RESOURCE ALLOCATION ISSUES FOR QLD COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ARISING FROM RECENT PLANNING DECISIONS OF THE GBRMPA
• The zoning plan aims were to protect and conserve the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystems within a network of “no take zones”.
• In addition provide opportunities for the ecologically sustainable use of, and access to, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park by current and future generations.
• Also to provide for the protection of other areas of high conservation value by assigning protective zoning to other important habitats, breeding and spawning areas as well as other special or unique sites.
1. Maximize complementarity of no-take areas with human values, activities and opportunities.

- Areas around Cairns were converted to mainly yellow zones.
- Aquaculture is not considered a suitable activity for the Park.
- Brood Stock areas for black Tiger were closed.
- The closure of reefs in the Cairns sector focused effort onto a much smaller area of the Park.
2. Ensure that final selection of no-take areas recognize social costs and benefits.

- Selected areas were to be valuable bioregions.
- More than 33% could have been closed with greater consultation with fishers.
- Removal of fishing effort appeared to be the focus.
- Compensation costs are suggested to be at $70m and rising.
3. Maximize placement of no-take areas in locations, which complement and include present and future management and tenure arrangements.

- Black tiger spawning grounds closed
- The Gladstone banana fishery closed.
- Areas of the spanner crab fishery closed.
- More closures to come because of increased focus.
4. Maximize public understanding and acceptance of no-take areas, and facilitate enforcement of no-take areas.

- A 50% reduction in Recreational fishermen and 155 vessels exiting the fishing certainly lightens the work load.
- Dishonest television advertising showing GOC trawlers working certainly promotes unfortunate images in the mind of the general public.
- Constant reference to trawlers dragging across reefs when all parties are fully aware of the trawlers only working sand patches between reefs again promote false images.
- Improved trawling practices such as TEDs and BRDs are always discounted.