



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

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## **AUSTRALIAN GRAIN TO FEED AUSSIE FISH**

A new project worth \$385,000 will seek to reduce Australia's dependence on imported fish meal for aquaculture feeds, addressing environmental concerns while helping Australian farmers.

Australian Fisheries and Conservation Minister Senator Ian Macdonald said the win win situation would see bait fish that are often harvested overseas to support Australia's aquaculture industry, replaced with grain sourced from Western Australia.

The project, run in conjunction with the Grains Research and Development Corporation, will evaluate alternative grain protein products like lupins, to assess the degree to which they can substitute traditional fish protein sources.

"The goal is to provide feed manufacturers with alternative ingredient sources that will allow them to produce the best diets and with grain protein sources," Senator Macdonald said.

Other projects allocated to the West in this year's Research and Development funding allocation round include

- \$233,000 to Murdoch University to develop improved biological understanding for the key species western blue groper, queen snapper and bar-tailed flathead.
- \$15,000 to develop an innovative pot system to ensure the best harvest of octopus
- while \$550,000 will be spent on the development of alternative diets for larval feeds. Australia depends heavily on overseas imports for brine shrimp. This resource is considered fully exploited overseas and in recent history has had significant increases in price.

"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**