



GERALDTON
FISHERMEN'S
CO-OPERATIVE

Rock Lobster Exporters

the BROLOS Catcher

May 16, 2017

Issue No. 138

A Day in the Life of a Brolos Fisherman

In the last few editions of the Catcher we've put the call out to Co-op members to send us your best photos and videos. Throughout the year we will be pushing your photos and videos out across our social media channels in China, creating the all-important connection with GFC's customers. We've had a fantastic response from you all and, as promised, it's time to show off some of what we received.

After putting the first notice in Catcher last month we had a near-instant response from Ricki Mouchemore who could not wait to share the first two photos (right). Ricki wrote in and said "This is what happens when your drone crashes while pulling double gear over the edge and the boat can't get to it quickly enough, then sharks try to eat it!"

The third photo (below) comes from Warren Kalajzich who tells us "The islands are the perfect place for kids to do the simple things, like my granddaughter Sophia, who sat on the jetty for over an hour watching fish swim by on a picture perfect day. No bites today! Who needs them?"

We will continue featuring your photos in upcoming editions of the Catcher, as well as on [GFC's Facebook page](#). Remember, don't stop now, keep on sending us your best stuff! Email or MMS your photos and videos to Matt Harrison at matthewh@brolos.com.au or 0439 104 766.



Before



After



Market Update

Demand from the China market has so far been strong in the month of May, in line with historical trends. Sales volumes have been high for the last few weeks and well balanced against equally large landings from fishermen. Larger grades have generally been less popular compared to the smaller grades, which has seen the price spread between the large and small grades gradually widening. That said, if landings of the smaller grades increase significantly we could see this trend reverse very quickly.

Historically we would expect to see demand gradually reduce as we move further into the second half of May, however at this stage the signs are positive that prices should continue to support current catch rates in the short term.

Getting to Know ...

Darren McTaggart

After 30 years in the industry, B-Zone fisherman Darren McTaggart is still going strong.

Darren began supplying the Co-op 15-years ago and has been a loyal GFC member ever since.

Darren is a third generation fisherman. His grandfather and great uncle fished for snapper at Cockburn Sound after moving to Western Australia from Geelong. Darren's father, Brian McTaggart, was also a Western Rock Lobster fisherman.

Based in Leeman, Darren skippers his 18-metre (60-foot) boat, the Beverly Dawn III, which he bought in 1992. Darren fishes with two deckhands, one of whom is his son, Lenny, who is being groomed to inherit the family business. Darren's other son, Hayden, has recently been out fishing (for fish), starting his own small business based in Kalbarri. Darren hopes that Hayden too may eventually come back to crayfishing.

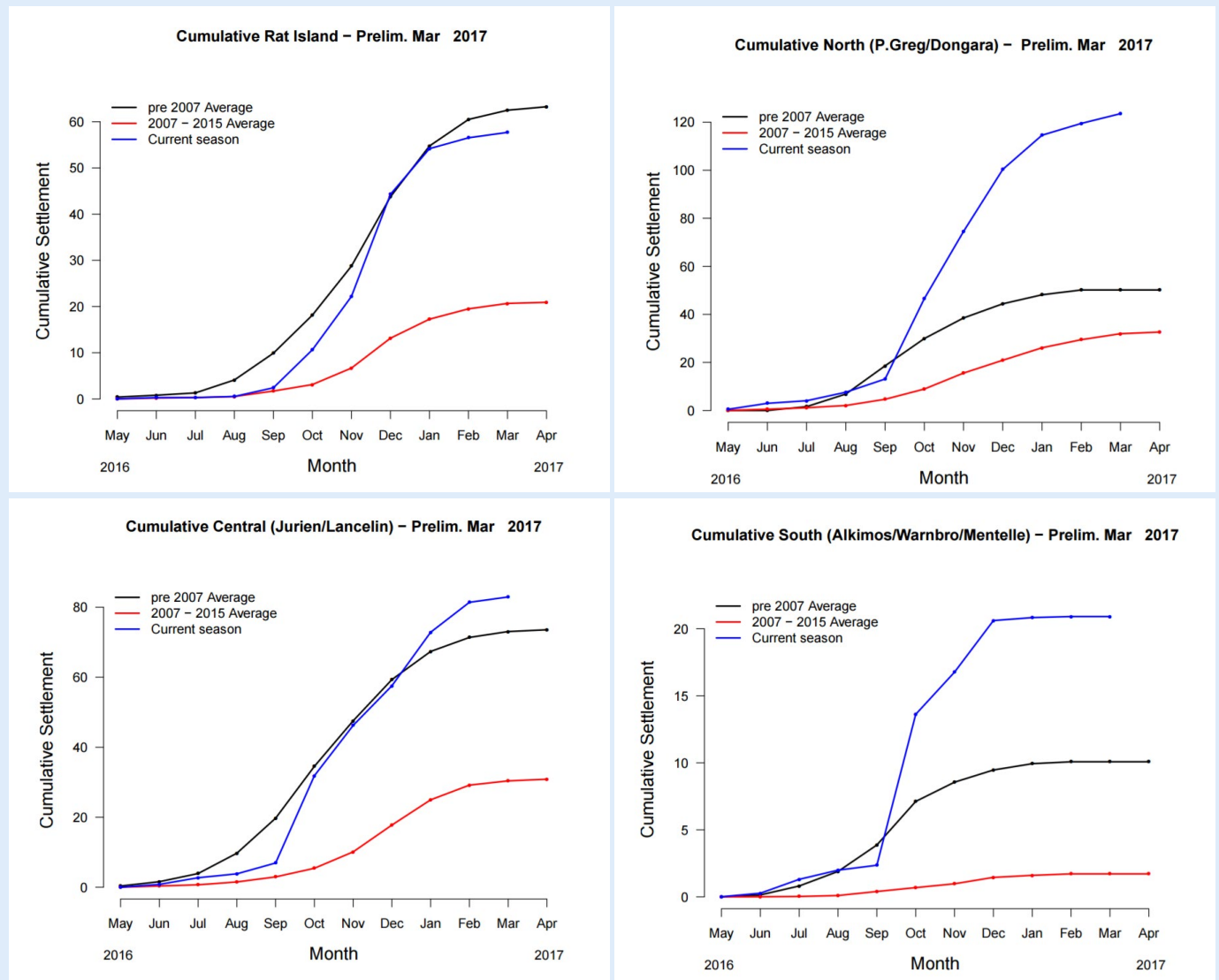
Darren is an avid traveller, he and Lenny participated in GFC's first China Tour last year. When it comes time to pass the business on to one—or both—of his sons, Darren looks forward to taking the opportunity to travel the world with wife Diane.

Right: Darren with his two sons, Hayden (left) and Lenny (right).



Puerulus Settlement Update

To date the puerulus settlement during the current 2016/17 collection season (May 2016 to April 2017) has shown an increase in settlement at all sites compared to the previous settlement period. Settlement in the Warnbro, Alkimos, Lancelin and Jurien sites are well above their pre 2006 “historical” averages. The northern areas of Port Gregory, Dongara and Abrolhos sites also showed a similar trend (see below graphs).



These results indicate that a stronger year class will be coming into all parts of the fishery in 3-4 years, particularly the 2020 season. The puerulus collections are carried out five days either side of the full moon. The level of settlement is relatively low during the April – June period and not all sites will be monitored. (Source DOF Bulletin)

Along with other information published by the Department of Fisheries, GFC monitors the puerulus index closely to ensure your resource is sustainably managed and the value of your assets is secure now, and into the future. If you want to follow this key indicator of the fishery’s health, you can view the updated information on the Department of Fisheries website [here](http://brolos.com.au).



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