



SEAFOOD LOVERS SAY “I DO” IN MELBOURNE

The Australian Government has commissioned a survey to work out what seafood and how much is consumed in Melbourne and how sales can be ramped up in Victoria’s capital.

Launching the 2004/05 Fisheries Research and Development funding round, Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the Melbourne seafood market had grown significantly in recent years and is now the second largest seafood market, after Sydney, in Australia.

“While the seafood industry is always looking to push into new markets, it is important we also improve sales in our existing ones as well,” Senator Macdonald said.

“This survey will help us get into the minds of seafood lovers, and work out how we can get them to eat home grown seafood more regularly.”

Other Victorian projects to benefit in this round of funding include

- The Victorian rock lobster industry (\$120,000) to develop new tools to better understand how lobster stocks respond to varying management methods following the successful introduction of a quota management regime.
- Almost \$680,000 will be spent on understanding the impact of spatial management techniques, such as closing a fishing ground to protect spawning fish stocks. In partnership with Department of Primary Industries Victoria, the project will measure the performance of these spatial management techniques and provide managers with a predictive tool for future planning.
- Projects on aquatic animal health and fine scale reef mapping to support abalone management.

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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