



Incorporating Stakeholders and their Values in Care and Management of the GBR (Steve Sutton)

Background

Fishing (commercial, recreational, charter) and tourism are major uses of marine resources in the GBR:

- social and economic importance to local communities
- potentially have major impacts on resources
- bear many of the costs of management changes

We need an enhanced capacity to:

- understand how management of the GBR impacts resource users and their relationship with marine resources
- predict, evaluate, and mitigate negative socio-economic impacts
- facilitate development of community engagement in GBR management



Project objectives

1. Understand and document the impacts of the 2003 GBR Zoning Plan on use of the GBRWHA and users.
2. Document the social values, attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, concerns and aspirations related to the GBRMP and its use, management, and conservation held by Marine Park users and the wider community
3. Develop a set of indicators that can be used to assess change in the socio-economic environment of GBRWHA use in response to policy or environmental changes





Key Outcomes

- A set of indicators for each user group that can be used to:
 - understand and monitor the social environment of GBR use and users
 - Assess changes in the social environment in response to changes in management or resource conditions
 - integrate this information into marine park management
- The indicators will:
 - Be validated to ensure they measure what we think they measure
 - Meet the needs of each stakeholder group
 - Meet the needs of GBRMPA and can be integrated into their developing framework for guiding research and monitoring into the “human dimensions” of GBR use



Identifying socio-economic indicators

Stakeholder workshop held in November to begin the process of identifying suitable socio-economic indicators

Primary Stakeholder Groups represented:

- GBRMPA - tourism, fishing, social science
- Commercial Fishing
- Tourism
- QDPI&F
- Recreational Fishing
- Charter Fishing

Example indicators:

- Recreational fishing – participation rates, satisfaction, motivations
- Commercial fishing - use patterns, job satisfaction, well-being
- Tourism - industry employment, profit, sensitivity to change





Summary of progress to date

End-user engagement

- Stakeholder workshop in Nov 2007
- Initiated e-mail reference group to continue engagement

Data collection

- Identified and collated relevant existing data sources for estimating RAP effects
- initiated data collection with recreational fishing sector

Indicators

- developed a draft list of potential socio-economic indicators in partnership with end-users



Future years

Over the next 2 years the project will:

- analyze existing data to understand impacts of RAP
- conduct interview and telephone surveys of various GBR stakeholders to collect data on their use and values of the GBR
- Feed this information into further development of the social indicators monitoring system

