



Position Statement #1

Review of so-called fisheries reform

1. Introduction

The so-called Queensland fisheries reform process has led to extreme industry anxiety, undermining of industry confidence and a political not science-based rationale for change.

The Association is seeking a halt and review of the so-called Queensland fisheries reform process including:

- **A review of quota management arrangements;**
- **A review of zoning and**
- **Modelling of the impacts of the reform on the catch to consumer seafood supply chain.**

2. Rationale

2.1. A review of quota management arrangements

Quota management has never had industry support based on its capacity to limit catch at a time when Queensland commercial fisheries are sustainable. This management approach has been forced on industry as the direct result of tokenistic consultation processes and distinct, anti-industry stance from recreational and conservation groups¹.

2.2. A review of zoning

The majority of inshore and trawl fishers are not in favour of dividing the Queensland coastline into zones. The zones will limit the flexibility that exists under current fisheries management arrangements².

2.3. Modelling of reform impacts

Industry and the Queensland community have been denied an opportunity to understand the impacts of the so-called reform process. With no regulatory impact statement (RIS) undertaken by the State Government it is unclear what the impacts are on commercial fishers, post-harvest businesses (retailers, wholesalers and processors) or the supply and price impacts of the process³.

¹ Respondents to the Association's submission to the State Government's discussion papers did not support the introduction of quota in either the crab or net fisheries ([QSIA Submission](#), 3 June 2018).

² Ibid ([QSIA Submission](#), 3 June 2018).

³ To date the State Government has not undertaken a RIS as part of the so-called fisheries reform process.

3. Conclusion

3.1. Course of Action

A suspension of the review of the so-called reform process.

3.2. Solution

The review of the reform process should involve a review of the quota allocation process and / or seeking alternatives to quota management. A review of the introduction of zoning as part of the process. Finally, the use of a comprehensive RIS focusing on the impacts (economic, social and environmental) of the reform on the wild harvest, post-harvest sectors and seafood consumers.

4. Authorisation

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) is the peak industry body representing the Queensland seafood industry. Our members include professional fishers, seafood processors, marketers, retailers and other business associated with the seafood industry. Our representation to members and the community at large is to promote the consumption of wild caught Queensland seafood.

Approved and Endorsed by: QSIA Board
September 2019

For Review: November 2020