

## **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **Issue One**

Any use of aerial surveillance findings for management purposes must acknowledge the biases inherent in the ways that data was collected, recorded and analysed. Those biases being different periods of data collection in different years, incomplete data sets, the potential double counting of users associated with commercial vessels and recreational vessels and their dinghies or tenders as well as the inclusion of vessels observed in-transit.

### **Issue Two**

Any use of mail survey findings for management purposes must acknowledge the response rate was 33% and that the data was biased by a lack of non-use returns even though the proportionate sampling was maintained in the return rate.

### **Issue Three**

Recognition of 'established' usage areas by recreationalists should be considered when planning the recreational and tourism opportunity spectrums for the study area. Those 'established' areas being Port Clinton, Island Head Creek, Corio Bay, the area between Five Rocks and Cape Manifold, the area between Cape Manifold and Cape Clinton and the northern section of Shoalwater Bay including Stanage Bay.

### **Issue Four**

The 'wilderness' qualities of the study area need to be maintained through the development of a recreational opportunity spectrum for Shoalwater Bay and the adjacent waters as 'wilderness' qualities were noted as one of the primary non-catch related motivations of recreational users.

### **Issue Five**

Development of a recreational opportunity spectrum for the study area should include provision for the future needs of an ageing local population so as to ensure the quality of their recreational activities are maintained in their local marine-based recreational area. The recreational opportunity spectrum should also take into account the fact that the income level of the aged disadvantages their recreational opportunities and consequently their ability to recreate elsewhere, hence access to 'established' usage areas should again be considered and maintained.

### **Issue Six**

The income level of most of the survey respondents placed them within the skilled worker or service industry category, amounts of discretionary income may also disadvantage their recreational opportunities including finding other suitable settings, consequently, continued access to 'established' usage areas should be considered by management.

### **Issue Seven**

The study only surveyed recreational users and commercial operators of tourist activities, it did not study the commercial fishers nor the indigenous users' activities. To address this bias, any consideration of overall management of the area by GBRMPA and QDoE agencies must incorporate information and data gathered from these two user groups.

### **Issue Eight**

Due to the conflict of interests which exist between recreational users and commercial fishers, long term monitoring of fish stocks within the study area might be commenced and/or maintained in order that catch/effort by both groups may be scientifically ascertained and publicly disseminated so comments and attitudes expressed by both user groups may be founded on fact rather than hearsay.

### **Issue Nine**

Planners and managers need to acknowledge and include management practices which account for in-transit use of the area by both sail and motor driven vessels for short term recreation and because of the area's provision of safe anchorages.