



Australian Government

**Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation**

Social Sciences Research Coordination Program (SSRCP)

Strategic Plan 2009 - 2012

Abbreviations

AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFMF	Australian Fisheries Management Forum
AMC	Australian Maritime College
BRS	Bureau of Rural Sciences
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia.
DEWHA	Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
LWA	Land and Water Australia
NRM	Natural Resource Management
R&D	Research and Development
RIRDC	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
SC	Steering Committee
SSRCP	Social Sciences Research Coordination Program
TAFI	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRG	Technical Reference Group

Mission Statement

“The SSRCP aims to improve the decision making processes affecting all fisheries sectors (including their management and sustainability), through incorporating relevant and high quality social science research.”

Understanding the implications of factors such as an ageing workforce, labour shortages, economic variability, climate change and other environmental and economic pressures, on decision making criteria made outside rational economic models, is essential to the effective management of Australia’s fisheries. Social sciences research assists in defining:

- The nature and shape of both industry sectors and their dependent communities and therefore any potential strengths and weaknesses in the face of change;
- Decision making criteria of various individuals and industries;
- Target audiences and effective means for research and extension strategies;
- Adoption strategies of new technologies and management approaches;
- The means to increase industry adaptability to uncertainty by identifying; barriers to change; skills auditing; identifying effective ‘up’ and/or ‘re’ skilling techniques.

Solutions identified as a result of investigations conducted by targeted and soundly based social sciences research are of benefit to both industry (by providing fundamental evidence and advice in particular circumstances) and to management bodies by providing alternative ways forward in ensuring the sustainability of the industry.

Summary SSRCP STRATEGIC PLAN 2009 - 2012

November 2009 Activities	2010 Targets	2011-12 Outcomes
1. Identification of strategic social research Issues and Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Drivers & related issues identified in recreational; commercial and indigenous fisheries; • Priorities allocated to all issues; • Associated or related factors identified; • Research questions developed for priority issues. 	Clarification of the areas where social research can contribute to the different sectors of fisheries.
2. Gap analysis of social research in priority areas and development of a research strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of previous research undertaken in priority issue areas; • Summary of all previous research related to priority and secondary issues affecting the different industry sectors; • Documented strategy to address outstanding research in priority issue areas; • Web page publication of gap analysis results. 	<p>Identification and communication of research undertaken and its contribution to fisheries.</p> <p>Knowledge gaps addressed with a targeted research strategy and funding priorities.</p>
3. Communication of key social issues and drivers in the industry and of the adopted research strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and extension activities identified and undertaken; • Increase in research applications which address key priorities; • Increase in relevant social research undertaken. 	Research community engagement with relevant key issues impacting the industry. (Development of industry/research community social capital.)
4. Communication of social science research activities and outcomes to fishery sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the impact of the social dimension on fisheries activities; • Communication of potential social science solutions to key fisheries issues. 	Changed behaviours/understandings in fisheries (fishers/management) with improved outcomes for the industry.

1.0 Introduction

The Social Sciences Research Co-ordination Program has been set up to address the limited understanding regarding the social aspects of the fishing and aquaculture industry, including fisheries management, change management, community perceptions, R&D adoption and industry communities' ability to adapt. The social sciences comprise disciplines concerned with the study of the social life of human groups and individuals. Consequently, the focus of this program is on the individual, business, group and/or sectoral levels, and the ways in which fishing in these sectors interact with broader communities and regional industries. The management of fishing activities - commercial, recreational and indigenous - has profound implications for fishers, their families, and their associated communities.

This program is designed to address the social science research and development issues and complement biological and economic research, with information to support practice and community perception change. Specifically the program seeks to increase and improve outcomes through, leverage off past research, and building synergies between current projects of social and other discipline research areas, across all fisheries and NRM sectors. In collaboration with other agencies and organisations, the aim is to efficiently allocate FRDC social science research funds to achieve project outcomes with greater reach in their contribution to fisheries' sustainability. The program will not commission research and does not have the funds to do so (though this may be reviewed at a later date) but will provide industry guidance and direction to social research that will be funded by the FRDC.

For the purposes of this program, the industry encompasses the commercial, recreational and indigenous sectors, taking into account of the views of fishers, fisheries managers, public perceptions, researchers, and special interest groups in all three fishing activity areas. The fishing industry is defined broadly as including any industry or activity conducted in, or from, Australia including; taking; culturing; aquaculture; processing; preserving; storing; transporting; marketing; and the selling of fish or fish products.

In summary, the program will focus on directing and coordinating social science research funded by FRDC, in a manner that is synergistic and, where possible, collaborative with other agencies and organisations, toward the priority issues for Australian fisheries. This will encompass the following fishing sectors and activities:

1. Commercial sector
 - commercial wild-catch
 - aquaculture
 - Indigenous
 - post-harvest (up to and including retailing)
2. Recreational sector
3. Customary sector

2.0 Strategic Direction

The Social Sciences Research Co-ordination Program will be responsible for the development of, and reporting against, this Strategic Plan and to ensure its continued relevance in light of the activities of the five strategic challenges of the FRDC and activities the other Research and Development Corporations. The Steering Committee will develop an annual update of the plan to reflect any changed circumstance or priorities.

The Strategic Plan of the SSRCP will be subject to final approval from the Board of the FRDC, and sits within and contributes to the social science research aspects of all five of the FRDC's Strategic Challenges:

1. **Natural resource sustainability:** - maintain and improve the management and use of aquatic natural resources to ensure their sustainability.
2. **Resource Access and resource allocation:** - Optimise resource access, resource allocation and opportunities for each sector of the fishing industry, with a rights-based framework.
3. **Response to demand; profitability:** - Respond to and take advantage of, increased demand for seafood and for recreational and customary fishing experiences. Enhance the profitability of the fishing industry.
4. **People Development:** - Develop people who will help the fishing industry to meet its future needs.
5. **Community and consumer support:** - Increase community and consumer support for the benefits of the three main sectors of the fishing industry.

Given these challenges, the Strategic Direction of the Program will be guided by:

- Determination of current socially affected or constructed issues impacting the sustainability and future of the fishing industry (commercial, recreational and indigenous) in Australia;
- Prioritisation of those issues in relation to the broadest benefit across commercial recreational and indigenous fisheries;
- Identification of the gaps existing in the current social sciences research, being funded by FRDC, allied agencies and departments.

3.0 Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of the program, as approved by the FRDC Board as of 2009, are;

1. To facilitate the leverage of effort between FRDC and other aligned projects and assess the synergy of project proposals to optimise resource allocation and opportunities for all fishery activities.
2. Identify and prioritise social research issues affecting the development and sustainability of wild harvest, aquaculture, post harvest, recreational, and customary fishing activities.
3. Address social science research needs arising from FRDC's existing programs and ensure the quality and relevance of proposed social research projects.

4. Coordinate and undertake the communication of key social research priorities to the research community, and research outcomes to fishers.
5. Provide program management for social projects including, evaluation, commissioning of projects, review and provision of advice on projects.

As required and is appropriate, the Program may recommend to the Board that these objectives be considered for revision and possibly modified dependent upon findings of the program and outcomes of research projects to date.

4.0 Current Research Context

Social research by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation is undertaken in the context of social research being conducted in the Natural Resource domain in general. This includes by agencies such as CSIRO, the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) within the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry. the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC); the National Farmers Federation (NFF); the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GWRDC); and the Australian Research Council (ARC) to name some of the key agencies.

The issues driving the need for research, including social, for these agencies are largely synonymous. These are:

- Drought (NFF, BRS; RIRDC;GWRDC)
- Water availability(NFF, CSIRO; BRS;RIDC; GWRDC)
- Environmental stewardship and management in relation to native versus introduced fauna and flora (NFF, CSIRO; BRS)
- Taxation (NFF)
 - the effects of tax and infrastructure provision;
 - the need for strategic approaches the to use of tax dollars; and
 - ETS and how this is handled by primary industry. (RIRDC,GWRDC)
- Education - access to education to retain regional populations (NFF; BRS; RIRDC)
- Infrastructure - such as telecommunications (NFF; BRS; RIRDC)
- Community and regional resilience (RIRDC, NFF, ARC)
 - How is this achieved on an ongoing basis?
 - An opportunity to examine successful case studies to transfer lessons.
- Adoption - the uptake of new technology and approaches (BRS, RIDC, GRDC)
- Resource management at local levels (BRS, NFF)
- Inclusion of indigenous Australians (ARC)
- Ethics of a real market economy - how can this be managed from a policy perspective? (previously L & W Aust)

Climate Change:

The first four of these points all encompass the effects of climate change - negative and positive - and to this end the federal government in collaboration with the fourteen Research and Development Corporations' has developed a strategic plan, resulting in CCRSPI (National Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries). CCRSPI aims to address the recognised need for a comprehensive and coordinated national research strategy for the response of primary industries (including agriculture, fisheries and forestry) to climate change, including mapping

existing activity to identify gaps and needs, and strategies for adoption of research and communication. The plan has two components, the first comprises those areas funders should consider when planning and making research investments to address climate change and emissions management. The second is a set of urgent and important research areas in which a range of industries and regions have shown a common interest in, making them suited to a program of collaborative research. These incorporate:

1. *Providing access to the best science and information on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions to improve awareness, understanding and decision making.*
2. *Research to understand and better promote change and adoption of new practises in primary industries to underpin adaptation and improved management of emissions.*
3. Increased support for research and development of improved seasonal climate forecasts to underpin communication and understanding of future climate projections.
4. Enabling access to projections of future climate that have been 'downscaled' to understand climate change impacts in regions, to better inform work on implications for future production.
5. Research to understand emissions (through life cycle assessments) from the primary industries and appropriate standards and methodologies to ensure that there is consistency in reporting across industries.
6. Promote linkages and discussion between policy makers, industry and scientists to assist the development of practical solutions to climate change and emissions management.

From the perspective of social sciences research (and in this case - fisheries) the attention for the steering committee is likely to be focused on the first two priorities, with continuing awareness of the following four.

International

From an international perspective there is ongoing work in the social sciences research domain into primary industries and the production of food (including fisheries) by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), which aims to promote sustainable development of responsible fisheries. The FAO's research efforts are guided by their adherence to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals¹. As a result and in keeping with its mandate and expertise, FAO's main direct contribution (over half of its effort) is its first Goal, which combines the reduction of poverty and the reduction of hunger. About a further fifth is directed to Goal 7 concerning environmental sustainability. Subsequent to these areas, smaller percentages of resources are directed to empowering women (Goal 3), and to the global partnership for development, particularly a fair and rules-based multilateral trading system, covered by Goal 8.

In addition, the governments of North America, coastal Europe and Asia have research programs associated with their Departments of Fisheries and/or Environment. The key areas of interest include:

- Managing change and continuity in fishing communities (including indigenous)
- Managing climate change
- Adaptation

¹ <http://www.fao.org/mdg/goals.asp>

- Management of indigenous and customary fishing
- Effects of fishing on aquatic environments and necessary related management actions
- Community management and common property issues (resource allocation)

FRDC Social Sciences Research

In addition to the above external activities, the FRDC is currently funding a number of active research projects that are undertaken either from a purely social science base, or more commonly, have a social sciences component that is, or ideally would be, incorporated in them. For a full list of social sciences related active and archived projects, as at May 2009, please refer to Appendix 1.

Currently funded research broadly focuses on the following areas:

- Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) or Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and the integration of the economic, ecological and social factors, and identification of assessment tools and reporting criteria, and application of such criteria;
- Identification of socio economic benefits of both commercial and recreational fishing to regional communities;
- Economic and social impacts of changes to fisheries management (inshore fisheries, licensing, management arrangements, and marine parks);
- Resource allocation benefits between commercial and recreational use and resource sharing implications;
- Empowering stakeholders to initiate and advance research and development projects;
- 'Socio economic' studies of eastern gemfish; western rock lobster; Victorian rock lobster; Tasmanian rock lobster; Queensland inshore fishery;
- Developing community communications and awareness raising;
- Development of Aboriginal fishing strategies and documentation of customary practices; optimisation of rights of access, allocation and opportunity.
- Environmental adoption, accountability and driving innovation;
- Consumer choice and decision making criteria.

4.1 Research Gap Analysis

In regard to climate change, CCRSPI has commissioned consultancy reports which are being prepared and will identify knowledge gaps on climate change impacts and emissions management across regions and industries. These reports will be made available to industries to inform debate and priority setting. As soon as these become available to the FRDC these will be incorporated into this Strategic Plan.

The program will address the need to undertake a gap analysis of specific and allied work that is being done across the research agencies, that this program has been tasked to collaborate with, and on the basis of the Program's prioritised issues.

4.2 Research Types

Research that will be considered by the SSRCP can be undertaken as either

- **Tactical** - or short term research, which addresses a problem which is understood, with a defined solution scoping task; or
- **Strategic** - which is long term, aimed at increasing our understanding of a problem which is related to industry² sustainability, resilience and/or prosperity.

Such research may be based within or preferably across a number of disciplines including, sociology, political science, human geography, psychology, anthropology, journalism and history, and is expected, where appropriate to liaise with the disciplines of ecology and economics; the latter through the FRDC Economics subprogram. A guiding principle is that a multidisciplinary approach is encouraged where necessary in order to achieve the best possible outcomes. Consequently it is expected that the research proposals engaged with by the program may come from any of these disciplines or draw upon several simultaneously.

SSRCP's Methods of obtaining research

Commissioning of research is **not** the charter of the SSRCP at this point in time; but rather the focus is upon guiding research applications to ensure the highest level of relevance to the fishing industry.

To this end, the SSRCP through the FRDC website and this Strategic Plan, aims to provide research agencies and organisations with a clear set of research issues and priorities, for which funding is likely to be provided, subject to the research proposals received in specified application rounds.

² Industry is used here as defined by FRDC (p.6) which includes commercial, recreational and customary fishing activities.

5.0 Key Drivers, Arising Issues & Priorities

There are a number of areas that have been identified by the FRDC which continue to present as crucial focus points for social sciences research. These provide 'umbrella' research areas, under which specific sector issues and external drivers may fall. Researchers should consider these as research frameworks within which Priority Issues should be addressed.

1. **Integrated decision making:** It entails the integration of both the economic realities and social values in the context of ecological drivers to provide a triple bottom line basis for management decisions. The object is to achieve a choice of appropriate fisheries management instruments given both the circumstances of the fishery and its relevant communities.
2. **Social Carrying Capacity:** The capacity of civil society to accept and incorporate greater levels of fishery activity - both aquaculture and wild catch. How do we assess and increase this carrying capacity?
3. **Adoption and Adaptation:** Identification and support of the ability to adapt to new circumstances and adopt innovations, technologies, business frameworks etc. Crossing over the experiences and lessons learnt from land based primary industry activities.
4. **Identifying & Translating Social Values:** An area originally identified as a component of the ESD process, it has as yet however, in fisheries and many other industries, failed to be comprehensively addressed. It entails identifying and articulating the social values and impacts around fishing and interpreting these in the context of fisheries management and policy.
5. **Industry Characteristics:** Work has been done in this area previously with the Marine Matters, the editions of the National Atlas of Fishing and the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, where the characteristics of both sectors of the industry and the supporting regional communities are articulated and explored for strengths and potential weaknesses. These can then be used in the process of developing co-management strategies, fisheries policy and integration of fisheries with other regional management policies.

The following table documents the drivers giving rise to KEY ISSUES which are, or are envisaged to have, an effect on the fishing industry - commercial (wild harvest, aquaculture, indigenous and post harvest), recreational, and customary. These may sit within and use the above research approaches to frame research projects. Please note that it is acknowledged that issues incorporate both negative and positive social issues that have/are/will affect(ed) sustainability and profitability.

Research Driver	Issue	Priority
Economic Viability	Industry Characteristics; Community reliance on seafood industry; Industry resilience to impacts of management decisions	1
Community Perceptions & Attitudes	Resource Sharing - Recreational versus commercial; NGO impacts; Interest group (tourism, divers, etc) impacts	1
Resource Access:	MPAs; Closed areas; Oil and gas (competition with other sectors);Ports	1
Community Perceptions & Attitudes	Labour availability due to community perceptions and attitudes; Planning regulations imposed on the seafood industry	1
Economic Viability	Management Arrangements - (Co)management styles; options; level of ownership (commercial, recreational and indigenous), inclusion of social inputs; compliance and illegal take	1
Economic Viability	Well being and profitability of fishers - operating costs, price, fuel, labour shortages, succession planning, efficiency, reduction of regulatory impacts	2
Environmental	Imported Pest/ Marine Biosecurity – impacts on fishers; capacity to mitigate and respond	2
Community Perceptions & Attitudes	Industry / Seafood Acceptability - community attitudes to sustainability; media education and engagement; management acceptability; consumer education and product promotion.	2
Human Capital	Industry capacity - toolkit comprehension; R&D transfer; Industry representation; ownership of research outcomes and management decisions. (To be addressed in collaboration with the People Development program)	2
Environmental; Community Perceptions & Attitudes	Ecosystem impacts - bycatch reporting; stewardship; impacts of tradeoffs	2
Environmental	Agricultural effects (fertiliser run off etc); coastal development effects; water and land quality and availability (effects of)	3
Economic Viability	Market Access – certification; food safety; value adding	4
Environmental	Climate Change (to be addressed through collaboration with other programs and agency research - e.g. CCRSPI)	
Human Capital	Preservation of skills and recruitment for industry (to be addressed in collaboration with People Development committee)	
Demographic	Cultural - Indigenous/gender issues - awaiting input from Indigenous Sector	

6.0 Activities

The following identifies research tactics to investigate the social sciences aspects identified in the Key Issues. The result is development of tactics to illuminate those issues which have definable social research aspects. These tactics have associated actions and responsibilities; methods of moving forward, and expected reporting deadlines for members of the program. This is the basis of the work plan for the Program for the period 2009 - 2012.

Issues identified by industry and management	Priority	Tactic	Action	Collaborative Partner (inc. FRDC Programs)
Knowledge of research relevant to fisheries social sciences research	1	Call for an audit (R&D's; Academia and Govt depts.) of previous social research undertaken in regard to fisheries or allied industries that has relevance to the identified priority issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for pre proposals • Tactical Research Partner • Talk to the commonwealth FRAB • Publication would be an outcome. 	
Industry Characteristics & Community reliance and resilience to impacts of management decisions	2	<p>Call for baseline data to understand the nature of industry (social, demographic, economic; and attitudinal) and facilitate Social Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Community reliance and resilience to be addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toolkit of indicators; - How to understand indicators; - Ongoing monitoring; - Integration with economic and ecological in making fisheries management decisions - e.g. net benefit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for the FRABS to identify high priority fisheries. • Identification of potential collaborative partners - BRS, RIDC, CSIRO, University Partners, research agencies Coastal CMA's & regional organisations to facilitate research projects. 	FRABS
Resource Sharing	2	Social Impact assessments based on data from Investigating industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for the FRABS to identify high priority fisheries. 	FRABS; AFMA

Resource Access	2	characteristics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote research interest areas to research agencies through the TRG. • Liaise with AFMA and State Agencies to identify future potential management options and changes, and inform research communities. • Collaborate with environmental and management agencies to identify potential management and resource issues, to allow investigation of mitigation issues. • Collaborate with educational institutions and People Development Program to research adjustment to uncertainty. 	
Management arrangements	2	Understanding and predicting behavioural responses to management approaches		
Ecosystem impacts	2	Investigating mitigation measures in response to Management measures.		
Agricultural issues, coastal development and land/water quality and access issues.	3 4			
Resource Sharing	2	Identifying and understanding factors that drive responsiveness or adoption of new practices and innovation and how can these be influenced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with educational institutions and People Development Program to research adjustment to uncertainty, change management, re skilling; • Promote investigation of drivers of public perception change in relation to seafood consumption and collaboration with retailers 	FRDC People Development Program Sydney Fish Market Melbourne Fish Market
Well being and profitability;	3			
Ecosystem Impacts	3			
Industry Acceptability	3			
Market Access	5			
Industry/ Seafood Acceptability	3	Social barriers to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R&D comprehension and uptake; - R&D transfer; - Leadership; - Positive industry representation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote collaboration with educational institutions and collaborate with the People Development Program to research adjustment to uncertainty. 	FRDC People Development Program

		<p>Building social capital between industry and communities.</p> <p>Community perceptions and attitudes to industry and sharing resource and facilitating access.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote investigation of network strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. • Promote investigation of drivers of public perception change in relation to resource sharing 	
Demographic		Indigenous Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice in regard to issues with customary fishing and food security. 	George Kailis ; Heather Brayford, N.T.

Methods of collaboration:

There are many methods of collaboration that should be taken into account in the process considering possible tactics in the program. There may be:

- **Joint ventures** - of either project development or management;
- **Co funding;** of an FRDC identified issue and subsequent research proposal
- **Multiple agency funding:** Of an issue that may call for several projects (such as the SE Australian Climate Change Adaptation Project - Vic DPI)
- **Multiple agency project development:** For example where there are many interrelated aspects to an issue it may be deemed appropriate to collaborate with other agencies who have interests in aspects of the issue and would be able to undertake/manage research project(s) on an (or several) aspects of the issue, simultaneously with the FRDC promotion of research in an aspect of the issue.

7.0 Communication and Extension Strategy

As the Program has no allocated advertising or communications budget, the following communication and extension activities rely on Program Manager and Member networks, and FRDC resources. There are however, a number of activities identified as open to the program which will be utilised as they are available. The following table presents the sector targeted, the activity, responsibility, and how often the activity will occur.

Sector	Activity	Responsibility	Frequency
Commercial and Customary	• FRABs	PM & SC Members	Bi Annually
	• Seafood Industry Conferences	PM & SC Members	Annually or Bi annually
	• FISH Magazine	PM	Quarterly
	• SSA Network Meeting	PM	Bi Annually
	• AFMA News & Internet Site	PM/AFMA	Bi Annually
	• Australian Women in Agriculture Conference and BUZZ Newsletter	PM and TRG Members	
	• Indigenous Networks	PM & Indigenous Institutes/ Organisations	Bi Annually
	• WINSC - conference, meetings and newsletters	PM	Annually
Recreational Fishers	• State Fisheries Agencies	VIC & NSW DPI's and others as available	Bi Annually
	• Rec Fish Australia	PM/Recfish Program	Bi annually
	• FRDC Website	Program Manager	Bi Annually
Research Community	• R&D Meetings with FRDC Programs; R&D Corporations; CRC's and research agencies (CSIRO/BRS/et al)	PM	Bi Annually
	• Research networks & University Programs; including AON; Agrifood Networks; Human Dimensions Research Network; Institute of Human Geography.	PM with input and assistance from the TRG	E-Mailing Lists to inform Bi Annually
	• The Australian Sociological Association	PM	E-mail list notification bi-annually
	• Workshop on social sciences in Fisheries	PM to coordinate with SIV	March 2010 and Annually

PM = Program Manager

SC = Steering Committee Members

TRG = Technical Reference Group Members

8.0 Program Reporting, Collaboration and Communication

The FRDC recognises that disclosure, transparency and collaboration are essential to the successful achievement of the SSRC Program's objectives. The following communication and transfer activities are the responsibility of the following individuals or groups within the Program.

Schedule of Program Activities 2009-10

ACTIVITY	Date to Be Completed
2009-12 Strategic Plan to FRDC Board	30 May, 2009
Promote call for research pre proposals	20 July, 2009
Evaluate research pre proposals and provide feedback	20 September, 2009
Review Progress against Strategic Plan	6 & 7 October, 2009
Evaluate open round applications for 2010-2001 (closing November 2009) and recommendations made to FRDC	28 January 2010
Review Progress against Strategic Plan	1 February, 2010
Evaluate TRF applications (closing 1 st Feb 2010) recommendations made to FRDC	20 February, 2010
Evaluate TRF applications (closing 1 st May 2010) recommendations made to FRDC	10 May 2010
Review strategies and call for Research pre proposals in association with FRABS and subprograms.	10 June 2010

Meetings

The Steering Committee and Technical Reference Group meet up to twice a year, and will consider issues out of session where necessary.

Communication with the FRDC Board

Program activities will be reported to the Board through a monthly report to the FRDC Programs Manager. Additionally, the following items and activities will be communicated in the same manner.

- Agreed Terms of Reference
- Annual Strategic Plans and any updates
- All Committee and Group meeting discussions, decisions and recommendations.
- Provide and receive communication with allied research bodies and agencies, of relevance to the objectives and activities of the Program.

The Program Manager:

The Program Manager will liaise with program members, the FRDC and its Board and other research stakeholders in the following areas:

- Initiating and organising bi-annual meetings of the Steering Committee and Technical Reference Group;
- Communication of and receipt of feedback on, research project proposals, to inform the FRDC Board;

- Participation in industry activities relevant to the Program at the discretion of the Program Manager;
- Participation in research agency and organisation activities relevant to the Program at the discretion of the Program Manager;
- Quarterly reporting on the Program's activities through 'FISH' and any other relevant industry magazines;
- Input to, and support of, Program Member communications to industry and research organisations;
- Regular update of the FRDC Social Sciences Research Coordination Webpage;
- Regular liaison with other FRDC (Sub) Programs to both incorporate their activities into the SSCRCP's considerations, and to share the objectives and activities of the SSCRCP as they are updated with all FRDC's existing programs and sub programs.

The Steering Committee:

Steering Committee Members undertake to:

- Provide input to the annual review of the Strategic Plan in regard to Key Issues, Priorities and potential activities to address these issues;
- Review research proposals received in the context of their alignment with the Programs agreed Strategic Plan (that is the proposals ability to address the prioritised Key Issues) and provide timely feedback to the Program Manager;
- Communicate the Program's objectives and Strategic Plan to the fisheries communities that they are engaged with, and receive comment and feedback, which they will communicate to the Program.
- Be actively engaged with ensuring that the methods chosen by researchers for the communication of research results are realistic, achievable and likely to provide the desired outcomes.

The Technical Reference Group:

The members of the Technical Reference Group undertake to:

- Provide input to the annual review of the Strategic Plan in regard to Key Issues, Priorities and potential activities to address these issues;
- Review research proposals received in the context of their alignment with the Programs agreed Strategic Plan (that is the proposals ability to address the prioritised Key Issues) and provide timely feedback to the Program Manager;
- Communicate the Program's objectives and Strategic Plan to the research communities that they are engaged with and other opportune avenues, and receive comment and feedback, which they will communicate to the Program.
- Be actively engaged with ensuring that the methods chosen by researchers for the communication of research results are realistic, achievable and likely to provide the desired outcomes.

Communication with Stakeholders

Aside from the activities included above in the agreed tasks of the Program Manager, Steering Committee and Technical Reference Group Members, the three years Strategic Plan and any associated opportunities will be promoted to stakeholders via:

- FRDC Social Research webpage

- Distribution to all FRABS and (sub) programs, major industry peak bodies and DAFF
- FRDC biennial Stakeholder workshop (2009 - 2010; or the form it may take subject to FRDC review)
- Emails to a database of Industry and research peak bodies.

9.0 Appendix One: Active and Past Projects incorporating Social Sciences Research

Project #	Project Name	Institution	Contact Name
Current Projects			
2009/038	Aboriginal fisheries in New South Wales: determining catch, cultural significance of species and traditional fishing knowledge needs.	Southern Cross University	Stephen Schnierer
2007/048	Towards evaluating the socio-economic impacts of changes to Queensland's inshore fishery management	James Cook University	Renae Tobin
2007/010	Integration of socio economic sustainability criteria into a reporting framework for the Australian aquaculture industry.	National Aquaculture Council	Justin Fromm - CEO
2009/300	Empowering industry R&D: developing an industry driven R&D model for the Australian fishing and seafood industry - partnerships to improve efficiency, profitability and performance.	Fishwell Consulting	Ian Knuckey
2009/212	Innovative production research hub (getting the most from collaboration)	NSW DPI	Geoff Allan
2007/227	Recfishing Research: National Strategy for Recreational Fisheries Research, Development and Extension	Recfish Australia	Bill Sawynok
2006/067	Documenting customary practice to optimise rights of access, allocation, and opportunity in Western Australia.	Big Island Research Pty Ltd (WA)	Guy Wright - Anthropologist
2007/050	Developing mechanisms for the transfer and /or adjustment of rock lobster shares between sectors in Western Australia and South Australia.	Department of Fisheries Western Australia	Greg Paust – Program Manager, Pearling and Aquaculture
2007/013	A comprehensive ESD analysis of a fishery: the incorporation of regulatory, ecological, economic and sociological aspects	WHAT Consulting (QLD)	Tor Hundloe
2008/333	People development program: WINSC annual conference sponsorship	WINSC	Anne Whalley
2008/010	Developing a support tool for management decisions in coastal multi-species Scalefish fisheries	University of Tasmania	Pilippe Ziegler – Research Scientist Resource Modelling
2007/061	The progression of abalone fishery performance indicators	Abalone Council Australia Limited	Michael Tokley, EO
2007/025	Competition to Collaboration: exploring co-management models for the Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery.	Spencer Golf and West Coast Prawn Fishermen's	Karen Hollamby – EO

		Association	
2007/017	Integrated evaluation of management strategies for tropical multi species long-line fisheries.	CSIRO – Marine and Atmospheric Research	Campbell Davies – Research Group Leader
2007/016	Development of national guidelines to improve the application of risk-based methods in the scope, implementation and interpretation of stock assessments for data-poor series.	NSW Department of Primary Industries	James Scandol – Senior Scientific Officer
2006/829	Developing a new approach to communicating and raising awareness about Dugong management and conservation. (AFMA project)		
2006/026	Development co-management arrangements for Queensland fisheries - stage 1 picking the winners.	McPhee Research Consultants Pty Ltd	Daryl McPhee
ACTIVE TACTICAL RESEARCH FUND (TRF) Board Approved Projects			
2008/335	Tactical Research Fund: Understanding the drivers of fisher engagement with industry bodies	Wildcatch Fisheries SA	Neil Macdonald
2008/073	Tactical Research Fund: identifying, communicating and integrating social considerations into future management concerns in inshore fisheries in coastal Queensland	Queensland Seafood Industry Association	Ashley Hoffman
2008/042	Tactical Research Fund: Development of a plan to address national needs for recreational fishing data for fisheries management and development.	Fisheries Victoria (DPI)	Anthony Hurst
2008/334	Tactical Research Fund: a scoping study to investigate the feasibility of a national seafood industry exchange (human capital mobility) program	Cobalt Marine Resource Management (NSW)	Andy Bodsworth
FINISHED PROJECTS			
2007/304	Empowering stakeholders to initiate and advance R&D projects in the seafood industry	Ian Knuckey	Fishwell Consulting
2007/247	Tactical Research Fund: Establish the acceptability of the Queensland Endeavour prawn as a product of Choice.	Queensland Seafood Marketers Assoc	Jim Fogarty
2007/053	Regional impact assessment for the Moreton Bay Marine Park	Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association	Kellie Williams – CEO
2003/039	Dynamic modelling of socio-economic benefits of resource allocation between commercial and recreational use	Economic Research Associates Pty Ltd	John Nicholls
2001/310	Developing a community communication plan and communication resources for the seafood industry	Judith Ham Consulting (QLD)	Judith Hamm

2001/064	Aboriginal fishing strategy	Department of Fisheries Western Australia	Ben Fraser – Project Officer
2000/147	ESD and fisheries: what, why how and when? A stakeholder’s workshop	Department of Fisheries Western Australia	Rick Fletcher – Supervising Scientist
2000/145	National application of sustainability indicators for Australian fisheries	Department of Fisheries Western Australia	Rick Fletcher – Supervising Scientist
1999/147	Greening Australia’s Fisheries - a national strategy for application of environmental management systems in the Australian fishing industry.	Southern Fisherman’s Association Inc	Bryan Pierce

10.0 Appendix Two: Drivers and Arising Issues.

Sectors	Significant Drivers					
	Economic Viability	Community Perception/ Attitudes	Resource Use	Environmental	Human Capital	Demographic
	Arising Issues					
Commercial - Wild Catch Commercial - Aquaculture Recreational Indigenous /Customary Post Harvest	Wellbeing and Profitability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel • Labour shortages (impediments to production) • Succession planning • Efficiency • Reduce regulatory impacts 	Resource Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational Vs commercial • NGO impacts • Interest group (e.g. tourism, divers etc) impacts 	Industry characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community reliance on industry • Resilience to impacts of management (DEWHA, DAFF, AFMA & States) decisions. 	Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts • adaptation 	Preservation of skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment for industry • Leadership • Succession planning • Adaptive capacity 	Indigenous Issues
	Market Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification • Food safety • Value adding 	Resource Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPAs • Closed areas • Oil and gas • Ports • Labour availability • Planning regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Sharing (refer Community Perceptions and Attitudes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imported Pests/marine Biosecurity 	Industry capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit comprehension • Research and development transfer • Industry representation • Ownership of research outcomes and management decisions. 	
	Management Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Co)management styles • Management options 	Industry/Seafood acceptability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community attitudes to sustainability 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural effects 	Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary and tertiary education programs and the brown versus green 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ownership of management (com; rec & indigenous) • Inclusion of social inputs • Affordability • Cost recovery of research and management arrangements • Inclusion of social inputs • Compliance and illegal take 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media education and engagement • Management acceptability • Consumer education and product promotion 			perception of the industry.	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Development 		
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and land quality and availability 		
				Ecosystem Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bycatch reporting • Stewardship • Impacts of tradeoffs 		

11.0 Appendix Three: Prioritisation Process

The key issues that were identified as arising from external drivers were prioritised in the context of relevance across all three fishing sectors (Commercial, Recreational and Customary) and on the criteria of:

How many people in the industry are concerned about the issue?

- What is the felt need and how has this been demonstrated?
- What kind of community support is necessary for a project to succeed?
- Who needs to be involved? Are the 'right' people concerned and involved?
- How much support does the project or activity really have?

How serious is the issue or problem and how will it influence the future?

- Is the problem affecting a lot of people? (How many directly? Indirectly?)
- What proportion of the population does it affect?
- What sort of damage is it doing to Aboriginal culture, physical health, mental health, other aspects of life?
- What will happen if nothing is done about the situation?

How easy is it to change?

- What has already been tried or done which may affect a new approach to the issue or problem? (Bad past experiences can and do affect community motivation to get involved)
- How much assistance will people need to change the situation?
- How likely are they to have success? What are the barriers and what are the helping factors (enablers)?
- How many other things need to change before this particular problem can change?

What is the Key Performance Indicator that can be assigned to this issue?

- In identifying activities to address the issue, can performance indicators be developed for the successful development of that issue - how will it be reported against?

Each of the criteria above were ranked on a scale of 1 - 5 (1 being the most important and five being of least importance) and the total score was allocated to the Issues below. **ALL** of the issues are deemed as being of priority to the industry, and therefore research in all areas is of interest, however those with the lower scores are of greater and broader priority to the industry as a whole