



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



FISHING INDUSTRY TO FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Australian Government will spend \$515,000 to explore how different fishing sectors interact with the environment on the continental shelf.

Australian Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said up to now this has not been possible due to the depths these fisheries operate.

“This project really ventures into untapped waters and promises to be an environmental windfall for Tasmania,” Senator Macdonald said.

“The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, with the support of CSIRO and TAFI, will use towed deep-water video arrays to quantify the interaction between different fishing gear types and habitat in these deep waters.”

Under the 2004/05 funding round for Fisheries Research and Development, the Government will also continue its focus on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) funding two new projects in Tasmania and the Northern Territory worth \$270,000.

This builds on the Australian Government’s \$3.3 million commitment to the seafood industry via the National EMS National Pilots and Pathways to Industry program.

“The new projects will provide on the ground support for the production of Environmental Management Systems for both the wild catch and aquaculture sectors,” Senator Macdonald said.

In addition the Government will fund six projects worth \$2.6 million in partnership with the Aquafin CRC to develop practical solutions to solve amoebic gill disease in Atlantic salmon.

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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