



Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald
Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation



ET TO CONTINUE PROMOTING SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

The Australian Government will continue its investment in the national strategy for the survival of line-caught fish providing \$220,000 for an education campaign to promote catch and release techniques with recreational fishers.

Following the success of a campaign with former league star Andrew Ettingshausen (ET), Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the rate of sustainable catch and release practices had lifted.

“Last year we got ET to phone home the message of releasing fish carefully and Australia’s recreational fishers listened,” he said.

“Releasing fish is now becoming an accepted part of recreational fishing.

“Annually over 47 million fish are released with almost 70% of barramundi now caught thrown back in the water. There is no doubt ET’s profile as a league star turned fishermen helped ram home the message, and the Australian Government is keen to see this programme continue”

Another project in Queensland to receive funding in the Fisheries Research and Development 2004/05 round is the development of by-catch Reduction Devices (BRDs) and Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs). The Australian Government will fund further work into this important area to develop alternative non-destructive methods for prawn fishing. The aim is to develop a method that entices the prawn and only the prawn to jump into the net leaving the seabed unharmed.

In all, \$24.8 million in funding from the FRDC will be poured into new projects across the nation to secure the future of our natural fisheries resources through research and development.

“The funding provides for new projects that will ensure fisheries natural resources are used and developed in an ecologically sustainable manner and that the fishing industry remains profitable and internationally competitive,” Senator Macdonald said.

Senator Macdonald said the projects would be managed through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

Attached is a list detailing all projects to receive FRDC funding.

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Media Release