

## FISHING INDUSTRY SUMMIT

Fremantle Sailing Club  
18 October 2007

### **Outcomes**

#### **A. UNITED APPROACH (Unity)**

##### Summary

- WAFIC be the peak representative body representing the fishing, aquaculture and pearling industries in WA
- WAFIC Board members to be directly elected by license holders
- WAFIC aim to be self funded
- Specific Industry Associations (sector bodies) develop WAFIC policy and drive implementation
- WAFIC Board approve policy
- WAFIC develop communication mechanisms to ensure effective engagement between WAFIC, sector associations and professional fishermen associations

##### **Strategy: Overarching Body**

1. WAFIC Board to agree that reform is required and a new structure developed (WAFIC Board)
2. WAFIC initiate a planning meeting to develop a new structure (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)
3. Ensure sector bodies agree on proposed structure and promote advantages to members (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)
4. Change WAFIC constitution for voting and any other agreed changes (WAFIC Board)
5. Look at funding structure with license holders paying directly for WAFIC

##### **Strategy: Improve Communication between WAFIC & Sector Bodies**

6. Taskforce/Workshop to identify reporting and communication processes (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)

##### **Strategy: Ensure Structure does not weaken Sector Bodies**

7. WAFIC Chair and CEO to meet with Sector Bodies to convince them:
  - To develop MOU on respective roles and responsibilities between WAFIC and Sector Bodies
  - MOU developed by independent facilitator (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)

8. Ensure there are clear guidelines for groups that are supported by MOU's (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)
9. Ensure there is a good dispute resolution process (WAFIC & Sector Bodies)

**Strategy: All talking under the same name**

10. Sector bodies need to identify their positions on key policy areas eg OH&S, Marine planning and reserves and feed to WAFIC (Sector Bodies)
11. Develop and adopt a charter of who is responsible and who has the ability to sign off on what (WAFIC)
12. Ensure all communication/correspondence is coming from a common source (WAFIC)
13. Develop a process to ensure things are actually being achieved- getting results/continuity (WAFIC)

## **B. GARNERING COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

### Summary

- Fishers connect with local community
- Need for credible voice saying fishing is good
- Form alliances with strong partners
- Promote our strengths

**Strategy: General Community Involvement**

14. Encourage and assist (including sourcing funds) to enable fisheries to achieve third party certification and thus enable the industry to demonstrate credible sustainability credentials (WAFIC, Fishers, Companies & MSC- immediate)
15. Establish the connection between the fisher and the consumer-“From Hook to Cook”,”Bait to Plate”( midterm)
16. Interactive processes to engage the community-website information-Chat room (WAFIC/Industry Profile- within 6 months)
17. Leverage media that brings the regions into the metropolitan area emphasising importance of fishing industry to the regions (WAFIC/IP- opportunistic)
18. Use existing tools (blessing of the fleets, MSC, industry donations for community assets etc) to promote the industry (All of industry- requires a coordinated strategy)

**Strategy: Form alliances with stronger Bodies/Organisations**

19. Seek alliances with tourism, wine producers or other food producers, restaurateurs' association, recreationals, regional development commissions, health providers (dieticians). Look for strong groups who have a vested interest in being aligned with the fishing industry or who benefit from the industry (WAFIC & Local Fishers)

**Strategy: Community Involvement at Regional Level**

20. Create a manual or handbook on how fishers can connect with the local community (WAFIC/ Women's network- high)

**C. ABILITY TO UNDERTAKE SELF MANAGEMENT**

21. WAFIC with a selected industry to develop a model for self-management and obtain Ministerial support/sign off
22. Establish "the entity" and its relationship with its shareholders
23. Design/sign off:
  - Research/researchers
  - Compliance
  - Community Reporting
  - Resource Sharing
  - Audit Process
24. WAFIC get final process signed off by Minister
25. WAFIC to lead other fisheries through the process if they have the desire
26. FDRC to fund a pilot program (under public good funding) to implement a self- managed fishery

**D. ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES**

27. Department's R & D is for the good of the fishing industry
28. Department to have stronger links in industry through participation in industry forums
29. Greater accountability by the Department to WAFIC and affiliated industry associations
30. Department more adaptable to co management and collaborative research

**E. INTEGRATED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

Summary

- Speed up implementation of IFM
- Get fair reductions in effort from all sectors
- Better and clearer research (independent research)
- Best interests of whole community considered

**Strategy: Speed up implementation of IFM**

31. Rock lobster IFM must be pushed through. Commercial sector must have cuts in effort, recreationals must follow (WRLC- immediate)
32. Wetfish metro zone IFM implemented (Minister)
33. Wetfish outer metro zone, must save fish (WAFIC-12 months)
34. Get proper estimates of recreational catch and effort on wetfish

**Strategy: Get fair reductions for all sectors**

35. Allocation of shares to all sectors. Work out what recreationals catch now (WAFIC Board review- now)
36. Get open discussions with all groups eg recreationals, commercial and community groups (WAFIC, RecFishWest, others- 6-12 months)
37. Implement (12 months)

## **F. PROFITABILITY**

### Summary

- Set achievable industry targets (consensus)
- Get quality representation with a clear mandate to do so
- Implement change (legislative) or sidestep regulators
- With profitability comes respectability
- “Its easier to deal with 5 profitable fishermen rather than 20 on the bones of their arse”

**Strategy: Embracing structural reform to allow profitability**

38. Get a target through consensus
39. Get strong industry representation- pay for quality good representation
40. Implement legislative framework or put in place the framework to bypass regulators
41. Slogan: “With Profitability comes Respectability”

## **G. TRAINING**

42. Education and training programs to achieve (A to F above)
43. Recognition of fishing industry as a skills based industry
44. Employment strategies to retain staff (regular income and security) eg on wage basis rather than share basis)
45. Develop process to undertake skills assessment
46. Change industry culture to keep skills up to date

## **H. SUCCESSION PLANNING**

47. Change the perception to clarify what it entails, that is business structure to manage change
  - Retirement
  - Handing onto family
  - Building a saleable business and selling it (exit strategy)
48. Develop simple information package that shows the positive benefits of planning for the future
49. Establish a single business unit that can provide advice to industry on business structure
50. Develop business models that account for year to year changes in the fishing industry