Well, it looked good on paper....

The transition from theory to practice for resource sharing in the WTBF

Geoff Diver
How did we take an agreed process, cohesively represented stakeholders, and some goodwill, and generate an outcome which was universally condemned?
Fishery extent

Area of the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Area of the Southern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
Key species

• Striped marlin and yellowfin tuna

• Bigeye tuna, mahi mahi

• Broadbill swordfish
Key Groups

• Tuna fishers
• WA shark fishers
• Game & recreational fishers
Framework

• Coolangatta Communiqué

• Several days workshop

• All stakeholders (and decision makers)

• Framework agreed word for word
What’s it all about?

• “Expectations” of the resource

• Accessing a share in a “meaningful” way (strike rates, business efficiency)

• It’s not just fish, especially not just quota
• Key areas of concern (commercial)

• Main lessons learnt (practitioner)
Framework

• 4 or 5 key data points could have added validity to any final decision

• Data not gathered = AGREED framework not adhered to
Time frames

• 4 years from start to stop

• Stakeholders losing focus and patience

• Hard for both sides to maintain funding to attend meetings, write submissions
Expectations

• Built up by Coolangatta

• Knocked around by “process of government” delays

• Less knowledge of government = more disillusionment
Facilitator

- No doubt of deadlock
- No obvious way forward
- No dispute with process
- Big dispute with conclusions
Existing rights

• Commercial rights not “invented” in 1994
• Thousands of CFBLs
• Consolidated into current fisheries, and fishery permits
• Historical presence of recreational sector
• Need to define the point in time
Allocation and re-allocation

• Cuts both ways

• Legal entitlement to fish certain species, in certain waters, with certain gears

• Any diminution is a re-allocation
Use it or lose it

- Purchase potential of permit
- Price guided by history
- Vacant land argument
Lessons

• Framework - Resources needed to gather data

• Timeframes – Carefully articulate timelines including break points

• Expectations – clearly identify administrative, legal and legislative processes and hurdles
Lessons cont’d

• Facilitator – Useful if deadlock emerges

• Existing rights – Clearly articulate

• Allocation and re-allocation- Can only be articulated if existing rights have been defined
Final lesson for stakeholders
(and decision makers!!)

• In the best interests of your health, well being and sanity, *don’t be first cab off the rank!!!*
Thank you