

SeaNet Update Summer 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 Summer 2011 Report of OceanWatch Australia

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.



OceanWatch Australia's booth at Seafood Directions 2011.

News from the Board

Craig Aspinall, a board member of OceanWatch Australia since 2005, has been awarded a scholarship by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to undertake the highly regarded Company Directors Course.

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State roundup from your local SeaNet Officer

Northern Territory

Lyn Lambeth

A New Clip

A new video has been added to the SeaNet NT YouTube channel. Faces of fishing part 5 (www.youtube.com/user/SeaNetNT) features Gulf Country Mud Crabbers in the Northern Territory. The video follows a trip done in August 2011 visiting crabbers in the Western Gulf region to get input into the draft Environmental Management System (EMS) as well as distribute and introduce the new Northern Territory Mud Crab Fishery Code of Practice.



CleanUp Outcomes

Darwin Harbour Clean-Up partners were recognised at the Landcare Awards at the Northern Territory Parliament House in October, winning the Coastcare Award. A support project following on from the Darwin Harbour Clean-Up has been funded by the NT Government and will see recycling bins and signage installed in a couple of "hotspots" around the Harbour. Two co-mingle recycling bins and two general waste bins have been installed at the end of Fishermen's Wharf in Darwin as part of this project.

Environmental Management System Progress

The NT SeaNet officer attended a two day Sawfish and Glyphis Recovery Plan Workshop organised by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The workshop was attended by Northern Territory, Western Australia and North Queensland scientists and other stakeholders. NT Fisheries and SeaNet NT stressed that the NT fishing industry has already been proactive in addressing concerns over these species by including Sawfish ID and information in the latest Barramundi Fishery Environmental Management System (EMS), with Glyphis (Spartooth Shark) ID and info to be included in the next review. The Offshore Net and Line EMS review is currently underway and will also include similar material.



SeaNet Officer, Lyn Lambeth, out diving with Arafura Aquatic Fish.

In October the NT SeaNet Officer spent several days in Gove to go through the final draft of the Aquarium Fishery EMS with Arafura Aquatic Fish, and to get some photographs and video footage of their operations from capture to pack out. Back in Darwin a visit was also made to Monsoon Aquatics' facility and a collection site on Rapid Creek. Photos will be used in the EMS while video footage will end up on the SeaNet NT YouTube site to help promote the environmental credentials of the industry.

The Northern Territory Aquarium Fishery EMS has now been finalised, accepted by industry and will be ready to be launched at the next Aquarium Fishery Industry meeting in February. The Coastal Line Fishery EMS and Offshore Net and Line EMS are almost ready for final layout while the Mud Crab Fishery EMS is undergoing some final work. The initial workshop to develop the first draft of the Demersal Fishery EMS was held on the 2 November and that document is now in production.

The 2 year EMS project is funded under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative.

More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au



Monsoon Aquatics collecting freshwater aquarium fish.

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South Australia

Nathan Bicknell

The Port Festival 2011-The Complete Seafood Experience

Fishing Industry House's Event Management Committee, which includes SeaNet SA, was proud to present the Complete Seafood Experience (CSE) on the 8th and 9th of October 2011. In its inaugural year the CSE was a highlight of the festival program attracting strong numbers over two days, with in excess of 18,000 patrons through the site.



The festival was described as a "fantastic success" with more than 27,000 visitors across the two days. A spokesman for City of Port Adelaide Enfield, Matthew Rose, said "The level of interest and attendance far exceeded expectations. The Port Adelaide community really pulled together to make this work – and the result reflected that. It was magnificent".

The popularity of the CSE demonstrated that seafood and seafood producers are a great vehicle to contemporise the Ports wonderful maritime assets. The diversity of stalls, 22 in total, provided festival goers a rare insight into the people and organisations working with and within SA Seafood Community to provide a mouth watering range of fresh local sustainable seafood produce. The CSE was a great step toward engaging and reconnecting with the public with the view to improve our community license to operate.

This success would not have been achieved without the support of our proud sponsors:

- The Port Adelaide Enfield Council
- The Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy
- The Fish Factory
- Pikes Wines
- Wildcatch Fisheries SA
- Primary Industries Skill Council
- OceanWatch Australia



More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

Behind the scenes there were many helpers and industry champions who helped make the event a success. The event was also organized in partnership with Events Australia and Events SA and Rann Communication. Victorian SeaNet Officer Steve Hay provided much needed support over the two days manning the OWA stall, much appreciated.

To all those involved in 2011 we say thank you for your time and dedication and we hope to see you again next time!

To see more images of the event follow the link to the AMFA face book page!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Australian-Maritime-Fisheries-Academy/221556551197844>



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New South Wales

Michael Wooden

2011 Seafood Directions – Gold Coast

The OceanWatch team were proud to be part of 2011 Seafood Directions held on the Gold Coast, during October. OceanWatch staff and SeaNet Officers from all around Australia got together to participate and absorb the mass of information and ideas discussed during the 2 days. Highlights for the SeaNet program included an exciting presentation delivered by the OWA Executive Chair, Brad Warren, providing a case study of the NSW Beach Seine research, recommendations, outcomes and the industry and community extension methods used throughout the project. OceanWatch SeaNet Officers participated in the Seafood Services Australia Network Meeting on the Gold Coast, discussing the professional fishing industry 'community licence to operate' and improving public perception.



Georges River Estuary Open Day

The Georges River Estuary Open Day was held on Saturday 29th October, celebrating and publicly announcing the St George Motor Boat Club receiving a 'Clean Marina Award'.

OceanWatch Australia Executive Chair, Brad Warren, NSW SeaNet Officer, Michael Wooden, and OceanWatch Tide to Table Program Manager, Simon Rowe, set up the OceanWatch trailer and exhibited

More information?

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on the day. The kids were kept occupied painting cardboard fish cut-outs, allowing time to converse with parents. OceanWatch staff provided information on the environmental stewardship and sustainability practices exhibited by the NSW professional fishing industry and throughout Australia. This included an interactive gear demonstration to the community, providing factual information on the gear used in estuary prawn trawls, the regulations enforced in the fishery and additionally a description of all components of the gear. OceanWatch described the bycatch reduction devices used and how they actually work. OceanWatch also held a seafood cooking demonstration, explaining how to easily prepare and cook fish on the barbeque and providing attendees with a taste of some Aussie favourites, the Flathead and Luderick.



Kids at play with colouring in fish.



Brad Warren, executive chair of OceanWatch, explaining the operation of by-catch reduction devices used in the estuary prawn trawl fishery.

Rozelle Open Day - Martins Seafood

NSW SeaNet Officer, Michael Wooden, OceanWatch Australia Executive Officer, Lowri Pryce and Tide to Table Manager, Simon Rowe, exhibited a stall at the Rozelle Open Day. The open day involved a community engagement process with a panel consisting of myself, Simon Rowe and an oyster grower from South Australia's Coffin Bay. We were pleased to be members of the panel, responding to questions from the community and providing an opportunity to discuss industry environmental stewardship. OceanWatch staff emphasised the importance of improving and maintaining water quality and habitat, which are essential to allow juvenile recruitment necessary for healthy and resilient fisheries.

SESSF Seabird Management and Gear Surveys

SeaNet Officers from NSW, VIC and TAS are assisting the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association, SETFIA, to survey the level of uptake by industry of AFMAs Seabird Management Plans. SeaNet Officers are meeting one on one with skippers working in the South East Trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) to complete a detailed questionnaire. SeaNet Officers are also working with SESSF fishers in gathering information for SETFIA, to provide a general snapshot of the fishing gear that is currently employed in the fishery.

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[South East Queensland](#)

David Kreutz

Connectivity Tour

I had the pleasure of organising and hosting a connectivity tour in Moreton bay on the 13th of December. 26 interested persons and 4 OceanWatch staff boarded the bus in Cleveland initially bound for Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture, home of the famous Gold Coast tiger prawn.

Nick Moore the General manager then explained the process of rearing "domesticated" brood stock, juvenile prawns, stocking ponds, feeding, harvesting and marketing. Of note was the fact that they intake water from the Logan river at "F" rating and return water that they discharge at "A" rating. This organisation is a credit to the industry.



More information?

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Next it was all aboard MV "cat O nine tails", where a sumptuous local seafood lunch was served followed by a range of guest speakers. The highlight was being able to put the ferry adjacent to the tunnel net operation on Myora shore. Dave Thompson, a tunnel net Fisher of 30 years experience, then described the methodology of this type of fishing. It has a near 100% survival rate of undersized fish and by-catch.

I wish to thank each of the speakers on the day and the fishers from the Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association who gave a day's work to enlighten those on the tour of what they proudly do. I would also again thank Kristina Georges from Sammie's Girl Seafoods for the beautiful seafood lunch.



Seafood Directions

Seafood Direction's was held on the Gold Coast from the 23rd to 25th of October. Special congratulations to James Fogarty and his support team for an outstanding conference as well as the other sponsors, especially the FRDC. This event was not only informative for the quality of the presentations of the conference, but also gave fishers researchers and managers crucible for one on one discussion on wide ranging issues affecting Australian fisheries today. Added to this; participants were also able to have access to the international speakers to further explore their presentations and ideas post sessions. The OceanWatch team manned an information booth that received strong interest from attendees. Lowri and Brad made presentations on seafood industry partnerships program and extension delivery by the OceanWatch team. I highly recommend that you consider attending the next seafood directions to be held in South Australia. Presentations are now on the conference website: <http://seafooddirections2011.com/index.html>

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Far North Queensland

David Schubert

The Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fishermen Association (GoCCFA) – Annual General Meeting

Early October saw the GoCCFA AGM held in Karumba. It was a good chance for me to get over there, meet as many fishers as possible, and get up to date with industry in the Gulf. There was a full plate of guest speakers, but a big topic of discussion was the impending marine parks for the Gulf, where introduced fishers want to see a fair compensation package for those affected.



Rob explaining how commercial fishing log books work at the BBB Expo.

More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

After the meeting, most hung around for a great BBQ, showcasing some of the region's top seafood, accompanied by a couple of cold beverages of course. The highlight of the night had to be the annual crab tying competition, lucky all six competitors escaped with 10 fingers and most of their toes.

Barra Beef and Bulldust Expo – Karumba

I hosted an OceanWatch Australia (OWA) informational stall at the inaugural Barra Beef and Bulldust expo in Karumba on the 5th November. Special thanks go out to Rob Pender, local Gulf pro fisher, for helping host the stall as well as supply the fishing apparatus for the display. We worked well together throughout the day answering plenty of challenging questions from the broader community. The display had an array of information on:

- Gulf of Carpentaria (GoC) Inshore Gillnet Finfish Fishery
- Mud Crabbing in the Gulf
- Underwater acoustic by-catch reduction devices (Pingers)
- Past and present OceanWatch projects, informational leaflets and recipe cards
- Crab pots, gillnets and pingers for the public to interact with

A great day was had by all, hopefully next year the number of attendees will increase and get behind the local communities.

Community Creek Day – Townsville

Conservation Volunteers Australia in conjunction with the Townsville City Council recently hosted a Community Creek Day; I was able to play my part and host on an OWA display. It was a small day on the Fairfield water lakes with approximately 20 stalls. The aim was to make it a more personal event with plenty of information on water and habitat sustainability. A nice day was had by all with some great displays. Unfortunately the numbers were lower than hoped. Thanks to Karen Vidler for the effort she put in, including the great cold cups and snags.



A couple of the younger generation, enjoying some colouring in the OWA tent.



Four enthusiastic Eco Warriors sporting OWA caps, awarded for the most interesting questions asked during the marine debris presentation.

Townsville Grammar School Presentation and Cleanup

I was invited into Townsville Grammar School to talk to the middle class groups on marine debris. The kids have been working on an action plan to prevent marine rubbish in the local environment. I gave a power point presentation to 65 grades 7, 8 and 9's, which went well, by the end I could still see 130 eyes focused on me. Plenty of questions were asked; thankfully I was able to answer the majority. After the presentation, a clean-up was conducted with students and teachers at Pallarenda Beach. Beer/soft drink cans and recreational fishing line filled the majority of bags. I would like to thank the kids and teachers for their enthusiasm toward the environment.

Hinchinbrook Seafood Industry Incorporated (HSII): boosting the sustainability profile

Last newsletter, I had just been out with Greg Jensen from the HSII to film a "telling the story initiative". I have been working on a video to boost their sustainability profile. We planned to link the video up to a Quick Response (QR) code, which can then be stuck to each box of Mud crabs which the Jensen's send to the markets. Well the video has now been completed and the codes should be hitting the market floor very shortly. Why not have a look at the video. Grab your smart phone and download the QR code reader app for free. Simply scan the code and the phone will do the rest. If you are interested in creating your own QR code, visit createqr.com

New SeaNet Extension Officer

Recently starting with SeaNet in October this year, I have dived into the deep end of WA and loving it! I have been concentrating on building my network with different stakeholders within the fishing industry, and continuing on current and future projects. Just after starting with SeaNet I was flown back home to Queensland to attend the Seafood Directions conference, which highlighted some issues the industry was currently having and gave me a chance to meet the rest of the OceanWatch crew. I have been involved in a few Industry AGM meetings and most recently the WAFIC luncheon, which gave me an insight on the WA fishing industry and the chance to meet stakeholders. I have also have been travelling around the state delivering OH&S and Quality Index information to the post harvest sector and introducing myself to local fishers. Some other current projects that I have begun work on are listed below:



Fishute

The previous SeaNet officer Neil Macguffie had worked with fishermen from the South Coast Estuarine Fishery to develop the Fishute. After starting with SeaNet I thought it would be a good idea to see how this device is being used and what the fishers thought. Their feedback was positive and it did prevent the pelicans from eating the undersized and unwanted species when they were released back into the estuary. I also visited Challenger Tafe at Fremantle where the students are making the Fishute as part of their curriculum. I was given a few Fishute's from the Tafe to hand out to various fishers that hadn't received them yet. Both the fishers and I are very appreciative of Challenger Tafe with the support and involvement in the project.



SeaNet officer, Jay Shoemsmith, giving a fishute to local Albany fisher Greg Sharp.



SeaNet officer and fisher removing camera from gill net.

South Coast NRM

SeaNet and the South Coast NRM have highlighted some issues within the region, which has lead to the following projects:

- Abalone Code of Practice for the Greenlip and Brownlip Fishery
- Working with industry to remove flotsam and jetsam from the Recherche Archipelago, Esperance region WA
- Review of Environmental Management system for the South Coast Estuarine Finfish Fishery
- Review and implement the Environmental Code of Practice for the Western Australian Salmon Managed Fishery
- Over the coming months I will be working with industry and south coast NRM to deliver the four projects, identified above.

Shark Gillnet Dropout Project

SeaNet in conjunction with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and the University of Western Australia (UWA) have travelled to Albany, Augusta, and Dongara to install multiple cameras on gill nets to film underwater interactions. The trials started recently and look to continue for the near future around different locations within South West WA.



A Message on Sustainability

I have been courting the media to push the cause of Victorian fishermen (ie, let us do our job, which we have been doing sustainably for like...forever) and will be taking out journalists from the Age and Broadsheet on boat trips so they may portray the fishermen the way they are meant to be...as primary food providers and guardians of food security, not to mention the fact that everyone loves a good nautical yarn. One article has already been published and you can find that at <http://www.broadsheet.com.au/melbourne/events/event/sustainable-seafood-dinners-oconnells-south-melbourne>

The Australian Conservation Foundation, previously a sparring partner, has become an ally and has been touting the sustainability credentials of Victorian fishermen far and wide. Wednesday the 9th November saw the ACF launching the second phase of their rigorously tested guide at O'Connell's restaurant where the species presented were accompanied by bios and mode of harvest, something all restaurants should adopt. This would be an amazing marketing tool where you could trace your meal back to the actual fishermen who caught it. The night brought together key players in the environment movement rubbing shoulders with local fishermen as well as scientists, media and a select few from the general public. Was the food any good? You better believe it. Responses from the lucky public ranged from silly grins and drool to how they never knew what was involved in catching fish and how these sort of nights (including meeting the fishermen) connected them to their food. This then prompted how they would be more aware of their choices including avoiding the hyperbole that currently surrounds the majority of NGO sustainability guides. Good times!

A Big Festival

SeaNet, representing the Victorian professional fishermen, will be having a display at the Sea Days Festival as part of the Prom Coast Summer festival in January. The event will be at Port Welshpool from Wednesday 6th to the 8th of January. The Welshpool and District Advisory Group have put a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this festival the biggest and best yet. The 3 day Sea Days Festival will include touch tanks, displays by Parks Victoria including a wildlife exhibition and under sea life tank, a come and try fishing day as well as other activities ranging from classic cars, caravans and motor bikes, a Show and Shine competition, rock and roll bands and a massive Tour De Garage where a map is supplied highlighting all the garage sales on for this festival. Feel free to contact me if you would like to participate or have any ideas you'd like aired.

Hazard Man: a real character

Finally, I had the pleasure (?!) of donning the tights and wearing a cape and my undies on the outside as the OHS super hero Hazard Man (HM)...A FALL, A SLIP...A HOSPITAL TRIP!!!! Initially worried that the blokes at Sydney Fish Markets would well and truly take the mickey (and quite possibly offend my delicate sensibilities). We were all surprised that HM was received so well. With fellow SeaNetter Michael Wooden in tow to hand out stickers and information (next time Woody, you need a side kick costume) the very serious side of OHS within the industry as well as the need to adhere to a quality index to ensure good product. Quite a few workers on the floor approached me with stories of how they or their mates were making the work place a safer place to be. Though a bit silly, the message was far from being received as a joke. Well done SFM, and a big thank you to FRDC for funding.





Triabunna Seafest

The inaugural Seafest was held at Triabunna from the 11th till 13th of November on the foreshore. OceanWatch Australia participated alongside Fishcare during the schools day on Friday with regular groups of Primary School Students rolling through from various schools in the region. At our site the students participated in rod casting lessons, fish colouring, catch and measure in the pool and were able to closely examine some preserved species from various depths off the Tasmanian Coastline. Catching lino fish with a magnetic lure and then identifying and measuring them on the wall was very popular, although a visit by a local officer to check out the catches made a few of the young fishers a bit nervous!

On surrounding exhibits, students painted and printed with real fish, made octopus from recycled materials at the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania site, watched flare and first aid demonstrations by Marine and Safety Tasmania and were greeted by a giant inflatable whale at the Parks and Wildlife tent. Water sports on the bay provided a great spectators opportunity as did the slippery pole. Overall the students had a fun filled and informative day out, as did the big kids. I am sure this event will be first of many for Triabunna.



SEA Enterprise Connect

A free forum was hosted by Roy Palmer at Triabunna on the 16th November for members of the post harvest sector interested in Exporting and Importing. Participants were briefed on the current global climate of seafood sales and consumption with relevant and up to date statistics. We explored the threats and opportunities of global trade and were made aware of some of the funding assistance available via Enterprise Connect, Department of Economic Development and Austrade. Other topics raised included the issue of promoting the seafood industry via a peak national body and the benefits of international trade shows.

This event also presented an opportunity to discuss current SeaNet activities and inform more operators about the OH&S and QI tools available. In attendance were post harvest operators, Seafood Training Tasmania, Department of Economic Development, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council and OceanWatch Australia.

Seafood Directions

A presentation by Lowri Pryce on the Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools (SIPS) project was well received. SIPS is currently awaiting decisions on potential future funding to take it from a pilot project in Tasmania to be rolled out interstate. This project has fostered some fantastic partnerships and has been a positive and inspiring experience for both fishers and students involved. So let's keep our fingers crossed after all, today's youth are the industry members of tomorrow.

Climate Change, a Hot Topic..

St.Helens has been identified along with Bowen (QLD) and Geraldton (WA) to participate in a climate change adaption blueprint for coastal communities. We will be hosting discussions with fishers in the region during late February and early March and encourage all fishers based in the St.Helens region to have an input. The sessions will be informal and flexible in timing and if I have not contacted you already please phone or email me to get involved.

Tide to Table roundup

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

Simon Rowe



This issue we say farewell to Patrick Sachs (Project Officer- Moreton Bay) and also Michelle Haase (Program Manager- Bundaberg). Patrick has taken up a role with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and Michelle with Landcare. Both have contributed to the Tide to Table program and individual legacies will be missed.

Tide- Qld

This Queensland wide project, funded by Caring for Our Country, is now underway after kicking off with a major cleanup effort in September. Sixty one people contributed to the 2 day event which saw flood debris collected from 1.84km of Hayes inlet. On ground project works are about to begin with 10 projects occurring in Moreton Bay focusing on improving the water quality of the Fish Habitat Area. Projects also occurring in Townsville, Cooktown and Bundaberg regions are looking to begin early next year.

New officers will be recruited to start in 2012.

Tide- Hasting River

1400 m in Port Macquarie have been fenced to allow the landholder under a land management agreement to manage stock access to mangrove and saltmarsh habitat. The project is a win for the grazier and a win for Recreational and commercial fishes of the area. Funding comes from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. If you live near here and want to be involved in more of these works why not come along to our meet and fish day in February. Contact me.



Saltmarsh and mangrove protecting fence.



Farming small areas expo booth.

Landcare News

Community Action Grant

\$7 million in funding has been announced for the Commonwealth Governments Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants. A list of funded projects can be obtained from <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/approved/2011-12/index.html>

If you want to get in on the next opportunity contact Simon Rowe.

Farming Small Areas Expo

The event held in November at the Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, provides an interesting insight into the needs of small farmers on our city's fringes. We had a Landcare stall going with Vanessa from the Hawkesbury Nepean region. There were small tractors a plenty, handy crafts, new products and numerous enquiries about managing small parcels of land sustainably. This demographic is a large and growing phenomenon impacting both positively and negatively on fish habitat around the country. Understanding their needs and assisting with information will be an ongoing but very important challenge to benefit the seafood industry.

Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools

[Project Officer - Tasmania](#)

Jennifer Hemer



Delivering Outcomes

The FRDC funded Seafood Industry Partnerships in Schools (SIPS) Project pilot has been successfully completed. This initiative started as a joint venture in 2009 between the Tasmanian OceanWatch Australia SeaNet Officer, Commercial Fisher Bryan Denny, and Lauderdale Primary School in southern Tasmania. The project was instigated when three needs were identified, both from the educational sector and the seafood industry. On one

hand, teachers have reported lack of relevant and accurate resources about the marine environment and seafood production. Additionally, the recognised lack of young people embarking on a career in the seafood industry indicated a need for greater interaction between the seafood industry and the educational sector. Finally, a general lack of knowledge and understanding about commercial fishing practices in the public arena has contributed to poor public perception of the seafood industry, resulting in negative and ill informed public attitudes to commercial wild catch fisheries and aquaculture. Thus, engaging young people is an effective strategy to reach the broader community as kids leave the classroom with take home messages.

As many of you may know the SIPS Program has two streams, "Adopt a Fishing Boat" and "Adopt a Marine Farm", covering both sectors of the seafood industry. Teaching resources included, but were not limited to, wharf visits, emails and text messaging from sea, as well as visits to fish farms and seafood processors. Under each stream, educational partnerships were created between Yr 1 – 10 classes and a fisher or marine farmer. This enabled students to:

- learn how the fishing industry is an important part of their community;
- gain an understanding of the steps that the seafood industry is taking to improve sustainability; and
- understand and experience the range of careers available in the seafood industry.



As the project built momentum, schools contacted the project officer requesting a fisherman or marine farmer to establish partnerships. As a result, there are currently 24 partnerships of schools with fishers and marine farmers. These partnerships have delivered face to face information to over 500 school students and teachers. Furthermore, other Australian states have shown considerable interest in adopting the SIPS concept.

OceanWatch Australia looks forward to progressing this initiative with further funding from the FRDC being secured, allowing the pilot to be continued in Tasmania, and extended to Sydney and NSW regional areas. This will allow us to capitalise on our links and support from the entire seafood supply chain in NSW, and also in the largest urban area and seafood market in Australia.

Thank you to FRDC, Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council, participating schools, and all our fishermen champions for making the SIPS pilot such a success.

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

NSW Oyster Industry Environmental Management Systems

[Project Officer - NSW](#)

Andy Myers



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

The process of EMS development allows oyster farmers to identify risks arising from internal, on farm activities, and external factors, catchment-based activities. This risk assessment process can then be used to prioritise remedial actions, reducing farmers' exposure to risk by building resilience into their business.

Development of Environmental Management Systems

Since the launch of the project, seven estuaries have committed to developing new EMS, whilst another two have requested reviews of their existing document. Not including individual business EMS, this will take the total of estuary-wide Environmental Management Systems to 16, translating to 50% of oyster producing estuaries in NSW. The EMS are developing well, although progress has slowed because of the time required to run and manage the recent round of Oyster Industry Environmental Improvement Grants. With the majority of funded projects in full-swing, my attention will once again focus on EMS development in the New Year.



Oysters at the Ivy

Organised by the NSW Farmers Association Oysters Committee, Oysters at the Ivy provided Government representatives and oyster consumers the opportunity to sample oysters from different regions and to meet growers face-to-face. OceanWatch held an educational zone at the event, educating visitors about oysters, and some of the environmental initiatives undertaken by NSW oyster farmers. We also held a competition, encouraging people to visit the OceanWatch website to learn about EMS engagement.

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More information?

www.oceanwatch.org.au

Sydney's Coastal and Marine Forum

Hosted by OceanWatch Australia on 21st December at the Sydney Fish Market, the inaugural Marine and Coastal Forum was designed to bring together various stakeholders working in the marine and coastal space. It provided the opportunity to find out who's doing what and where, hopefully fostering partnerships. A brief summary of the participants' presentations is presented here, with the aim of extending this networking opportunity to other relevant stakeholders.



Sydney Fish Market-Grahame Turk (grt@sydneyfishmarket.com.au)

The Sydney Fish Market, outside Japan, trades the highest diversity of species of any fish market in the world. Roughly half the seafood comes from NSW, with the remaining product from other areas of Australia and New Zealand. Australia has very good Fisheries Management; much better than the Northern Hemisphere. Sydney Fish Market supports the work of OceanWatch Australia, addressing environmental degradation and introducing fishermen to more sustainable practices.

Overview of NSW Fishing Industry
OceanWatch Australia-Brad Warren (brad@oceanwatch.org.au)

NSW industry is characterised by small, individual business operators that undertake single day trips. Fisheries Management is implemented through input (i. e., fishing capacity) and output controls (e. g., total allowable catch). The boats moored at the Sydney Fish Market operate in Commonwealth waters, and are probably the biggest boats that operate in Australian waters.

Surfrider Foundation-Jane Crosland (info@surfrider.org.au)

The Surfrider Foundation represents surfers for the protection of waves and beaches. The Sydney Northern Beaches branch primarily focuses on issues of coastal development and water quality.

Georges River Environmental Education Centre-Sharyn Cullis (sharyn.cullis@det.nsw.edu.au)

This facility engages approximately 5,000 children every year undertaking many activities at Chipping Norton Lake.

Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA)-Lesley Diver (lesley.diver@cma.nsw.gov.au)

SMCMA builds partnerships and drives NRM outcomes working together with other stakeholders. There is a concern that the SMCMA is lacking research to feed into management decisions.

NSW Department of Primary Industries-Doug Ferrell (doug.ferrell@industry.nsw.gov.au)

Work is divided into two themes - managing sustainable fisheries/aquaculture and fisheries ecosystem conservation.

Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)-Peter Steinberg (p.steinberg@unsw.edu.au)

SIMS is a partnership between Sydney University, the University of NSW, UTS and Macquarie University, conducting marine science research and education.

George's Rivers Combined Council's Committee (GRCCC)-Alison Hanlon (alison@georgesriver.org.au)

The GRCCC is an alliance of nine councils with the aim of protecting, serving and enhancing the Georges River catchment.

Hawkesbury River Prawn Trawl/Women's Industry Network-Mary Howard (maryhoward29@bigpond.com)

The general public needs to understand how sustainable fisheries are to be achieved, not just through best practice adopted by operators, but by the community as a whole since catchments must be protected.



Ocean & Coastal Care Initiative (OCCI)-Jeannie Lawson (harvis@ozemail.com.au)

OCCI is an education group on the Central Coast concerned over the degradation of rock platform and intertidal areas, educating the community about the marine environment.

Earthwatch Institute-Rachel Maitland (rmaitland@earthwatch.org.au)

An environmental research organisation that brings people and science together to support conservation related research projects. The four priority areas are ecosystems, climate change, cultural heritage and oceans.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC)-Justin McKee (jmckee@ncc.org.au)

The NCC is the peak NSW environmental body represented through the political lobby spectrum. Last year, members worked with marine organisations, particularly along the eastern sea-board, coordinating and trying to help with combined strategies to addressing issues of marine parks.

Soil Conservation Service (SCS)-Dan Owens (dan.owens@scs.nsw.gov.au)

The soil conservation service undertakes environmental restorations, earthworks, as well as erosion and sediment controls. The SCS has an environmental focus and constructs new treatment devices and fish ways, and are happy to discuss ideas and concepts with stakeholders.

Greenpeace-Cat Dory (catdorey@greenpeace.org)

Work focuses on the impacts of over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, and on high-seas marine reserves. Most of the attention has been given to Europe, where many retailers have strong seafood policies. In Australia some work has been undertaken on tuna brands, highlighting the sustainability and equity of sourcing tuna.

OceanWatch Australia (OWA)-Lowri Pryce (lowri@oceanwatch.org.au)

Most of the work undertaken by OWA is project-based with 25 current projects. The key focus is on responsible fishing practices, healthy habitats and clean water.

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)-Chris Smyth (c.smyth@acfonline.org.au)

ACF works in areas of climate change, forests, rivers, sustainable cities, partnering closely with indigenous communities.

Sydney Aquarium Conservation Fund (SACF)-Claudette Rechterik (conservation@sacf.org.au)

SACF is the non-profit arm of Sydney Aquarium – potential for huge reach considering receive 1.1 million visitors each year, as well as a large social media following. It has funded \$100,000 of marine science research over the last couple of years.

Shoalhaven Marine & Freshwater Centre (University of Wollongong)-Ana Rubio (arubio@uow.edu.au)

This centre has strong links with councils, CMA's and the oyster industry. They are often contacted by authorities to provide advice on the impacts of management decisions. Success of the centre is built on their ability to pass on and extend research outputs in plain English.

EcoDivers-Dave Thomas (ecodivers@hotmail.com)

EcoDivers engages regular divers doing underwater clean-ups. Only 40 people involved – all volunteer divers or free-divers based on the Northern Beaches of Sydney. Marine debris is the main focus, targeting primarily on fishing debris and plastics.

The University of Sydney-Richard Whittington (richard.whittington@sydney.edu.au)

Research based on immunology, micro-biology and pathology. The work tries to provide science-based evidence that informs policy development and highlights to Government the importance of quarantine.

Manly Environment Centre-Judy Reizers (judy.reizes@manly.nsw.gov.au)

The Manly Environment Centre focuses on connecting people with projects and events. They also hold some 30,000 documents on file. Little Penguins and Long-nosed Bandicoots are iconic, protected species, uniquely found in the area.