

**WRLC DRAFT RESPONSE TO DoF (DEC 2009)
QUOTA POLICY PROPOSALS**

1. Retain the Managed Fishery boundary from Cape Leeuwin to North West Cape.
(WRLC agrees)
2. Retain Zonal Boundaries (A,B,C), for the first five years - then review.
(WRLC agrees)
3. Maintain Big Bank temporal closure while required.
(WRLC agrees, however should be dependent on appropriate research being carried out. Monitor and review after 3 years. A target BSI should be set.)
4. Remove 20 Fathom line (36.6 metre) fishing restriction on holders of A Zone units of entitlement.
(WRLC Agrees)
5. Commence the season in B and C Zones on 1 July.
(WRLC believes this should be 15th January (There was discussion around the 1st January and there were some who preferred 1st July), this would require an interim "ITQ for the initial period from November the previous year. Fish for 12 months of the year, so only initial starting date is important)- The logic was that the whites would provide fishers with the most confidence of being sure of filling their quota at the end of the season.
6. Commence the season in A Zone on 15 March, close on 30 June.
(WRLC Agrees)
7. Holders of both A Zone and B Zone entitlements on the one Fishing Boat Licence may not operate in B Zone while A Zone is open.
(WRLC Agrees)
8. Remove the following closures:
 - a. Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
 - b. Christmas and New Year closures.
(WRLC Agrees)
9. Remove restriction on processors operating on Good Friday.
(WRLC Agrees)
10. A person must hold a Managed Fishery licence and Fishing Boat Licence to operate in the Fishery.
(WRLC Agrees)
11. Allow multiple Managed Fishery Licences to be held on the one Fishing Boat Licence.

(WRLC Agrees)

12. Retain twelve month annual right to renewal for holders of Managed Fishery Licences as currently provided for in s 68 of the FRMA and subject to section 136a and 143.

(WRLC Agrees, however the most important issue here is to have a robust legislative framework providing "PROPERTY RIGHTS" in perpetuity)

13. No limit on the number of units of entitlement than can be held on a Managed Fishery Licence.

(WRLC believes there should be some limit in holdings in each Zone or overall – 20% was discussed)

14. Replace minimum operating unit holding of 63 units with 5 tonne of quota.

(WRLC Agrees)

15. No limitation on the number of pots that can be operated on a Managed Fishery Licence.

(WRLC believes there should be a limit on the number of pots in the industry – No more than entitlements at the moment, 69,000 – although there is only about 40% of these in the water- whatever the number allowed it should be proportionate to the number of units held.)

16. Retain current configuration of pots including escape gaps, but assess new pot designs.

(WRLC Agrees – if a new pot was 20% more efficient there would be 20% less usage)

17. No restrictions on pot hauling times.

(WRLC Agrees, subject to OH&S Standards – Maintain amateur restrictions)

18. No restrictions on the number of times a pot can be hauled during a day.

(WRLC Agrees, subject to accurate record keeping and reporting)

19. No soaking or baiting of pots prior to the start of the season.

(WRLC Agrees, however a soaking area should be maintained at the Islands)

20. Maintain maximum and minimum size limits - initially.

(WRLC Agrees, however needs debate on size and if it is necessary for Max)

21. Prohibit taking setose, tar spot and berried females - initially.

Should read- Prohibit retention and landing of setose, tar spot and berried females – INITIALLY)

22. Non retained animals must be returned to the water within five minutes of being taken.

(WRLC Agrees)

23. No conversion of entitlements from one Zone to another zone i.e. Zone C units cannot become Zone B units.

(WRLC Agrees)

24. Review boat breakdown policy under new arrangements.

WRLC Agrees- commonsense should prevail- Maybe : Notification to DoF would allow another quota holder to pull your gear, the catch goes against that quota holder then transferred back,)

Other Issues:

- **Legislative Framework- property rights in perpetuity. The quality of this will determine the access fee. WAFIC- Resource access Committee and WRLC to work on this.**
- **Initial allocation- based on existing 69,000 units- is there any capacity to take into account catch history?, this is very difficult given lease arrangements and no unit register- in South Australia there was some recognition of catch history through a phase in period. Re- allocation of wealth is an issue always raised in regard to initial allocation.**
- **TAC / TACC setting: In Zones – proportional shares- review and adjustment process- science should inform management decision making.**
- **UNIT REGISTER- A simplified register of ownership is all that is required (Peter Hammond preparing a paper on this)**
- **VMS- This requires a detailed discussion to establish if it is absolutely necessary.**
- **Compliance/ Audit monitoring of product flow. Catch Landing.**
- **Catch balancing- unders and overs.**
- **IT IS ASOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT SOME FORM OF “ITQ” IS IMPLEMENTED FOR THE START OF 2010/11 SEASON.**

WRLC 15TH JANUARY 2009