



INDUSTRY UPDATE DECEMBER 2008

Management Change October 2008

This year there have been a number of changes to OceanWatch Australia. The loss of Government funding for OceanWatch Australia's long-standing SeaNet project in June 2008 has reduced the capacity in some areas of our organisation. The loss of some of our dedicated and hard-working staff has naturally been disappointing, although some members of the SeaNet team have been incorporated into other areas of our organisation. Our CEO for the past five years, Anissa Lawrence, has also decided to move on. Anissa's enthusiasm and commitment has been very much appreciated by the Board and staff.

In response to these changes the Board of Directors has expanded Brad Warren's role as Chair of OceanWatch Australia, to that of Executive Chair, with a more day to day operational focus. Brad will be supported in this new role by OceanWatch Australia's former Business Development Manager, Lowri Pryce, who has accepted the position of Executive Officer.

The Board and Staff of OceanWatch Australia would like to thank Sydney Fish Market for their ongoing support.



SeaNet - new funding for 2009

OceanWatch Australia is pleased to announce that SeaNet, the ground breaking, award-winning environmental fisheries extension program has been successful in its funding application. Funds are now available to provide this valuable industry service in NSW, Queensland and Victoria for 2009.

SeaNet is a program that is well respected by the Australian fishing industry. Through working with the SeaNet program, fishers are able to find solutions to their problems and get on with the job of fixing them. Without this valuable Government support, the Australian fishing industry will have no way to deal with their environmental issues, on their own terms. We are pleased the Rudd Government has shown its support for the SeaNet program, as it's one of the primary mechanisms of improving the sustainability of Australia's fisheries.

OceanWatch Australia will have SeaNet up and running again in early 2009.

Want to know more?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

Tide to Table is currently operating in the Sydney Metro, Hawkesbury Nepean, and Hunter Central Rivers regions of NSW, and 2 regions in Qld.

These projects are rehabilitating critical fish habitat, such as saltmarsh, wetlands and riparian and in stream vegetation, reducing stormwater impacts, sedimentation, removing barriers to fish passage and creating community and primary industries partnerships. The recent Hawkesbury and Hunter River Connectivity Tours, Oyster Industry Field Day and the Fisher's Forum at Hexham are some of the activities funded by this program.

With regards to on-ground work, to date within the Sydney Metro project alone, the following has been achieved:

- 8.8km of stream opened to fish passage
- 67,000 tube stock plantings
- 814 people involved in works
- 374 volunteers trained
- 17 ha of coastal vegetation protected
- 7 ha wetland rehabilitated

OceanWatch Australia has applied for funding for further Tide to Table projects.

Our Valuable Estuaries

Year 10 Teacher's Resource

In 2008, OceanWatch Australia, in partnership with NSW Department of Education and Training, developed and launched an environmental education resource for teachers and students.

This is the second Our Valuable Estuaries resource produced by OceanWatch Australia, and is targeted at year 10 Geography students in NSW. The long term purpose of this resource is to inform students of the importance of protecting and conserving our water resources, and natural environment.

The resource promotes the idea that all human activities within a river's catchment impact on coastal aquatic freshwater, estuarine and ultimately marine habitats, and the fisheries they support. The resource has been trialled and exceptionally well received by high school geography teachers and has recently been featured at Teachers Professional Development Workshops in NSW, where teachers have been trained in its use.

OceanWatch managed the first ever collection of unwanted and discarded commercial and recreational fishing line and net.

This material is to be recycled into fence posts for use in Tide to Table projects to fence off cattle etc from fish habitat areas such as saltmarsh. The collection was a pilot from Mooloolabah to Eden and took place in early 2008. A project is underway to roll this out nationally and incorporate the ghost nets recently collected from the Gulf of Carpentaria. Installation of a State-wide network of TAngler Bins to recover recreational fishing line at key recreational fishing hot spots throughout coastal NSW is underway. This will also work to reduce entanglement and ingestion of line by marine animals (turtles, sea snakes, birds and whales), as well as degradation of coastal vegetation. The line placed in these bins is also collected and recycled.

OceanWatch Australia aims to take TAngler Bins to Victoria and Queensland.