

WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

The following answers are not considered to be definitive or final government perspective, but instead are outcomes of discussion by workshop attendees.

The three Steering Committees were asked to provide answers to a number of questions. The answers as discussed at the PIRSA workshop are as follows:

1. What is co-management?

“An arrangement where responsibilities and obligations for sustainable fisheries management are negotiated, shared and delegated between Government, fishers, other interest groups and stakeholders” (draft FRDC report titled ‘National working group on fisheries co-management initiative: a framework for fisheries co-management in Australia’)

In the extreme case maximum responsibilities are delegated to industry

2. What are the pre-requisites for moving to collaborative / delegated co-management?

- legislative framework that enables delegation of co-management components, including conflict resolution with government & other stakeholders
- community / political environment and government willingness
- industry driven / ownership
- effective industry body with appropriate governance and resources
- effective and auditable management and reporting framework to ensure sustainability
- mechanisms for engaging stakeholders and conflict resolution
- allocation framework in place
- implementation plan

3. Why should government move towards a collaborative / delegated co-management model?

- increasing industry stewardship
- greater flexibility and responsive management
- de-politicizing management
- reduction in total cost to government

4. What government benefits are associated with collaborative / delegated co-management?

- As above
- greater level of industry accountability and responsibility

5. What fisheries management responsibilities can be shared with, or delegated to industry?

- refer to table of future co-management processes

6. What resources would be required to implement collaborative / delegated co-management?

Government

- ongoing resource needs during transition, no additional resources.

Industry

- fisheries management
- legal support
- scientific support

7. What risks to government are there in moving towards greater collaborative / delegated co-management?

- audit failure (risks to achieving objectives of Management Plan)
- knowledge transfer
- reduced refinement of management framework
- disassociation: lack of connectivity between industry and government
- public perception & political fallout (of management failure)
- reality different from vision
- cost prohibitive

8. How could these risks be managed? Who by?

This will be re-visited at the next workshop

9. What fisheries management functions should remain with Government?

This will be re-visited at the next workshop
