



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

ABALONE FUNDING FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government will invest \$550,000 dollars to better understand the South Australian abalone industry and to establish whether distinct stocks actually exist.

Launching the 2004/05 Fisheries Research and Development funding round, Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the funding would provide better understanding of the spatial characteristics of the South Australian fishery

“Long term, this will lead to better assessment of catch rates and management of the fishery,” he said.

“Community values for coastal ecosystems are significantly increasing, as is the need to ensure community involvement in managing these resources.

“Australia has one of two remaining sustainable abalone fisheries left in the world and provides more than 50% of the world wild harvest for abalone. It is important we get the management right, and that includes understanding catch rates and more about the species.”

Other projects in South Australia include;

- A trial of a community-based monitoring program for coastal ecosystems to develop and understand the long-term linkage between community actions and the sustainability of the resource.
- \$4 million in recognition of the importance of Southern Bluefin Tuna aquaculture to South Australia for a range of projects to underpin this industry.
- \$500,000 to develop recommendations that will underpin policies to ensure adequate management of seal interactions in aquaculture.

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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