

Recommended Response to Rocky Reef RIS Questionnaire.

Questions and Answers

1. **Total allowable catch (TAC): Do not tick any options. Write "Refer to comments."**

Comment:

No individual multiple choice option is appropriate!
This is a loaded and biased question.
Respondents should first be asked if they even support a TAC.
Any response could be taken as supporting the TAC of 400 tonne.
There is not enough proven science to justify a TAC of 400 tonne in the first place.

2. **Charter fishing: Do not tick any options. Write "Refer to comments."**

Comment:

No individual multiple choice option is appropriate!
Again this is a biased and leading question. The Charter industry is inextricably linked to the Recreational fishing sector but also have attributes that need to be managed separately from the Rec sector. To ask either/or or neutral to such a broad subject is destined to have conflicting answers and no clear outcomes.

3. **Charter fishing: Do not tick any options. Write "Refer to comments."**

Comment:

No individual multiple choice option is appropriate!
A notional TAC is only an option if there is also a notional TAC on the Commercial sector as well.
An ITQ or competitive TAC is impractical and unworkable in the Charter industry for charter businesses that may only catch a few Snapper per year.
A seasonal closure is only appropriate if all sectors are treated the same.
A closure is only appropriate if there is sound science proving spawning benefits or other benefits in each area proposed for closure.
Seasonal closures are not necessary throughout the whole state but may only in areas and instances when science can show a significant benefit.
Closures should only apply to specific species that have been proven to be under threat. Closures should not apply to species not under threat.

4. **Commercial fishing: Tick the first 3 options. Write "Refer to comments."**

Comment:

The first 3 options are all useful tools for managing the commercial fishery and should all be used to some extent.
Closures should apply to all fishers equally.

5. **Recreational fishing arrangements: Do not tick any options. Write "Refer to comments."]**

Comment:

No individual multiple choice option is appropriate!
Recreational anglers already have enough restrictions placed on them especially with bag limits and gear restrictions. They have already had significant further cutbacks and restrictions placed on them with the recent changes over the last few years, especially to Snapper. Recreational anglers in general already have a high sense of stewardship. Placing any or all of these restrictions would not encourage any further stewardship.

6. **Recreational catch restrictions:
First part – reduced bag limits for Snapper: Tick "Strongly disagree". "Write Refer to comments."**

Comment 6a:

No further restrictions on Recreational catches of Snapper are needed. Recreational anglers took massively reduced bag limits over the last decade but no corresponding restrictions or TAC's [Total Allowable Catch's] were placed on commercial fishers. TAC's need to be introduced to the commercial sector and then studies need to see the results of that before any further restrictions are placed on recreational anglers.

Second Part – Combined Rocky Reef species Bag Limit: Do not tick any options.

Write “Refer to comments.”

Comment 6b:

Combined Bag Limits are appropriate ONLY when TAC’s are introduced for Commercial fishers for all species.

7. Charter catch restrictions:

First part – reduced bag limits for Snapper: Tick “Strongly disagree”. Write “Refer to comments.”

Comment 7a:

No further restrictions on Recreational catches of Snapper are needed. Recreational anglers took massively reduced bag limits over the last decade but no corresponding restrictions or TAC’s [Total Allowable Catch’s] were placed on commercial fishers. TAC’s need to be introduced to the commercial sector and then studies need to see the results of that before any further restrictions are placed on recreational anglers.

Second Part – Combined Rocky Reef species Bag Limit: Do not tick any options.

Write “Refer to comments.”

Comment 7b:

Combined Bag Limits are appropriate ONLY when TAC’s are introduced for Commercial fishers for all species.

8. Recreational and charter catch restrictions: Do not tick any options. Write “Refer to comments.”

Comment 8:

Bag limits on recreational and charter fishers for new species must not be introduced until a corresponding TAC on all species is introduced for commercial fishers.

9. Fishing gear restrictions: Do not tick any options. Write “Refer to comments.”

Comment 9:

Snapper fishing by line only is supported. Incidental catch of snapper by net must not be allowed. Allowing “incidental” catch always leads to target netting in other fisheries and enforcement is non-existent.

10. Closures: Do not tick any boxes. Write on each “Refer to comments.”

Comment 10 a, b, c, d, e, f:

A seasonal closure is only appropriate if all sectors are treated the same.

A closure is only appropriate if there is sound science proving spawning benefits or other benefits in each area proposed for closure.

Seasonal closures are not necessary throughout the whole state but in areas and instances where science can show a significant benefit.

Closures should only apply to specific species that have been proven to be under threat. Closures should not apply to species not under threat.

11. Options for new management arrangements: Tick “Strongly disagree” to ALL 4 options! Write “Refer to Comments.”

Comment:

Treating the recreational sector unfairly and with bias is not acceptable.

Closures, if implemented, must be based on peer reviewed proven science and must apply to all fishers.

If a Notional TAC is implemented for the Recreational sector it should not have a fee attached or a compulsory log book. Monitoring fish stocks is core business for the Fisheries managers and should not be funded by individual and specific fees.

If a Recreational fishing license is to be introduced, it must be a single license that covers all forms of fishing and species, and funds must go into a dedicated trust fund for the benefit of Recreational Fishing only.

Recreational anglers took massively reduced bag limits over the last decade but no corresponding restrictions or TAC’s [Total Allowable Catch’s] were placed on commercial fishers. TAC’s need to be introduced to the commercial sector and then studies need to see the results of that before any further restrictions are placed on recreational anglers.

Further comments.

Recreational anglers have taken repeated, multiple and severe restrictions on bag limits over the last 2 decades. Commercial fishers have had no significant catch limits placed on them for Rocky Reef Species in that time. Commercial fishers must have restrictions placed on total and individual catches and the effect of this must be monitored before any further restrictions are placed on the recreational anglers.

If a Recreational fishing license is to be introduced, it must be a single license that covers all forms of fishing and species. All funds must go into dedicated trust accounts i.e. Freshwater & saltwater to be used solely to benefit Recreational fishing only. This would mean that the current SIPS scheme would be rolled into the freshwater trust & started at the highest average dollar value raised over the last three years and the balance then to go into the saltwater trust. I would also suggest the current PPV levy would be removed.

Why were other options such as increasing the legal length and slots size limits not included in the questionnaire?