

Fish for the Future

A Douglas Shire Sustainability Initiative



Action Plan: Towards a Community Managed Fishery
2021-2024

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Yirrganydji Peoples are the Traditional Custodians and Owners of the land and sea country that encompass the Douglas Shire region.

Douglas Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the 'Bama', the Traditional Owners of our region. We recognise and respect Bama cultural heritage, values, beliefs and continuing relationships and responsibility to their land and sea country. We honour and respect their Elders past, present and future. We commit to maintaining and strengthening our partnerships and respectful relationships with Bama in the spirit of reconciliation so that together we can increase the opportunities for successful and positive outcomes to the advantage of everyone in our communities.

Council respectfully acknowledges other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who call our region 'home'.

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This Action Plan has been prepared by Phil Laycock, PES Consulting for Douglas Shire Council.

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Environment and Planning
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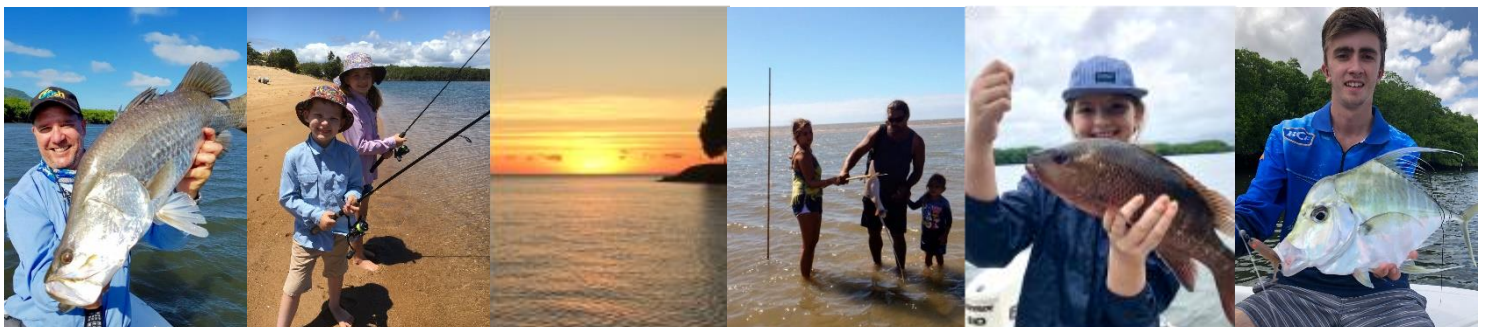
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the many residents of the Douglas Shire who gave their time to speak with me and attend the community meetings supporting the community consultation conducted in the preparation of this action plan.

The community would not have the opportunity this action plan gives them without the support and financial investment of the Douglas Shire Council, Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) has been instrumental in bringing a diverse group of stakeholders together and providing them with a voice to influence their fishing future. This has created the platform for recreational, charter, cultural and commercial fishers to discuss issues affecting their fishing future in a constructive manner.

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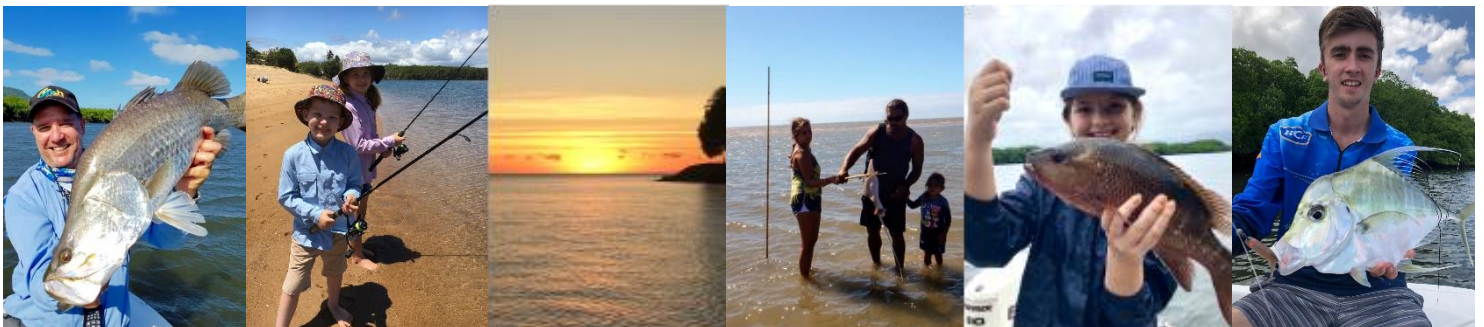


Executive Summary

The plan's primary role is to support the community's vision for an abundant and resilient local fishery cared for by the community. It provides a foundation for the community to build a business case for a community managed fishery with a particular focus on protecting recreational and cultural fishing values in the inshore and near shore environments. It achieves this by identifying actions the community can take to support the achievement of this vision and goals that support this vision. It supports:

- A growth in stewardship of the fishery.
- Recognition of community values linked to recreational and cultural fishing.
- Fishing tourism industry growth (all fishing experiences).
- An understanding of the dynamics of the local fishery, and
- Identification of opportunities for resources sharing supporting an abundant and resilient fishery.

The development of this document has been supported by a community consultation and engagement process. Three community workshops were held to promote stewardship and best practice by recreational and charter fishers and to discuss and identify issues and opportunities that can affect the future of the local fishery. These workshops were followed up with individual consultations with stakeholders representing Traditional Owners, fishing tackle sales, recreational fishers, commercial fishers, Marine Park Management, Fisheries Management, charter fishing, game fishing, regional tourism organisation, Chamber of Commerce, Local Marine Advisory Committee. A total of 63 stakeholders have been directly engaged through this process.



Introduction

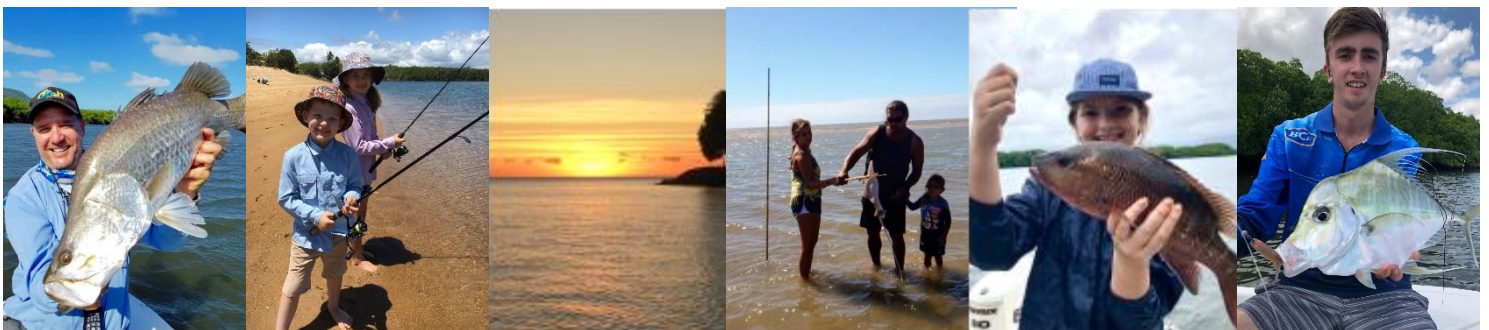
The Douglas Shire offers fishers a wide range of fishing experiences from the blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef to the Rainforest rivers of the Wet Tropics. There are few places like the Douglas Shire for the diversity of fishing experiences and fish species fishers can experience in a single day. The closeness of the reef means a fisher can fish the blue water in the morning for gamefish, return by lunchtime to catch a barramundi in the estuary and fish the rainforest for jungle perch before the sun sets.

Typical of most of the coastal communities of Far North Queensland, fishing forms a key component of the values and identity of the people who live here. There are 1333 recreationally *registered vessels* in the two Douglas Shire post codes, 4873 and 4877 a majority of which are small vessels of 3.2 to 6.5m suited to recreational fishing. With a *population estimate* of 12,426 on 30 June 2020 this means there is one boat for every 9.3 residents which is towards the top end of the range for Queensland communities. The growing membership of the Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, based at their club house at Newell Beach, supports important social, recreational and community values for the members and the wider community. The enjoyment and accessibility of recreational fishing are core values supporting why people choose to live in the Douglas Shire.

Culturally, fishing is central to the connection between people and country for the Yirrganydji and Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples. As the Traditional Owners of the region, they continue to practice their lore and culture with respect to their sea country, and the fish and animals that inhabit it. They have done so for innumerable generations and are the original custodians of the sea country and its resources. Cultural practices and lore are the tools they use to continue this connection to country and protect its future.

A small commercial fishing fleet is based in Port Douglas comprising inshore large mesh gill net fishers, reef line fishers and prawn trawlers. Though small Port Douglas has a long history as a fishing port, and it continues to benefit from this industry. All Queensland licensed commercial fishers are currently able to fish within the waters of the Douglas Shire meaning effort is difficult to predict and can potentially fluctuate significantly over time.

The Douglas Shire is the nearest point to access the Daintree rainforest and the waters of the Great Barrier Reef. It has an international reputation as a quality tourist destination, with 1.2 million people visiting the Douglas Shire each year generating \$450M, with a value add of \$224M, making *Tourism the principal economic driver for the local economy*.



For the visiting fisher, a significant sport fishing charter industry comprising both small boat (<7m) inshore and river fishing charter businesses, and large boat (>8m) reef and game fishing operations is well established. At least 14 fishing charters are based in the Douglas Shire.

The Game fishing fleet grows each spring with the arrival of the giant Black Marlin for which this northern section of the Great Barrier Reef is world renowned. A catch and release Black Marlin tournament is held annually in November in Port Douglas taking advantage of the fact the marina is the closest point to the fishing grounds of any port on the Queensland coast.

Visitors seeking popular light tackle sportfishing experiences in the inshore and estuary areas of the Shire are supporting at least 5 businesses servicing these clients. More traditional reef line fishing charters are very popular and is serviced by a number of other operators. The small boat reef sportfishing experience is a growing market well serviced by the Port Douglas fleet.

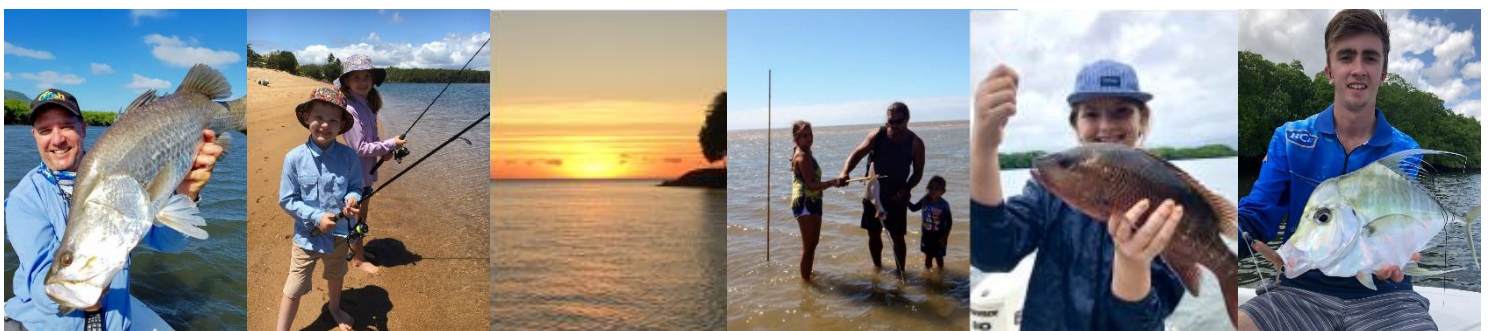
Background

The management of fisheries in Queensland is the responsibility of Fisheries Queensland which is part of the Queensland Government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Initiatives being implemented under the [Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy](#) (2017-2027) are recognised as an improvement on past fisheries management and central to achieving the long-term goal of a sustainable fishing future for Queensland.

While the Douglas Shire community has welcomed this Strategy, the recreational, charter and Indigenous fishing community has long expressed concerns about the sustainability of the inshore fishery resources. The community would like to support the goal of sustainable fisheries for Queensland by becoming active participants in management and resource allocation decisions in the Douglas Shire.

Significant factors impacting the abundance and resilience of the local fishery and making them susceptible to intensive fishing practices include:

- Short river systems and limited nursery environments, a feature of the region's narrow coastal plain, which limit recruitment and carrying capacity for the region,
- The very concentrated seasonal spawning aggregation of grey mackerel around Snapper Island (intensive fishing of spawning aggregations are recognised by fisheries managers as a sustainability red flag).



Since the early 2000's the recreational fishing community has claimed a loss of quality and quantity in their fishing experience, an observation shared by the inshore charter fishers and Traditional Owners. Local resident commercial gill net fishers acknowledge concerns about the fishery resources as do locally-based commercial grey mackerel line fishers who share the local grounds with a seasonally transient net reel (600 – 1200m net) commercial fisher, local recreational fishers and tourist fishers targeting this area.

All are concerned that the future of fishing in the shire, particularly in the inshore and near shore areas, will continue to decline even in the new fisheries management environment unless direct action is taken on commercial net fishing effort and support is provided for the recreational fishing community to grow its stewardship of the fishery.

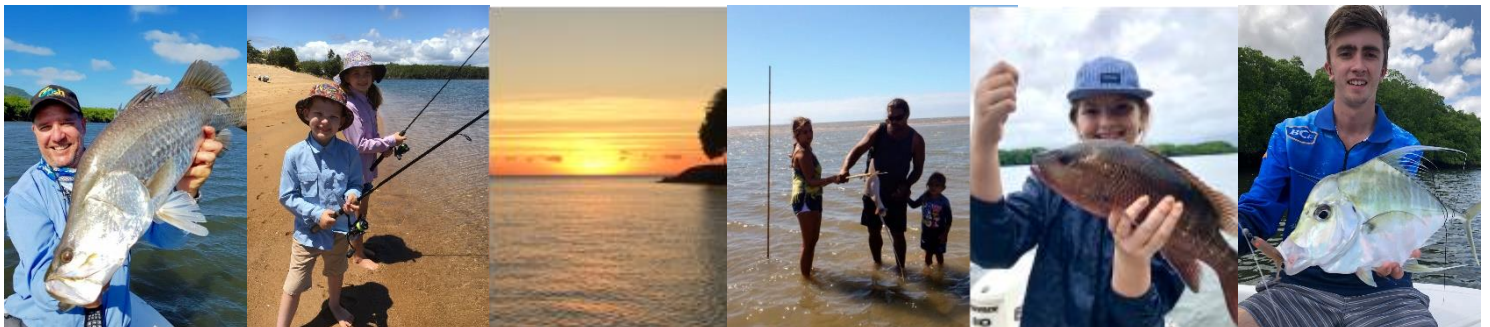
An opportunity for commercial and recreational fishers to collaborate and develop a co-management model for the shire was introduced in 2008-9 (McPhee and Tobin). However, it lacked the engagement required to support key stakeholders to get the most out of the opportunity and failed quickly in an environment of high emotion focused on blame and what couldn't be done.

Purpose of the document

This document provides a framework for the community to plan their fishing future on their terms. It prioritises supporting community and cultural values, resource stewardship and the development of economic opportunities. These are seen as the first steps towards achieving the community's vision of an abundant and resilient fishery and where the fishing experience is recognised and prized for the value it brings to the community.

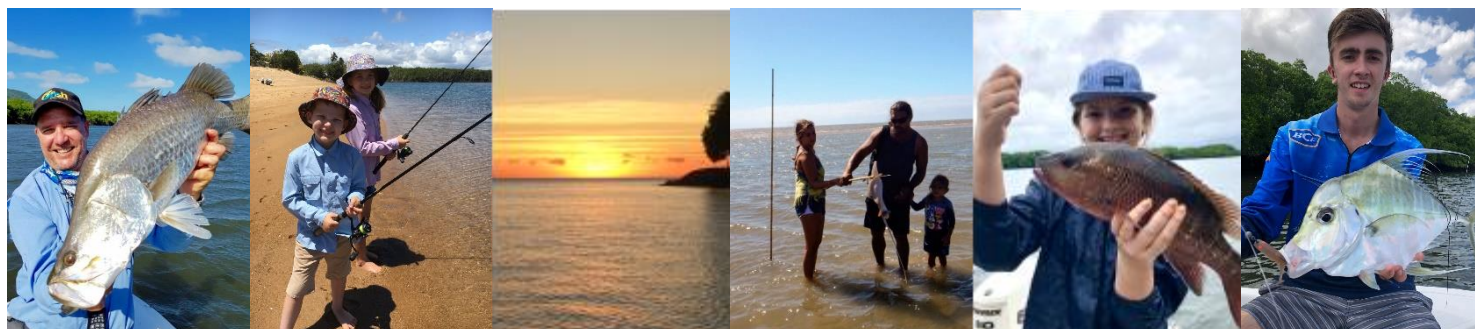
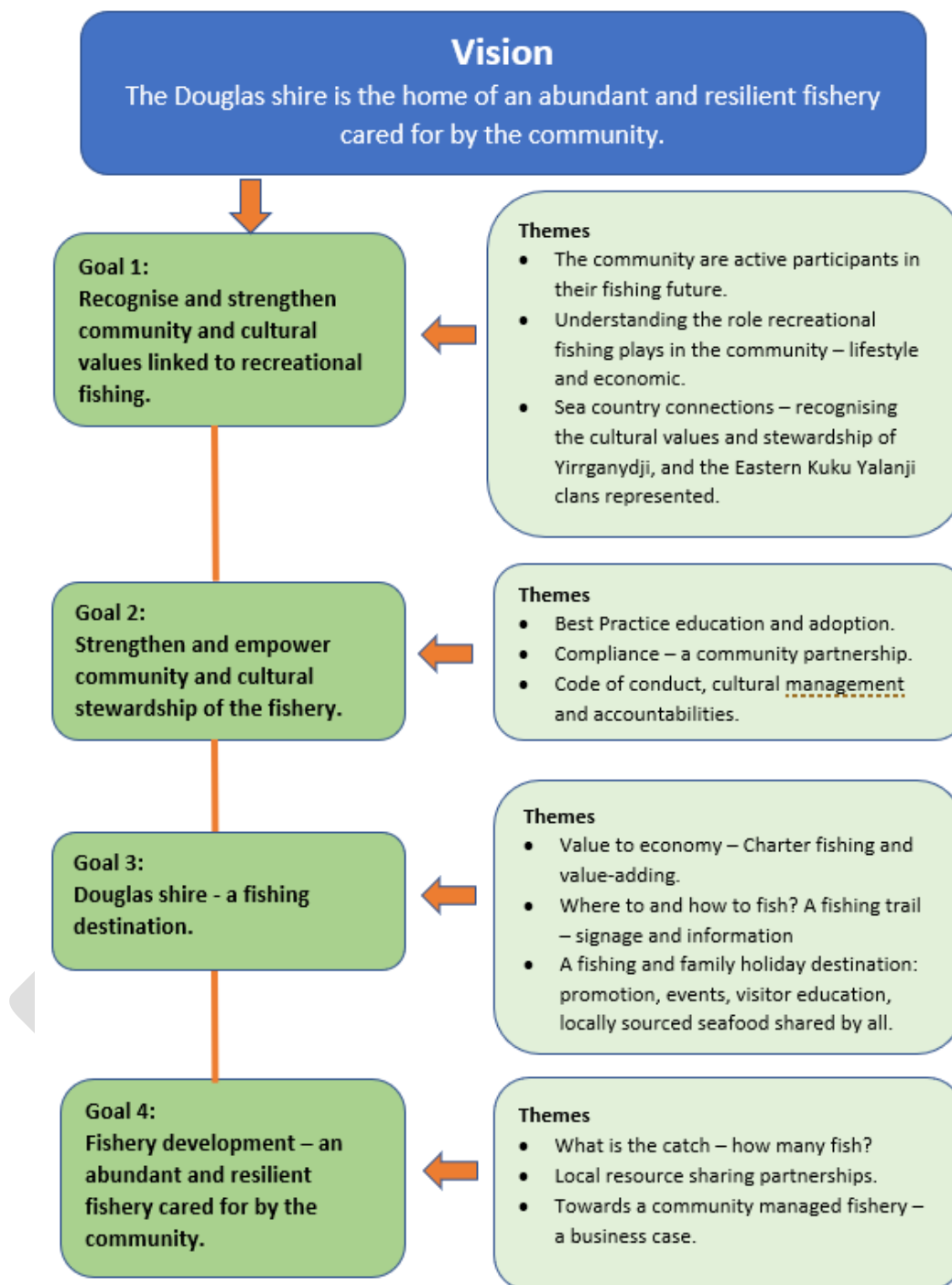
This action plan is community-driven. Its content brings together the voices heard, and views expressed by the community at workshops and stakeholder meetings held in February-April 2021.

Its development is an initiative of the *Douglas Local Marine Advisory Committee* (LMAC) and has been made possible with the funding and support of the *Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation* and the *Douglas Shire Council*.



Vision, goals and themes

The plan's vision, goal and themes are outlined below. These are expanded on in following sections.



Goal 1: Recognise and strengthen community and cultural values linked to recreational fishing



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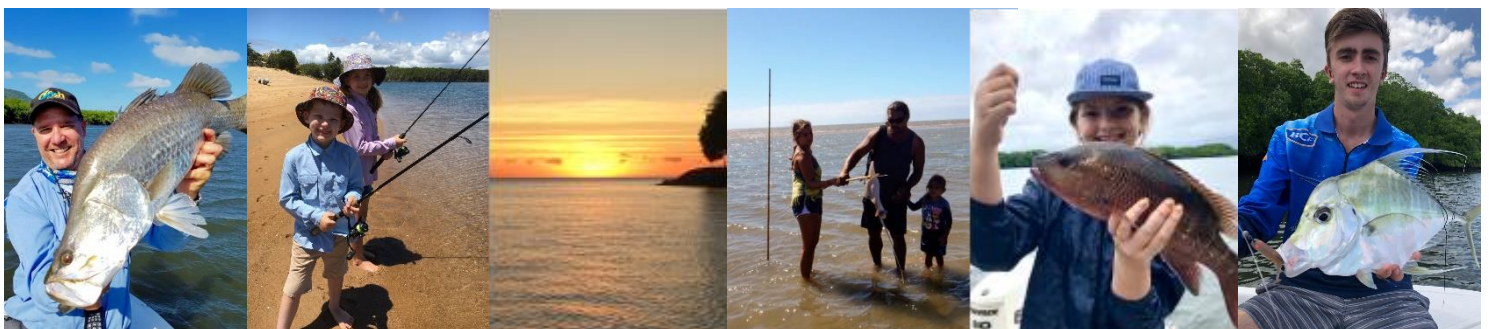
Themes:

- 1.1. The community are active participants in their fishing future.
- 1.2. Understanding the role recreational fishing plays in the community – lifestyle and economic.
- 1.3. Sea country connections – recognising the cultural values and stewardship of Yirrganydji and the Eastern Kuku Yalanji clans.

A challenge for recreational and cultural fishers across many communities has been an inability to effectively demonstrate and describe the values the fishing experience provides them. This inability has meant recreational fishers have been ineffective when trying to advocate for these values to be highly prioritised by fishery managers and decision makers. Providing opportunities to connect and coordinate recreational fishers to establish a united voice supporting a common vision is one way to support recreational fishers to become more effective advocates and demonstrate their place in the fishery. With this comes an ability for recreational fishers to offer constructive solutions and identify pathways to support resource managers in strategy development and decision making to effect change that has the capacity to support the values held by recreational fishers.



Native Title Act acknowledges the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs. While there is general knowledge of this legislation in the community, the traditional laws (lore) and customs that Traditional owner's practice and apply to care for country are poorly understood and respected. Supporting Traditional owners to share their lore and culture with the community, in this case around fishing practices and customs, and the values these supports, will support the community in growing their understanding and respect for this living culture while providing an ability for Traditional owners to demonstrate their accountability as active managers of sea country resources. This second point will further support a greater engagement in culture by all Traditional owners and first Australians within the community ensuring the long history of culture and lore supporting resource stewardship by their people is valued.

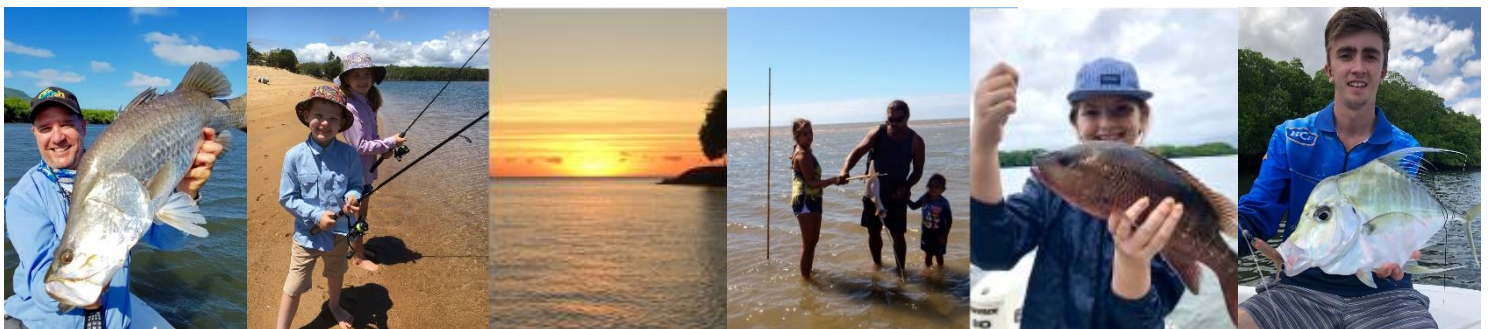


To support the implementation of the action plan, Douglas Shire Council is encouraged to consider grant applications from fishing clubs and bodies with a sustainable fishing focus.



This will enable these entities to access funding to improve their facilities, grow membership, or increase participation by families.

An outcome of this will be a benefit to the community with more youth involved in fishing and social activities at fishing clubs and community fishing events, with more fishers endorsing the code of conduct and action plan and educating the community to achieve sustainable fishing in the shire.



1. Recognise and strengthen community and cultural values linked to recreational fishing.

1.1 The community are active participants in their fishing future.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
1.1.1 A representative working group of all fishing-related interests is formed to coordinate and enable the delivery of the action plan. Quarterly meetings.	Douglas Shire Council	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Tourism Port Douglas and Daintree (TPDD), Commercial Fishers, Conservation/environment	Established: November/December 2021 Ongoing: November 2021 – June 2024
1.1.2 An online hub is created and maintained that supports stakeholder engagement with the action plan and codes of conduct, best practice education, destination marketing, links to information supporting compliance and incident reporting, links to fishing information and charter operations	Douglas Shire Council	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, TPDD, Conservation/environment, Marine Park and Fisheries Managers	Development: June – December 2021 Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
1.1.3 Identify “action plan champions” (call for nominations?) and educate them to be promoters of engagement with the action plan and to act as trusted sources of information (workshop). E.g., charter fishers, tackle retailers, fishing clubs, Elders, community champions. A sticker (give) away and/or fishing shirt (for sale - fundraising?) is produced to help recognise action plan champions and or signatories to codes of conduct and advocates of lore and customs. (See also 2.3.1 and 2.3.3)	Charter fishers, Tackle Retailers, Fishing Clubs, Elders	Douglas Shire Council, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, LMAC, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024

1.1 The community are active participants in their fishing future.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
1.1.4 A community fish stocking association is formed raising funds for and facilitating the stocking of Barramundi into the waterways of the Shire. (See Cairns-Area-Fish-Stocking-Group)	Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Charter fishers, Tackle retailers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Douglas Shire Council, Fisheries Queensland, LMAC	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
1.1.5 Identify fish habitat areas for rehabilitation and the restoration of connectivity and fish passage. Consider partnerships between stakeholders and other interest groups to support funding applications and to leverage outcomes from existing programs.	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Wet Tropics Waterways, OZ Fish unlimited	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Canegrowers, Douglas Shire Sustainability Group	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
1.1.6 Prioritise the protection of fish habitat within the Douglas shire.	Douglas Shire Council	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Wet Tropics Waterways, OZ Fish unlimited, Mossman Canegrowers, Chamber of Commerce	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

1.2. Understanding the role recreational fishing plays in the community – lifestyle and economic.			
Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>1.2.1 Create a narrative describing the values the community holds for fishing and the sense of place this provides them. (E.g., why is fishing important to you? What role does fishing play in where you choose to live?) This is done by recording interviews at community fishing events, club meetings and cultural gatherings.</p> <p>Share this narrative with the community and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council</p>	<p>Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23</p>
<p>1.2.2 Capture an oral history of fishing memories and stories of change. This is done by recording interviews at community fishing events, club meetings and cultural gatherings.</p> <p>Share this oral history with the community and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council</p>	<p>Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23</p>
<p>1.2.3 Describe expenditure by the community on fishing tackle, vessels, fuel for fishing and associated elements. Relate this to \$'s per fish caught and \$'s per hour fishing of direct investment into the community. (See also 4.1.3 and 4.1.4)</p>	<p>Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Tackle Retailers, Resident associations.</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council, Douglas LMAC</p>	<p>Longer term: 2023/24</p>
<p>1.2.4 The Douglas Shire Council acknowledges that recreational fishing is deemed a sport, rather than recreation, for the purposes of grant applications from existing fishing clubs.</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council</p>	<p>Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club.</p>	<p>Short Term: June – December 2021</p>

1.3. Sea country connections – recognising the cultural values and stewardship of traditional owners.			
Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
1.3.1 Create a narrative describing the values fishing supports Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina). (See also 2.3.3)	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Douglas Shire Council, Douglas LMAC	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
1.3.2 Identify opportunities for Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) to share with the community their values, cultural management practices and lore associated with fishing and how they support the sustainability of the resource.	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Douglas Shire Council, Reef Guardian Schools, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Tackle retailers	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024

Goal 2: Strengthen and empower community and cultural stewardship of the fishery



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Themes:

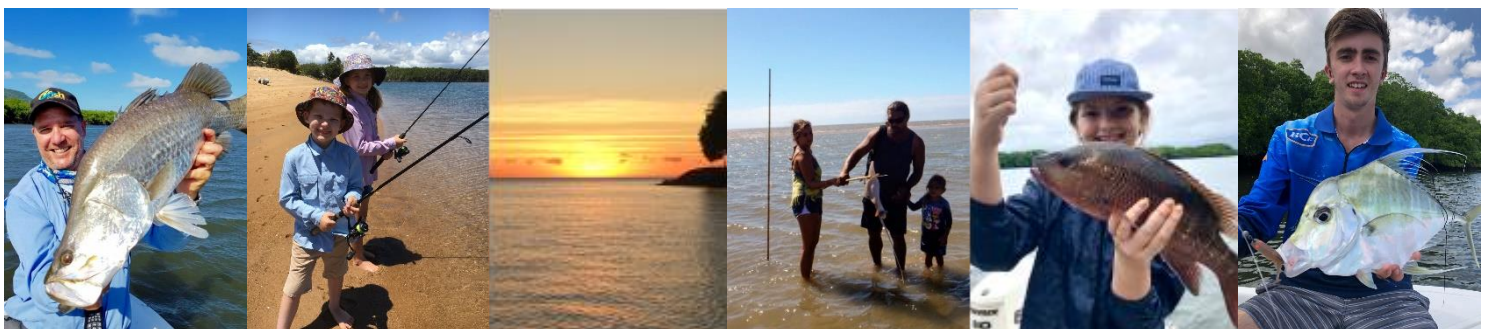
- 2.1. Best Practice education and adoption.
- 2.2. Compliance – a community partnership.
- 2.3. Code of conduct, cultural management and accountabilities.

If we want change, we must lead by example and educate others. A productive and resilient fishery must start with the community taking action, leading the way, and demonstrating that the pathway to a sustainable fishing future begins with them. Everyone must contribute.

There are many simple things a recreational fisher can do every time they go fishing that can have a positive impact on their fishing experience in the future. It starts with adopting the best practices that have been shown to increase released fish survival, reduce the fishers' impact on the environment and maximise the benefits of the existing resource management arrangements. Creating education and awareness raising opportunities that promote the adoption of best practices is a clear demonstration that the community is committed to an abundant and resilient fishing future.

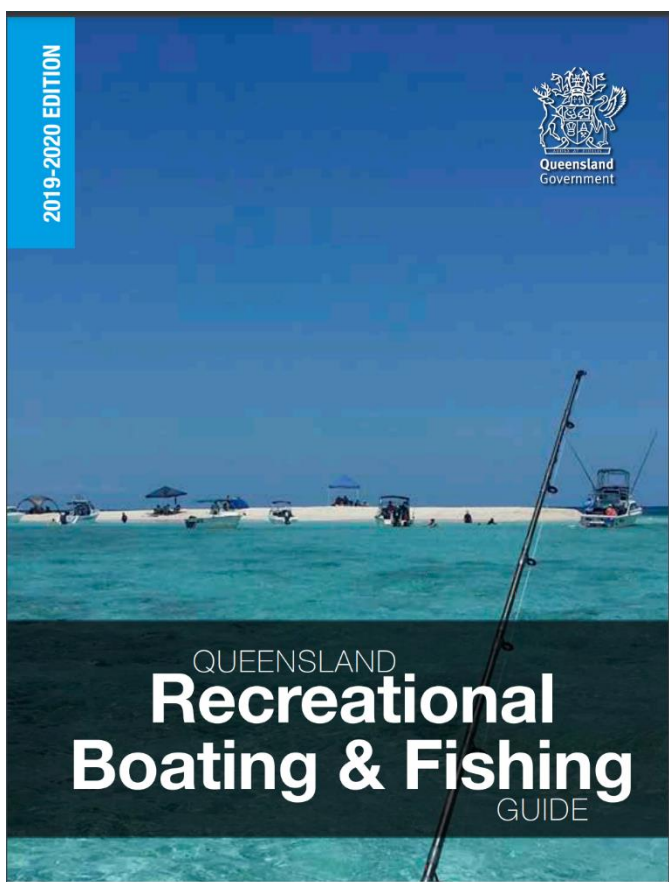
While well *researched* and promoted in Australia over the last 20 years there is still an opportunity for a community to increase the voluntary adoption of best practices that supports the survival of released line caught fish.

Awareness is the key, if a fisher does not know the best way or a better way of doing something, they cannot be expected to adopt this practice. When this knowledge comes from their peers, the community is likely to respond more positively and adopt change.

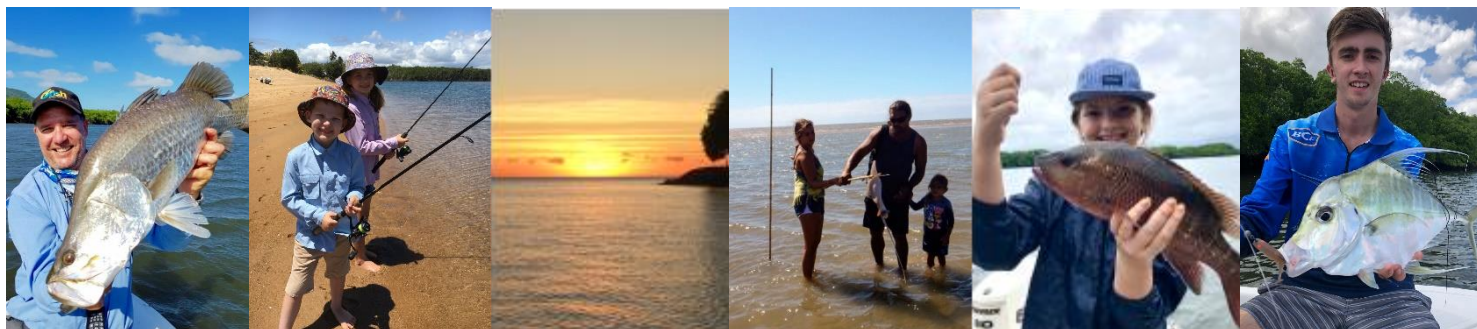


Ways to raise awareness and educate fishers about best practices can take many forms. From community events such as “Go fishing days” introducing children and new fishers to the pastime and how to care for the resource; to locally supported online platforms, “a one-stop-shop”, where information on best practices can be easily sourced. Most importantly identifying and empowering recognised local fishing champions, club members, tackle retailers, charter guides and Elders has the greatest potential to spread knowledge and influence change. They are the trusted sources.

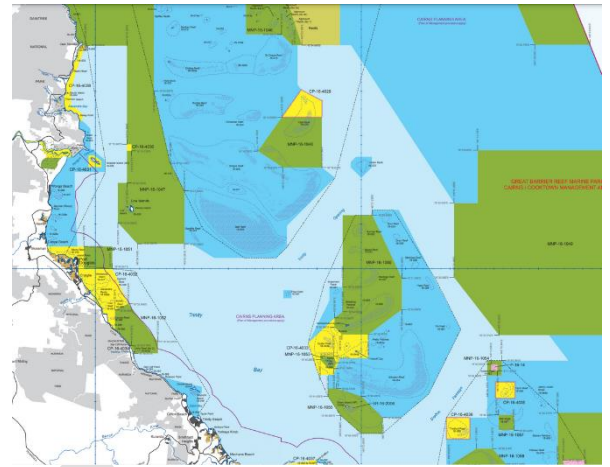
A community that wishes to influence their fishing future to ensure abundance and resilience has no excuse not to adopt the highest standards of compliance with the rules and regulations that are in place to support the same vision. A community that is not prepared to call out those who choose to break the rules, not respect the science or not respect culture and lore cannot expect an abundant and resilient fishing future or the respect of the wider community, Elders and decision makers.



Science supporting the size limits to protect juvenile fish and breeding adults is well researched in Australia. Possession limits are based on science that aims to ensure sufficient numbers of breeding adults, to replenish the population. Closed seasons are based on solid evidence-based science and ensure the best spawning outcomes for fish species they apply to.



Zoning and other spatial management tools do many things including protecting fish populations allowing individuals to grow larger. The larger the fish the more eggs they produce. Like seasonal spawning closures, areas closed to fishing aim to maximise the production of the next generation of fish. It is the spill over of eggs and larvae from closed areas not the spill over of adults that supports resilient fisheries.



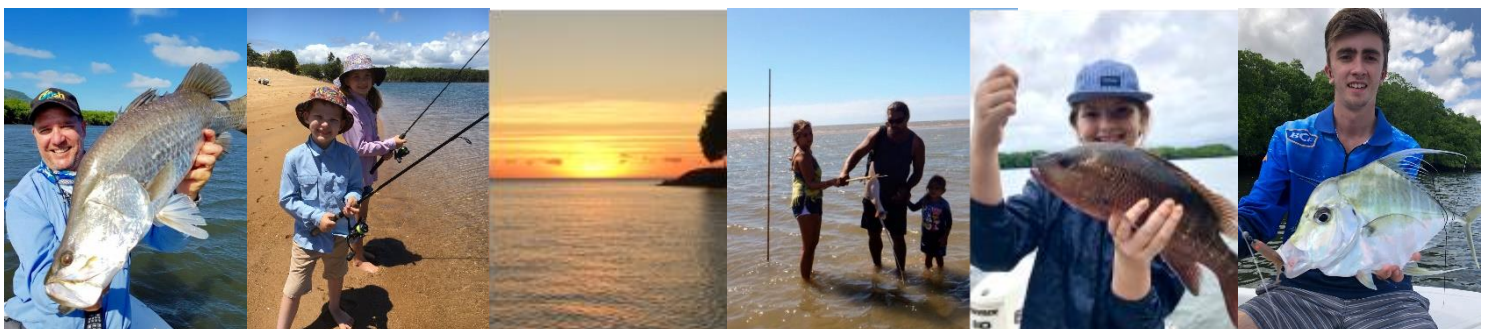
Presenting the rules and regulations alongside their beneficial outcomes to the fisher in a way the fisher can relate to must go hand in hand with the promotion of high compliance standards in a community.



The cultural practices and lore employed by the Traditional Owners of the region, the Yirrganydji and the Eastern Yalanji clans, have supported sustainable fisheries for millennia.

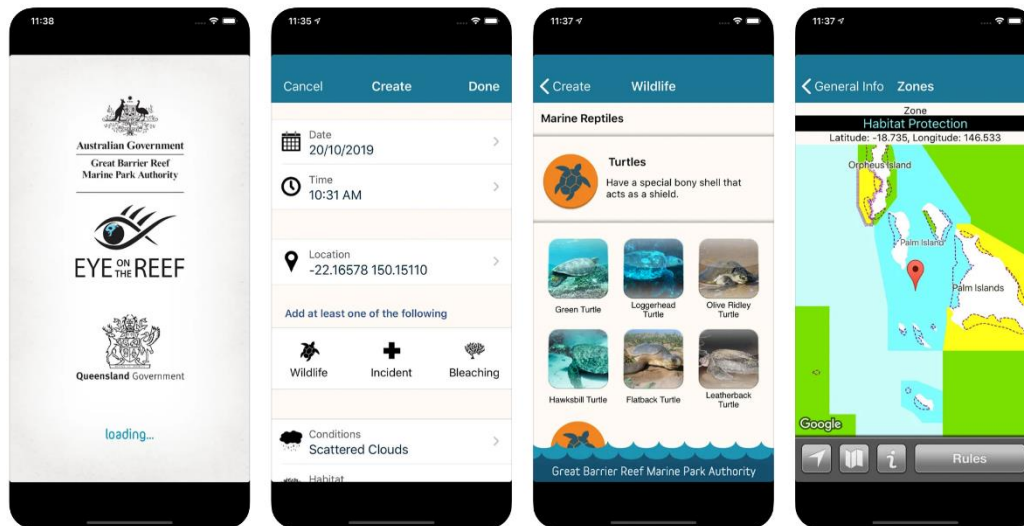
The right for Traditional Owners to practice culture in sea country is undisputed. Sharing this information with the fishing community, Traditional Owners and First Australians is essential if there is to be broad respect, understanding and acceptance that these cultural protocols and lore play an important role in maintaining the cultural values of traditional owners and contribute to the sustainability of the fishery resource.

However, when these protocols and lore are not respected by the broader community, Traditional Owners or First Australians, or fishing is done for greed, convenience or profit, the value of the culture is diminished, respect is lost and the contribution to the sustainability of the fishery weakened.



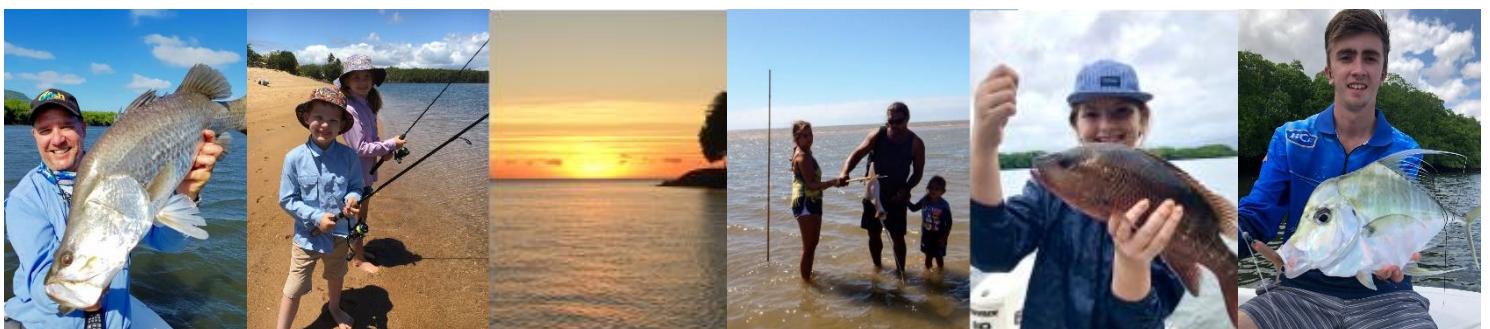
It cannot be expected that the enforcement of compliance with laws, lore and regulations is the sole domain of government enforcement agencies or elders within a community. For law, lore and regulation to work everyone must work together.

This can be as simple as an individual advocating to another the importance of these controls for their fishing future. It can be about supporting existing mechanisms and tools for education about law and lore. Or it can be about improving the flow of information both in terms of reporting illegal activity and also demonstrating evidence of prosecutorial outcomes resulting from this information or the cultural outcomes from the application cultural practices and lore.



Collaborations that support the flow of information supporting a commitment from the community of a high standard of compliance with law, lore and regulation is the best way for a community to demonstrate its commitment to creating an abundant and resilient fishery.

Enabling the community to engage in respectful relationships with the enforcement agencies (QBFP, GBRMPA, QPWS) and supporting Elders to be recognised and respected must occur. Supporting engagement opportunities such as public talks, club visits, caravan park sausage sizzles and cultural camps are key opportunities to build relationships in a non-confrontational environment.



2. Strengthen and empower community and cultural stewardship of the fishery.

2.1. Best Practice education/adoption

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
2.1.1 Educating the community to support the wide adoption of Recreational Fishing best practices is the responsibility of all stakeholders.	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment, Marine Park and Fisheries Managers	Douglas Shire Council, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, LMAC	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
2.1.2 The working group (See 1.1.1) seeks funding for a paid part time coordinator to support the coordination of stakeholders and engagement with stakeholders and partners to ensure the delivery of the action plan.	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment, Marine Park and Fisheries Managers	Douglas Shire Council, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, LMAC	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
2.1.3 An annual community fishing event is held (Take a Kid fishing Day/Learn to fish Day/Get Hooked on fishing?) to launch a community commitment for the adoption of Recreational Fishing Best Practices and provide practical education about these. This should be held across multiple locations in the shire.	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC	Douglas Shire Council, Tackle Retailers, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, NEATFISH, Combined Club, Charter Fishers	Short Term: June – December 2021 Then annually

2.1. Best Practice education/adoption, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
2.1.4 Identify links to trusted sources of best practice information and share these with the community and fishing visitors via an online platform (See 1.1.2)	Douglas Shire Council	Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, TPDD, Conservation/environment, Marine Park and Fisheries managers	Short Term: June – December 2021
2.1.5 Elders are supported to actively promote lore and cultural values within their community with respect to culturally appropriate net fishing.	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
2.1.6 Community Fishing events and competitions prioritise the promotion and education of Recreational Fishing best practices during these events.	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Charter Fishers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC	Douglas Shire Council, Tackle retailers, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, NEATFISH, Combined Club	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
2.1.7 Community fishing events and competitions apply the NEATFISH assessment tool to current and planned events to measure the event's sustainability with view towards applying learnings to improve the sustainability of future events.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club	NEATFISH, Info Fish, LMAC	Short Term: June – December 2021
2.1.8 Community fishing events and competitions apply for NEATFISH accreditation with organisers striving for a 3- or 4- star accreditation.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club	NEATFISH, Info Fish, LMAC	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

2.2. Compliance – a community partnership

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
2.2.1 The community maintains an extremely high standard of voluntary compliance with Fisheries, Marine safety and Marine Park regulations. Advocating for these high standards is the responsibility of all stakeholders.	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment,	Douglas Shire Council, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, LMAC	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
2.2.2 Identify links to rules and regulations affecting recreational fishers and share these with the community and fishing visitors via an online platform (see 1.1.2)	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC, Marine Park and Fisheries Managers and Compliance Enforcement Agencies	FRDC, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries.	Short Term: June – December 2021
2.2.3 Elders actively promote respect for, and compliance, with lore and cultural values within their community with respect to culturally appropriate net fishing. Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) welcome opportunities to educate the wider community about their customs and lore and how these ensure culturally appropriate net fishing is practiced.	Elders, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	Douglas Shire Council, Reef Guardian Schools	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
2.2.4 Community fishing events and competitions prioritise the promotion and education about where to find rules and regulations affecting recreational fishers during the event. There is zero tolerance for noncompliance at these events.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club	GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, LMAC	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024

2.2. Compliance – a community partnership, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>2.2.5 Create a flyer displaying reporting Hotline numbers and QR codes and web addresses for links to rules and regulations for recreational fishing, marine safety requirements and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning. Include a community message that noncompliance will not be tolerated by the community and that they support the use of law by government agencies to prosecute those who break the rules.</p> <p>Include an acknowledgement that Elders from the Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) clans expect all Traditional Owners and First Australians to follow Traditional customs and lore when fishing.</p> <p>This flyer should be designed to be used as a standalone document for distribution at caravan parks, accommodation houses, fishing competitions and fishing tackle retailers. The information on the flyer should be included on any permanent signage linked to fishing or on any website promoting fishing or charter fishing in the region.</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council, LMAC, Marine Park and fisheries Managers and Compliance Enforcement Agencies</p>	<p>GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Caravan Parks, Accommodation Houses, Fishing Tackle Retail, Fishing Clubs, Charter Fishers</p>	<p>Short Term: June – December 2021</p>
<p>2.2.6 The location of a Great Barrier Reef Marine Park National Park zone (Green zone) covering the southern section of “Skinny Reef” (16-118) is widely promoted to local and visiting fishers.</p> <p>The community promotes a goal of Zero Green zone infringements by the year 2022/23</p>	<p>Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment,</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries, LMAC</p>	<p>Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23</p>

2.2. Compliance – a community partnership, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>2.2.7 The Queensland Boating and Fishery Patrol and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority actively seek out opportunities to engage face-to-face with fishing clubs, tackle retailers, Traditional Owners and tourist fishers outside of dedicated patrol operations to strengthen relationships and trust within the community.</p> <p>Promote direct lines of communications with local officers to build community confidence that reports of suspected noncompliance are being received.</p> <p>QBFP and GBRMPA regularly report back to the community (quarterly) about compliance investigation outcomes and actions taken to investigate reports provided by the community.</p>	GBRMPA, QBFP, LMAC	Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Charter Fishing, Retail	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
<p>2.2.8 “Action plan champions” (See 1.1.3) encourage the community to report all suspected compliance incidents of concern they observe. They share Hotline reporting phone numbers and the evidence of actions taken in response to reports shared by QBFP and GBRMPA (see 2.2.8)</p> <p>Links to Hotline reporting phone numbers and incident report forms are made available on the community’s online fishing information platform (See 1.1.2)</p>	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club, Charter Fishing, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina)	GBRMPA, QBFP	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

2.3. Code of conduct, cultural management and accountabilities.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
2.3.1 A Code of conduct is developed describing a set of standards that the community asks all recreational fishers, charter fishers and visiting fishers to adopt with respect to best practices, stewardship of the fishery and environment and respect for other users of the marine and estuarine environment. The "Code" is actively promoted by all stakeholders and at fishing events and competitions.	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC	Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment	Short Term: December 2021
2.3.2 The online fishing information platform (see 1.1.2) hosts the ability for fishers to anonymously register their commitment to the "Code" and a counter is displayed at this site as evidence of the number of fishers in the community who have adopted the code. A sticker is produced that is mailed to fishers who have adopted the code so that they can advertise their commitment to others.	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC	Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
2.3.3 Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) peoples are supported to produce communiques describing the cultural protocols and lore they apply to fishing and hunting activities that have ensured the sustainability and respect for sea country resources since time immemorial. The communiques are shared with the community, Traditional Owners and First Australians who fish and hunt within the shire's waters. They are available on the online fishing information platform (See 1.1.2). (Note: while some of this information will be culturally sensitive and it may not be appropriate for these sensitive elements to be made accessible to all members of the community or other First Australians, Traditional Owners should be supported to ensure that the communiques clearly demonstrate they are active managers of their Sea Country and the resources it supports).	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Douglas Shire Council, LMAC	GBRMPA, QBFP, Recreational Fishers, Fishing Clubs, LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment	Short Term: December 2021

2.3. Code of conduct, cultural management and accountabilities, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>2.3.4 Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) support Elders by actively seeking out opportunities to promote cultural protocols and lore to ensure these are followed and respected by all Traditional Owners, First Australians and the wider community.</p> <p>Opportunities for Elders to meet with Recreational Fishers and participate in community events where they can share cultural protocols and lore are identified and shared with Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina).</p> <p>Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) support the “Working group” (See 1.1.1) by identifying opportunities for them to meet with Traditional Owners and share the values for the fishery held by recreational and charter fishers and the vision supported by the action plan.</p>	<p>Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), GBRMPA, QBFP</p>	<p>Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Charter Fishing, Retail, Reef Guardian schools, Conservation/environment</p>	<p>Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024</p>
<p>2.3.5 All stakeholders and Traditional Owners take responsibility for holding their peers accountable and encouraging their support for: the recreational fishing code of conduct which covers compliance with rules, and regulations. and the cultural protocols and lore shared in communiques from the Traditional Owners.</p>	<p>Recreational fishers, Fishing Clubs, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC, Charter Fishing, Retail, Conservation/environment, Marine Park and Fisheries managers</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council, GBRMPA, Qld Fisheries</p>	<p>Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024</p>

Goal 3: Douglas Shire - a fishing destination.

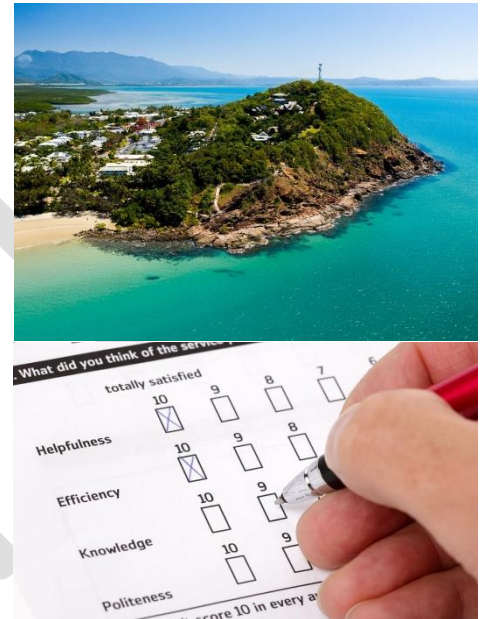


Goal 3: Douglas Shire - a fishing destination.

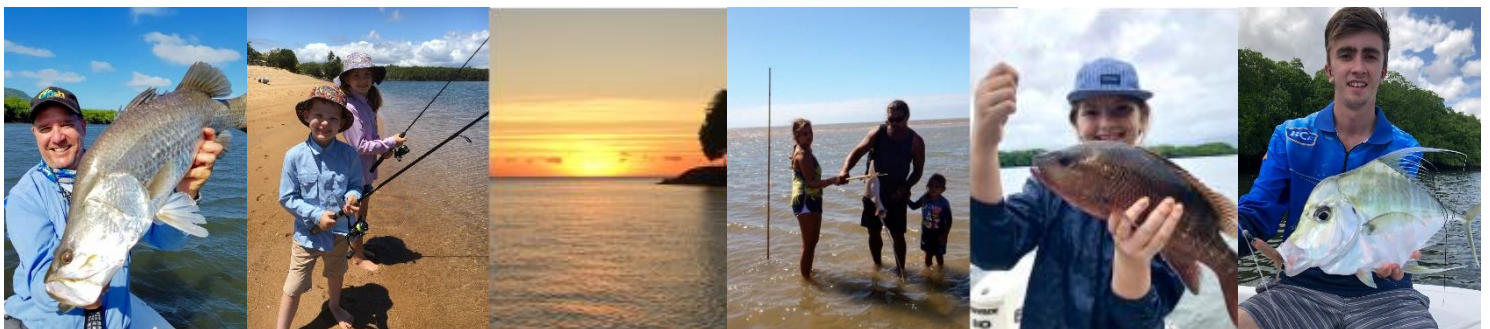
Themes:

- 3.1 Value to economy – charter fishing and value-adding.
- 3.2. Where to and how to fish? A fishing trail – signage and information.
- 3.3. A fishing and family holiday destination: promotion, events, visitor education, locally sourced seafood shared by all everyone.

While fishing tourism comprises a small part of the tourism market for the Douglas Shire little is understood about its economic value to the community, or the value-add charter fishing provides. A google search reveals 17 fishing charters based in the Douglas Shire catering for the entire range of fishing experiences that can be found in the Shire's waters. What is the value of this economic contribution, who are the customers, what is driving the positive and negative sentiments found in Tourism Events Queensland (TEQ) surveys, what tools exist to grow this market, does fishing have a place in supporting the tourism sector's resilience to the Covid-19 downturn? We do not have solid answers to any of these questions.



While market research is costly there are a number of existing tools used by our local tourism industry and chamber of commerce that could be used to support finding answers to these questions. There are annual tourism surveys supported by TEQ, charter fishing licensing reporting and Great Barrier Reef Environmental Management Charge reporting. Combined with new initiatives such as surveys of charter fishing clients investigating their broader Douglas Shire expenditure and drivers for them to book a fishing charter we have the potential to increase the community's understanding in this area. The community must make the most of the existing data and charter fishers must support the application of customer surveys if the economic potential and capacity for the charter fishing sector to grow is realised. This evidence will be crucial when making a business case that affects fishery resource allocation.



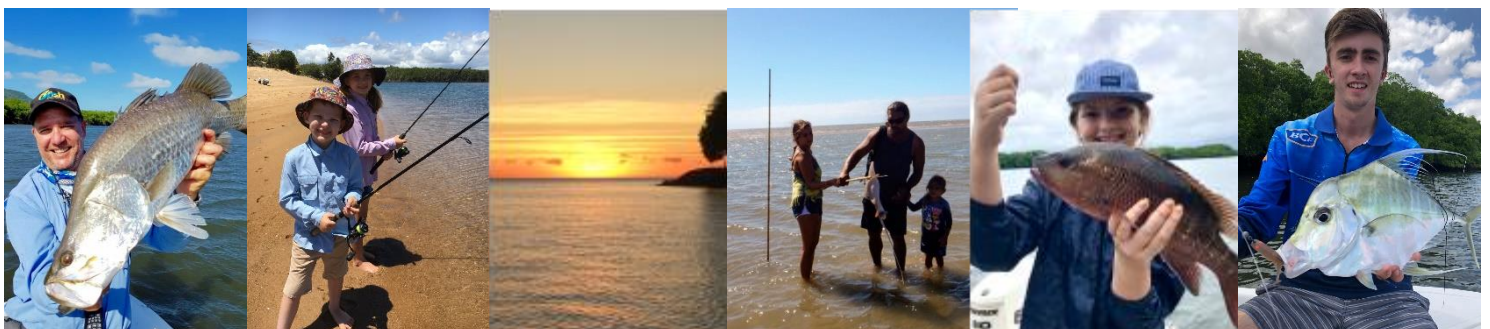
Where to fish and how to fish are the first two questions a visiting fisher will ask a local when given the opportunity. Making such information available and accessible can be a cost-effective way of promoting the fishing opportunities of a region. The Net Free Areas of Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns have all invested in signed fishing trails. Rockhampton and Mackay host how to fish information on websites run by their regional tourism bodies with links promoted through fishing media and internet search investment. As a first step towards marking the Douglas Shire as a family holiday and fishing destination these two initiatives must be a priority action.



While there are a number of existing charter fishing and charter booking entities that have done much to promote the Douglas Shire as a fishing destination, they have largely done this on their own, investing their own funds and managing their own content.

Supporting this existing work would appear to be an efficient and immediate way to leverage off the market they have already tapped into. Funding to support investment in boosting posts and website exposure would be a great way to support the investment these individual operators put into the region's marketing as an adventure tourism destination.





Seasonal visitation patterns have always been a focus of tourism marketers for the region with events such as Carnival, the Food and Wine festival and the adventure sports week, targeting the shoulder seasons. Fishing can have a role to play. Can there be a Fish week linking up with the Port Douglas Game fishing tournament, supporting a family fishing event, revitalising the Seafood festival promoting the local seafood and its sustainability credentials, a Million-dollar fish week? Is this a way to bring visitors back to the region encouraging families to come for the fish and return for the adventure and nature the Shire offers?

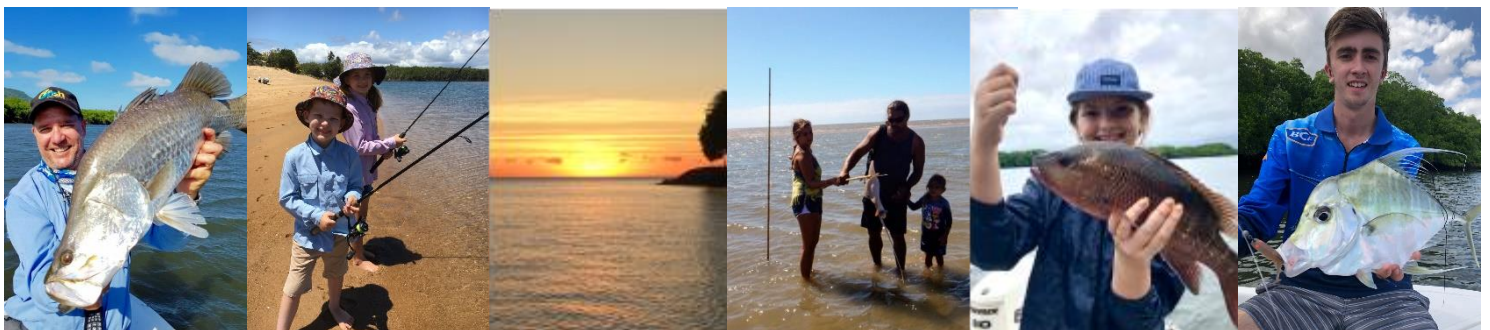


The grey nomad market has long known of and patronised the region. The caravan parks and communities of the Shire's northern beaches are favored by the fishing focused members of this market with the June – August Grey Mackerel seasonal fishery being the main attraction for these travelling fishers. The economic contribution of this influx of visitors targeting this seasonal fishery is significant to these northern beach communities and local tackle retailers (pers comms). Quantifying this value add to the local economy, in terms of the value the Grey Mackerel bring to the community, will be important evidence in support of the business case for a community managed fishery.



With a focused fishing effort on a single species there also comes the potential for sustainability impacts on the resource. The community can own the solution to this with recreational fishers, Boating and Fishing Patrol officers and Caravan Park operators working together to support education initiatives sharing the community's aspirations for an abundant and resilient fishery by promoting best practice, compliance with possession limit regulations and advocating for visitors to support the community's vision for the future.

Grey mackerel <i>S. semifasciatus</i>	Spanish mackerel <i>S. commerson</i>	School mackerel <i>S. queenslandicus</i>	Spotted mackerel <i>S. munroi</i>
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvery with dark blotches on the belly to grey on the shoulders • 20+ broad vertical ribbons along sides • Patch of olive green above eye • First dorsal black with white areas in middle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep purple sheen over black that fades into silvery blue over the sides • 20 or more thin wavy vertical bands along the sides • First dorsal fin bright blue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gleaming blue green back with silver white sides • 2-3 rows of large grey blotches along sides, each a little larger than eye • First dorsal black with large white patch between sixth and last spine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright silvery fish, blue green back • Large number of distinct small spots on sides, larger than pupil but smaller than eye • First dorsal black with blotches of white towards base



3. Douglas Shire - a fishing destination.

3.1 Value to economy – Charter fishing, Drive tourism (fishing) + value add.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
3.1.1 Investigate the capacity for existing visitor surveys to expand on the information gathered for fishing and charter fishing.	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	Chamber of comer, Accommodation providers, Tackle retail	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
3.1.2 Seek funding to support expanded fishing focused surveys and industry marketing capacity.	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	Chamber of comer, Accommodation providers, Tackle retail	Short term: June – December 2021
3.1.3 Develop a survey targeting visiting fishers including charter fishing participants, caravan park visitors and tackle retail customers. Investigate direct fishing expenditure, the value add of their stay in the region (expenditure), motivation to visit the region, rate their fishing experience, importance/influence of knowing they could be fishing in a community managed fishery in planning a return visit.	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, LMAC, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	Chamber of commerce, Accommodation providers, Tackle retail, Caravan parks	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
3.1.4 Support existing charter fishers to engage with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to improve access to the Cairns Area Plan of Management. 50-day permits are currently limiting the business development/growth of a number of small vessel (<7.5m) operations that can demonstrate sustainability credentials.	LMAC, Charter fishers, Charter booking	Douglas Shire Council, TPDD, Chamber of commerce, GBRMPA	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

3.2. Where to and how to fish - A fishing trail – signage and information

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
3.2.1 Develop a Douglas Shire Fishing Trail (See Cairns Fishing trail here and signs here) with maps, information and signage supported by online promotion through existing tourism promotion networks, charter fishing websites, drive tourism networks (Also see 1.1.2)	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	Chamber of Commerce	Short term: June – December 2021
3.2.2 Develop a seasonal calendar showing species and seasonal peaks in abundance and availability to support online promotion and accessibility to the fishery.	Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
3.2.3 Develop a species how to catch and where to catch information to support online promotion and accessibility to the fishery.	Charter Fishers, Charter Booking	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

3.3. A fishing and family holiday destination – promotion, events, visitor education, locally sourced seafood shared by all stakeholders.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
3.3.1 Investigate the existing marketing and promotion products and activities of established charter fishers and charter booking and identify ways to support, boost or value-add to their exposure. Establish a Douglas Shire family fishing destination marketing plan based on value adding to the existing marketing effort.	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking, Chamber of Commerce	Tackle retail, Caravan Park	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
3.3.2 Conduct a marketing seminar/skills development workshop for Charter operators and Caravan parks. Include a SWOT (Strength-Weakness-Opportunities-Threats) analysis of existing marketing and the Douglas Shire fishing product.	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce	Charter Fishers, Charter Booking,	Short term: June – December 2021

3.3. A fishing and family holiday destination – promotion, events, visitor education, locally sourced seafood shared by all stakeholders, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>3.3.3 Create a Port Douglas Charter Fishers Association (Game fishing, Inshore and Light tackle). This should be facilitated by an incorporated body e.g., the Port Douglas Game Fishing Club. The Association would be membership based, admission by application approved by peers, bind members to high stewardship standards for the fishery and the environment and include a code of conduct. (See Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association)</p> <p>This will create a marketable identity for the industry, an industry advocacy body, establish sustainability credentials of recognised operators.</p>	Port Douglas Game Fishing Association, Charter fishers, Charter Booking, TPDD	Douglas Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce	Long Term 2022/23 -2023/24
<p>3.3.4 Host sausage sizzles/information chats for visiting fishers at Caravan parks and tackle retailers targeting visiting fishers. Information chats will share knowledge and information about best practices, regulation and compliance, and the community code of conduct. This will target Grey Mackerel fishers staying at Caravan Parks on the northern beaches.</p>	Douglas Shire Council, LMAC, QBFP, Caravan Parks, Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Recreational fishers	Chamber of Commerce, TPDD	Established: July 2021 Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
<p>3.3.5 The community supports the promotion of the Port Douglas Black Marlin Challenge which is held annually in November.</p>	TPDD, Douglas Shire Council, Charter fishers, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club	Chamber of Commerce, Accommodation providers	Ongoing: June 2021 – June 2024
<p>3.3.6 Create an annual event (for example fish week) to be held in November annually to coincide with the Port Douglas Black Marlin Challenge and to include a family fishing event, a seafood festival celebrating locally line caught fish and sustainably caught shellfish, an environmental focus and fundraising supporting fish habitat restoration/reef restoration/water quality, \$10,000 - \$50,000 dollar tagged fish. Include a launch of the “Douglas Shire: Fish for the Future” business case in 2023.</p>	Douglas Shire Council, TPDD, Port Douglas Game Fishing Club, Charter Fishers, Charter Booking, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club	Chamber of Commerce, Accommodation providers	Long Term 2022/23 -2023/24

3.3. A fishing and family holiday destination – promotion, events, visitor education, locally sourced seafood shared by all stakeholders, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>3.3.7 Support and promote access to locally line caught fish and sustainably caught shellfish.</p> <p>Investigate options for a fisherman’s co-op (centralised location for the community to access sales direct from the boat, weekly?) providing value add to local fishers catching line caught fish and sustainably caught shellfish.</p> <p>Support local restaurant’s capacity to market their commitment to locally line caught fish and sustainable caught shellfish.</p>	<p>Commercial Fishers, Restaurants, Seafood Retailers</p>	<p>TPDD, Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Long Term 2022/23 -2023/24</p>

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Goal 4: Fishery Development – an abundant and resilient fishery cared for by the community



Goal 4: Fishery Development – an abundant and resilient fishery cared for by the community

Themes:

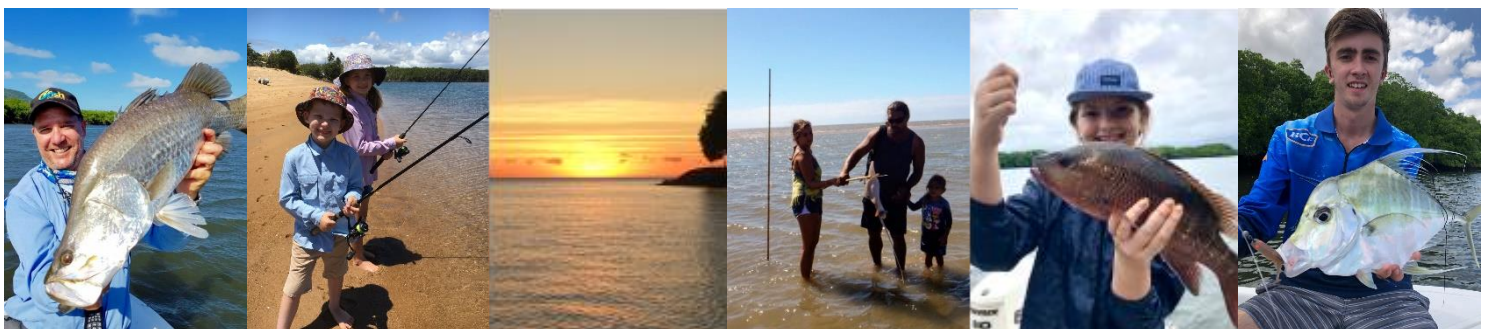
- 4.1. What is the catch – how many fish
- 4.2 Local resource sharing and partnerships.
- 4.3. Towards a community managed fishery – a business case.

To understand the place recreational and cultural fishers plays in the fishery resource we must understand what we catch. To understand what these fish are worth to the community, we must understand what we are spending to catch these fish. Commercial and Charter fishers are obliged under their license conditions to record how many and where their fish are caught. Commercial fishers, restaurants and seafood retailers must be able to demonstrate where their fish is sourced and/or sold. This data is available and can be used to describe the various contributions and impacts these stakeholders make to the community and the fishery.

If recreational and cultural fishers are going to claim that their catch is high value in economic terms and that their take is sustainable, they must provide evidence. Recreational and cultural fishers of the Douglas Shire need to commit to a fish catch and expenditure data collection and reporting strategy to do so.

Many recreational and cultural fishers' express concerns that the data they have collected and provided to management agencies in the past has been "used against us" and are therefore unwilling to participate in fish catch and expenditure surveys.

The way to overcome these concerns, is for the community to own the surveys, the data and the story that is told from the data. This will place the community in control and can be used to reassure those reluctant to participate that the data is for them to tell their story. Data can empower a community's advocacy for change if they are prepared to commit to a program that can support their narrative about the values recreational and cultural fishing provides the community.



Some in the community are tired of raising the same issues, they see the solutions affecting the future of the local fishery as obvious and just want change to happen (*"We have been talking about this for years, the solution is simple, ban this and stop that!"*). It would be great if it were that simple, but it is not.



For these changes to happen the community must show how and why these changes can/should happen, not just what changes should happen. The community needs to demonstrate and describe their values to provide reasons why change should happen. They must provide solutions to problems they see affecting these values and describe the pathways to resolve these problems.



This action plan will help the community build a narrative to describe its commitment to an abundant and resilient fishery supporting the community's values. It will help the community demonstrate the economic value recreational fishing brings and how it can be grown. It will demonstrate what fish are caught, who catches them, where they go, what they are worth to the Douglas shire. It will offer solutions for how to achieve an abundant and resilient fishery.

These must be all put together to build a business case to take to stakeholders, managers and supporters to demonstrate that a community managed fishery where the fishing experience is what is valued can create value to the community in terms of both lifestyle and the economy.

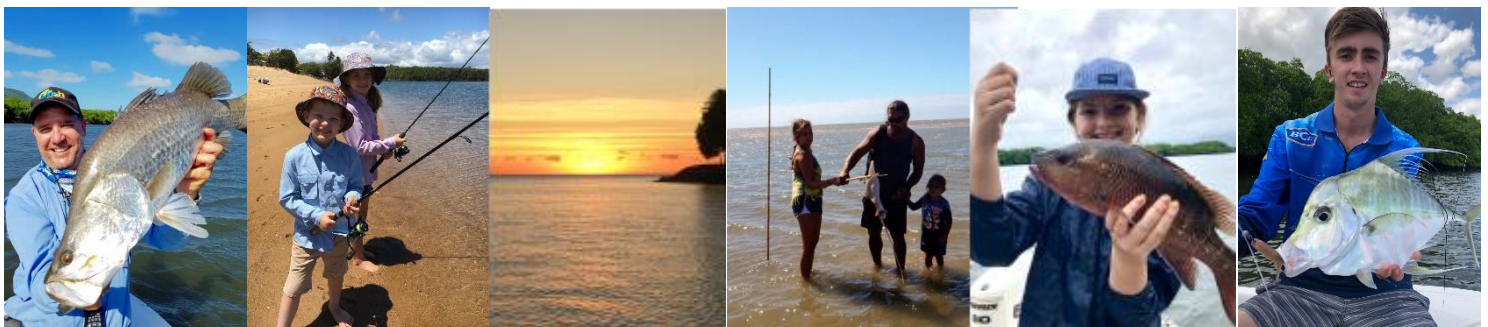
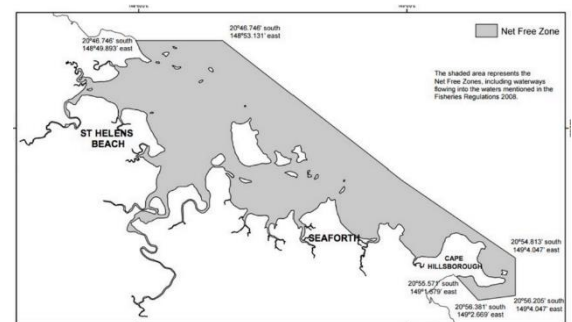


To support the effectiveness of this business case the community must continue to engage with all stakeholders, particularly the inshore and nearshore commercial fishing stakeholders, while this action plan is being implemented. There are a very small number of locally based commercial net fishers, two of whom have indicated their willingness to discuss resource sharing backed by appropriate compensation. This discussion must continue and include a willingness by the community to fairly compensate the commercial fishers and recognise the need for the community to have a reliable source of fresh seafood.

The discussion must also include a demonstration of good will on the part of the commercial fishers by adopting voluntary actions that transfer an allocation of their catch to the community. Examples of this may be an option for voluntary netting closures in some/all of the estuarine and river systems within the Shire fronted by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Conservation Park (Yellow zones). Another example may be the designation of finger mark and queenfish as sport fish that are not intentionally targeted by commercial fishers. If adopted, such local agreements will need the local commercial net fishers to advocate for their support amongst their industry colleagues who live outside of the region.

The final output from this action plan will be the business case for the next phase in the growth of the community's stewardship of the fishery and the environment supporting it. The business case will outline what a community managed fishery for the Douglas Shire will look like and how it can support the resilience of the fishery. It will describe:

- resource reallocation, compensation for affected stakeholders
- boundaries and the sustainable practices that can occur within them
- business plans for the development of fishing tourism
- how knowledge, and the recognition of cultural values can continue to grow
- recreational fishing and charter industry standards/codes of conduct/voluntary size, catch, gear limits
- compliance arrangements
- habitat protection and restoration, actions such as fish stocking/seagrass protection/fish nursery protection
- security of local sustainable seafood supplies for the community



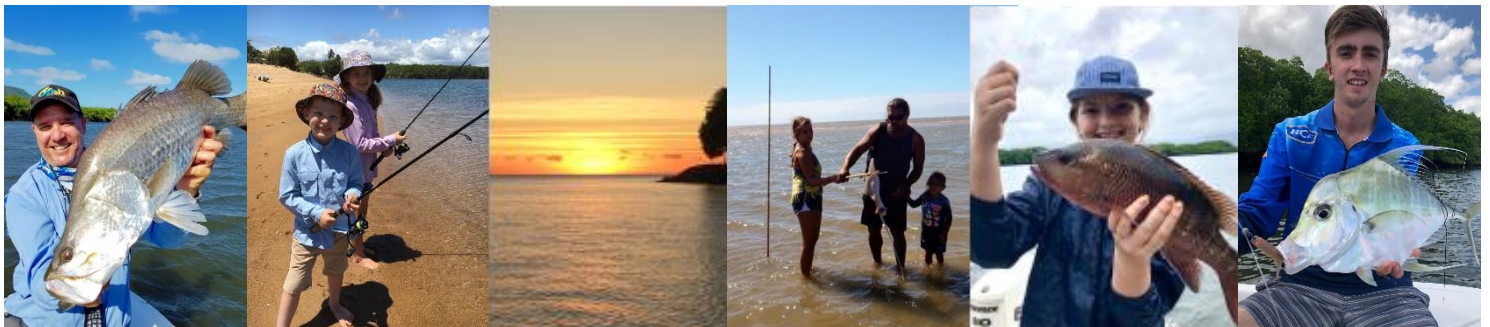
The business case should retain the current vision:

The Douglas shire is home to an abundant and resilient fishery cared for by the community.



The principal goal of the business case might be:

Community members, Traditional Owners, the charter industry and visitors to the shire have a fishing experience that is fulfilling and aligned to their values.



4. Fishery Development – an abundant and resilient fishery cared for by the community.

4.1. What is the catch – how many fish.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
4.1.1 Identify existing sources of data describing the commercial, recreational and charter fishing catch and economic value from the waters of the shire.	LMAC	Fisheries Queensland	Short term: June – December 2021
4.1.2 Seek funding to support a community coordinated Recreational, Cultural and Charter fishing monitoring and reporting program. This program will collect data on catch, effort, expenditure and the adoption of best practices.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, LMAC	Tackle Retail, Charter Fishers, Charter booking, InfoFish or other independent service providers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), FRDC, Reef Trust, Local MPs, NGOs	Short term: June – December 2021
4.1.3 Implement a community coordinated Recreational and Charter fishing monitoring and reporting program that will collect data on catch, effort, expenditure and the adoption of best practices.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, LMAC	Tackle Retail, Charter Fishers, Charter booking, InfoFish or other independent service providers, FRDC, Reef Trust, Local MPs, NGOs	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
4.1.4 Produce annual reports from Recreational and Charter fishing monitoring data, describing catch trends and economic value. Highlight Grey Mackerel, inshore and estuary fisheries. Share these reports with Fishery and Marine Park Managers and all Community stakeholders. Compare the economic input into the community of the recreational/charter fishery vs the commercial fishery for grey mackerel, inshore and estuary fisheries.	Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, LMAC	Tackle retail, Charter fishers, Charter booking, InfoFish or other independent service providers, FRDC, Reef Trust, Local MPs, NGOs	Ongoing: 2022/23 – 23/24

4.1. What is the catch – how many fish, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>4.1.5 Use available data and produce annual reports of catch, gross economic value of small vessel (<7.5m) Charter fishers while fishing in the Cairns Area Plan of Management.</p> <p>Include a narrative of the sustainability credentials of this fishery e.g. fishing practices, released fish practices, voluntary possession limits, limited anchoring (Supports 3.1.4)</p>	Charter Fishers, Charter booking, LMAC	InfoFish or other independent service providers.	Ongoing: 2021/22 – 23/24
<p>4.1.6 Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina) collect data on catch from culturally appropriate net fishing events.</p>	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC	Great Barrier Reef Marina Park Authority, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol	Long term: 2022/23 – 2023/24
<p>4.1.7 Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), produce an annual communique describing the catch from culturally appropriate net fishing events.</p>	Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), LMAC	Great Barrier Reef Marina Park Authority, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol	Long term 2022/23 – 2023/24

4.2. Local resource sharing partnerships.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
4.2.1 Establish a dialogue with local commercial N2 fishers, visiting N4 fishers (see here for legislation describing N4 and N2 fisheries) and commercial fishing industry representatives with a view towards developing a resource sharing agreement in the medium term e.g. netting moratorium for estuaries and rivers flowing in to Conservation Park zones (yellow zones) or the targeting of Queenfish, Finger Mark and Javelin fish.	N2, N4 and industry Commercial Fishers, Recreational Fishers, Charter Fishers	LMAC, QBFP, Douglas Shire Council, Fisheries Queensland, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
4.2.2 Use the dialogue with local commercial N2 fishers, visiting N4 fishers, commercial fishing industry representatives to work towards identifying compensation and licence buy back packages that may support the creation of a community managed fishery zone where N2 and N4 fishing effort is excluded.	N2, N4 and industry Commercial fishers, Recreational Fishers, Charter Fishers	LMAC, QBFP, Douglas Shire Council, Fisheries Queensland	Long Term 2022/23 - 2023/24
4.2.3. Seek partners to support the financial needs to fulfil compensation and licence buy back packages to pay commercial net fishers (N2 and N4) to retire their effort from the Douglas Shire and their licence from the Queensland Fishery. This applies to those commercial fishers who can demonstrate the Shire's waters have provided their principal source of income from net fishing for all the 5 years from 2019/20 to 2023/2024.	N2, N4 and industry Commercial Fishers, Recreational Fishers, Charter Fishers	Local MPs, Community recreational fishing levy, WWF, AMCS, Reef Trust	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
4.2.4 Recreational fishers adopt a "No dragnet policy" for the Shire's waters.	Recreational Fishers, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Charter Fishers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Tackle Retailers	LMAC, Douglas Shire Council.	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23

4.2. Local resource sharing partnerships, cont.

Action	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
<p>4.2.5 Recreational and Charter fishers adopt voluntary size and possession limits for Barramundi based on existing knowledge of size at sexual maturity and in the interests of supporting abundant stocks in the future.</p> <p>Barramundi slot limit – 58 – 80cm – possession limit of 2 fish.</p>	<p>Recreational Fishers, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Charter Fishers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Tackle Retailers</p>	<p>LMAC, Douglas Shire Council.</p>	<p>Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23</p>
<p>4.2.6 Recreational and charter fishers voluntarily adopt maximum possession limits at 75% of the current Queensland fishery regulations for all species other than Barramundi (see 4.2.5)</p>	<p>Recreational Fishers, Mossman Boat and Fishing Club, Charter Fishers, Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), Tackle Retailers</p>	<p>LMAC, Douglas Shire Council.</p>	<p>Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23</p>
<p>4.2.6 Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru) and Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), establish a permit system governed by an Elders group representing all groups, with claims to the region to support respect for cultural protocols, lore, native title, and Queensland Fisheries legislation for the use of nets for the capture of fish by all Traditional Owners and First Australian's living in or visiting the Shire.</p> <p>The goal is to ensure netting effort supports cultural values and the wider community's efforts to create an abundant and resilient fishery supported by a whole of community managed fishing zone.</p>	<p>Yirrganydji (Dawul Wuru), Eastern Kuku Yalanji (Jabalbina), GBRMPA, Queensland Boating and Fishers Patrol</p>	<p>LMAC, Douglas Shire Council.</p>	<p>Long Term 2022/23 -2023/24</p>

4.3. Towards a community managed fishery – a business case.

Action	Partners	Timeframe	Action
4.3.1 Seek funding to support the development of a “community managed fishery business case” that includes evidence of the community and cultural values of recreational and cultural fishing, strengthened stewardship demonstrated by recreational, charter and cultural fishers, the projected economic value to the community such a zone can facilitate, a defined boundary forming a community managed fishery area where N4 and N2 commercial fishing access may not occur.	All stakeholders	Government MP’s, NGO’s, Tourism peak bodies, Douglas Shire Council, Reef Trust	Funding Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23 Delivery Long Term 2022/23 - 2023/24
4.3.2 Establish a dialogue with Fisheries Managers, Ministers, local MP’s, GBRMPA and other relevant stakeholders with respect to the Community’s vision for an abundant and resilient fisher cared for by the community. It is the community’s goal to present a business case to these partners in 2023/24 supporting the establishment of a community managed fishery area, helping sustain a locally resilient fishery contributing to the resilience of the broader biodiversity and environment within the Shire.	All stakeholders	Government MP’s, NGO’s, Ministers, GBRMPA, Fisheries Queensland	Medium term: 2021/22 – 2022/23
4.3.3 In the case that the community is able to negotiate and deliver compensation and buy back packages for commercial net fishers as described in 4.2.3 (See above), Fisheries Queensland and the Queensland Government will legislate for the creation of the community managed fishery boundary described in the “community managed fishery business case” (see 4.3.1) and for the exclusion of all other commercial net fishing licence access, other than that enabling bait fishing, from this area.	Fisheries Queensland, Queensland Government	All stakeholders	Long Term 2022/23 - 2023/24

Concluding Comments:

For the community to achieve their vision all stakeholders and Traditional Owners have a role to play in supporting and providing capacity to deliver the action plan. Sharing knowledge and networks will also be important to support the plans' delivery. There are many actions that will rely on people and coordination of people and have limited funding requirements.

The most important action from this plan is the creation and facilitation of a working group representing all fishing-related interests. It is recommended that this group meets regularly. It is important that the working group is well chaired, and that members understand they are accountable to both the working group and the stakeholders they represent. Members must accept there will be differences of opinion and accept the need to compromise. It should not be about what can't be done but what can be done when there are differences in views between stakeholders.

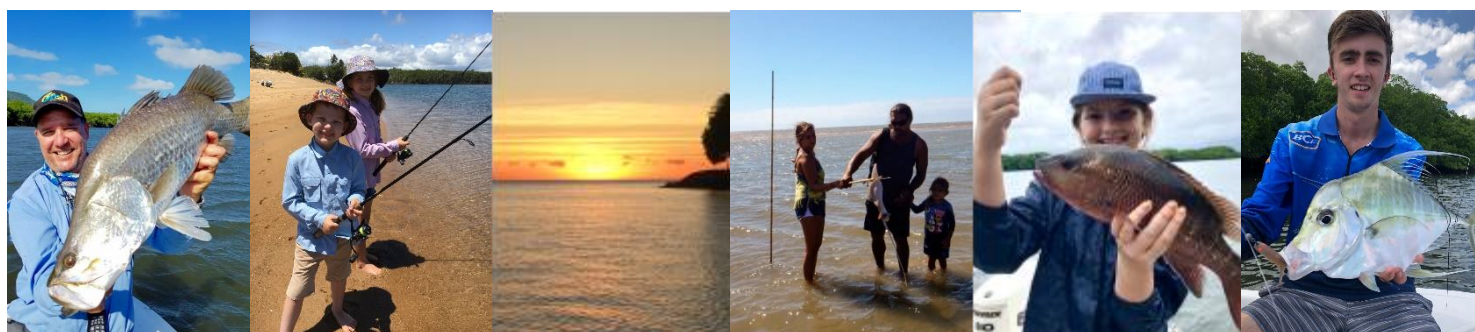
Short, medium long-term indicators in the action plan should be used to prioritise actions. The completion of one action develops capacity to deliver the next action. It will often be the second level actions where change occurs.

Identifying funding options are high priority short term actions. The community is fortunate that some funding to support the Values and Stewardship actions exists in the form of the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation grant. This fantastic opportunity provides the community with the ability to "get to work" straight away creating momentum. This momentum is a gift to the community as momentum is what will provide capacity to leverage funding.

Existing programs established by all levels of government that support:

- community development
- health and wellbeing
- environmental
- recreation
- established tourism surveys and marketing initiatives
- council community development/event budget allocations
- Traditional Owners to develop ranger programs
- Traditional Owners to engage in reef and habitat restoration supporting reef resilience

are all funding sources that have the potential to support actions within this plan.



Recreational, Charter fishers and Traditional Owners should not be afraid of partnering with or seeking funding from environmental and conservation NGO's. There is significant alignment between the community's vision and values and those held by most of these organisations.

A communication plan is vital. The community must be kept up to date with the progress of the action plan. Regular updates on the delivery of outputs and the status of actions can be delivered broadly across the community using all available Douglas community social media networks; local news sources; and club, committee, and organisational meetings. Fisheries and Marine Park Management stakeholders along with elected representatives (State and Federal) are also important clients for the receipt of information. It would be an advantage to identify key personnel at high levels in the affected government departments and agencies that the working group can communicate directly with.

One of the community champions behind the Rockhampton community achieving a Net Free Zone said something so simple it is very profound and must be listened to:

"to change something we must all change something"

If the community is to achieve their vision all stakeholders and Traditional Owners will need to change something they do. This should not be looked at as losing something but as a step towards gaining something, whether this be better fishing, a stronger culture respected by the community, business growth or the greater enjoyment of lifestyle values.

Everyone has a role to play, everyone can find something to change.

