



**GoCCFA**  
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**Minutes of Annual General Meeting Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fishermen Association  
held at Karumba Recreational Club  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Meeting opened at 8.30am, Closed session to members and fishermen only.**

- **Apologies:** Beth Ward, Clay French, Yan Ward, Michael McDonald, Greg Hook, Hilton Fisher.
- Minutes of previous year's AGM - read and passed as true and correct.
- Treasurers report - accepted as a true account of association financial position.
- Working group for gulf net and line fishery, proposed nominations for group may be called later this year or early next year. Discussions held on who the Association would like to see accepted on working group. Need to make sure proposed members nominate at appropriate time.
- First Aid Courses have been run during week, next one tomorrow Friday (56 did course - all successful)
- **Chairman's Report:** Question to the floor, "DO WE KEEP GOING?" Unanimous YES from floor. In that case, elected representatives need more help from members to deal with the ever-increasing problems and changes that are occurring.
- Current legal challenge to new regulations discussed. *NOT FOR PUBLICATION*
- Some heated discussion on continuing conflict between N3 and N13 boats. Members were advised if they there was a problem then call up the person and discuss it as a first resort. If problems continue talk to fisheries.
- Jewfish, Jewel, Shark - legislation relating to the taking of these species and the requirement to take whole when we are mainly a fillet and freeze fishery and need to be able to take bladders and fins as a by-product of these which the recent legislation has made a problem This will be brought up to DAF later in meeting.
- Members attention brought to roof over Memorial Wall. Thanks to Dave Wren for getting it done prior to this meeting as we have several new plaques on the wall this year.
- Confusion with new closure times discussed more and better communication with fishermen is needed when changes are made with no consultation to the fisheries groups involved. At

the moment closure time is 00.00Hrs 7<sup>th</sup> Oct (NO nets in water on 7<sup>th</sup>) and opening time for new Gulf Barra season has changed to Mid-night 1<sup>st</sup> Feb (NO nets in water on 1<sup>st</sup>Feb)

- Paper for latest confidential contact details for safety please notify Kyra or secretary if phone or email changes occur during season.

### **ELECTIONS**

**Chairman:** Vacant - nominations for this position needed

**Vice Chairmen:** Shane A Ward

Scott Bolton

**Secretary:** Claudine Ward

**Vice secretary:** Kylie Snaith

**Treasurer:** Kylie Snaith

**Environment:** Graham Ward

**Delegates:**

**N3** - Des Bosel

- Brad Bosel

**N13** - Dave Wren

**Crab** - Ben Day

- Erick Brill

**L3** - Rick French

- Greg Hook

**Safety** - Kyra Hill

- Discussion held on who this association would like to nominate on Gulf inshore working group this may occur later in year for new year meetings.
- Ben Day gave a recap of his experience on Crab Working group, the proposed TAC and the latest start date of 1 July 2020.

### **AURUKUN BAUXITE PROJECT - Andrew Clarkson from Glencore, Bronwyn Presland from Hansen and Bailey consultants for EIS**

Addressed the members on the coastal loading facility (jetty) south of Norman Creek roughly to Ina Creek including red cliffs with transshipment zone 18km from the coast. 450 metres long, 4.2 m wide, 12 m high with an exclusion zone. An 8-million-ton project over the next 25 years.

As there were several Grey and Spanish mackerel fishermen attending this meeting - the proposed site wasn't meet with much approval. As it covers much of the Grey mackerel grounds.

At this point we invite DAF to listen in on the presentation and to roughly look up what impact this may have on the fisheries in the area. Just a quick look was able to supply the info that about 22% of Grey mackerel catches would be affected without looking at Barra, other species, crab or the line fishery. This will need more careful study.

We hope to hear from Glencore again prior to EIS being finalised for comment. Points brought up from the floor apart from the position included excessive lights, sediment problems, smoke and dust from removal of timber. This project hopes to be up and running by 2022.

**JACK BOWDEN (Mayor) & Mark Crawlsy (CEO) Carpentaria Shire Council** gave an update on recent public meeting regarding the Norman River still looking at pull out facility for boats.

Jack was reminded about the vinegar stations for jellyfish stings that were proposed for Normanton and Karumba and whether another defibrillator could be stationed near boat ramps as many defibs were inaccessible after hours in the town.

**Barbara Wueringer** reminded members that they could fill out a survey re sawfish interactions forms were passed out to members - phone Barbara on 1800298247 if you want to talk to her.

\*\*At the BBQ later that night there was a sawfish/beer challenge to see how fast fishermen can safely remove sawfish from nets. The winners were Tarzan, DJ, Hog.

#### **SUSTAINABLE FISHERY STRATEGY - Sian Breen, Tony Ham, Kimberly Foster**

Re crab reforms and how quota allocation will occur including TACC, ITQ bycatch devices that will be used, commercial tagging of crabs, banning of lightweight pots - final government decisions will be made late 2019 and by early 2020 eligible licences will be notified, and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 commences. A TAC of 97 Ton for the Gulf crab proposed for start of quota fishery must have minimum quota to crab

1st year no change in TAC 2<sup>nd</sup> year may be increased 3-4<sup>th</sup> year may be adjusted up or down.

**MOTION FROM FLOOR** that owner of quota must have a C1 symbol to have quota to a maximum of 6 ton and every extra 6 ton needs a C1 symbol.

### **EAST COAST INSHORE FINFISH FISHERY**

These changes should not affect the Gulf as they are East coast based (with some of the recent changes to Jew, Jewel Shark and closure times we would dispute this statement)

Fishery to have:

- ITQ Tier 1 Barra, King Salmon, Grey Mackerel, Whiting
- Competitive TAC Tier 2 for other species
- With catch monitoring and trigger points

*Bladders:* Taking Jewfish landed frozen whole creates a waste of fish hopefully this has been dealt with see attached email. (See PDF Download on Website)

There was talk of tagging Black Jew bladders this problem seems to stem from black marketing in recreational fishery and the solution needs to be sorted so that it doesn't interfere in the commercial fishery. TAC of Black Jew in the Gulf is 6 ton.

DAF is proposing that all logbooks are electronic by 2021 - HOPE THEY HAVE TALKED TO TELSTRA!  
WTO are looking at improved data either from electronic logbooks observers or cameras on board.

### **JOHN CAVELLIR - Northern Fisheries Cairns**

Talked on latest research and monitoring, asked for volunteers for sampling program again next season - including genetic monitoring of shark.

### **QLD FISHERIES SERVICE - Tony Loader & BJ Thomson**

Tony addressed members, apologised that Loren Hart (New Fisheries Inspector) couldn't attend as he is currently at a course.

Some of the issues touched upon were:

- Logbook infringements
- VMS not working, check before leaving
- Vessel marking must be legible
- Marking nets - correct lights on nets
- Bladders packed in a manner that they can be identified

When asked about the drones that have been reported by fishermen to be flying against CASA regulations too close, too low and at night - Tony said that of the 10 QLD drones to so far, no fishery drones had been deployed in the Gulf area. This didn't convince some fishermen who remained sceptical about who has been annoying them.

Fishermen spoke of the need to get rid of words 'radar reflector' on some nets and the need for inside lights on some river nets when a reflector ball has been acceptable for many years.

South Mitchell closure has been remarked with new boards and has returned to including the bay.

#### **AMSA - Mick Bishop**

- Vessels 10m need coxswain.
- From fisheries primary vessels need coxswain.
- Grandfathered boats must comply with current safety rules.
- "C" need life rafts.
- Positive flotation on dinghies (grandfathered vessels) has been delayed again. No date as yet - this didn't impress the many fishermen who had gone to the expense of complying with previous date.
- PowerPoint on SMS was presented to members. Mick will send out an email to all who attended

**Meeting closed at 4pm**

**Thanks to all presenters.**

**BBQ began at the wall where plaques for Ron Allgood, Fuzzy Bob Sinclair and Ken Adams were unveiled.**

**Harry Ward won the Crab tying**

**Many thanks to BBQ Cooks and Julianne for salads.**