



## National RD&E Framework for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Developing a framework for more effective and targeted  
RD&E for Fisheries & Aquaculture

### Communiqué, 26th August 2009

#### Planning Workshop, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009

This communiqué provides a summary of discussions at the National RD&E framework planning workshop held at the Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg.

*The full record of discussions is available at: [www.frdc.com.au/rde-plan](http://www.frdc.com.au/rde-plan)*

#### The aims of the workshop were:

- 1) To introduce and discuss the development of a national fisheries and aquaculture RD&E framework;
- 2) To obtain stakeholder views on opportunities and challenges for the fisheries and aquaculture industries and the implications for future RD&E;
- 3) Discuss and develop the characteristics, features and governance of a RD&E framework

Forty-two participants attended the workshop representative of the key stakeholder groups including fisheries agencies across Australia, industry organisations, research agencies, extension providers, the university sector, and research funders and managers.

#### The key points to come out of the discussions were:

- There is broad support for the development of the national RD&E framework for fisheries and aquaculture
- There is support for an understanding of RD&E capability at the regional level along with regional planning for research and extension in developing a national framework
- There is support for the scope of the framework to be inclusive of the whole supply chain and to include commercial, recreational and indigenous sectors
- There is agreement that there are significant knowledge gaps (e.g. RD&E capacity and mechanisms for identifying RD&E priorities for the indigenous sector, and the definition and role of extension) that need to be addressed in developing the framework
- There is agreement that a focus is needed on the structures that support, or inhibit, how groups work together

- While it is likely that there will be future agreement around a framework for national research, there are issues around regulatory requirements of jurisdictions
- The framework should build on existing collaboration
- There are the beginnings of discussions around seafood imports being included in the framework and this needs to be further explored
- There is a need for existing R&D plans to inform/link to the national framework
- As part of the development of the RD&E framework, there is a need to establish a process for obtaining agreement among functional groups (fisheries managers, research providers and funders, extension providers, training providers, and industry associations) that establishes the principles for its implementation.

**The working group was given clear instruction:**

- There must be transparency in the framework, and in the development of the framework
- Fisheries management, research provider, and industry needs must be considered
- Clear definition of objectives, outcomes and steps is needed
- To keep it simple
- To communicate regularly and in small bites; to keep industry councils up to date; to ensure regular communication with AFMF; to provide a mechanism for issues to be captured and information to be distributed; and ensure other bodies (beyond peak) are informed and have opportunity to contribute

**The Working Group outlined the following expectations of participants:**

- View the process as an opportunity not a threat
- Communicate at a high level; do not get bogged down with too much detail at this stage
- Communicate risks clearly so the Working Group can help
- Let the Working Group know of any problems in the process
- The process should capture, and engage with, all providers, managers and industry
- The process should bring all relevant Universities and research providers together to facilitate commitment to the Framework

**Next steps**

Another workshop involving the same participants is proposed for October 2009 to develop a draft RD&E Framework. Should you wish to comment or contribute to the development of the RD&E framework, email [jo-anne.ruscoe@frdc.com.au](mailto:jo-anne.ruscoe@frdc.com.au)