Title: **Hinchinbrook Region Monitoring Plan**

(Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club)

Q1: What do you intend to monitor?

Within the listed target species below, monitoring will primarily include, but not be limited to;

- aggregation patterns
- movement patterns
- population patterns
- growth patterns
- post-capture survival rates

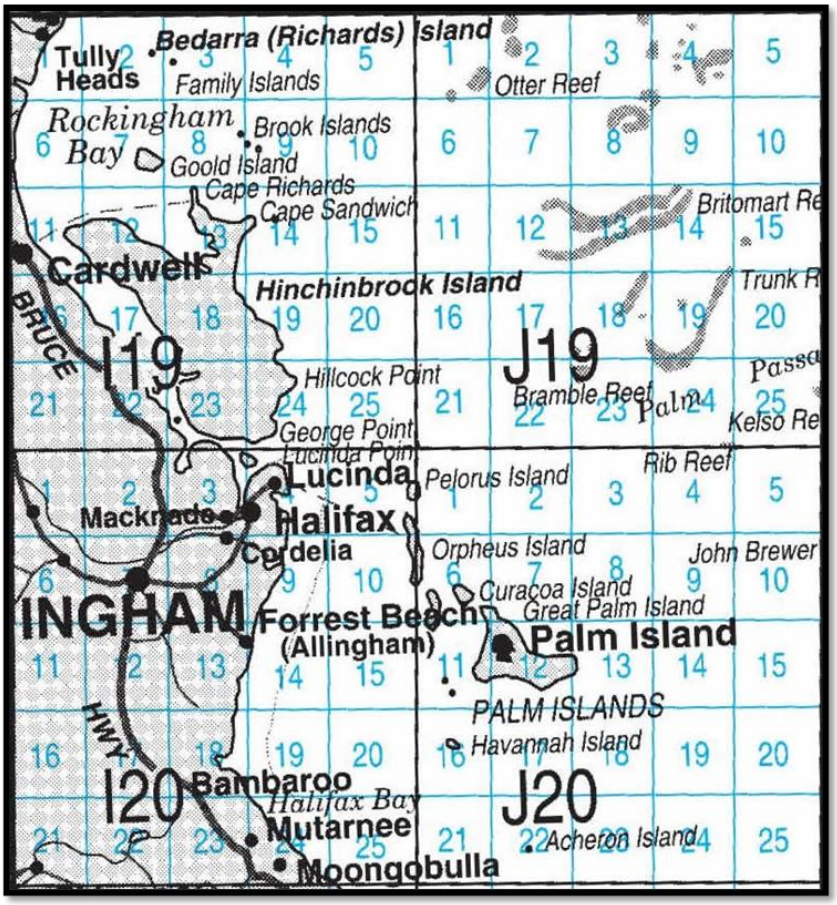
Target species

Barramundi	*Lates calcarifer*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/4643*
Barred Javelin	*Pomadasys kaakan*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/465*
Silver Javelin	*Pomadasys argenteus*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/463*
Bartail Flathead	Platycephalus indicus	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/3762*
Dusky Flathead	Platycephalus fuscus	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/3359*
Golden Snapper	*Lutjanus johnii*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/558*
Mangrove Jack	*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/548*
Goldspotted Rockcod	*Epinephelus coioides*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/4512*
Blackspotted Rockcod	*Epinephelus malabaricus*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/4675*
Blue Threadfin	*Eleutheronema tetradactylum*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/632*
King Threadfin	*Polydactylus macrochir*	*http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/634*
Grass emperor	Lethrinus laticaudis	http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/2461
Red emperor	Lutjanus sebae	http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/567
Crimson snapper	Lutjanus erythropterus	http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/1241
Saddletail snapper	Lutjanus malabaricus	http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/561

Q2: Where will you monitor?

Hinchinbrook Region, North Queensland

Grid references:
I19, I20, J19, J20



Q3: Why is this species and area a priority for monitoring?

The Hinchinbrook region has for many decades been a popular destination for local and visiting recreational fishers.

It boasts the world heritage listed Hinchinbrook Island and the Hinchinbrook channel which runs for approximately 50km from Lucinda in the south to Cardwell in the north. The regions ecological and recreational values were recognised in 1999 when 12,268ha within the Hinchinbrook channel were declared a fish habitat area.

The Hinchinbrook area boasts some of the most pristine fish habit still available to weekend anglers on the East coast of Australia. With this reputation comes pressure from weekend anglers and competition based anglers who frequent these waters.

The waters that lay within the Hinchinbrook coastal lagoon area also offer a diversity of fishing options and the opportunity for recreational fishers to target an array of species. A large proportion of these waters are protected by the Palm Island group, which lay approximately 20km offshore, and as such can often be accessed by small boats. The combination of easy access, protected waters and diversity of fishing options makes this area popular with both local and visiting fishers.

The waters of the Hinchinbrook coastal lagoon also play an important role as nursery grounds for juvenile reef species. The importance of these waters as a nursery and recruitment area for surrounding waters is assumed to be of some value but there is limited or no scientific evidence.

This monitoring plan aims to assist with the monitoring of both the current and future status of key fish stocks and in doing so capture potential changes in the resilience and diversity of fish stocks and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Whether it be changes associated with recreational fishing, commercial fishing, coastal development or other natural and man-induced impacts, the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing club proposes to monitor 15 key recreationally targeted species.

Q4: Who will use your data?

1. Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club
2. ANSA Qld (as approved by the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing club)
3. Wider community (as approved by the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing club)
4. Approved Third Party Researchers (as approved by the Hinchinbrook Sportfishing club)

Q5: How will the data be used?

Data will be quality checked, collated and archived to be available for Hinchinbrook SFC, ANSA Qld and approved third parties upon request/approval.

The Hinchinbrook SFC, and ANSA Qld, will use the monitoring program and the data collected to,

- monitor populations, movement patterns and growth rates of the target species to gain an understanding of the impacts of potential increased recreational fishing effort in the Hinchinbrook region
- monitor survival rates of each of the listed target species through tagging & recapture
- promote sustainable fishing on a local, regional and state level
- assess the level of “spill-over” of target species into surrounding commercially netted areas
- assess the impact of commercial fishing (netting) on popular recreational species

Q6: What data quality do you require?

The primary objective of this project is to allow anglers opportunity to collect fishery data as a means of citizen science participation. The idea is to value add to the fishing experience and in doing so, create greater awareness of the study species (population, growth, movement and post-capture survival patterns)

Although the primary focus of the program is citizen science based, data collection methods will be as robust as possible to ensure data quality is as high as possible to allow for as many potential end uses as possible. Data Quality will be set at a level where the complexity of collection and data entry methods does not greatly inhibit participation.

Hinchinbrook SFC members who choose to partake in tagging of fish from the target species list will be required to be approved taggers under the ANSA Qld guidelines.

The quality of data is likely to be of indicative quality (better than demonstrative but not analytical)

Q7: What is the proposed period of monitoring? When and how often will you monitor?

Monitoring commenced in September 2016 under the initial Hinchinbrook 'Coastal' and 'Inshore' monitoring plans.

Under the combined Hinchinbrook 'Region' monitoring plan the Hinchinbrook SFC proposes to utilise current stocks of pink tags purchased through club and grant funds. Once these stocks have been exhausted the Hinchinbrook SFC will review this plan with a view to either extending, altering or ceasing monitoring activities.

Regular monitoring by Hinchinbrook SFC club members will take place during both official and unofficial club outings on an "opportunistic" basis.

Q8: What methods will you use?

- All target and non-target species captured will be handled so as to cause as little stress as possible.
- Target species will be measured, tagged and released as quickly as possible so as to maximise the chances of survival.
- Fish capture information as outlined in field of form: http://www.ansaqld.com.au/awards/entry-form/ will be collected for target species along with any other data that meets the objectives.
- Members will fish according to the ANSA QLD code of Ethics (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-ethics/) and the National Code of Practice (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/recfish_australia_ncop_brochure.pdf) adopted by ANSA QLD.
- Fish destined for release will be released according to the ANSA Code of Practice for Releasing Fish (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-practice-for-releasing-fish/)
- Tagging will be conducted according to the AUSTAG Manual (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Austag-Manual-Complete-with-Work-Instructions.pdf), or subsequent ANSA tagging manuals as they become available.
- Location of fish will be recorded using the Site & Grid reference maps on the ANSA Qld website
- Fishes of Australia (http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/) is used to identify fish species

Q9: Who will be involved and how?

Monitoring will be conducted primarily by members of the Hinchinbrook SFC. Reporting of recaptures will be open to the general public. ANSA QLD will provide fish capture database facility, tags and support to the Hinchinbrook SFC. Pending approval from the Hinchinbrook SFC, third party researchers may be involved providing their involvement is in line with assisting to achieve the objectives of this monitoring program.

Q10: How will the data be managed and reported?

Data will be added directly by approved Hinchinbrook SFC members into the fish capture form.

The results will be reported online using ANSA Qld website reporting outputs, or specific report generated by the Hinchinbrook SFC.

Records are to be maintained on ANSA QLD website and related database.

Version

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