservation organisations working to protect and secure Australia's unique marine life. Collectively they have acted on behalf of millions of supporters to protect huge areas of our marine environment around the globe. Marine icons such as the Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef; the world's deepest waters in the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench; and the rich tropical waters of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea all have a brighter future as a result of their work. The collaboration is growing rapidly and currently includes:



The globally significant south west waters of Australia need your help. Up to nine out of every 10 marine species found in the south west are found nowhere else. It is a unique part of Australia and it is under threat.

The Federal Government is currently considering its fate and we urgently need everyone to do their bit.

With less than 1% of the region protected, Save Our Marine Life is calling for the creation of large marine sanctuaries off the coast of south western Australia. These 'national parks in the sea' would protect our marine life, help replenish fish stocks, and ensure the special link we have with our oceans is secure.

[Contact us](#)

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my home

Our Southwest...

Less than 1% protected!

Highly protected marine sanctuaries

**TAKE ACTION!**



**Tell Your Friends!**

# Yesterday

- **Thanks to your support, we've delivered our first petition ([watch the video](#)) and asked everyone to [contact their local MP to Save Our Marine Life](#).**

Now we're hitting the road in Western Australia to spread the word. We'd love you to [join us for a free sustainable seafood barbeque and an advanced screening of internationally acclaimed film \*The End of the Line\*](#) which documents the devastating impacts of over-fishing in our oceans. The events will include a short presentation on our unique marine life and a discussion.

If you can't join us in WA but are keen to see this powerful film - think of it as The Inconvenient Truth of fishing - [join our Facebook group](#) to receive updates on screenings around Australia.

## **Event dates:**

Busselton - Saturday 1st August  
Bunbury - Sunday 2nd August  
Albany - Sunday 9th August  
Esperance - Sunday 16th August  
Geraldton - Sunday 23rd August

**RSVP is essential - please call 08 9420 7266 or email [conswa@conservationwa.asn.au](mailto:conswa@conservationwa.asn.au)**

Thanks for your ongoing support,

David

David Mackenzie  
Conservation Council of WA  
For Save Our Marine Life

**PS. If you haven't already, please take action online now to [ask your MP to Save Our Marine Life](#) You can also join us on [Facebook](#) Facebook and [Twitter](#).**

# Advocacy Strategy

- We have developed an advocacy strategy to:
  - Demonstrate impacts of no take zones on our industry and regional and State economies
    - An urgent economic assessment of the importance of the WA fishing industry to national, State and regional economies is underway and due to be completed in the next 6 weeks
  - Develop a case for co-existence of industry activity with conservation & biodiversity objectives:
    - EPBC Act certification, MSC certification, Mitigation for threatened species, Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
    - Support Marine Parks so long as objectives clear & our activities are assessed through honest risk assessment methodology, objectives clear & impacts on industry dealt with fairly
  - Identify possible advocates for our industry and our regional communities in Federal Parliament



# Whole of industry strategy

- Weekly meetings at WAFIC with our sector body heads to ensure that we keep a focus on the urgency of this issue and its importance to the commercial sector overall
- We are closely liaising with Wildcatch SA and CFA to ensure consistent approach for SW
- Along with SA and CFA, and NT, Queensland, NSW, Vic, Tas industry bodies and the National Aquaculture Council we have formed National Reference Group to ensure consistent national approach - meeting Monday week with Commonwealth Ministers Tony Burke & Peter Garrett

# Finally

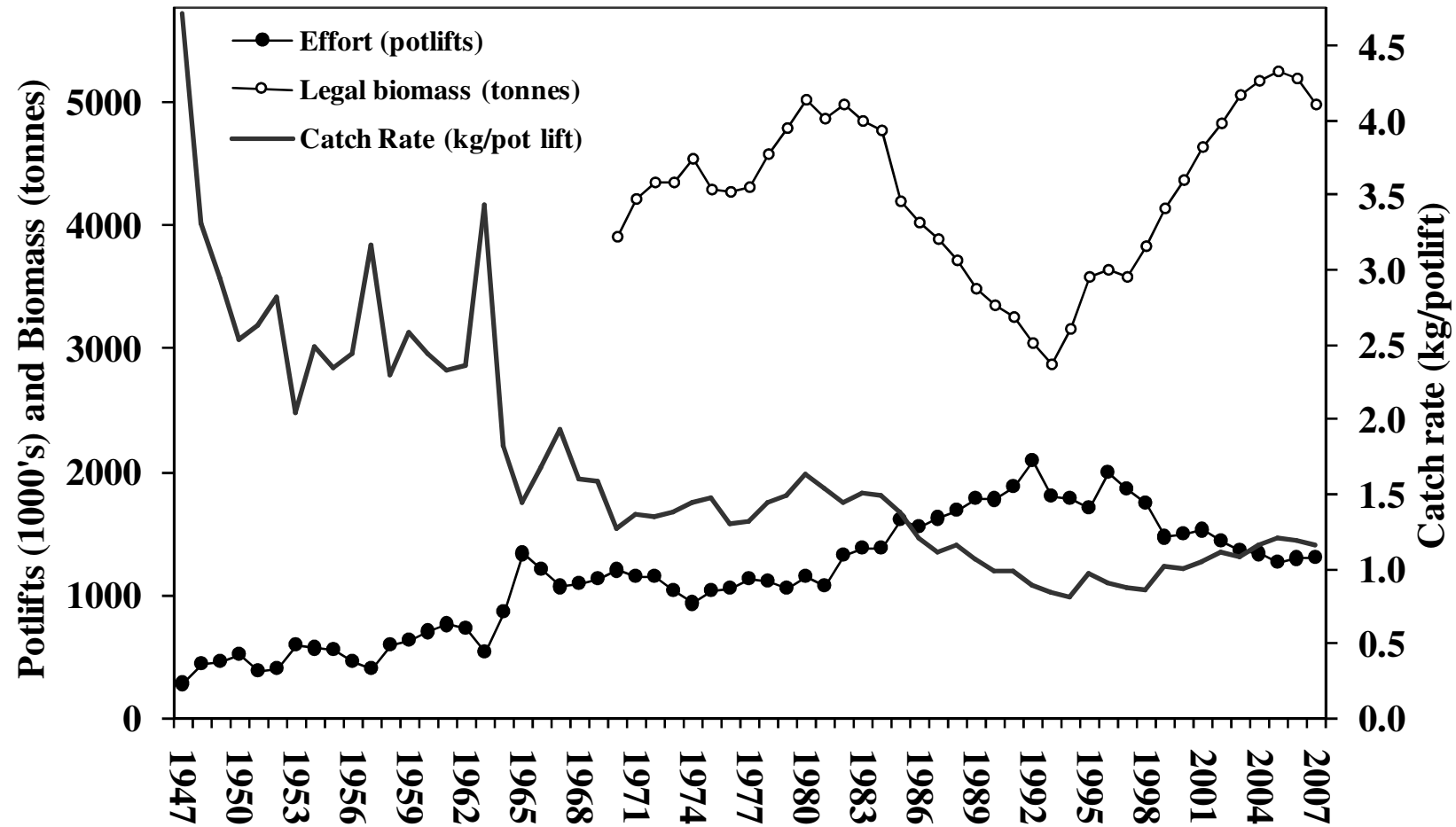
- Look at material on WAFIC website  
[www.wafic.org.au](http://www.wafic.org.au)
- We will provide regular updates to industry
- Keep us informed of your concerns
- We need your involvement and support

# ITE v ITQ

Caleb Gardner

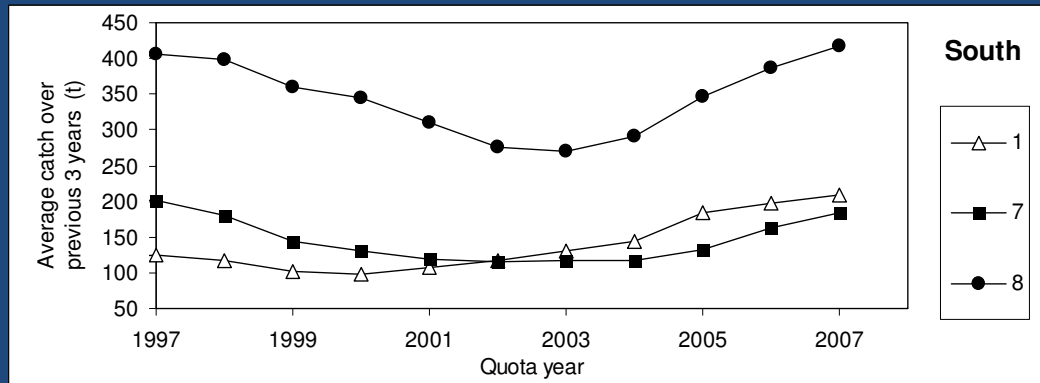


# Cumulative catch through the quota year

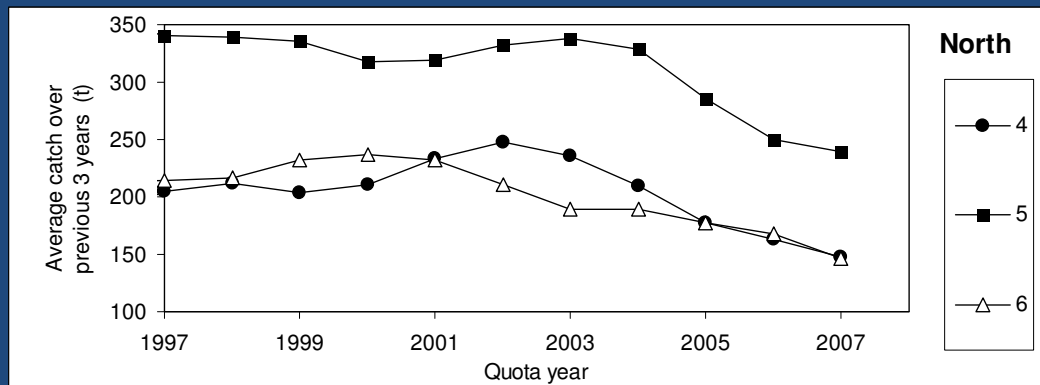


Difficulty in taking catch for the first time (mainly issues above water)

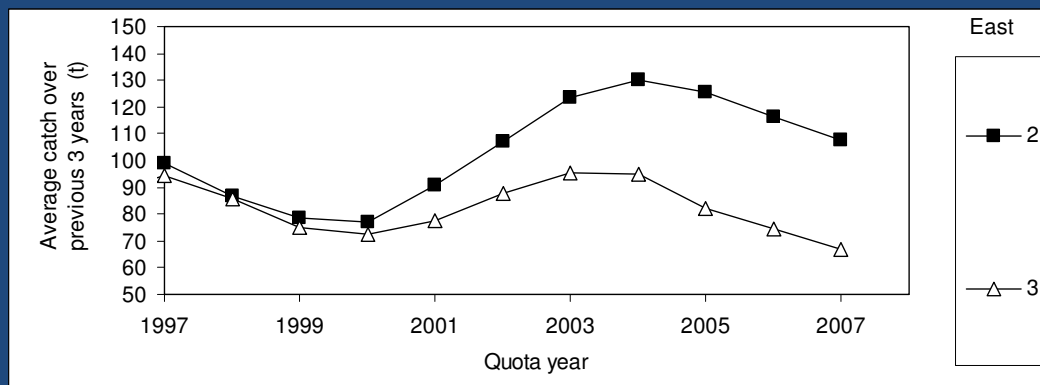
# Averaged regional catch



Record high catch from the **south** (since at least 1970)

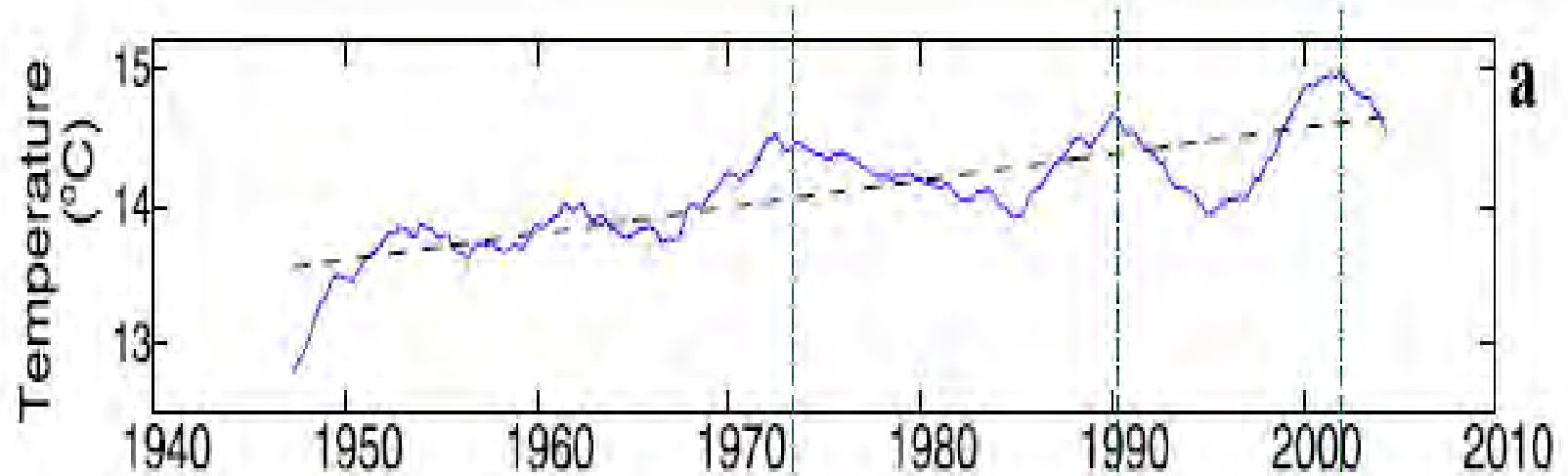


Record low catches from the **north** (since at least 1970)



**East** coast cyclical

# Climate change: Long trend of warming off east Tas (Maria Is.)





# Some issues to consider...

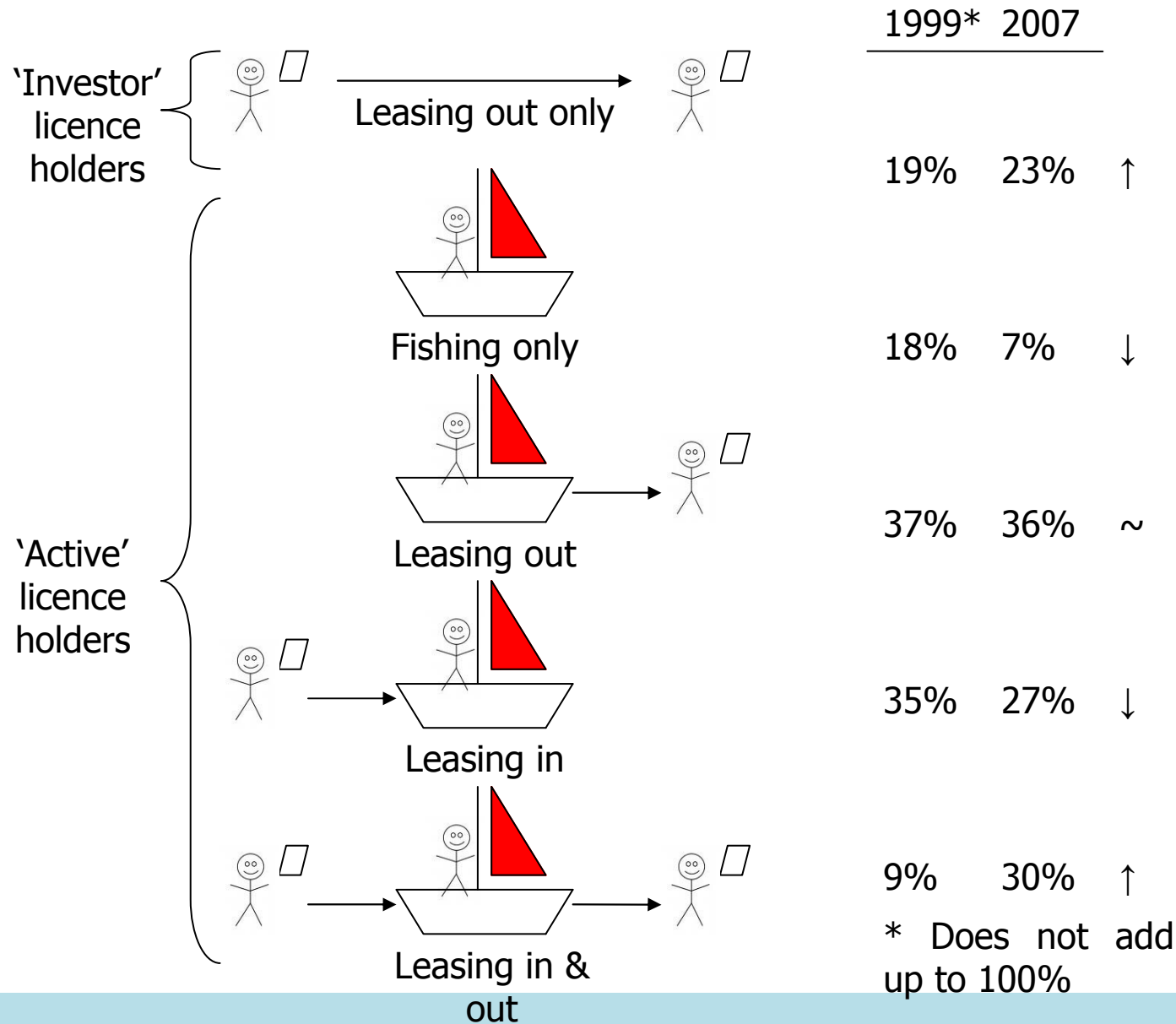
- -change in the distribution of effort – generally less offshore with ITQs;
- -difference in fleet structure (eg proportion of small vs large boats);



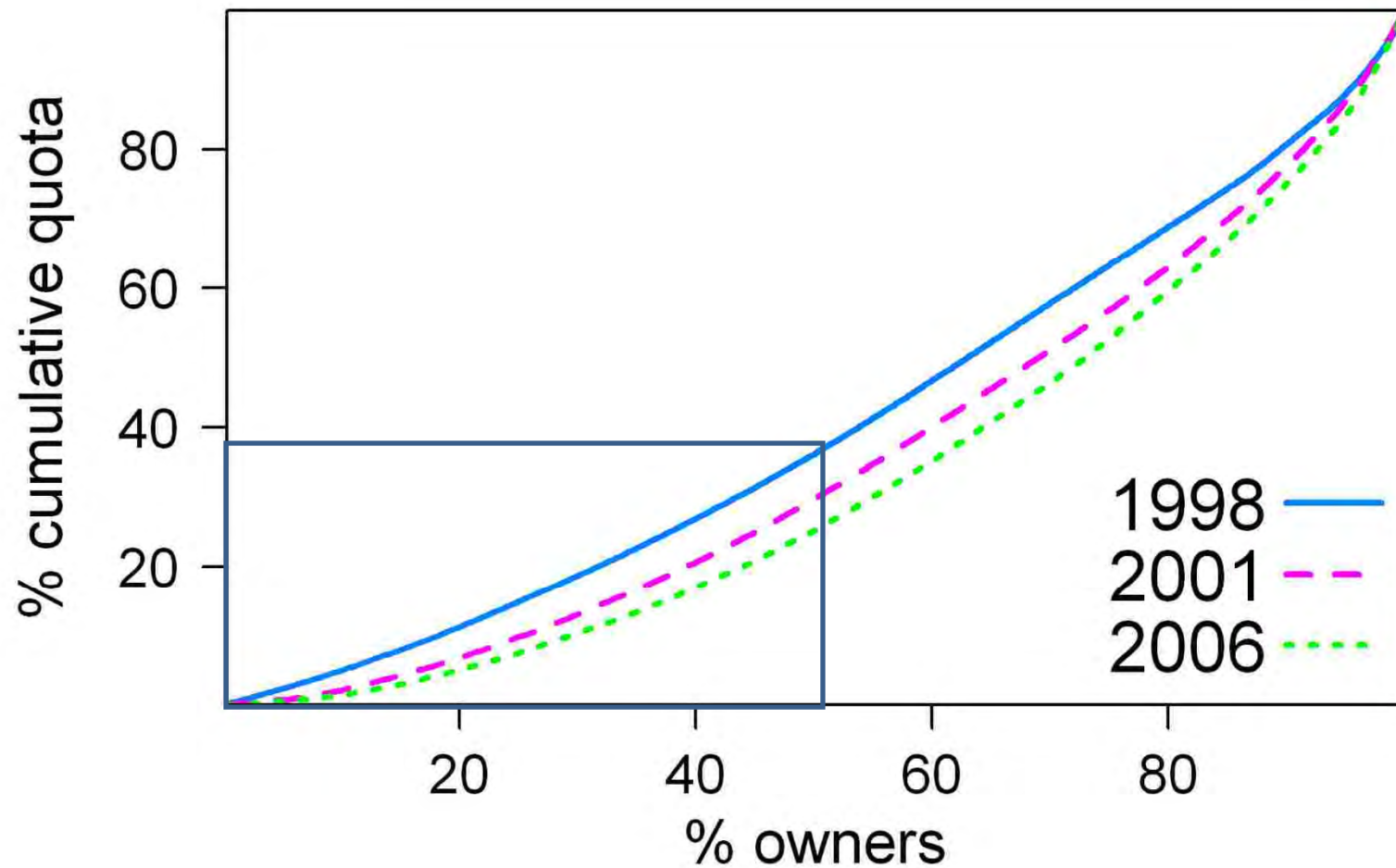
# Some issues to consider...

- - change in skill of participants of skills;
- - succession opportunities;
- - ability to borrow against equity in access rights;
- **-change in ownership ( investors vs owner operators);**
- **-change in stewardship (eg care in handling undersize);**

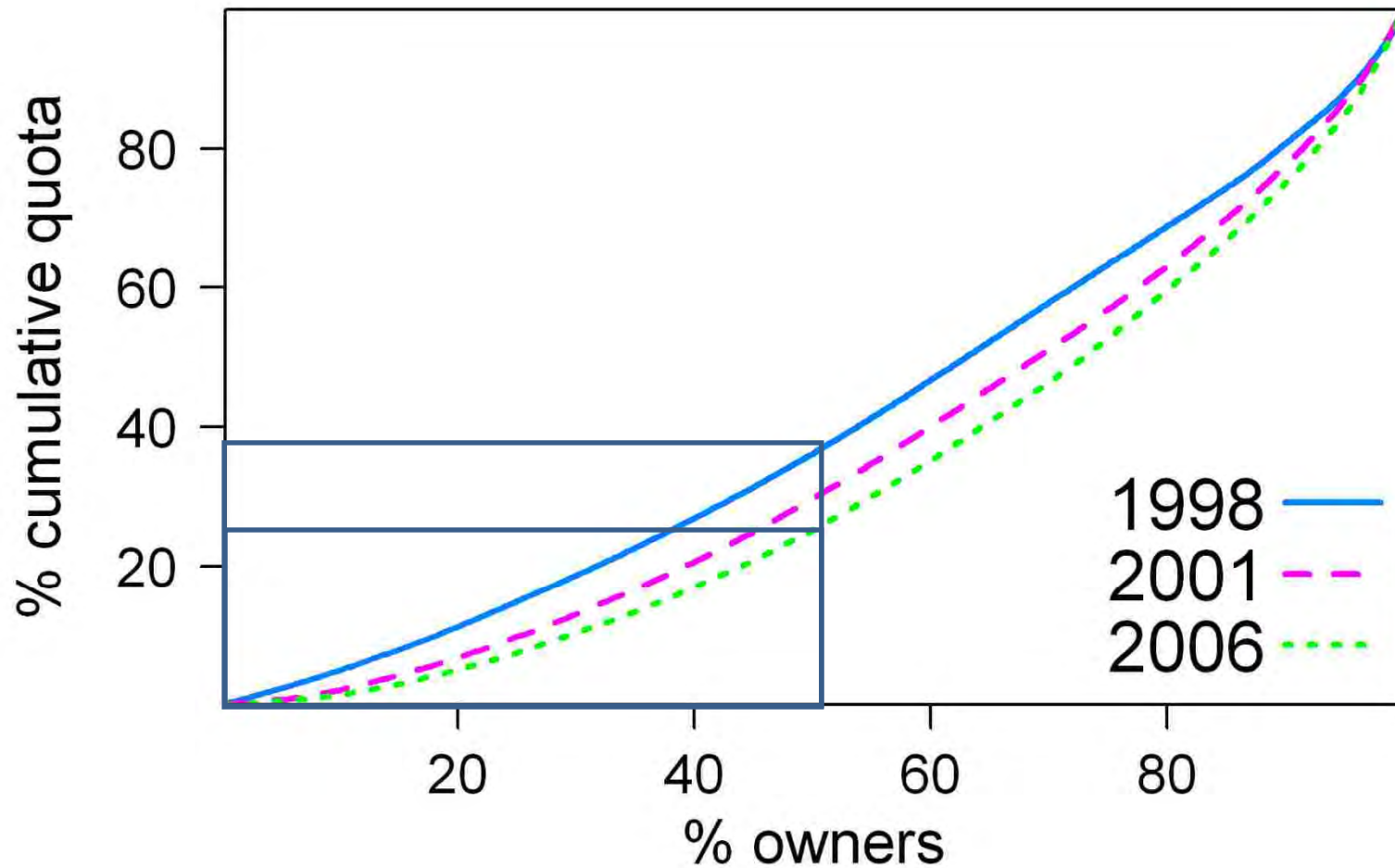
# Investors vs owner operators



# Concentration of ownership



# Concentration of ownership



# Some issues to consider...

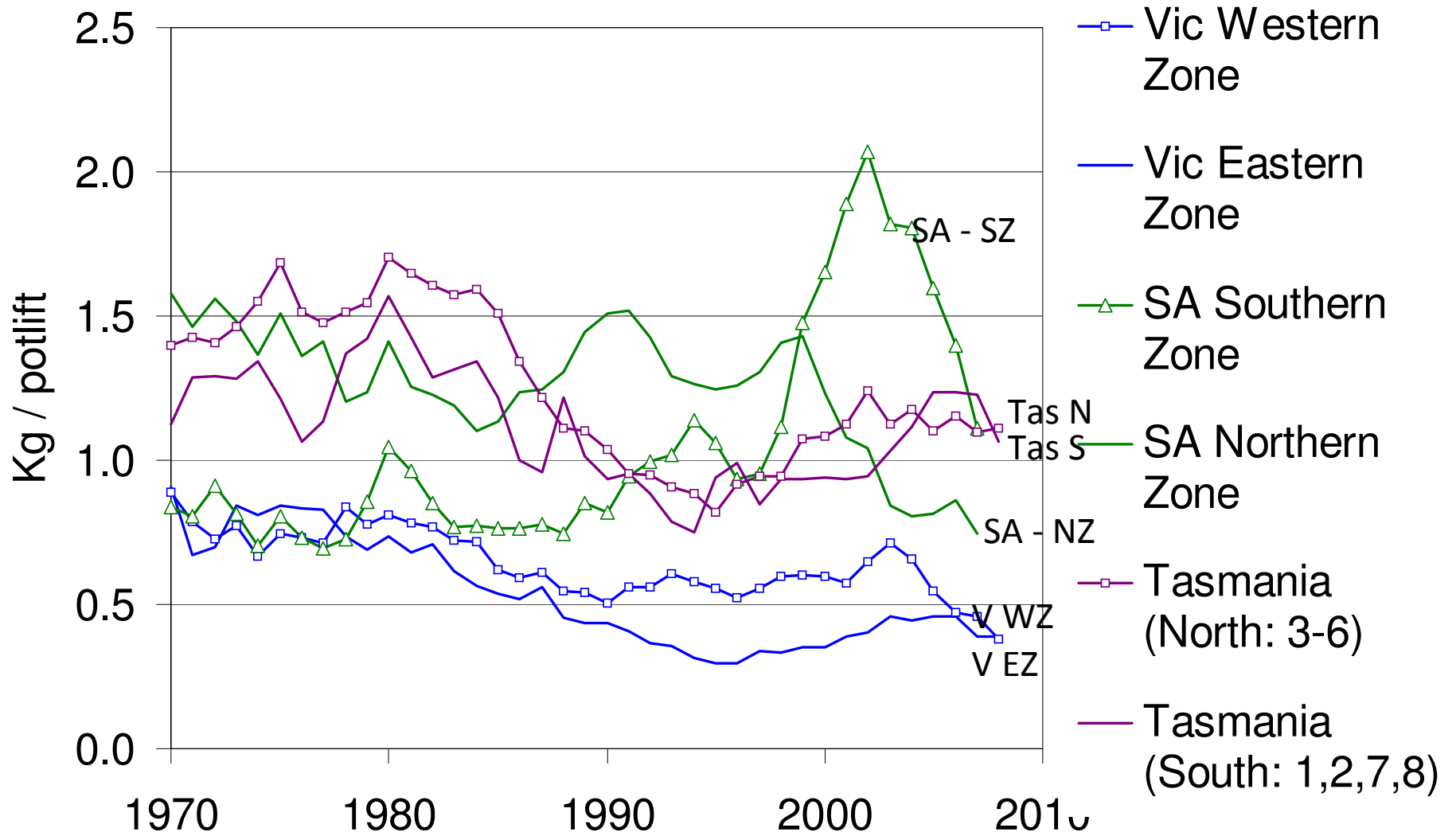
- **-human safety; - one incident in 11 years in Tas**
- - focus on product quality and market development;
- - ability to fish to market;
- - promotion of technological efficiency;
- **- business impacts through stability/volatility in revenue;**



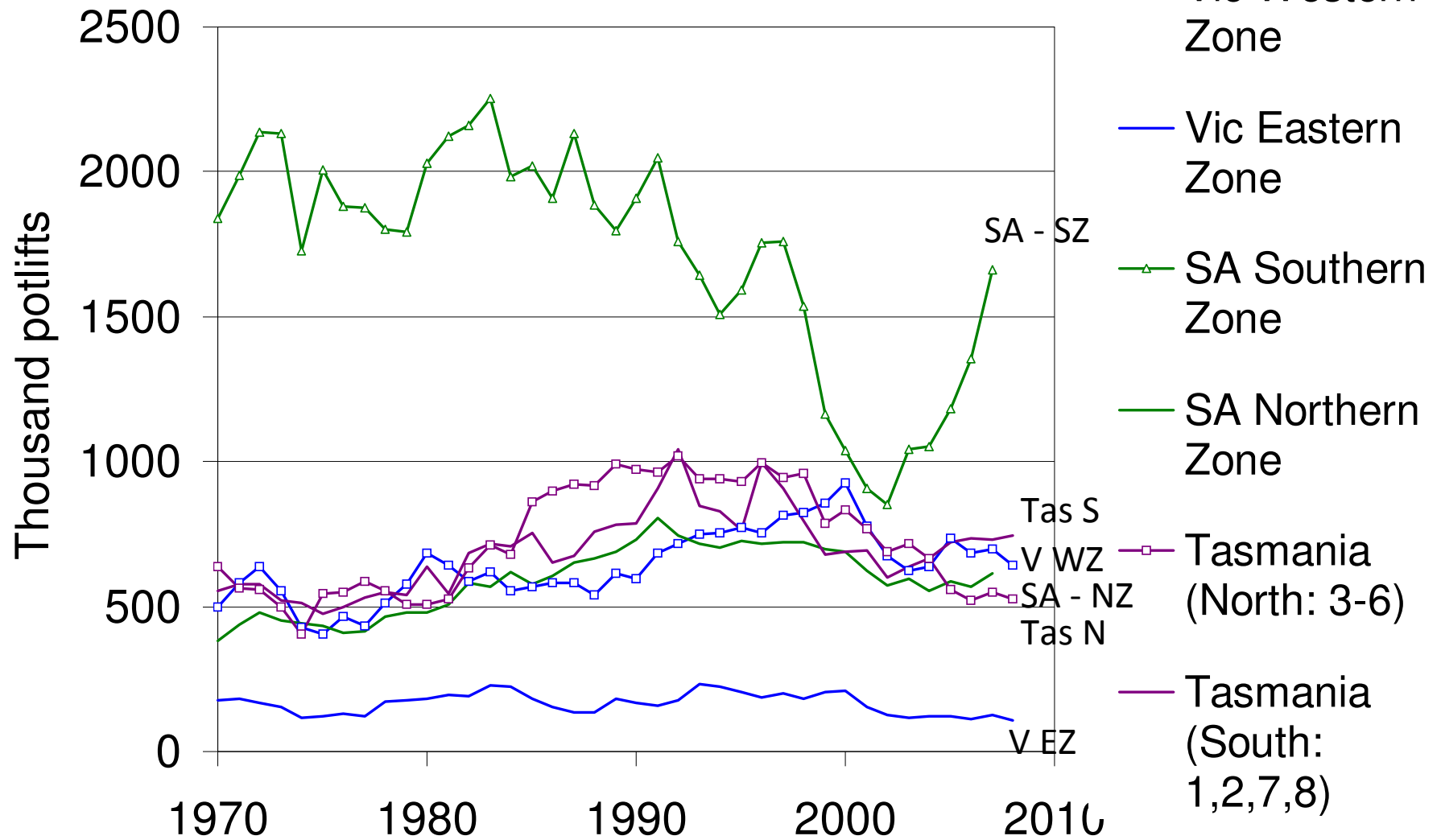
# Some issues to consider...

- - **ability of processors to manipulate price;**
- -impacts on lease fishers;
- -inequities in ownership during management transitions;
- - property rights and the competition with recreational, traditional and non-extractive users (ie dive shops near MPAs);
- - cost of enforcement and management;
- -efficiency of business for fishers and processors.

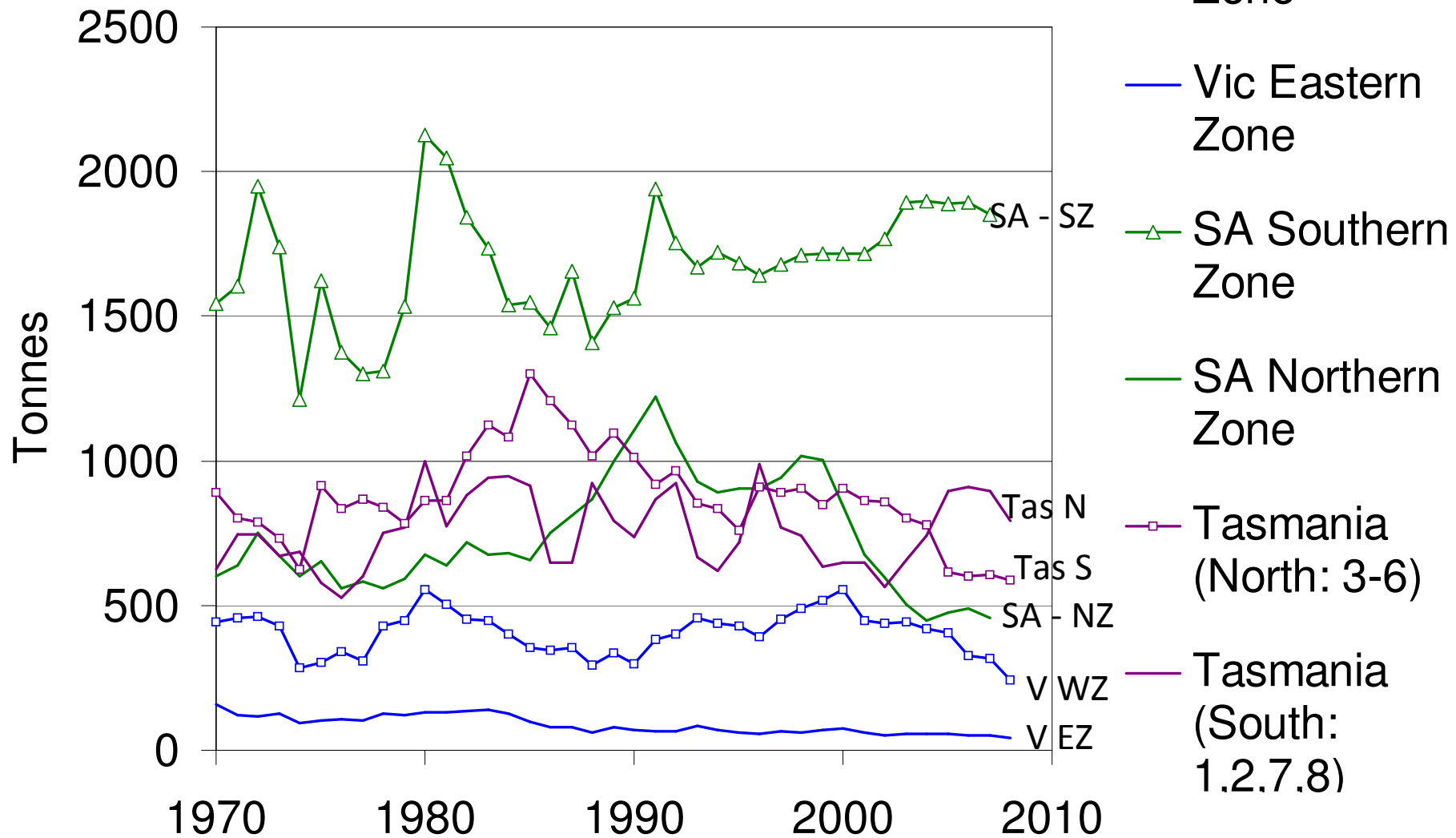
# Catch rate



# Effort



# Catch





# Quota and Input Controls

Presentation to WA Lobster Congress

July 2009



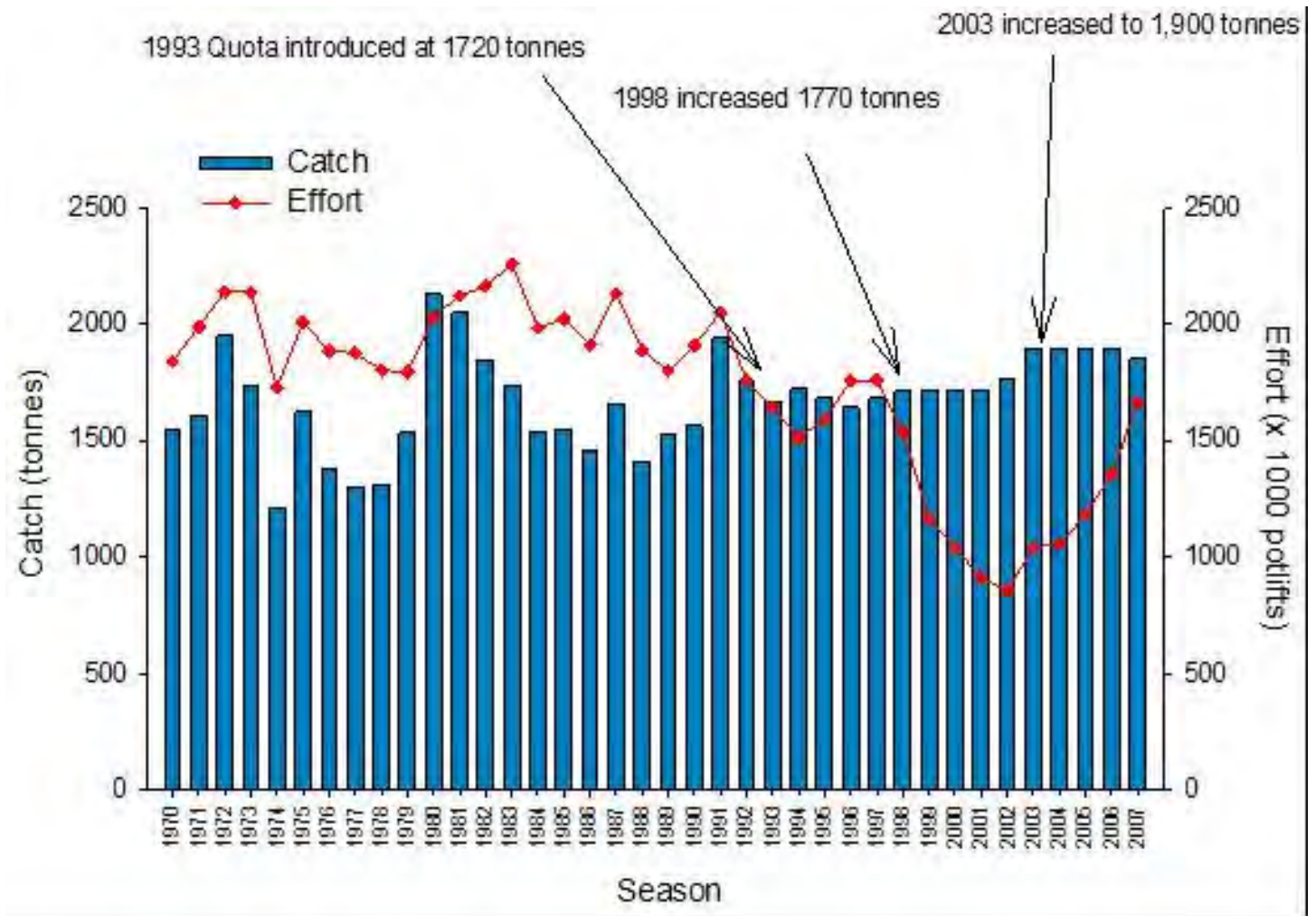
## Background – SA

- 250 licences
- 2 Zones Nth & Sth
- 0809 Quota Nth 470 t Sth 1770 t
- Management Cost \$3.6m – full cost recovery
- Price ave '0809 \$50/kg - \$60kg
- '0809 SZ short 360t (20%)
- '0809 NZ short 70 (15%)



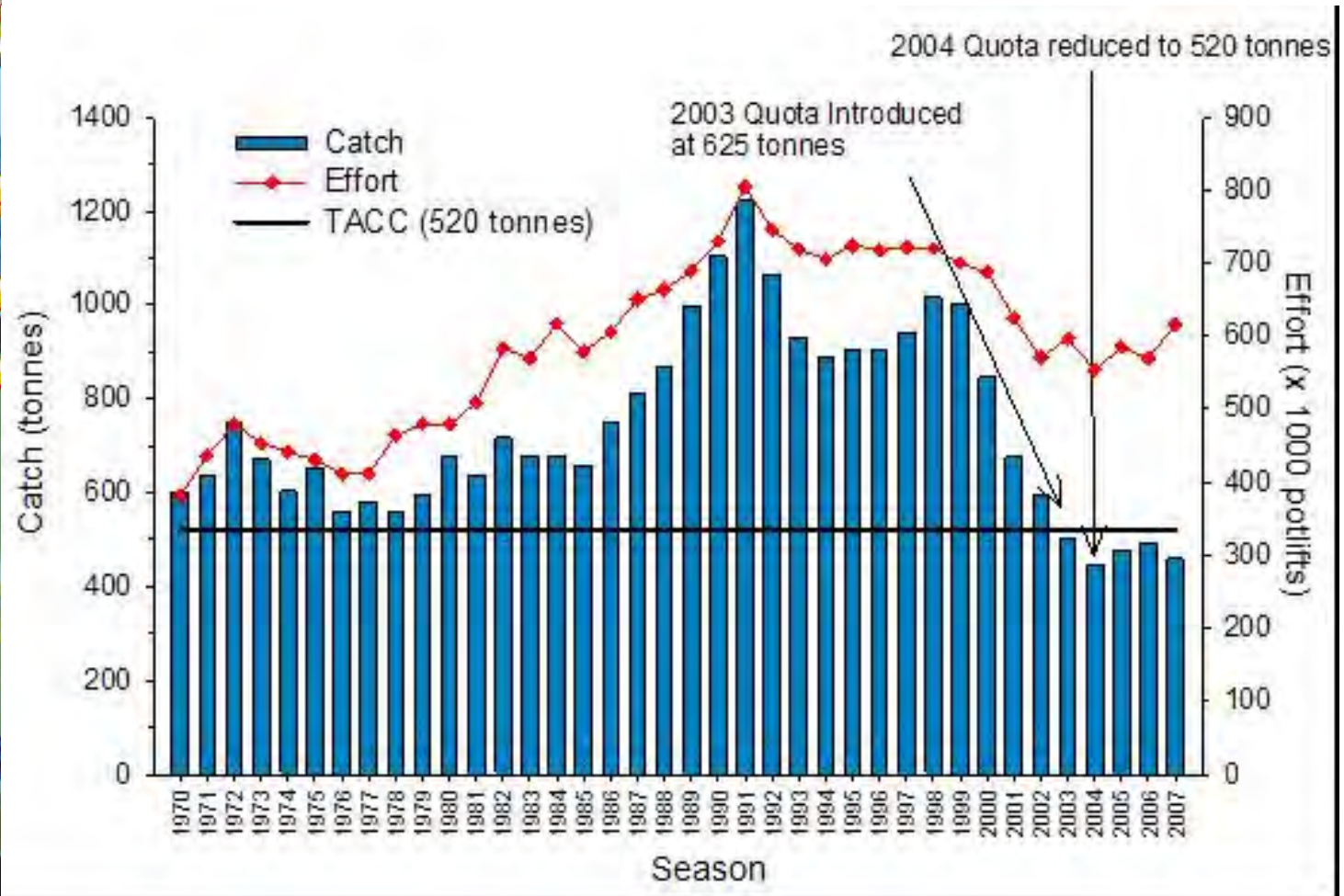


# Quota Performance – Sth Z





# Nth Zone Performance





# Fundamentals



Item	Quota	Input Controls
Stock Uncertainty	Future recruitment unknown – must have a conservative TAC	Future recruitment unknown. Must have ongoing effort reductions.
Investment	Match to tonnes.	Invest in catching more.
Management	Costs - Nth Zone same	Same complexity
Allocation	Average/pot: Redistributes income stream to average	No change
Price	Must supply to max. market returns	Must supply to max. market returns.
Major difference	Direct control on catch – big years leave some behind Focus on profit/kg – reduce costs & fish for price x catch rate.	Focus of profit/day Ongoing investment in catching more – means ongoing effort cuts. No redistribution of catch and income.



# **Presentation to the WA Rock Lobster Industry July 2009**

By

Neville Perryman  
Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fisher

# My Background

- Originally a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation rock lobster fishermen in Port MacDonnell Southern Zone SA
- Moved to Tasmania in 1990 and bought the FV *Minnamurra II* and a 40 pot entitlement
- Industry involvement
  - Director of the TRLFA 1993
  - Director of TSIC 1995-1999 and 2001 to present
  - Former ASIC Director well before it went bust!
  - Industry member Crustacean FAC (RLIAC)



# Vessel design as a solution to WA problem!





# History of Management in Tasmania

- ✦ Earliest indications of problems with the fishery Mid – 80s. 1987 a proposal to introduce a pot reduction was rejected by TRLFA members
- ✦ Industry- Govt working group established in 1991 to investigate management options for the fishery. To address declining catch rates. Three options developed
  - 30% pot reduction (15% review the if need further 15%)
  - 30% buyback
  - Quota

# History of Management in Tasmania

- ✦ Quota option was developed late in the process
- ✦ No immediate decision was taken. Season closures introduced as an interim measure.
- ✦ Industry vote in 1996 of all licence holders on three options. The majority of licence holders voted for a QMS.
- ✦ Quota formally introduced in March 1998 with a three year management plan. Subsequent plans have been for 5 years

## Current situation

- Fleet has been reduced from 314 pre quota to  $\approx$  210 boats. The other options would have had the same effect.
- Originally the TAC was 1507 tonnes with each unit (pot) being 143 kg. There has been one increase to 145 kg per unit.
- Because of a reversal in the stock rebuilding evident on the model we use to set our TAC there has been a precautionary reduction in the TAC for 2009-2010 to 140 kg per pot (3%)

## TRLFA Initiative/Looking ahead

- In October 2008 TRLFA members requested that the association investigate future management options to increase the robustness of the stock, and to increase profitability
- The options either singularly or in combination included translocation, increase/decrease in size limits, zoning, 12 month season, reduction in the TAC (3% a year for 3 years), industry funded buyback with reallocation

# Issues of Concern for Tasmania

- Climate change, possible impact on recruitment as SE Australia predicted to see above average ocean warming, how will this affect Sustainability.
- Who will catch the fish in 5-10 years time?
- Capping of recreational catch (no point in capping the take from only one sector)
- Predicting pre-recruit abundance
- CPUE appears to have peaked



# Benefits of Quota

- ✦ Sets a firm target for the fishery.
- ✦ Pace yourself i.e fish when you want to fish( to market to weather, flat out if you have the quota!)
- ✦ Banks will use quota as collateral (50/60% value of unit) as it is a share of the fishery and not just a tool to be used to catch a share.
- ✦ Allows flexibility of management

# Annoying attributes of Quota

- ✦ **More paper work.** ( especially when it is sent back for corrections)
- ✦ **Organising to lease quota for the season if you don't own it.**

# Don'ts/Do's

- ✦ Don't be afraid of change.
- ✦ Don't delay in your decision
- ✦ Don't think it will be easy
- ✦ Be proactive and get involved
- ✦ Learn from other fisheries, even though they are different the principles are the same.

✦ “Doing the same thing over and over again the same way and expecting a different result is the definition of insanity”

anon

## **Whether for Rebuild or Consolidation of Western Rock Lobster Stock Abundance and Industry Profitability – the Recipe for Success is Constraint.**

There are important lessons to be learned from the New Zealand rock lobster fisheries experience over the past three decades. The transition from open access to limited entry and then to a more formal rights-based management regime has enabled ‘field testing’ and evaluation of a range of management interventions, all of which have had social and economic consequences for industry participants and other stakeholders. And some of which have been more successful than others in terms of halting stock decline, rebuilding depleted stocks, and maintaining preferred levels of stock abundance.

There is nothing happening in the western rock lobster fishery in 2009 that has not been experienced in one or more of the nine New Zealand lobster fisheries since the introduction of rock lobsters into the Quota Management System (QMS) in April 1990.

The commentary which follows is written from the perspective of an informed observer of the western lobster fishery, not an investor or a participant. My observations are drawn from my own visits to Western Australia, my conversations with fishermen and fisheries managers then and since; information gleaned from media reports and fisheries journals; information gleaned from the *Crayzone* web site to which I am subscribed; and finally my accumulated experience and technical knowledge of research and management options for lobster fisheries generally.

**In this paper I deal with various aspects of the western rock lobster situation as currently being reported and then offer suggestions as to a pathway forward for the industry.**

**Is the stock in trouble?** There seems to be hot debate within the industry catching sector<sup>1</sup> about the current and predicted status of the stock. The predictive indices confirm the prospect of low stock abundance over the short to medium term. Some industry personnel have challenged the accuracy and reliability of the predictive indices, citing doubts about the integrity of the puerulus collectors, the design of the collector programme, and the choices of material and locations used for the surveys.

In my view it is highly unlikely that a predictive index that historically has been so reliable could suddenly be so deficient. It would be a grievous mistake in my view for industry personnel to ignore the recent settlement signals and dismiss the prospect for future low recruitments.

**How much is enough? The value adding opportunities:** The western lobster fishery has enjoyed prolonged periods of relatively high catches. The measure of fishing success used by many participants and observers appears to be the volume of landed catch rather than the value. However, the current pause in stock abundance provides an opportunity for the industry to reflect on the prospect that less may indeed be more if new and different harvest tactics are deployed.

The export markets for rock lobsters have changed. Highest prices are paid for live rock lobsters within preferred size and weight ranges. Western rock lobsters compete with the more preferred cold water/southern rock lobsters in that premium market. It is possible that the western lobster industry could

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<sup>1</sup> As evidenced by some of the *Crayzone* web site dialogue and various print media reports of industry responses to recently announced effort controls.

ride out a period of stock decline by taking a greater focus on the quality and value of the landed catch. The economic impact of stock decline can be mitigated if the way in which you fish and how and when you land your catches to markets are reassessed and amended.

**Can the fishery be rebuilt?** Yes – there are numerous examples in New Zealand rock lobster fisheries. Rebuilds – defined as increasing stock abundance over time - are achieved as a consequence of three factors – catch reductions, natural cycles of larval settlement and recruitment, and patience.

There is a further challenge to determine the level at which a stock is “rebuilt” and then choose an appropriate maintenance strategy to replace the rebuild strategy.

**Will a ‘quota system’ do the job?** Yes and no. In my experience many Australian fishing industry participants (including managers and consultants) have a very superficial appreciation and understanding of the New Zealand quota system. A ‘quota system’ can do the job if you design and implement the correct system and have clear objectives for it.

The QMS has two core components – the first is that the system is a property rights regime – more about those in a moment. The second core component is output controls – the New Zealand system relies heavily on limiting removals from fishstocks in support of agreed management outcomes. Lesson number one from New Zealand is this:

- quotas (property rights) are the currency of entry and participation in fisheries; output controls are what really do the business in terms of stock rebuilding and/or maintenance of preferred stock sizes.

Western rock lobster has a long established property rights regime – in the context above your ‘quotas’ are your vessel licences and pot entitlements. I can draw numerous parallels between the western rock lobster pot market and the quota trading market in New Zealand. The transfer price of pots demonstrates similar trends and scale to transfer prices of quota.

**But I am getting ahead of myself and need to return to the topic of output controls – which are constraints on aggregate (the fleet) and individual removals.**

The terminology most often used is “Total Allowable Catch” within which allowances are made for commercial and non-commercial extractive users. The industry share of a TAC is the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) – and the individual commercial participant’s share of the TACC is an individual transferable quota – ITQ.

This might seem like basic stuff but the most demanding phase of any transition to output controls (TAC/TACC) is the initial allocation of ITQ.

But assuming for the moment that you can traverse that challenge with minimal difficulties, the exercise is futile in terms of the intended outcomes (which are primarily stock rebuild and consolidation) if the TAC/TACC is not set correctly.

**There is one immutable law of the fisheries management universe confirmed by the New Zealand rock lobster fisheries experience:**



- **Any TAC/TACC which does not effectively constrain catch in any one season will significantly delay intended management outcomes. Any TACC must be a limit, not a target. This is fundamental to the success of output controls as single-species management interventions.**

**So let's pause here and review the situation:** Is the western rock lobster fishery in decline? The evidence confirms that it is – catches and catch rates have declined over an extended period of recent history. The historically reliable predictive indices confirm that there is no flush of 'new' fish (pre-recruits), no pulse of recruitment entering the fishery, and therefore no real prospect of maintaining current catches and catch rates in the short to medium term let alone see any improvements.

Industry participants and departmental fishery managers must manage themselves through this slump<sup>2</sup>. The historical management interventions are input controls – controls on effort in the form of days fished, gear types, gear limits, maximum and minimum capture sizes, area and time closures etc.

It is possible that the current slump could be 'managed' by a continued reliance on the full suite of current input controls. However the down side will be economic cost, economic and administrative inefficiency, and attrition.

An alternative management response could be a variation on the 'quota system' as tested and proven in New Zealand lobster fisheries and elsewhere. Our system is not a pure output control but the principal reliance is on the TAC/TACC. To be anywhere near as effective in constraining removals from a stock, any combination of input controls will be more costly and more economically inefficient than a credible catch limit (TAC/TACC).

If the western rock lobster industry sees merit in a management intervention which:

- reduces economic inefficiency,
- allows greater flexibility to fishermen to decide when and how they fish, and
- enables industry participants to move in and out of the fishery whilst maintaining their investment equity;

then a properly designed and implemented 'quota system' can deliver.

I place particular emphasis on 'properly designed' and in order for the design to be robust in terms of intended outcomes; the lobster industry must be actively involved in the processes.

**If the devil really is in the detail, where does the devil lurk?** There are two set pieces that have to be agreed if a 'quota system' is your preferred option. These are –

- Stock assessment and TAC setting

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<sup>2</sup> I deliberately use the phrase "manage themselves" because we cannot effectively manage the stock/species in order to offset observed and predicted stock decline. There is a complicated issue around what are known as stock/recruit relationships in lobster fisheries which is counter intuitive to general views about egg production and future abundance.

- Initial allocation of ITQs

In some respects each is important as the other but I assign priority to the stock assessment and TAC setting because if the TAC/TACC is excessive/ineffectual then the system fails.

Consider the scenario where both industry and fisheries scientists (a collaboration that must be both fostered and encouraged) are agreed on an effective TAC/TACC and the regulatory framework is in place which will ensure that the overall limit is not exceeded. Industry participants are then let loose at the start of a season in the race for fish which will end when the TACC is reached. This system is often called an “Olympic quota” and even if good for the fish stock, will deliver argument and attrition to the industry participants.

The alternative is an individual transferable quota system – where the sum of all the ITQs is equal to the agreed TACC. ITQs don’t entirely remove the race for fish but they do protect the fishing opportunities of individual participants who might otherwise be swamped by the more aggressive race for fish that will occur in the Olympic system. The market for catching rights (ITQs) allows smaller players to exit with some dignity or to expand their business by acquiring the ITQs of others.

And most of you reading this will be thinking – *‘but that’s what we do now, expect we are buying and selling (or leasing) pots to establish our stake in the fishery’*. Yes, that is correct, but in the current period of stock decline pots themselves come with no guarantee of catch, whereas ITQs do (because they are a proportional share of an agreed TACC intended to constrain commercial removals in any one season). Provided that it can be used<sup>3</sup>, an ITQ should be a stronger and more secure transferable property right in comparison to a pot entitlement.

**So who needs to be doing what here?** Industry participants and departmental fisheries scientists must work collaboratively to determine ‘safe’ future yields from the western rock lobster fishery.

**Industry and scientists need to consider the scale of management areas and extent of TAC/TACC setting for the western lobster fishery.** For example – one TAC for all of the western lobster fishery or separate TACs for the established zones or for some combination of zones? My recommendation is not to make management areas too large – but the biological and behavioural characteristics of the lobsters should guide the discussion and final decision making.

**Industry participants should decide the most equitable allocation mechanism.** This is a huge challenge as many of you may have observed in South Australia and to a lesser extent in Victoria and Tasmania. My observation of the Western Australian fisheries management policies and procedures leads me to expect even greater challenges need to be overcome by the western rock lobster industry. Some of the issues that require careful and immediate consideration are –

- Pots/pot entitlements have been the currency of trade and exchange in the fishery for many decades. There are legislative and regulatory reasons why allocation of ITQs will be linked to ownership of pots. Therein lies a problem – there is no official register of ownership that I am aware of. I assume that there must be a register of transfers (leasing and/or sales) but allocation of ITQ will probably be linked (all or in part) to the owners of pots, not the current users of them.

---

<sup>3</sup> Assuming that access to fishing grounds is not denied - for example any declaration of a marine protected area in which lobster fishing is prohibited.

- If catch history is a component of allocation, who owns the catch histories? Do fishermen (incumbent or previous) have a claim to “ownership” or are their catch histories linked to the pots they have used (and may only be leasing) or linked to the fishing licence which enables them to use the pots? Likewise, if fishermen are operating under the authority of someone else’s fishing licence, which of the two persons should be eligible to claim “catch history” – the owner or the person who fished?
- If the decision is made to establish two or more management zones, each with a separate TAC/TACC, and a vessel has a history of fishing across more than one zone, how will future access be determined?
- Should there be minimum and maximum quota holdings – and should grandfather clauses be implemented to enable incumbent operators to maintain their current status/ranking in the fishery?
  - ∞ For example if the limit on ITQ ownership was 10% of the available TACC and an incumbent operator has the catch history in the stock in excess of 10% should he/she/they be forced to sell down or forfeit any allocation above 10%?
  - ∞ For example, if industry believes it important that there be no expansion of vessel and pot numbers when a ‘quota system’ is implemented it could be agreed that any intending new entrant possess a minimum quantity of ITQ by ownership or by lease before being allowed to fish.
- Industry participants do need to very carefully think through the various consequences of a quota allocation process. In my experience when advising the Victorian rock lobster industry and several AFMA allocation advisory committees, there is a legislative requirement in Australia that requires the ranking of “wealth” within the current industry structure to be preserved in the transition to any new management regime. In each of the southern rock lobster fisheries in Australia the allocation of ITQs has been made to incumbent permit holders on the basis of the combination of pot numbers and catch history.<sup>4</sup>
- I do not expect allocation in western rock lobsters to be easy because of the historical status of pot entitlements being the principal currency of entry to the fishery and the absence of any register of ownership which might conceivably assign a catch history to a pot.
- My advice is for the industry to come to grips with these challenges immediately – because they are difficult to resolve, are potentially very divisive, and in some respects ultimately determine the success of the new management regime given that the true potential of these ‘new’ property rights (entitlements to a share of a TAC) may not be fully realised if the relationships between the rights holders are not sufficient to support cooperative and collaborative endeavours that can increase the quantity and/or value of those rights.

**Meanwhile, back at the stock assessment:** You cannot manage what you do not know. Good – as in accurate and reliable – fishery data are essential to stock assessments and fishermen are the principal sources of fishery data. Fishermen should take care in record keeping and reporting and maintain an active interest in how their data are interpreted and used.

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<sup>4</sup> In New Zealand the allocation of ITQs was based solely on reported catch histories. Since 1996 allocation of ITQs for any new stocks into the QMS is through a public tender process after 20% of the new TACC has been allocated consistent with an agreed Crown/Maori Treaty settlement.

Fishermen must also actively participate in the discussion about size and extent of any new quota management area/s. Lines on charts can be useful from an administrative perspective but when they are intended to designate the boundaries of a stock they must be best aligned to what is known about the biology (expertise of researchers) and behaviour (expertise of fishermen) of the lobsters.

Obviously it is important to maintain a spawning stock biomass – the breeding population – to enable sufficient egg production in support of future abundance. This is why fishery managers maintain the prohibition on taking berried females, protection of setose females and maximum legal sizes. Those input controls must be retained – they can be enhanced – and in time could be modified by linking them explicitly to the TAC/TACC.

**Are we really in control?** The fact of life is that nature manufactures stock abundance and that fishery management interventions only address the rate at which lobsters are removed from the ocean. What we are trying to do when setting a TAC/TACC is to buffer ourselves against future declines in stock abundance by “smoothing out” the natural, cyclical variations in settlement and subsequent recruitment to the fishery. We set TAC/TACCs in order to maintain catches and catch rates through long periods of natural variability caused by environmental conditions<sup>5</sup> over which we have no effective control.

When we “manage” fishing we do not create any new lobsters – we just use what nature has given us in a more responsible and consistent manner. We are attempting to avoid the boom and bust cycles that have characterised various fisheries over time. So don’t get too carried away by the power of a quota system – we use it to ration lobsters to ensure future supplies – quota is a commodity of trade and exchange amongst fishery participants – it is principally directed at social and economic outcomes. The more powerful stock management tool is the output control – the TAC/TACC.

**I strongly encourage industry participants – including the investors, the catching sector, and processor/exporters – to look at the future of western rock lobster fishery in the context of a business plan. You are in the business of fishing so take the strategic approach to how best to maximise the value of your fishing opportunity and the commodity you produce.**

There is no doubt in my mind that *‘he who owns quota is king’* if TAC/TACCs are correctly set and monitored – but such is the reality of the business world, and we are in the business of fishing – not operating a social welfare agency.

An agreed industry business plan lays a secure foundation for the fishery management plan expected by the wider community and for which a Minister holds statutory responsibilities.

Finally for this commentary – **knocking down some myths and legends.**

**Myth number one** – *a quota system is more expensive to enforce.* False. Undeniably and demonstrably untrue – and not a valid excuse for dismissing the quota system option. The cost of enforcement of any rights-based system is a function of the level of compliance demonstrated by the participating rights

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<sup>5</sup> For example the El Nino and La Nino – southern oscillation events; oceanic temperature and current variations; habitat modification due to non-fishing activities etc.

holders. The focus of enforcement will shift from on the water to administrative oversight but the cost should be less not greater.

**Myth number 2** – *a few companies will end up owning all of the quota.* False, unless the incumbent industry participants allow it to happen. The quota market – like the market for pots – is one where willing buyers deal with willing sellers. There is no greater control able to be exerted over ownership of quota than is already exerted over ownership of pots.

**Myth number 3** – *it will be impossible or at very least difficult for new entrants to get into the business.* False, it will be no easier or no harder than it is now. The cost of entry to the business of fishing is the cost of fishing entitlements. The entitlements are currently a vessel licence and the pots and there is cost associated with each. The cost of ITQs will be commensurate with, and will displace, the cost of pots.<sup>6</sup> The security of ITQs is arguably better than of pots.

**Myth number 4** – *only companies will be able to afford to buy quota.* False. If ITQs are properly specified from the outset they could possibly be a more secure bankable/mortgageable asset than are pots at present.

**Myth number 5** – *the cost to fishermen of going fishing will increase because of quota lease prices.* False, in most circumstances. The cost of going fishing should be similar or less. Leasing ITQ should be no more costly or complicated than leasing pots. A TAC/TACC should set the stock on a pathway to increased abundance. Catch rates will improve as a consequence. The costs of catching any given quantity of ITQ will decline.

The experience in New Zealand is that quota lease prices are driven very high by two factors – scarcity of available quota (the TACC is significantly constraining catches because of high stock abundance) and strength of export markets as measured by prices paid to fishermen for their catches. Prices paid are in fact more of a reflection of current exchange rates against the New Zealand dollar than they are of market prices paid. The inevitable financial correction does occur, but there is a lag.

**Myth number 6** - *we should be able to get rid of pot limits and use as much gear as we like so long as we don't exceed our quota.* False. Any decision to relax pot limits or gear specifications must be carefully thought through. There are biological, social and science consequences to consider. My advice is that you should transition to a quota system with most of your existing input controls intact. The one exception would be the limitation on allowed days fished – that should be the first thing to go because of the gross economic inefficiencies inherent in that control. Closed seasons would be the next to go if I was making the decisions. In the context of the business of fishing you must strive for the best alignment between production and market.

**Myth number 7** – *the quota management system will fix it – once we have that we won't have to worry.* False. Fishing still needs to be managed. The combination of ITQs and input controls can be manipulated to further enhance both the status of a stock and the economic performance of the industry.

**Myth number 8** – *it is the recreational catch that is causing the greatest problem in this fishery – they need to be cut back.* False. The commercial catches are significant the recreational catches, other than very locally, are minimal in comparison. If you really look at the numbers you will find that recreational

---

<sup>6</sup> The cost of pots for the Western lobster fishery shows remarkable parallels with the cost of ITQs in New Zealand in situations where a pot is assigned a quantum of catch for the season. Look to South Australia and Tasmania for similar examples.

catches are somewhere between 4% and 6% of total removals at any level of stock abundance. Take responsibility for and give priority to dealing with the current and predicted declines in abundance and don't be wasting time on the "blame game".

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RSM! Bird Cameron

# Economic Research Project

## Western Rock Lobster Congress

Fremantle Sailing Club

151 Marine Terrace, Fremantle

**24 July 2009**

Presented by - John Thomson B Bus SIA ACIS CA M(Tax) SPAA

Director - RSM Bird Cameron

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# Outcomes

- *To investigate alternative management strategies using the current management package as the benchmark with the view to providing the best long-term socio-economic return to the State from the ecologically sustainable use of the western rock lobster resource by providing the greatest incentives and opportunity for growth in economic return from all sectors of the rocklobster industry to Western Australia.*

# Objectives

- To better understand the industry's financial drivers.
- Compare the findings of the current research with previous research.
- Understand the financial implications of fishery management proposals.

# Methodology

- Randomly select 20 fishing business from each zone.
- Conduct personal interviews to collect key data.
- Record findings in a data base for subsequent analysis.
- Prepare and publish findings by 30/11/09.

# Your Contribution

- Co-operate if asked to contribute.
- Encourage other fishers to contribute.
- Use the interview process to gain access to professional advice.
- Use the report to compare the performance of your business with others!

# Funding

- \$30,000 principal investor contribution WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC).
- \$30,000 in kind contribution from RSM Bird Cameron.
- \$10,000 in kind contribution of fishers time to participate in data collection.



# Questions?

- Confidentiality?
- Use of information by regulators!
- Other issues?



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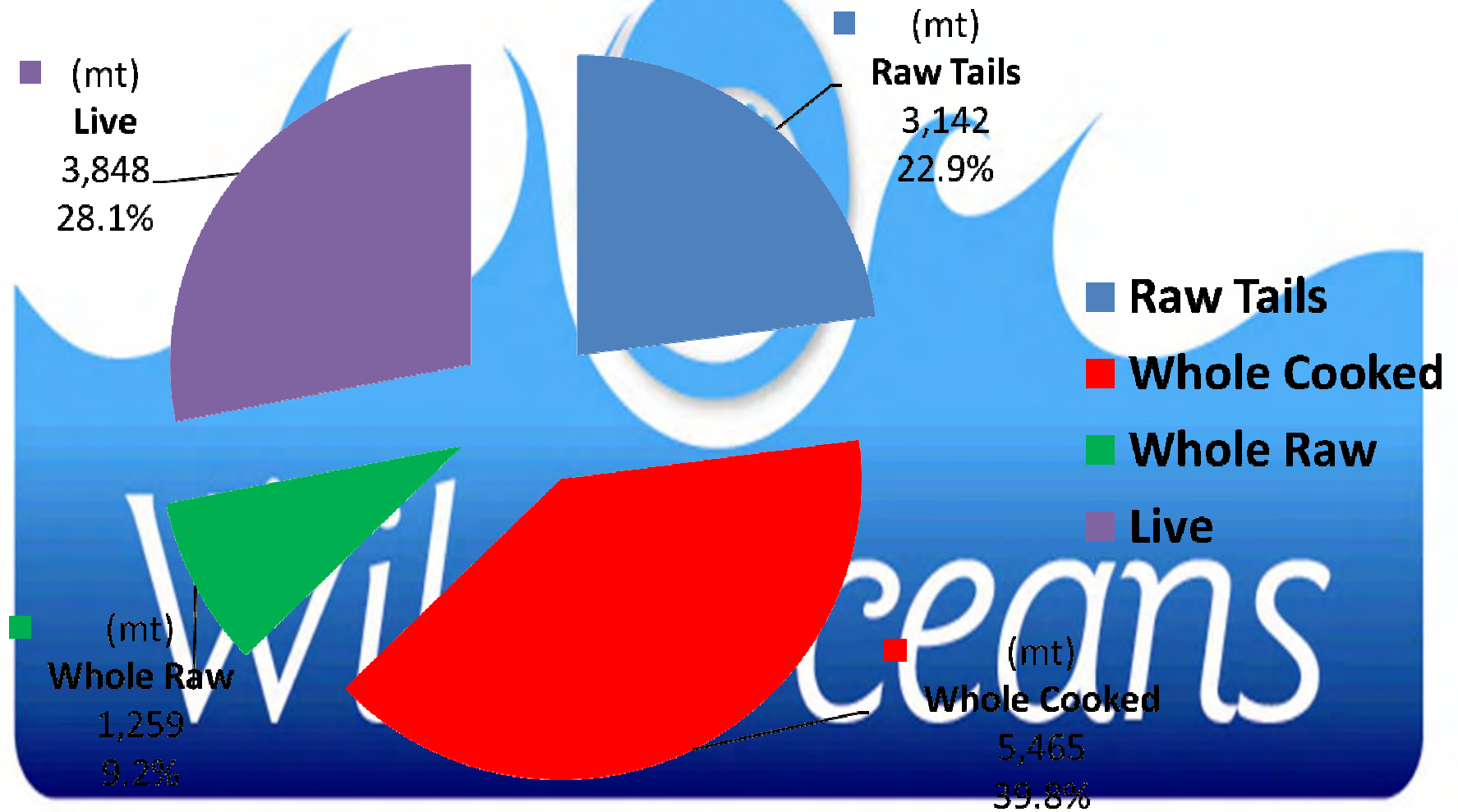
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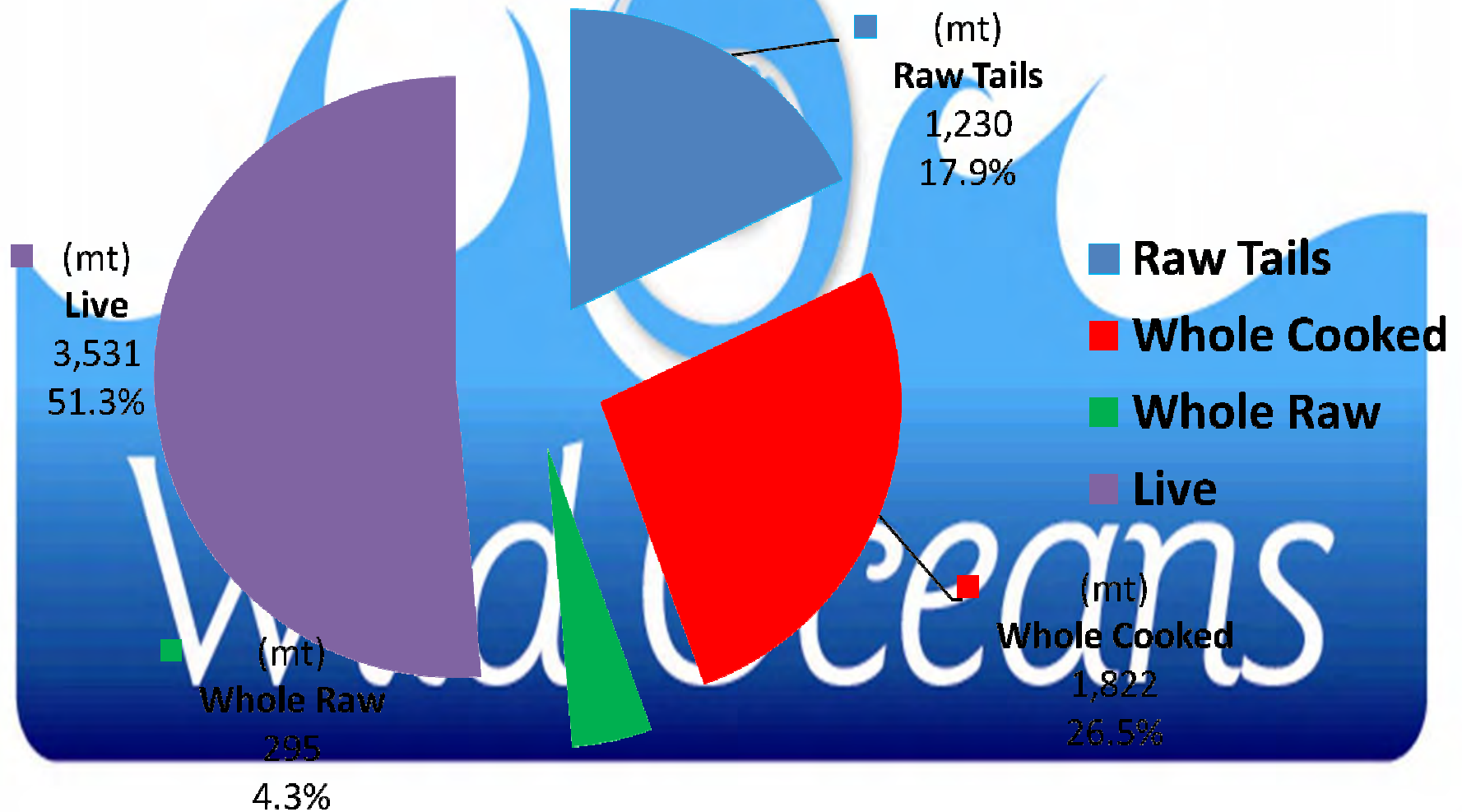
**Whole Lobsters by Commercial Processing/Grade for Entire Coast**  
**Western Rock Lobster (*Panulirus cygnus* sp.)**  
**(REPORTED PRODUCTION)**

<b>SIZE</b>	<b>Season 1999-2000</b>	<b>Season 2008-2009</b>	<b>Difference</b>
A	41.10%	32.59%	-8.51%
B	33.55%	36.15%	2.60%
C	11.82%	16.28%	4.46%
D	6.88%	8.63%	1.75%
E	3.39%	2.65%	-0.74%
F	1.98%	2.17%	0.19%
G	0.95%	1.32%	0.37%
H	0.33%	0.22%	-0.12%

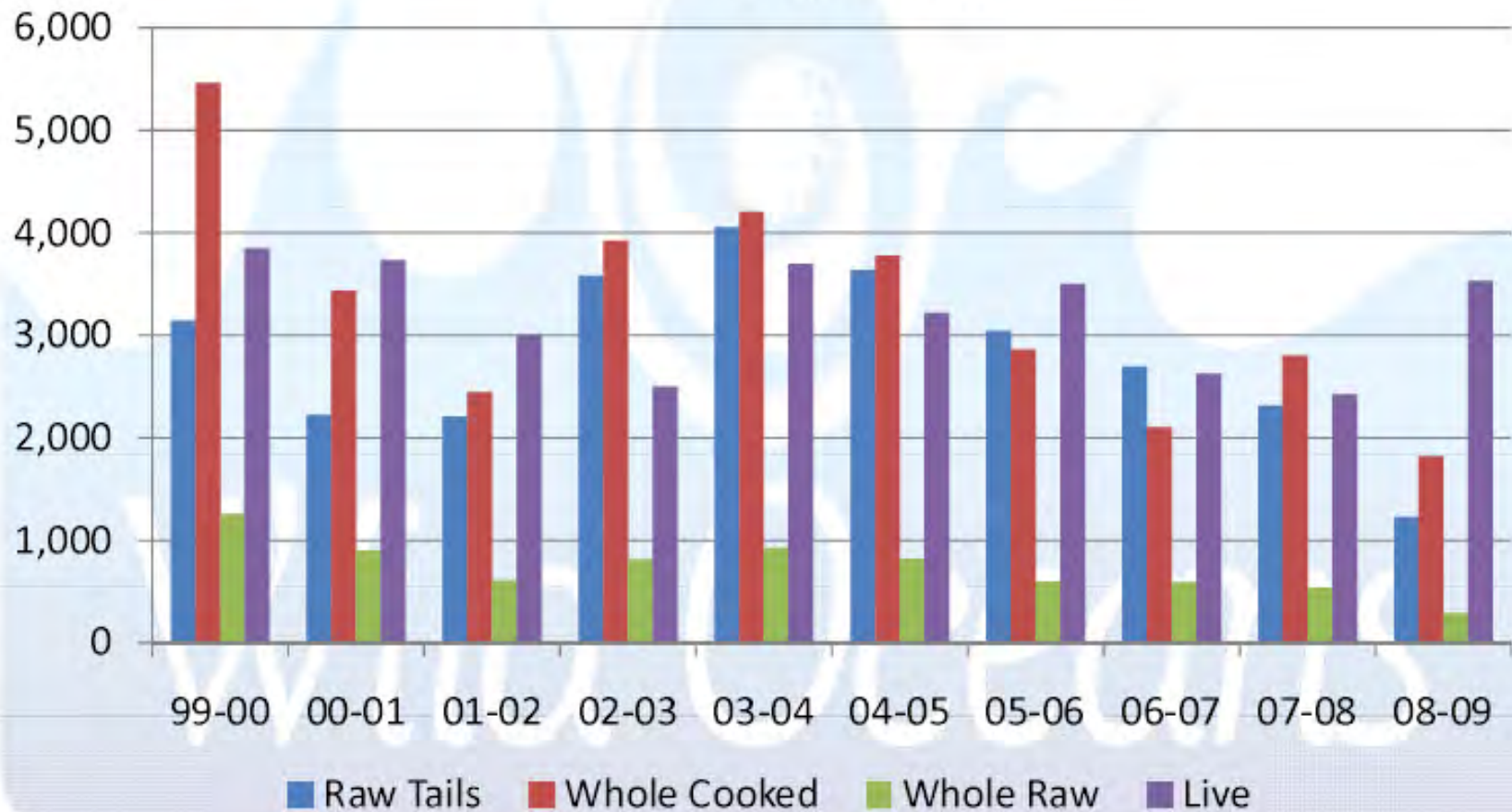
# Commercial Production for WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER (1999-2000)



# Commercial Production for WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER (2008-2009)



## Commercial Production for WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER / 10 Years by Season (Reported)







**For Specific Detailed Market & Production Information  
please contact**

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## APPENDIX 4: WORKSHOP PROGRAM



### **PROGRAM—Saturday 25 July 09**

The second day is your opportunity to work through, and get a better understanding of Management Options for next season and Input and Output controls

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 8:30  | Registration  |
| 9:00  | WORKSHOP<br>Management Options<br>(we will break for Morning Tea at about 10:30, then continue with workshop) |
| 12:00 | Conclusion  |
| 12:30 | Lunch   |
| 1:30  | WORKSHOP<br>Input vs. Output<br>(we will break for Afternoon Tea at about 3:30, then continue with workshop)  |
| 4:30  | Conclusion  |
| 5:00  | Close of Congress   |



**APPENDIX 5: CONGRESS & WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**



**Western Rock Lobster Council**

**2009 CONGRESS  
OUTPUTS DOCUMENT**

**Document Information**

<b>Author::</b>	Peter James & Elana Kleviansky
<b>Date Issued:</b>	30 July 2009
<b>Title:</b>	Congress Outputs Document
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## Table Discussions: Management Options

Participants were asked to discuss 2 key questions at their tables, then move to different tables to connect ideas, contribute and listen to each others thinking.

Questions posed:

1. What are the critical things we need to do to maintain the status of the stock in the short term
2. What are the critical things we need to do to maintain the economic viability of the industry in the short term

### Notes From Tables:

NORTHERN TABLE  
TABLE DIVIDED

- Total 8, 5 Against, 2 For, 1 Undecided
- 55 mm Escape Gaps
- Reduce incidental fishing mortality

- Keep Jan closure (8 For)
  - Chinese New Year Mid Feb
  - Fish to Chinese New Year on other years
- Harder Restrictions in white reducing restrictions through year
- NO FOUR DAY WEEKS

-----  
-----  
1.

- Don't fish whites 3 years' reds: Same pot pulls for TAC
- ITQ for whites: Reds same package as. 2008/2009
- Severe restrictions for whites. Relax Restrictions to achieve TAC in reds
- Home porting
- Stay with summer closure (8)
- Remove summer closure (4)
- Start season January finish in August 1 year
- More research on boats. Tagging program upgrade



2.

- Fish to the market
- Remove peeks maintain quality
- If you can catch the same with 50 pots as you can 100 why would you fish with 100?
- Adjust summer closure to suit Chinese New Year
- Reduce licence fee

---

**BAZZAS PAPER**

- Pot reductions, Shit catch, Don't stop Cray's being caught
- Don't trust researches
- The best managed fisheries are in crises what do we do, the same shit again! Or have a change

Q1: (Set a quota + divide it up)

Answer: Nothing more we have done enough

Q2: Start January, 1st year

Answer: Leaver fishermen alone

TAC
1. C
2 TAC
2. AB

- Shorten Whites and extend reds, Not pot production

HARDER RESTRICTIONS IN WHITES

RELAX IN RED

Better market,  
stronger animals for  
lives

↓  
MAINTAINS BREEDING STOCK, REDCE THE PEAL FOR

---

**C-ZONE**

- 25 November commence fishing, 5 Day Week, 77mm Gauge + 54mm Gaps (Worst Case) + AB Zone 50%
- Where does 5000000Kgs come from? We want 7000000Kgs for season
- If decision is more at 7000000Kgs and we look like getting total, don't cut us down like this
- C Zone managed for C Zone problems, A + B Zone managed separate from C Zone
- 5000000Kgs not viable
- 3 Days work not viable
- Where you get crew

- Need to be listen by management, Talk to the fishermen

Q1:

- Nothing wrong with stock in C-Zone
- Record into the stock in C-Zone

Q2:

- Had Quota's this year + it didn't affect the economic value of season

---

## C-ZONE

### Question 1

- 55ml gap in pots
- No prolonged closures, nothing over 2 days, in the reds
- Each boat 1 research pot additional to your current pots. Plus research from 10% of the same 10 pots in water
- 50% Pot reduction
- 5 days – 77mm gauge whites 77mm reds
- 78mm deep water 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009/15<sup>th</sup> January

### Question 2

- Compliance fees structure, they are double other states
- Reduction of bait cost E.g. hides etc.
- Live tank/basket standards to protect crays in transit
- Fishing for the market, demands continuity of supply every second day

---

## A-ZONE

1.

- Nothing wrong with breeding stock in C Zone, We reached level to maintain the breeding stock we only asking to take 7 million Kgs while there is 12 Million kgs in water, 2009/2010 Season leaving over 5 million over to next season 2010/2011
- Working 5 days a week, bare min (Not here for economic money, here for stock)

2.

- Zones Separate Management, 1<sup>st</sup> December start C-Zone 15<sup>th</sup> November B-ZONE, How many oversize females in water (isn't that maintaining good breeding stock)

3.

- Separate zone management A.B.C
  - 5000000 to DRM
  - Keep closure in B-Zone , and to keep it time with Chinese new year
  - No 55mm gauge pots DCL Zones
  - No pulling pots prior to daybreak
  - Amatures to feel some pinch like us
- 
-

## C-ZONE

- 50 % Wedge north = Death
- TAC why 5000000KG?
- 115mm Gauge reduced by ? mm
- 5 Days 40% TAC whites, TAC reds
- Zonal TAC ( NORTH-SOUTH)
- 4 Days 40% No bait

## C-ZONE

### Question 1

- Historically how ,many breeders left in water
- Females left behind more harm than good
- More research officers on boat
- Do not overfish ( EG how many days fished)
- Two separate zones C\- AB
- 50% 2 days off, 50% 1 Days off

What are critical things we need to do to maintain the status of the stock in the short term?

### B-Zone

- Summer closure needs to stay
- Undertake research in north end of B-Zone: tags + catcher pots + what is happening with puerulus
- 42% + pot usage in the whites  
54% or higher pot use in the reds  
Whites – 4 + fishing days  
Reds – 5+ fishing days
- Police rec fishers over Easter + other long weekends
- B & C Zone start 25<sup>th</sup> November 5 days/week, 77ml Gauge, 54 gaps  
50% usage 105mm Gauge

What are critical things we need to do to maintain the economic viability of the industry in the short term?

### B-Zone

- Summer closure to align with Chinese new year, not 55ml gaps as pots already for 09-10 – 54ml gaps escape gap stays 09-10
- Reduction in licence fees
- Unit register before Dec 09
- Government funded `buyback`
- Zones have different seasons E.g. B zone Jan-Aug
- More efficient fisheries costing E.g. over check of boat licence etc
- Minimal TAC 7.5 Million Kgs (still leave 1.3 in H20)
- Season start November 25<sup>th</sup>

## Proffered Achievements

- ITQ's per pot for whites
- Separate zone rules
- 7000000Kgs
- Immediate survey research by cray boats along coast for small lobsters before minister makes decision to see what is on the ocean floor
- Zonal Management Agreement

- Gauge adjustment

### Ways of achieving this

- Bring back mile limit
- 150 Pot rule
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> start 35% pots on whites to 30<sup>th</sup> January
- During whites until end January no deeper than 20 fathoms
- 25% pots 5 days week in whites
- Reduce peak with 80ml gauge quota per pot
- Allocated catch per pot. ITQ + fish to marker season fate change January to August
- Peak off white
- Better price to make it profitable

- 
- Remove out reliance on one indicator (puerulus) By investigating (middle shallow ground and outside) Settlement ASAP with use of night time surveys

\* Consider IBSS, 1 & 3 year old surveys

- Maximise out beach price with stock caught
  - Mini peaks & poor quality products created by extended day pulls
- A/B 4 day whites – M T W T F S S – Wed, Sat, Sun off  
5 day reds – M T W T F S S – Sat, Sun off
- Zonal Management
- 5000000Kg to low – Consider 3 scenarios based on indicator assess not economically viable
- Reduce managements cost by 50%

- 
- A/B 50% 5 Days. 77mm Gauge 55ml gap
  - C 50% 5 Days. 77mm Gauge 55 ml gap
  - By further pot reductions – need to lease more pots – higher costs inevitable therefore no more reductions from what we finished with last season
  - A/B/C No start back at 15th November, 25th Start
  - Whites reduction has been addressed by 12% less pots working 1 less day (2)

- Scientists checking peurulus settlements – they give decision more checking of data with research on board boats, compare with other reductions.
  - 50% Pots C-Zone, 5 Days Fishing
  - 77mm Gauge – All Zones
  - Commence Fishing, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Zone C
  - 40% Whites, 50 % Reds, 5 Days
  - 77mm Gauge
  - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Start
- Block closures will cause fishermen to fish outside which will not maintain the breeding stock
- Economic
  - Management fees – some out this for buy back
  - Government – compliance has holidays on days off
  - Non profitable for anyone, processors or fishermen
  - Dep act has cost 8.4 million Denham
  - “not have block closures (days off)” processors will not maintain price with poor lobsters
  - Cut backs on management costs
  - Adjust to fishermen’s costs
  - Shift out of ST Georges terrace
  - Less boats insurance companies are reviewing boats industry not + ongoing divide cost between the remaining

- 
- Best white during pots out peaks
  - No days out
  - Remove pots – fish days
  - Fish 3 weeks, trade hoon out (1 weeks out), 5/2 days
  - George B/w (24<sup>th</sup> Dec – 1<sup>st</sup> Jan)

Zone C

- 40% pots whites 50% reds, 78mm Gauge, Fishing 4-5 Days
- 25th November - 1st December
- Critical – all about profit, no profit → no money
- Where did 5000000 come from?
- Maintaining crew, Social Impact, other work- not found in small towns

---

Host of table Brad Arnup

All fishers

- 77mm Gauge all year/all zones – 100%
- Whites TAC + Lines off 40% pot usage – 100%  
+ 4 Days a week or 5 days
- Package for whole year – not management – 100%  
On the run – banks, planning, crew, gear and boats
- Some support for no fishing in the whites 50%/50%  
C both C+B Zones
- 6 x C zones  
2 x B zones
- 77mm Gauge – all year/all zones/ all fishermen – 100%
- Whites: prefer pot reduction in whites – more pots out E.g. 35% - 100%

- Management more support for the management of the fishery to be adjusted for – TAC/puerulus/ ETC – 80% for, 20% against
- More research on fishing vessel, across-fisheries Tagging measuring etc – 100%
- No support for closing whites – strong support for reducing white catch – 100%
- Use a larger gauge for f-male-in whites, take them – 77mm- after -15-1- C to address pear, Use larger gauge for, March and April (F.male)
- Take all 77mm after 30-4

Some questions and advice to fishermen

Q. How do I approach my bank manager for more money?

A. You don't!! Just leave the keys to the boat and house on his table

Q. How do I make sure that my family financial security in the future is safe?

A. They have not got a financial secure future, throw yourself off a bridge and let them claim your life insurance!!

---

Host of the table – Brad Arnup

- 77mm - 100%
- This meeting is a “waste of time”
- Ill conceived , badly run, \$10 million a year to manage and run this fishery, if you think this is the best fishery in the world you are dreaming, You have not addresses the real issues
- Breeding stock
- Puerulus
- Access to fishery
- Input or output should have been on the most discussed – “real issues”
- B x 2  
C x 5  
A x 2

Q. How do you destroy the western rock lobster fishery?

A. keep management the same as you have for the last 32 years

Q. Who will get financial aid from the government?

A. you won't get nothing if you are a fishermen

Q. Who is responsible for the devastation on the rock lobster fishery?

A. W.A fishery Debt total management at a cost of \$10million per year

Wanted Job – will do anything but must pay 200k per year to cover debt

---



Critical requirement to maintain stock/short term if no puerulus by Sept, Moon TAC set@ 5m Kgs

- Zonal TAC a must
- Low/Med Puerulus by Sept, Moon TAC set @
- Set TAC by zone in sep after readings
- 77mm all year/ all zone/ all year including amateurs.
- Protect breeding stock all zones / Most important

Critical thinking to maintain economic viability/short term

- Fish 4/5 days per week
- Decrease pot usage
- 4 days pull Monday will produce 2nd rate frozen product and price
- Fish 5 days maybe 4 at minimum, product quality, income and crew

---

Group 3 – IBIND

Where do 5000 Tonnes come from?

- Gap 54mm
- 78mm Whites 77mm Reds
- 50 Minimum Pot
- 5 days a week
- Start 25/11
- Minimum 6000000Kgs
- Zonal Management

---

C-Zone – Group 1

- Gaps : 54mm
- Size: 77mm All Season
- Pots: 50% minimum
- Days: 5 Days
- Start: 1/12
- Worst case scenario – 7000 Tonnes
- At 5000 tonnes – nothing works

Didn't have time to discuss whites + reds due to no clear parameters being defined – zonal management

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Group 2 – All C-Zone – 9 People

- Kg per pot for the whites
- Gap – 54mm
- Gauge 78mm Whites 77 reds
- Days – 5 days minimum
- Bring back moon closures + 6 days a week
- Start 1 December
- Is 15 December to 31st January an option?

- Different start day
- Zonal Tallies

Effort setting per zone to 6MT

- Harvest Rate

Historical	This year
A 88	60%
B 90	73%
C 70	54%

- Re  
se

- arch – Deep Water outside
- Monitoring – Onboard- real time readings
- Live capacity – pay for quality or zero
- Pot Usage – all at 42%
- Peak management - whites pot more Abrolhos than time
- November 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December
- Chinee new yr 15<sup>th</sup> February

Options

Days Fished

1. M T W T \_ \_ \_ \_ - Marketing No. No.

2. M T \_ T F \_ \_ Peak  
\_ \_ W \_ \_ \_ \_ off peak

3. M T W T F \_ \_ x 3  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Moon Off

- Summer closure - Max Female
- ITQ – Per pot for the whites maximum daily catch
- Gauge: 77mm All zones
- Gaps: 55mm All zones
- Start date: 25<sup>th</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> Dec All zones

## Summary of Table Discussions: Management Options

Participants were asked to summarise their top 3 ideas with regard to:

1. Maintaining the status of the stock
2. Maintaining the status of the industry

and write their ideas on post-it notes. Participants we then asked to post their ideas on the wall.

### POST-IT NOTES

1.
  - Split zones north/South
  - 4 Days (Whites)
  - 42%
  - No baits on closure
2.
  - Keep Separate zones for management
  - A.B.C Zones
  - Management Separate
  - Done Fairly
3.
  - Separate Management for each zone
  - Broad consistency with management between zones – but different detail E.g. gauges, time closures and possible TACs
4.
  - Zonal Management
  - Extra research before decision
  - Extra day equates to 12% plus 1 day
  - 2008/09 whites 62 + 6 Days
  - 2009/10 whites 50 + 5 days
  - To reduce peaks in white
  - 7000000=Kgs
5.
  - 6000 Ton absolute lowest bench mark figure regardless o what puerulus do!
  - Should be room for movement upwards if puerulus is average or above average
  - Puerulus count before decision is mate
  - No evidence anywhere to suggest a fishery be fished to extinction with the invertebrates
  - Us 5-6 indicators to workout issues

6.

- 5 Day week
- Zone by zone management
- C zone 1st Dec start
- B zone January closure
- B zone 15th November start
- Minimum 7000000KG
- 3 next season
- Kg per pot limit per day
- White only
- Wind back fees
- 54mm Gaps
- B zone 76mm Gauge red
- B-C zone 77m Gauge white pro and armatures

7.

Zone C

- 40% whites – 25/11/09 – 15/1/10
- 50% Reds
- 5 Days
- Commence 25/11/09
- 77-78 mm Gauges
- 55mm Gap
- Zonal Management only

8.

- Zonal Management
- TAC for each zone

-----  
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1.

- 5 Days a week fishing
- Similar usage to 08/09
- Concerns about crew and factory staff
- Mortality from octopus and low quality product

2.

- Zonal management
- Fisheries management cut costs relevant to stakeholders costs
- Renew out cost recovery in relation to other fisheries

3.

- All groups
- Zonal management a necessity, No clear parameters defined to discuss

Group 3

- 54mm gaps
- 78mm Gauge whites 77mm Reds
- 50% min pot usage

- 5 days a week working , Start 1/12
  - Min 7000 tonnes
  - Different start dates, Different zones
- 4.
- All groups
- Zonal management necessary, No clear parameters defined to discuss
- Group 2 all c zone
- 54 mm Gap
  - 78 mm Gauge whites 77mm Reds
  - 50% min pots in water
  - 5 days working
  - Start 1/12
- 5.
- Zonal management a necessity, no clear parameters defined to discuss
- Group 1 all c zone
- 54 mm Gap
  - 77mm Gauge
  - 50% min pots in water
  - 5 days working
  - Start 1/12
  - Worst case scenario 7000tonnes, at 5000 tonnes nothing works

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- 1.
- Days fished – no 3 or 4 days
  - On peak - M T \_ T F \_ \_
  - Off peak – M T W T F \_ \_
  - Or - M T W T F \_ \_ x 3
  - \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ off moon
  - Summer closure – stay
  - Max Female – 95, 115 if necessary
- 2.
- Set TAC after Sept, Puerulus figures by zones
  - Increase in puerulus → increase in catch
  - 40% pot usage whites, C zone, 60% pot usage Reds, C zone
  - 77mm Min size all zones, All year 55mm Gaps
  - Quotas (ITQ)
  - Recreational bag limit to 4
  - 77mm gauge, start C zone times

3.
  - Unit usage to be same all season
  - Min 4 day week all fishing year
4.
  - Most fish 5 days/ week to minimize frozen product and maximize price
  - Minor adjustment allowed to enable 5 day fishing in the peaks, 4 day fishing absolute minimum
5.
  - 5 days 50 %
  - C zone from 15th January
6.
  - Fish to the market, Especially Chinese new year
  - Movable summer closure
7.
  - No 4 day closures
  - Loss of profit
  - Conservation
  - Fishers work outside catch breeding stock

- 
1.
    - ITQ for whites
    - Reds same package as 08/09
  2.
    - C zone - Same package as last season
  3.
    - Severe restrictions for whites
    - Relax for reds to achieve a TAC
  4.
    - Harder Restrictions in whites, Ease Restrictions in red
-

1.

- Harvest rate
- Research – Deep water, onboard real time readings
- Better pots – log book
- Pot Usage
- 42% all year
- 40% whites , 50 % reds

Historical	This year
A 88	60%
B 90	73%
C 70	54%

Peak Management

- Whites arbutus
- Nov 1st to 31st Dec - 15th to 14th April
- Sep 15th to 15 Jan - 15th to 14th April

2.

- Not happy with ministers approach for the whole package
- Not 5000000Kgs catch , 7000000Kgs worst case
- No consulting with the fishermen on coast
- Resources in how many females in water.
- all the females put back in should be enough to maintain good breeding stock
- to allow us to put in with no gaps so we can research crays

3.

- remove reliance on one indicator by doing on ground night surveys – shallow and outside ASAP
- to determine if the settlement from last 3 years poor readings
- more on ground research

4.

- more onboard monitoring and research on boats
- an upgrade to the tagging program
- zonal management

5.

- more research
- summer closure
- B zone

6.

- Research into juvenile crayfish in august ASAP
- Research, research, research

7.

- Live capacity – of boats upgrade capacity
-



1.
  - 5000000 Kg to low for economic viability
  - C zone 50% pots 5 days 77, 55
  - A/B zone 42 pots 5 days 77, 55
  - Start season 25th November
  - Pot reduction - extra costs to make fishing viable with a min # pots
  - Minimise peaks
2.
  - 7000000Kg catch
  - Still leaver 1500000Kg in water coming season, together with what was left last season
3.
  - Closure of north end A Zone as recommended in risk assessment paper
4.
  - TAC 7.5 Million, reduction of 1.3
5.
  - If you can catch the same with 100 why use 100?
6.
  - Gauge size 77mm all year 105m
7.
  - 77mm gauge all year/ all zones. All fishermen
  - Whites less pots, more days, E.g. 40% pots, 5 days
  - Reds 50%, 5 days
8.
  - Gauge 77 all zones
  - Gaps stay 54mm
  - Start date 25th December
  - Recs – same rules

- 
1.
    - January Start
    - B zone (North zone)
    - Through to august
    - 4 Days 42%
  2.
    - 5 Days, 50 % Pots
    - Zone management
    - Two zones C + A/B
-

1.
    - Management to be assessed and required mid season
  2.
    - Let us see the effect of management package of last season and what we are recommending this year
    - 50%
    - 5 days
    - 77mm
    - 55 mm Gap
- 
1.
    - No fishing November
    - Start 15th Dec
    - Finish July (Rec fishers Inc.)
  2.  
B zone
    - Summer closure to stay
  3.
    - Remove peaks and fish to the market
  4.
    - Maximise beach price with stock caught
    - minimise peaks
  5.
    - B zone to keep closure in January and to keep try to put in like (flexible) with Chinese new year
    - To fish 7 million Kgs
    - Where did 5 million come from?
    - Work 5 days a week Bare minimum and moon closures should be enough to cover and over fishing

6.
  - Government funded buy back
7.
  - Unit register by December 2009
8.
  - No block closures loss of profit
  - Do not have closures around Chinese new year
  - Less boats insurance is going up premiums divided between remaining boats
9.
  - Social Impact
  - Maintaining Crew
  - No other work small towns
10.
  - 15% of pots back
11.
  - To cut sown pot fees + pot licence and boat fees due to less pots in water
12.
  - Pot fees lowered
  - DPO fees lowered
13.
  - Pot fees to come down
14.
  - Reduce licence fee
15.
  - Amateurs to feel restrictions like us pros
  - To produce tags
16.
  - 25th November commence fishing
  - 5day week
  - 77mm gauge
  - 54 mm gaps
  - 50% of pot use as worst case scenario
  - C and A+B zones same

## Key Themes and Votes

The participants then grouped the post-it notes into key themes and voted on those themes as follows:

### **50% usage pots, 5 days**

- No zones identified : 5
- A Zone : 6
- B Zone : 14
- C Zone : 128

### **TACC Higher than 5 000 000**

- No zones identified : 2
- A Zone : 1
- B Zone : 7
- C Zone : 56

### **Buy Back**

- No zones identified : 1
- A Zone : 2
- B Zone : 3
- C Zone : 21

### **Zonal TAC**

- A Zone : 2
- B Zone : 3
- C Zone : 4

### **Zonal Management**

- No zones identified : 1
- A Zone : 1
- B Zone : 5
- C Zone : 11

### **More days less pots**

- No zones identified : 8
- A Zone : 2
- B Zone : 1

### **Harder restrictions on whites (easier on reds)**

- No zones identified : 3
- A Zone : 5
- B Zone : 16
- C Zone : 32

### **Summer closure (B zone), later start to season (C zone)**

- No zones identified : 3
- B Zone : 16
- C Zone : 9

### **Reduced Fees**

- No zones identified : 4



- B Zone : 16
- C Zone : 9

### **More Research**

- No zones identified : 2
- A Zone : 2
- B Zone : 5
- C Zone : 41

### **Gauge Size 77mm (All zones)**

- A Zone : 34
- B Zone : 2
- C Zone : 34

### **Management review mid season**

- B Zone : 2
  - C Zone : 1
-

## Input vs Output

Participants were asked to consider and discuss at their tables options to implement input controls and options to implement output controls. Options were captured, consequences for and against each discussed and then voted on.

<u>Options to Implement output approach</u>	<u>Options to Implement input approach</u>
Property Rights	Current input controls rolled forward
Unit Register	Property rights
ITQ's (inter transferable quotas)	Unit register
Catch based on per unit	Flexibility
Admin not such a big issue	
Retain input controls	
Zones retained in short term	
Pot restrictions	
Varying fishing times	
Fishing start & finish dates	
Quota recognizes economics not animal husbandry	
More research by WA fishers by visiting TAS + SA	
Flexibility	

### ***Consequences of Input vs Output***

#### **Quotas**

For:

- Will underwrite the breeding stock
- Allows to shift catch to quiet period
- Will increase the price
- Will stop effort increase/creep
- Will stop further pot reductions
- Will create a better investment
- A safer investment / Property right
- Days + work will diminish/cost fall
- Allows fishermen to fish at different times for higher prices in the future
- VMS will cut policing costs
- Season + quota start 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Safety Aspect



**Against:**

- Cuts the best fishermen's catch

**Input**

For:

- Allows the best fishermen to catch

Against:

- Have to take the price of the day
- Catch too much in the peak at a low price
- Costs are too high in poor catching periods
- Causes effort increase

**Votes**

Input (Present System) : 23

Undecided : 38

Output : 27

Questions for undecided

- More info on both ( implication )
- Working group
- How many weighting stations under the quota system?

-----  
-----An open forum was facilitated to capture questions and resolutions put forward by the participants.



## Questions Outstanding

1. Under current practices of fishing over 40 years, what part has Dept Fisheries have played in this?
2. Minister's advisor advised people at the congress the decision has been made. Is this correct
3. Why get rid of summer closure - RLIAC
4. What size are the oversize females when they stop being egg productive?
5. What restrictions will be put on amateurs
6. Big Bank
7. Can the Minister please explain in detail a likely buy back scheme
8. How many zones in Tasmania

## Resolutions

1. Undertake a post puerulus lobster's sample prior to making a decision. Evaluate outside settlement (all zones) - don't to maximise sample  
**For : 114** **Against : 1**
  
2. Motion of concern that there is focus on puerulus collectors and no backup plan  
**For : 106** **Against : 9**
  
3. We don't pull pots before day break  
**For : 108** **Against : 7**
  
4. We leave gaps at 54mm  
**For : 107** **Against : 8**
  
5. Keep summer closure in for zone B (Taking into account Chinese new year)  
**For : 23** **Against : 6** } Both A/B
  
6. Amateurs governed by the following restrictions  
**For : 115** **Against : 0**
  
7. Start date same as prof's same min size (gauge size) bag down to 4/max in holding to 6 per licence  
**For : NO COUNT** **Against : NO COUNT**
  
8. That the minister consider 3 scenarios acceptable to industry that represents settlement of 2008, nill-5000t, Low→ average - 6000t, average - > 7000t  
**For : 111** **Against : 4**
  
9. That western rock lobster council become more open and accountable from this day forward by:
  - a. Agenda for each meeting of WRLC be sent to all PFA's at least 1 week before meeting so representatives have more consultation with fishers
  - b. Minutes for treasurers report be sent to all PFA's within 2 weeks after meeting
  - c. All correspondence from PFA's to WRLC be answered in real time**For : 115** **Against : 0**
  
10. C-zone vote only
  - a. 25<sup>th</sup> November start
  - b. 50% Pot usage
  - c. 77mm (max as is)
  - d. 5 day fishing**For : 0** **Against : 3**