

SeaNet Update

Winter 2011

The SeaNet program is OceanWatch Australia's commercial fisheries environmental extension service, funded under the Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country program. The program seeks to improve the sustainability of Australian fisheries and introduce conservation behaviours and new technology to the industry. The SeaNet program is the only dedicated extension program operating within the seafood industry.



Welcome to the Autumn 2011 Report of OceanWatch Australia

In order to expand the capacity of our multiple projects to reach a larger audience, from now on our publication will contain the usual SeaNet update, along with news from projects within other programs. Please send this newsletter to all your network contacts. Anyone wishing to receive future copies of the newsletter directly can email Eduardo at ocean@oceanwatch.org.au or call 02 9660 2262 to be added to the newsletter distribution list.

Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools Awarded!!



The Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools project (SIPS) has been given the 'Tasmanian Seafood Industry Promotion' award at the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Awards night. The judging panel made special note of Bryan Denny's involvement in the program because he initiated contact with schools in the first instance. The panel also noted that the SIPS project promotes the industry locally across all sectors. "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.



IN THIS ISSUE:

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Northern Territory

Lyn Lambeth

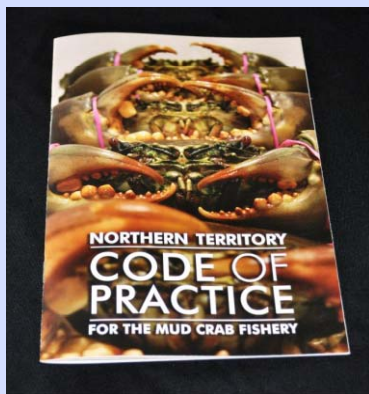


Codes of Practice and Environmental Management Systems

The updated Northern Territory Code of Practice for the Mud Crab Fishery has been printed and copies are available for those involved in catching, transporting, holding and selling Mud Crabs. The Code now includes practical information on optimising the post harvest survival of Mud Crabs from capture to point of sale. The revised Code has been guided by the results of research undertaken by Innovative Food Technologies (Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland) and developed with the assistance of the NT SeaNet Officer, NT Seafood Council and the NT Mud Crab Licensee Committee.

The Code will be rolled out to industry in conjunction with fieldwork planned as part of the development of a Mud Crab Fishery Environmental Management System (EMS). Copies will also be made available Australia-wide to wholesalers, processors and traders involved in handling Mud Crabs. Financial support for the printing of the Code has been provided by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, Queensland and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Work is well underway on the Australian Government-funded project revising or developing the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) or Codes of Practice for five fisheries in the NT. Workshops have been held for the Aquarium, Mud Crab, Coastal Line and Offshore Net and Line fisheries. A workshop for the Demersal Fishery is planned for June.



NT Mud Crab Fishery Code of Practice.



Coastal Line fishery EMS workshop participants break for lunch.

A draft EMS has been developed for each of the four fisheries involved in the process so far. The EMS not only looks at risks to the environment but also considers public perceptions of its environmental impact. A fishery which may have a low risk when considered purely scientifically may be considered high risk by the general public. The workshops and the subsequent EMS document identify actions to manage both environmental and public perception risks.

Some of the actions emerging from the workshops and subsequent discussions include updating and more widely circulating the Codes of Practice developed by each fishery, improving communications for licence lessees (especially with regard to current regulations and regulation changes), promoting the EMS and environmental performance of the industry broadly within the community and developing a guide to resuscitating turtles for inclusion in the Offshore Net & Line Fishery EMS.

The next step is to circulate the EMS drafts to industry for comment. Further input will be gathered during boat and site visits in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Borroloola and Roper River. The 2 year project is funded under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

Video Updates

The SeaNet NT YouTube site <http://www.youtube.com/user/SeaNetNT> now has 13 videos posted on its channel, with the latest being the fourth in the *faces of fishing* series, showing Barramundi fishing in the NT. There have been over 15,000 views of the videos.

Darwin Harbour to Be Again CleanedUp

Funding has again been received from Territory Natural Resource Management's Coastcare programme for NTSC and SeaNet NT to organise the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up. Those involved in last year's event have been contacted and new participants are being sought to make the day even more successful. The clean-up is planned for Tuesday July 5th – a week day due to many participants being involved as part of their normal days work with agencies such as Darwin Port Corporation and NT Fisheries. The day also falls in the school holidays so we again hope to get children participating as a holiday activity. We will again be highlighting the fact that commercial fishermen collect marine debris as part of their regular operations at sea, but anyone who is keen to help out on the day is most welcome.

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South Australia

Nathan Bicknell

A Co-operative Approach to Bycatch Reduction in Gulf St. Vincent SA

Over the years the process of transferring bycatch reduction technology from tropical trawl fisheries to South Australia has proved problematic. The traditional one size fits all approach often fails to account for inherent variables between and within fisheries, for example the local catch and bycatch assemblages, localised fishing techniques and infrastructure and management strategies. Poor performing BRD were often viewed as failures and the BRD was thrown out with the Bycatch.



Voluntary uptake has the potential to reduce these direct and indirect costs to industry while providing an improved bycatch reduction performance. Organic uptake will occur if a device is



(>50mm and less than 25mm). Like the co-management approach the sum the GSV BRS is greater than its parts. The T90 improving the efficiency of the Grid, which intern improves the selectivity power of the T90.

More information?

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practical and provides operational benefits to fishers. Internal research and management have to be assured of the devices statistical performance.

With the view of overcoming these issues a working group of key stakeholders in the Gulf St. Vincent Prawn (GSV) fishery was developed in early 2010. Together this group developed a structure called the *Innovation Framework* to foster a co-management approach to BRD evolution. This structure was then utilised across three parallel projects the development of a purpose built Bycatch Reduction System (BRS) to improve both the environmental and economic performance of the fishery.

Fast forward to 2011 the investment in co-management is now bearing fruits with the development of a BRS which overcomes the nuances particular to the GSV Prawn fishery. Initial analysis of the GSV BRS performance has exceeded everyone's expectations with bycatch reduction of specific species approaching 100%. Fishers and stakeholders are very excited about the implications for the fishery's future with a number of environmental and operational gains.

Many BRDs technologies target specific bycatch species by exploiting behavioural traits. In contrast the GSVP BRS does not discriminate physically sorting and excluding catch based on size alone (>50mm and less than 25mm). Like the co-management approach the sum the GSV BRS is greater than its parts. The T90 improving the efficiency of the Grid, which intern improves the selectivity power of the T90.

Involvement of all key stakeholders from the beginning has been the key to this success with the unique combination of approaches and ideas expediting the evolution process. The involvement of key stakeholders has also generated much needed ownership of the process and outcomes, which has laid a strong foundation for extension and adoption. There is nothing, like the endorsement of industry leaders to get the fisherman's telegraph running hot. Net constructors and key contributors *Lankhorst Euronete Australia Pty Lt.* are in consultation with no less than seven domestic and international trawl fisheries.

While the design of GSV BRS has implications for other trawl fisheries, the highlight of these projects was the power of co-operation to fast track the evolution of fishery specific BRS. A co-operative approach to problem solving is having success in a number of projects across Australia which will be highlighted in an upcoming FRDC report "*Understanding Extension and Adoption in the Fishing Industry*".

Special thanks to Key Contributors:

- Research – Inshore Crustaceans Team SARDI Aquatic Sciences
- Management- PIRSA Fisheries
- Industry
 - Raptis Fisheries
 - Skipper and Crew of F.V Anna Pearl and Angela Kaye
 - GSVP Association
- Business – QLD Net Manufactures - Lankhorst Euronete Australia Pty Ltd
- OceanWatch Australia – Management, Admin and the National SeaNet Team

Funding Bodies:

- The Australian Government Caring For our Country
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Adelaide and Mont Lofty Natural Resource Management Board

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More information?

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Effectiveness of Increasing Mesh Size in Reducing the Capture of Juvenile Target Species in Select NSW Beach Seine Operations-FRDC Project 2008/036



NSW SeaNet and FNQ SeaNet Officers recently conducted a road trip originating in Tweed Heads and culminating in Eden. Ocean Haul licence holders and representatives of the Ocean Haul Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MAC) were delivered information regarding the project outcomes for the FRDC funded and SeaNet facilitated beach seine project. The project resulted in modifications to the fishing gear and amendments to the management and governing legislation.

The road trip aimed to increase awareness and adoption of the project outcomes within the fishing industry. Ocean Haul MAC representatives and licence holders have shown keen interest in the project with some Ocean Haul fishers already modifying their existing fishing gears. Other licence holders are negotiating with net builders, or are currently building gear which corresponds with regulation amendments of an allowed increase in mesh size from 65 to 102 mm in the bunt and codend. The adoption of these modifications will be beneficial during fishing operations by allowing any juveniles encountered to escape from the catch unharmed.



NSW SeaNet extending beach haul project outcomes with an Iluka Ocean Haul Fisherman and crew.



Vince Jordan presents the whole cooked Sea Mullet at the Loaves and Fishes Barbecue.

Broken Bay Oyster EMS Update and Revision Version 5

SeaNet NSW has been working with the Broken Bay Oyster Association (BBO) in the development, implementation and revision of an Environmental Management System (EMS). The Broken Bay oyster EMS risk assessment table was recently updated and revised through a SeaNet facilitated EMS cluster group meeting, held at Mooney Mooney. Following the document update and revision, BBO oyster growers declared the EMS open to public consultation and comment. The document is now available on the BBO webpage: <http://www.brokenbayoysters.com.au>



Right to left: OWA EC Brad Warren, BBO oyster grower Rob Moxham, BBO oyster grower and President John Stubbs, NSW SeaNet Michael Wooden and OWA NSW Oyster Industry EMS Officer Andy Myers during the ministerial launch of the BBO EMS.

Broken Bay Oyster President, John Stubbs, commented: *'As oyster growers, we have an intrinsic vested interest in the health of the estuary, and the EMS is an important document that demonstrates our commitment to environmentally sustainable practices.'*

Loaves and Fishes Barbeque – South West Rocks

South West Rocks Ocean Haul Fishermen, OceanWatch Australia (NSW SeaNet), DPI NSW and the FRDC were proud to showcase the Ocean Haul Fishery at the Loaves and Fishes Barbeque, proudly supported by the South West Rocks Surf Life Saving Club.

The event was designed to improve community awareness and understanding of this important local fishery. A variety of educational materials were displayed on the day, providing information on the history of the fishery, as well as the seasons worked and species targeted and caught by local fishermen on behalf of Aussie seafood consumers. The event was held on Good Friday, with over 750 kg of sea mullet readily consumed by approximately 700 locals and tourists.

Many took interest in the photo display of beach hauling from the early 1930's until today. Photographs and displays showcased the proud history of fishing in the region, including the history of fishing huts dating back to the late 1800's, as well as information on the SeaNet facilitated and industry driven bycatch reduction research. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Surf Club, totalling \$730.

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South East Queensland

The weather has finally taken a more normal pattern with cool clear days and no rain. Local catches are also returning to normal, bringing stability for fishers after the floods. Some areas though continue to be affected by debris, making access difficult.

I had the pleasure of attending the World Wetlands Day at Tin Can Bay State School. This event had been postponed by the floods. The Students are in a unique and privileged position in that they have an unspoilt Ramsar listed wetland leading to a mangrove inlet that they can study and now share on the web with other students. But they are not alone, and the day featured the many partners and volunteers that have made this possible. Presentations were made by Dr Norm Duke from the University of Queensland and Jock Mackenzie, who showed the evolution of the Mangroves over time. Maree Prior of Coastcare, and Lana Heydon, of the Department of Resource Management who put the online case study together, also addressed the students.



David Kreutz

Special Thanks Also to Rachel Nasplezes and WetlandCare and the Burnett Mary regional Group and in particular all of the local volunteers. The case study is available at:

<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/wetlandinfo/site/index.html>

The strength of the Local Mangroveswatch team was again demonstrated at the Mangroveswatch art competition evening. I gave a short presentation to the 60 or so people who filled the Tin Can Bay library hall on the benefits of mangroves to fisheries, as well as Tide to Table and SeaNet activities in the Burnett Mary region. In particular, information was provided regarding the T'Angler Bin project to be rolled out in the southern Sandy Straights. There was strong support for this and Michelle Haase and I will be working with the locals to make this happen.

The seafood Festival season is fast approaching, so please mark your calendars for the following events that I will be attending:

- Hervey bay Seafood festival on the 14th of August www.herveybayseafoodfestival.com
- Tin Can Bay seafood festival on the 24th of September 2011

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Tropical Cyclone Yasi: on the way to recovery

My travels have taken me up and down the east coast of Australia over the past 3 months. They started with a visit to the fishers in Cardwell. Cardwell copped the grunt of Tropical Cyclone Yasi where they are still having hard times recouping their losses. A meeting was organised with the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) in an attempt to clear up some of the grey areas for the fishing industry in relation to the grants made available by the Australian government. SeaNet, QSIA representative Eric Perez and a portion of industry attended. Many important points were raised along with industry concerns, as a result of the information gathered from the meeting, some of the fishers expressed to me there may yet be some light at the end of the tunnel.

Hinchinbrook Seafood Industry Incorporated: Cardwell barbeque and cleanup

SeaNet has been in talks with the Hinchinbrook Seafood Industry Incorporated (HSII) to propose an event for seafood promotion and conduct a cleanup. A fun day is on the agenda to involve the local community in a foreshore cleanup along with a seafood barbecue put on by the local commercial fishers. This experience would raise environmental awareness and promote the HSII after Yasi; making people understand how important is to support the local seafood industry as this one reciprocally supports the local economy.

Gillnet Innovation: advancing pinger technology

Pingers are small copolymer-encased devices that “acoustically illuminate” fishing nets by emitting a low frequency signal picked up by marine mammals, thus reducing entanglements. In the coming months the HSII is looking to improve the devices to be further rolled out to industry. They are proposing a modification to the original pingers which are currently involved in their EMS by expanding this technology to dugong mitigation, as well as refine the exterior of the apparatus to become a more user friendly device for the fishers.

Introduced Marine Pests (IMP): extension of results

Road trips to Ayr, Cardwell and Cairns saw the completion of the Introduced Marine Pest project. Fishers were given questionnaires assessing the uptake of information previously delivered to them regarding the National Best Practice Guidelines for Domestic Commercial Fishing Vessels in relation to Managing Marine Pests. It was important to get feedback from the fishers to validate that the information and guidelines in this package were user friendly, easy to understand and delivered as effectively as possible. I would like to personally thank all those involved in the completion of the questionnaires for their time, I know they weren't short.

Barotrauma Kits: reducing fish mortality

You may remember from our last newsletter OceanWatch Australia (OWA) received a small grant from the Townsville Local Marine Advisory Committee (TLMAC) to produce 300 Barotrauma kits for the Commercial and recreational sectors. The kits were put together by OWA with the help of the TLMAC production line and have been delivered to both sectors; all the fishers who received the kits and the Townsville Sport fishing club gave a big thanks to all involved.

Spring Creek Cleanup

I have been liaising with Carpentaria Rangers about a potential marine debris cleanup at Spring Creek (just north of Karumba), where there is a hoard of derelict camp scrap, nets and general debris. Permission has been granted from the Traditional Owners of Delta Downs. Work will

continue and a date will soon be arranged. A barge would be an asset and machinery will be needed. If you or your organisation can offer help in any way toward this cleanup please contact me on the email or number below.

Occupational Health and Safety

Lastly, the upcoming months will be a busy time for SeaNet in Northern Queensland with the delivery and extension of the Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) project. An OH&S induction workbook and DVD that can be used by businesses and individuals working in the post harvest sector will be made available.

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Western Australia

Neil Webb



Albany Festival of the Sea 2011

SeaNet attended the Festival of the Sea in Albany on the Easter long weekend. This is an important venue for the Western Australian Fishing Industry to promote its place in the community and the importance of sustainable commercial fishing. The SeaNet and Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) stand was busy handing out information on commercial fishing and recipes on Western Australian fish. The new seafood health booklets from the Centre of Excellence Science Seafood Health (CESSH) attracted a lot of attention from the public and the local fishing industry was well represented with their seafood stalls.

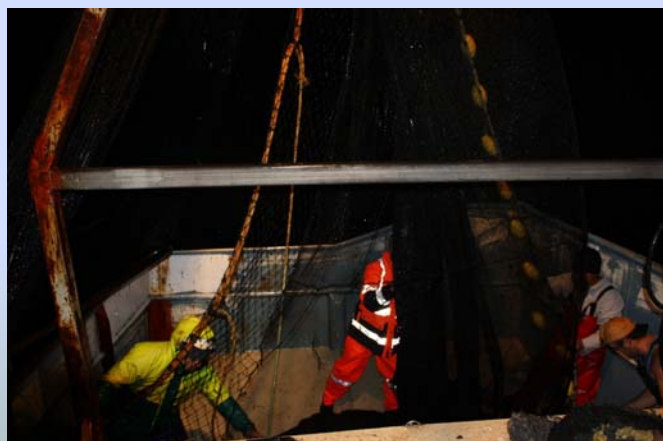
For more information on CESSH Seafood health booklets go to www.cesh.curtin.edu.au

WAFIC sponsorship of filleting demonstrations Conducted by Peter Golding was very popular, and Peter's information and ideas on preparing Australian Salmon were very informative. WAFIC also sponsored cooking demonstrations by Daniel Sharp, a local Albany chef. Daniel's demonstrations throughout the day included local and WA produce and free seafood tasting; these events were the highlight of the festival showing to Western Australians the unlimited possibilities of seafood to fulfil the finest palates.

There was a lot of interest from the public regarding fishing Industry Codes of Practice publications and the different bycatch reduction devices currently being used in the Australian Fishing Industry, such as Turtle and Seal lion Exclusion Devices used in trawl nets and the steps industry has taken to reduce its environmental impact.



Fish Filleting Competition contestants.



Hauling the Net, Esperance.

More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

Sardine Trial Update

Sardine quality trials in Esperance are still ongoing with SeaNet travelling to Esperance to work with local fishers to improve quality and handling of the catch. The trials, which are being conducted by researchers from Curtin University, log the temperature of the catch using electronic data loggers that are attached to the fish, recording the temperature of the product through the supply chain to optimise the shelf life and quality of sardines for the consumer. The trials so far have included a chef event which was an outstanding success with great reviews on the quality of the product from leading Western Australian chefs.

Albany Dredging

The Albany Port Authority is planning a port expansion project. The project will include land reclamation and channel dredging in Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound. The first Albany Dredging Reference Group Meeting was held on the 25th May and a draft water quality monitoring paper was distributed for comments from members. The dredging has the capacity to impact on sea grasses and marine life which may have an effect on commercial fishing and the local community.

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Tasmania

A New Addition to the Team

As you all may remember from our last newsletter it's all about change at SeaNet Tasmania.

After being appointed as inaugural SeaNet Officer for Tasmania in February 2007, Fiona Ewing served the SeaNet program with passion and devotion in her dealings with industry, schools, community groups and government. Perhaps one of her main achievements was the instigation of the "Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools" project, which has been recently awarded the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Promotion Award. OceanWatch Australia would like to thank Fiona for her great contribution to the sustainability of the seafood industry in Tasmania, and we hope to keep close ties with her in her new position with Tassal.

We give a warm welcome to our new Tasmanian SeaNet Extension Officer, Anita Paulsen, who starts on 11 July. Holding a Certificate in Aquaculture, amongst other credentials, Anita's has a decade of working in the fishing industry, including time at sea, various industry board positions and experience of owning and managing a processing company. We have no doubt that Anita's experience and knowledge of the Tasmanian industry will continue to drive the uptake of environmental practices by the fishing industry in Tasmania.

Welcome to the team Anita!



A big thank you to Neil Stump and all at Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council for their help and support with the program during this transition.

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Bairnsdale was home again to the East Gippsland Field Days on the 29-30th April. The crowd peaked on Saturday with over 6000 people attending, with interests ranging from farm machinery to fresh vegetables. The Seafood Industry Victoria tent, which graciously hosted SeaNet, was packed with information on Marine Pests from us as well as information on labelling issues, sustainability and kids activities (for the parents sake!).



Steve Hay at the East Gippsland Field Days.

May was a busy month with lots of travel, with a Portland to Eden road trip stopping off at all the fishing cooperatives on the way. People I encountered during the journey had a negative view of the fishing industry, and that we as an industry should be doing more to create a positive view. Community events such as seafood festivals and visits to schools are a great way to engage with the public and change their perceptions. Attending the AgFest in Launceston, I had the opportunity to speak with the community and do exactly what was needed...changing public perception of the seafood industry. The AgFest is a trade fair that is run over three days, with OceanWatch engaging with an estimated 1000 people through the OceanWatch tent.

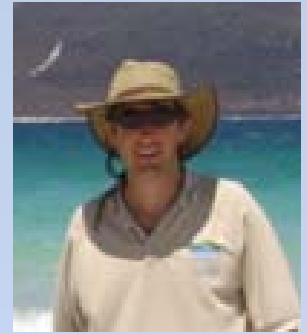
I have also set up a Marine Invasive Species information board and stall at the Marine Discovery Centre, Shed 2 Docklands, owned by Tall Ships Victoria. This presents another chance to engage with the public and provide them with accurate information on the prevention of marine pests as well as telling the OceanWatch story. Tall Ships Victoria has developed a project involving the use of tall ships in marine science and research, education, edu-tourism, and marine construction and training. The Centre has the aim of:

- Engaging and fostering community interest in science, science education and science careers among senior secondary and tertiary students;
- Focusing on the growing need for a greater knowledge of environmental change, particularly related to the ocean;
- Using innovative communications and IT technologies to reach a broad spectrum of the population which might not otherwise engage with today's marine and environmental issues;
- Meeting the growing demand among adult audiences for active engagement with topical issues related to science and the environment.

Finally, I travelled to Canberra and met with AFMA regarding seabird mitigation strategies. SeaNet has been assigned the task of gauging the effectiveness of the recent SETFIA skipper training, as well as making Tori lines with pinkies and fixing them on warps for at least 10 vessels in the South East Trawl.

Tide to Table roundup

Tide to Table-Program Manager/Regional Landcare Facilitator-Sydney Simon Rowe



Tide to Table-Hasting River

1400 meters are being fenced under a land management agreement in Port Macquarie to allow the landholder to manage stock access to mangrove and saltmarsh habitat. The project is a win for the grazier and a win for Recreational and commercial fishers of the area. Funding comes from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust.

Tide to Table-Botany Bay

Coming to a completion this month, the program, which has worked with catchment stakeholders of the Georges River in Sydney, continues to monitor, engage and action others to look after the important habitat areas for healthy seafood. One of the project highlights was engaging the public on an historic level through the Historic Houses Trust and also from an indigenous angle through weaving workshops with Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio. Funding came from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.



Michael Wooden discusses fishing artefacts in the old sandstone kitchen of Elizabeth Bay House.



Local kids enjoyed learning about marine debris at the Towra Point wetlands.

Landcare News

Community Action Grant

Funding is available under the Commonwealth Governments Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants. Closing on the 1st August the grant is looking for projects up to \$20 000 for Community Groups to take action to conserve and protect their local environment. Why not start a seafood Landcare group amongst interested people or join in with a local group.

More information can be obtained from: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/cag/index.html>

FarmReady Grant

The Australian Government is now making the successful FarmReady Reimbursement Grants Program accessible to primary producers and Indigenous land managers who wish to undertake training in agritourism and food tourism. More information can be obtained from:

<http://daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future/farmready>

The new Qld Tide Caring For Our Country funded project got off to a great start this quarter. In April, Michelle Haase coordinated a joint 3 day local seafood display at the AgroTrend Festival in Bundaberg, tempting the tastebuds and interests of festival goers with a free King prawn tasting that had been caught off the coast of Fraser Island. Commercial fisher Margaret Stevenson, who is currently working for Qld Fisheries as a Seafood Industry Flood Recovery Officer, and Michelle gave away about 900 prawns over the 3 days, encouraging people to help the industry recover from the impacts of the flood by buying local seafood.



Michelle Haase displaying locally harvested prawns.

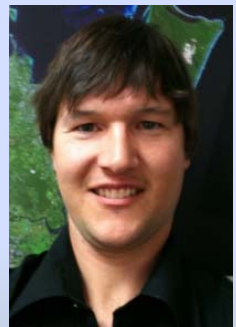
Margaret worked with Michelle in hosting the display, and was instrumental in gaining the voluntary support of local commercial fishers to attend the display. In addition to the local scallops, prawns, muddies, sandies, and gorgeous Blue Salmon, the display featured SeaNet information on Environmental Management Systems (EMS), Turtle Excluder Devices and marine pests. Likewise, Tide to Table information was delivered, including T'Angler bins and footage of crabbing techniques in the Hinchinbrook EMS region. The Queensland Seafood Industry Association provided some fantastic recipe cards and resources on the benefits of seafood, whilst the Women's Industry Network Seafood Community also provided some material. All in all, eight fishers volunteered a bit of time over the three days, and found it a great opportunity to dispel some myths about the industry. The participation of the fishers and their trawlers was paramount to the success of the display, and OceanWatch extends a very warm Thank You to all involved in making it happen.

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New Tide to Table Officer in Southeast Queensland

OceanWatch has opened a new office in Cleveland, Queensland. The office, shared with SEQ Catchments and Wetlandcare Australia, will house our newest Tide to Table officer, Patrick Sachs. Patrick has a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters of Environmental Science specialising in Marine Ecology and Management from the National Marine Science Centre in Coffs Harbour, NSW. For the past 3 years Patrick has worked for the NSW government in a wide monitoring program of reef fish assemblages using Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations (BRUVS). He has managed estuary and creek sampling programs and delivered numerous educational activities to the public. Patrick is committed to research and educational capacity. Patrick has worked extensively on local and state promoting and fostering industry and community participation and stewardship through the identification, rehabilitation and monitoring of critical habitat. Feel free to call



by at 5/31 Middle Street Cleveland to talk about habitat and water quality issues that can be addressed through the new project.

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Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools

Project Officer - Tasmania

Jennifer Hemer

Commercial Fishermen and Marine Farmers in Tasmania are heading back to school to help educate students about the seafood industry. With more than 20 educational partnerships established across the State, the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools (SIPS) pilot project demonstrates the benefits of engaging industry in education. Both Teachers and Fisherman-turned-educators have told the project Steering Committee that 'the SIPS project provides a new and positive outlook on the involvement of the seafood industry in regulation and environmental management'.



As the year progresses and partnerships flourish, work experience opportunities are also arising for secondary students. A small number of students will be able to go to sea with the commercial fisherman they have come to know throughout the year to experience what it is like to work in the seafood industry. Such experiences will provide a positive contribution to the future of the industry.

Younger students are also enjoying the chance to get out of the classroom and gain firsthand experience of the seafood industry. On May 26, Year 5 at Lindisfarne Primary School in the South of the State toured the Hobart docks to learn about different kinds of fishing vessels and the process of supplying seafood from the water to the table. Students were met by Rock Lobster Fisherman Chris Parker, who gave an excellent commentary as he guided the students around the docks, stopping at different fishing vessels along the way to talk with the fishermen about what they catch, their fishing equipment and the set up of their boats. Students were very eager to learn about vessel engine capacity and just how much diesel and food are required to go fishing for a week. Afterwards, the class dined on fish at Mures seafood restaurant and chatted with Will Mure about the Mures fishing business. I would personally like to thank all the fishermen on the docks who took time out of their day to chat with the students.

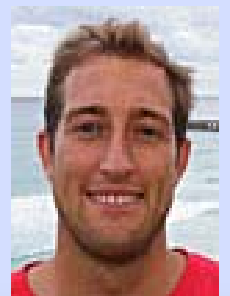
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NSW Oyster Industry Environmental Management Systems

Project Officer - NSW

Andy Myers

The future of the oyster industry depends not only on a healthy environment, but also on the ability to demonstrate that growers are utilising the environment in a sustainable, responsible way. One way of doing this is to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) to show how environmental impacts and risks are managed.



An EMS is a process that allows farmers to identify and manage environmental risks and opportunities that may impact their business. For oyster farmers the process looks at both internal issues (ie within shed and lease areas), and also external issues arising from the catchment (eg faecal contamination; erosion/sedimentation, etc). Driven by the local oyster industry, the EMS then outlines an action plan to tackle these issues and improve environmental conditions in oyster-producing estuaries. Furthermore, an EMS is a valuable tool that allows the local oyster industry to speak with one voice to achieve common goals.

More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

The EMS project was launched on Thursday 14 April 2011 at Mooney Mooney on the Hawkesbury River, with over a hundred people attending the event. Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, was the guest of honour, shucking an oyster to symbolise the official launch of the project.



Launch of the EMS project (from left to right):
Brad Warren, Simon Marnie, Rob Moxham,
Dr Mike Kelly, Mark Bulley and Kevin Mcash.



Observing oyster rafts & trays on the
Nambucca River.

Among the attendees on the day were top Sydney chefs, local community members, oyster industry and state government representatives and local councillors, all of whom were treated to a fabulous day tasting oysters and experiencing a day in the life of an oyster farmer.

The day celebrated the launch of both the Broken Bay Oyster Environmental Management System as well as the state-wide project being driven by OceanWatch Australia and the NSW Farmers' Association. Environmental Management Systems have already been created in the Hastings, Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Clyde, Wapengo, Merimbula and Pambula estuaries as well as in Wonboyn Lake. Other estuaries developing EMS include Nambucca, Tilligerry Creek (Port Stephens), Shoalhaven, Tuross and Wagonga Inlet.

This project is an excellent opportunity for the NSW Oyster industry to support further environmental improvements imperative to the protection and longevity of the oyster industry.

NSW Environmental Improvement Grants: NOW OPEN

- Grants up to \$4000 are available to community groups and landholders for catchment works that will improve water quality in oyster-producing estuaries (e.g. sediment control; riparian revegetation; effluent management of human or animal waste)
- Individual grants of up to \$4000 are also available to all NSW oyster farmers to make environmental improvements to their operations in shed/lease areas
- In Southern Rivers catchments (from Shoalhaven to Wonboyn), a total of \$150,00 is also available to help oyster farmers who wish to convert cultivation infrastructure such as tarred sticks and trays, to more environmentally friendly products such as plastics

This funding is being provided through the Australian Government's 'Caring for our Country' and delivered through projects managed by OceanWatch Australia (in partnership with NSW Farmers Association) and the Southern Rivers CMA. These projects work primarily with the NSW oyster industry and the grants are specifically targeted at improving environmental conditions in oyster-producing estuaries.

'NSW Environmental Improvement Grants' are open now and close 12th August 2011.

Application forms and guidelines are available through the OceanWatch website:

<http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/our-work/environmental-management-systems-nsw-oyster-industry/>.

For more information and to obtain a hardcopy of the application, please contact Andy Myers.

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