



Newsletter of the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools Project

Issue 1, May 2011

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Launch of the SIPS project

It was a beautiful day in Hobart on March 17, as the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools (SIPS) project was officially launched by Neil Stump, Chief Executive of the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council.

The SIPS project connects commercial fishermen and marine farmers with Tasmanian school classes from years 1 – 10. By forming a partnership, teachers and fishermen work together to educate students about day to day life in the seafood industry and issues such as seafood sustainability and environmental protection.

Neil Stump told the 60 or so guests at the launch, 'the Tasmanian Seafood Industry sees the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools program as a way to educate our community about the seafood industry; the benefits we provide to local communities, our strong environmental credentials and that we offer career opportunities across a range of occupations within marine industries.'

The launch was attended by people from across the Tasmanian seafood industry, including marine farmers, commercial fishermen, fisheries managers and scientists. The education sector was also well represented by school teachers and associated organisations. Most importantly, a group of students from Year 6 at Lauderdale Primary School came along to join in the celebration – firing crackers into the air to mark the occasion.

SIPS champion fisherman Bryan Denny brought his boat, the 'Motonui', into Constitution Dock for the event. It provided a great backdrop for photos and magnificent entertainment for the school kids.



Neil Stump, Executive Chair of the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, officially launches the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools project with the help of students from Lauderdale Primary School.



Bryan Denny shows Lauderdale Primary School students around the 'Motonui'.

Thank you

OceanWatch Australia and the Project Steering Committee wish to thank Mures and Tassal for catering the launch of the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools project. The showcase of excellent Tasmanian seafood assisted to make the occasion memorable and certainly reflected the spirit of good will that surrounds this project.

Current Partnership Snapshot

So far this year 18 partnerships have been created under the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools 'Adopt a Fishing Boat' and 'Adopt a Marine Farm' program streams. Here's quick snapshot of 5 of those partnerships, and how they were formed:

School	Fisherman/Farmer	How the partnership was formed and activities
Rose Bay High	Commercial Fisherman - Bryan Denny	Class teacher, Michelle Oates responded to a call to take part in the project on the Department of Education infostream. Bryan was keen to take on the challenge of communicating with High school students, having previously formed a partnership with a Primary school class. Bryan visits two different Animal Studies classes, and has provided information about careers in the seafood industry. He keeps in contact with the class from sea.
Rosny College	Tassal – Doug Paveley	Teacher Jim Delany also saw a notice about the project on the Department of Education infostream. He will make a one-off visit to the Tassal hatchery at Ranelagh with his class in June. The class visit will complement other 'marine' activities Jim has organised, including an excursion to the Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre.
Triabunna High	Oyster Bay Oysters - Hayden Dyke	Teacher Sean McCarthy has independently organised a number of industry partnerships with local seafood businesses. He's joined the SIPS project so that he can access the support of the Project Officer in identifying teaching resources.
Taroona High	Commercial Fishermen - Joey McKibben and Clive Perryman	Teacher Jamieson Smalley offers a number of marine studies courses to students at Taroona High School, and will have 50 qualified scuba divers at the end of 2011. Since becoming involved in the SIPS project his Advanced Exploring the Ocean and Marine Science classes have formed ongoing partnerships with commercial fishermen who will visit the school and provide updates about fishing from sea. Partner Fisherman Joey McKibben is new to the SIPS project while Clive Perryman is now a project veteran, having formed two partnerships at Kingston Primary School in 2010.
Dover DHS	Commercial Fisherman - Glenn Jager	School Principal Peter Walker advertised in the school newsletter for fishermen from the Dover community to form classroom partnerships. Parent and Commercial Fisherman Glenn Jager responded to the ad, and will take students on a tour of the Dover wharf. More partnerships are being fostered.

Partnership activity ideas

1. A great way to learn about seafood is to find out 'what's in season' and how it is caught. Teachers can do this from the classroom using the [Australian Seafood](#) and [Australian Fisheries Management Authority](#) websites. Classes involved in SIPS 'Adopt a Fishing Boat' partnerships can discuss the importance of seasons with their adopted fisherman.
2. What about the weather? With the onset of winter, it's a good time to think about the conditions in which Commercial Fishermen and Marine Farmers operate year-round to bring fresh seafood to our tables. Take a look at the Marine and Ocean section of the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) website and find out about current conditions. Classes involved in SIPS partnerships could keep a journal of the weather forecast and keep in touch with their partners via text message to find out how the weather influences fishing activities.

Farewell to Fiona

Tasmanian SeaNet Officer Fiona Ewing has moved to a new role as the Community Relations Coordinator at Tassal. Fe was instrumental in creating and sourcing funding for the SIPS project. I wish Fe all the best in her new role, and look forward to her continued support of the SIPS project as a Steering Committee member.

Getting involved

If you are a Commercial Fisherman, Marine Farmer or Teacher and would like to become involved in the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools project, please contact me on 0428 026 356 or email jennifer@oceanwatch.org.au. There is a list of classes wanting to take part in the project, especially on the East and North coasts. Inland schools are also welcome to take part as there are fishermen and marine farmers willing to send emails and text messages or hold Skype conversations with students.

"2009/328 Tactical Research Fund: Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools - program Pilot, Tasmania" is supported by funding from the FRDC on behalf of the Australian Government.