

B ZONE FISHING CONCERNS

AS PRESENTED BY

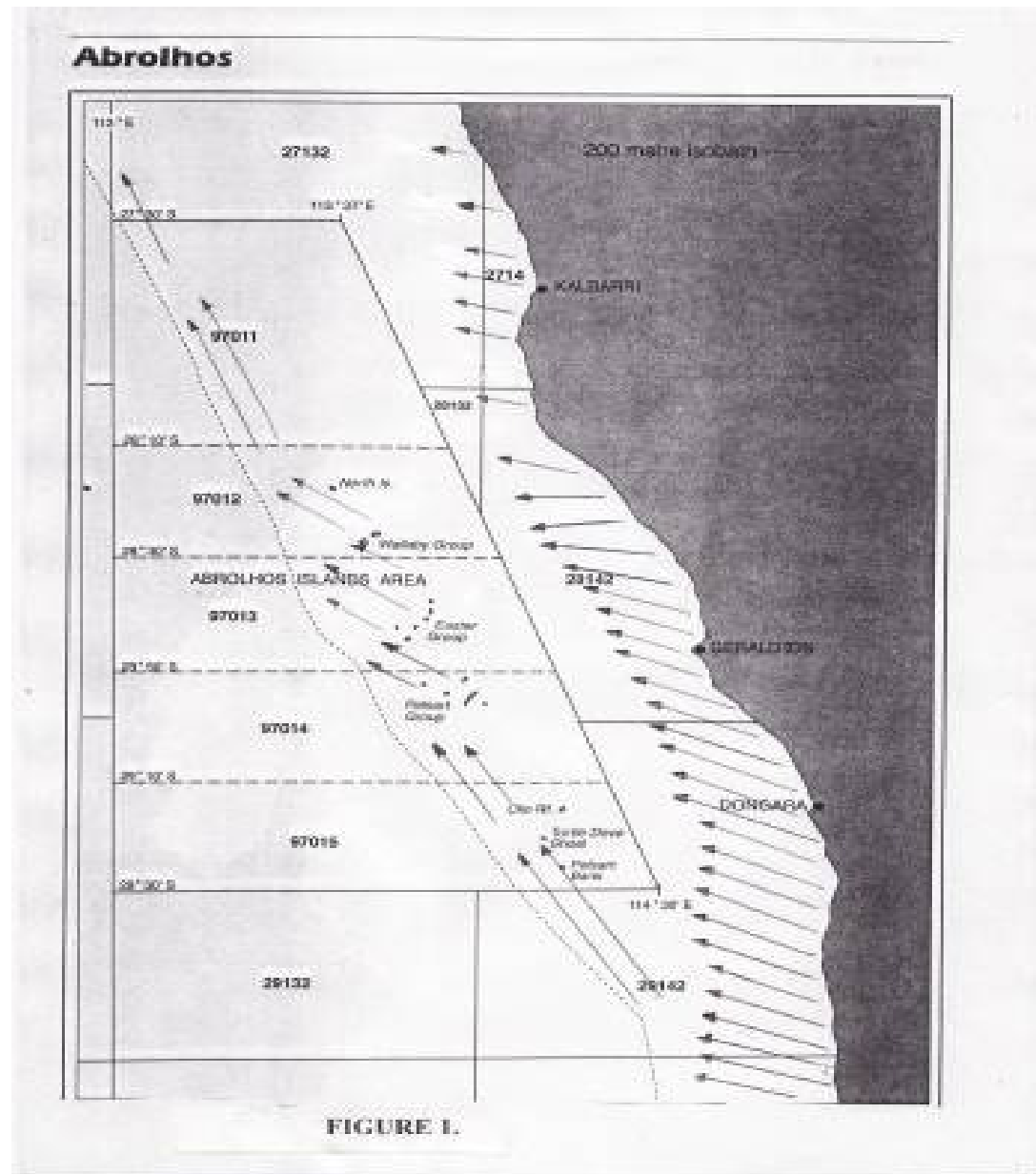
United Midwest Fishers Association
Kalbarri Professional Fishermen's
Association

Summer closure

All the shaded areas marked on the charts can be verified by the traditional fishermen in these areas (no more than 5 boats outside shaded areas)

These fishermen represent more than 50% of B Zone and would like the summer closure to remain in place.

White crayfish migration



Crayfish Migration

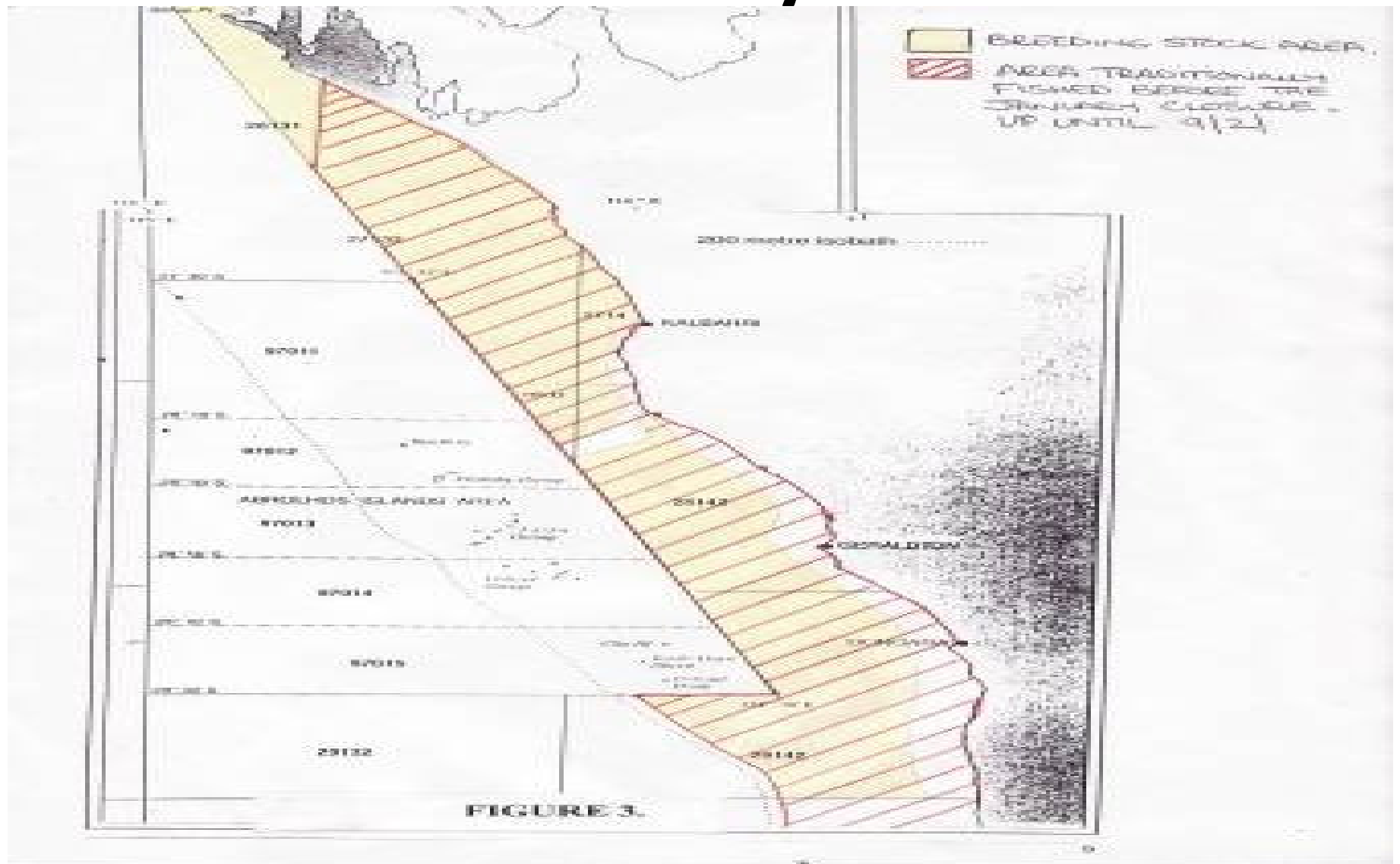
January 09

	Catch	Setose	Berried	Undersize
68 – 77 fathoms West of Leeman	1.5kg	0.4	0	20.5
	2.2kg	0.2	0	29.2
20km west of Geraldton	0.6kg	0.7	0.3	2.7
	1.3kg	0.7	0.5	3.6
<10 fathoms west of Horrocks	0.6kg	.03	0	6.3
	0.4kg	.04	0	6.3

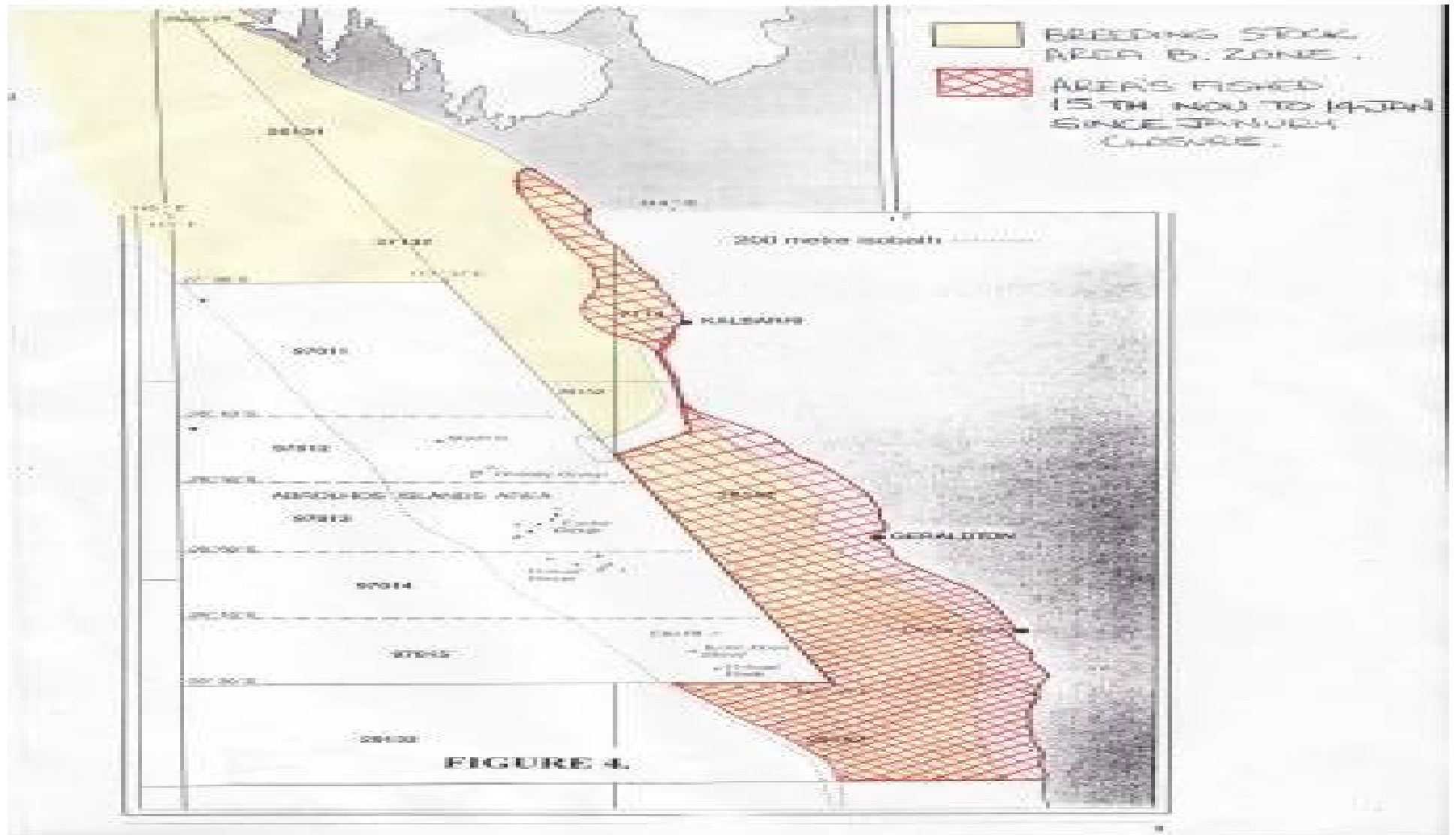
Log book data

Fishers Returns

Area fished 15th Nov – 9th Feb before January closures



Area fished 15th Nov to 14th Jan since the January closure



Diversity of catch within B zone

- It would be an interesting exercise to compare catch per pot Dongara South in B Zone to catch per pot Geraldton North in B Zone 15th November up to the summer closure 14th January
- (Refer low puerulus settlement risk assessment, Page 32, recommendation 6, comment 3.)

Fisher's Assessment of this information

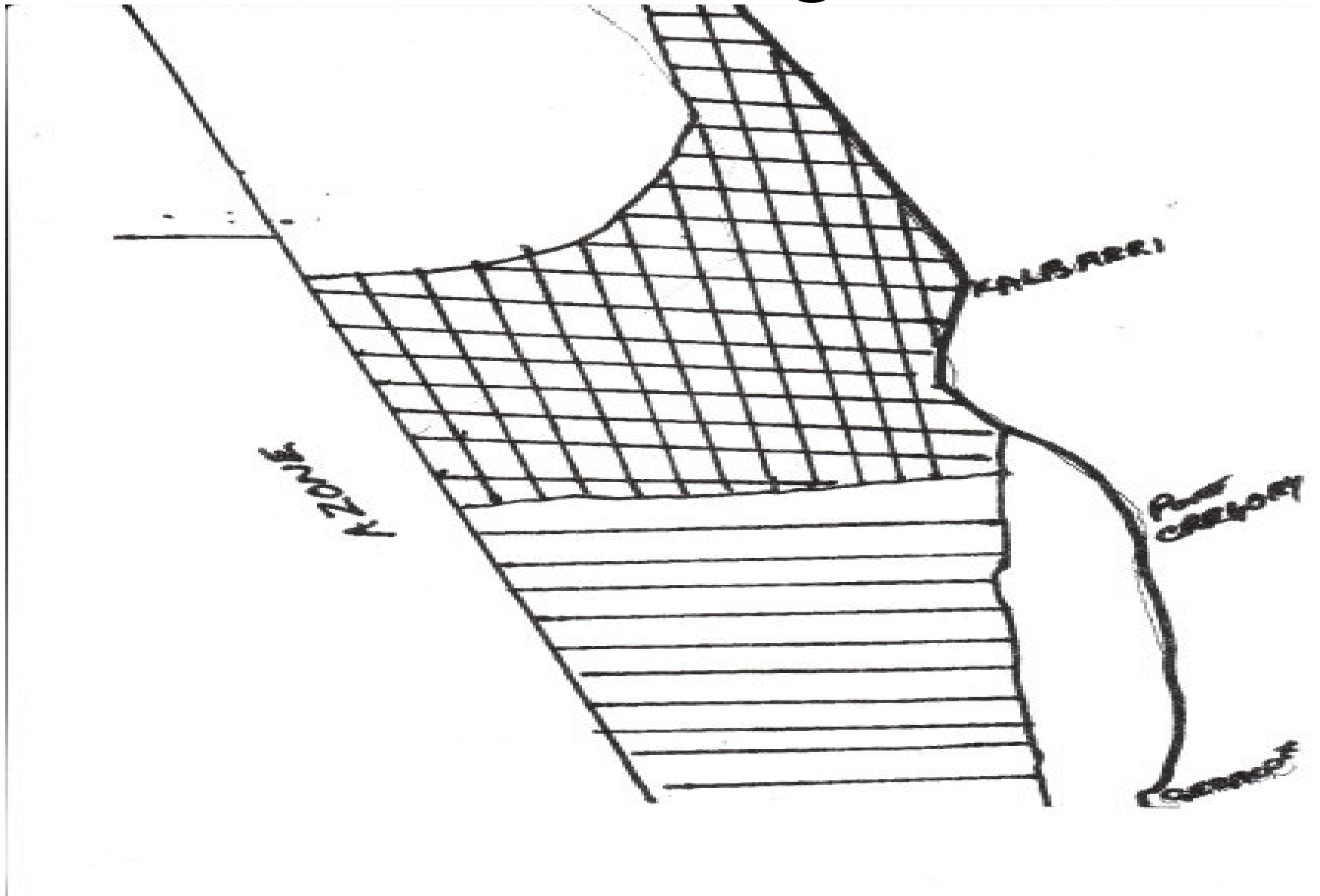
The risks to the Berried females associated with fishing in B zone during January is immediately obvious when you look at fishing in these areas.

(RLIAC refer to Page 10, Low Puerulus settlement risk assessment paper.)

Fisher's Assessment of this information

Although there is conflict of opinion between Northern Coastal B Zone fishermen and W.A. Fisheries Research regarding the residual level of the breeding stock in Northern Area's, now is not the time to risk the certainty of putting further pressure on the Breeding Stock during January, the main Breeding Season of the Western Rock Lobster!

Kalbarri Fishing Area



Research Concerns

- Nil research available from block 27132
- Closure of 30% B Zone with minimal research
- 5% of this area is the actual 'Big Bank' area
- 200kg saleable lobster but handling 1 tonne of berried and setose lobster Dec 08 – Jan 09
- Oversize females with 95ml gauge makes area unfishable due to oversize lobster numbers

Proposal

- B Zone fishermen would prefer to keep summer closure in place and to fish an extra day from
 1. 15th November to 14th January

OR

2. 15th May to 30th June

which historically is a time when the price of Rock Lobster increases and Fishermen can minimize their costs.

(Generally B Zone boats are fishing closer inshore during this period. Refer MEY analysis.)

Proposal

- Our Associations are not supportive of changing escape gaps to 55mm in the Northern Area (B Zone) and this will increase bait costs and contraction of boats to target areas of larger animals (breeding stock)

Fishers have assessed the implications of a gauge change to 77mm in B zone by measuring all of their catch during March 09. 20 – 30% of lobsters caught were 76mm – 77mm

Conclusion

We believe it is up to the northern zone fishers to present their own information as the research information is scant and major decisions are being made without appropriate consultation

All information presented can be verified by the fishermen

LETS ALL STAND TOGETHER

We would like to acknowledge WRLC for allowing us the privilege to present to our peers and to those who research our industry It is very important for the future of our industry that we all stand together.

THANK YOU