PART 3: THE ISSUES

3.1 Sources of information

Numerous sources of information and opinions have been accessed during this review. Appendix A provides a list the individuals and organisations consulted.

They included the Authority, whose staff time and files were generously provided. Various Commonwealth and Queensland Government agencies were also consulted.

Consultation with the tourism industry took place at three levels:

A mail out survey was conducted in May 1994 of all Marine Park tourism operators who were required to submit EMC returns. The form used for the survey is reproduced as Appendix C. It asked specific questions and invited operators to provide additional comments.

Interviews, by phone or in person, were conducted with organisations who were known to have specific problems with the EMC or were otherwise important for understanding the operation of the EMC.

Two interviews were conducted with AMPTO representatives and submissions were invited from the NQ Game Fishing Association and the Bareboat Charter Association.

The results of the mail out survey of Marine Park tourism operators are presented in table 3.1 below. As can be seen, the response rate was 34.6%. Whether the results are therefore biased depends on the reasons why the non-respondents did not reply. The survey form was only two pages long and should have taken only a few minutes to complete. Thus it is probable that operators who felt strongly about the shortcomings of the EMC would have taken the opportunity to express their views by completing the form.