



Research investigating social acceptance for the wild catch commercial fishing industry of Southeast Queensland

QSIA is partnering with the University of the Sunshine Coast to learn about community acceptance of the wild caught fishing industry. This is often called 'social licence to operate' and we'd like to understand your thoughts about the industry and its acceptance. This information will contribute to a strategy to engage community.

The Queensland commercial fishing industry provides healthy food for the community and tourist industry, has implemented sustainable operating standards, and is highly regulated. In spite of this, recent research indicates a low level of social acceptance of the commercial fishing industry by the community (FRDC 2016, 2011).

We are hoping to interview fishers in 4 case study areas (1) Moreton Bay (2) Tin Can Bay (3) Gold Coast and (4) Sunshine Coast. We are now inviting potential participants to register their interest. We will ask to meet with you individually or in a group initially to introduce the project, outline its aims and objectives (about 30 minutes) and how you can participate. This will be followed by individual interviews taking no more than 1 hour a couple of weeks later. Prior to the interviews we would like participants to take photos demonstrating how you fish, your concerns and values and what your business and sustainability means to you (digital cameras can be provided and printing costs will be covered by the project). We would also like you to show us how else you contribute to the community either marine-related (e.g. search and rescue), or not. If you agree to participate, we'll send you more information about how we'll use the photos as a basis for the interviews, and later for focus groups to see if we can get an agreed message about what to convey about your industry in a later exhibition.

The outcomes of this research will give us insights into how your industry can better engage with the community and a summary report of the findings will be provided to you.

The research team consists of Project Supervisor Associate Professor Claudia Baldwin (University of the Sunshine Coast; cbaldwin@usc.edu.au) and Research Assistant Sarah Connor (University of the Sunshine Coast).

If you would like to participate please contact the project research assistant, Sarah Connor at sconnor@usc.edu.au or (07) 5456 5204.