

Indigenous Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture - endorsed at the Cairns Forum 2012 - November 2012

Purpose of Document

These RD&E Priorities were developed by the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) as part of a strategic and planned approach to identifying key RD&E priorities for indigenous participation in fishing and aquaculture in Australia.

The RD&E Priorities were based on 11 Key Principles that were identified at the Cairns Forum 2011¹ held in March 2011. At the forum participants charged the IRG with taking the principles forward and indentifying key RD&E priorities.

In November 2012 a second forum was held in Cairns (Cairns Forum 2012²) and the following priorities were endorsed by participants as providing sound guidance on indigenous RD&E needs in the fishing and seafood industry.

Strategic Priorities	RD&E Actions To Achieve Priorities	Links to the 11 Principles Developed at the Cairns Forum 2011 ²
<p>Primacy for Indigenous People</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have certain recognised rights associated with and based on the prior and continuing occupation of country and water and activities (e.g. fishing, gathering) associated with the use and management of these.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the means to ensure Australian indigenous fishing cultural assets and associated rights are met, or addressed, within the broader understanding of fishing rights in Australia. • Process to determine an indigenous catch and allocation model, e.g.; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – examples of relevant allocation models – value of the allocation to various sectors – current status and case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customary cultural assets and associated rights acknowledged ▪ Allocation protocols developed ▪ Economic opportunities developed ▪ Legislative consistency and recognition mainstreamed ▪ Ranger connection improved ▪ Social analysis undertaken ▪ Traditional Fisheries Management (TFM) incorporated ▪ Traditional Fishing Knowledge (TFK) incorporated

¹ Support provided under FRDC Project 2010/401 'Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy'

² Support provided under FRDC project 2012/405 'Facilitation of FRDC Indigenous Research Coordination Program to progress RD&E outcomes'

Strategic Priorities	RD&E Actions To Achieve Priorities	Links to the 11 Principles Developed at the Cairns Forum 2011 ²
<p>Acknowledgement of Indigenous Cultural Practices</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have the right to maintain and develop cultural practices to address spiritual, cultural, social and economic needs associated with aquatic resources and landscapes.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify models to incorporate TFK/TFM into aquatic resource management processes • Examine what fishing and non-fishing practices impact on indigenous cultural fishing practices, including identifying key iconic species • Explore the means to ensure that Australian Indigenous cultural assets and associated fishing rights are being addressed in the broader understanding of fishing rights in Australia • Identify the real understanding of the non-indigenous groups (other fisheries sectors and conservation NGO's) about indigenous cultural fishing and develop processes/materials to enhance that understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural fisheries values quantified ▪ Fishing and non-fishing impacts on indigenous practices quantified ▪ Fishing restrictions on customary use identified and addressed ▪ Iconic species role in TFM and TFK acknowledged ▪ Social indicators of commercial benefits of TFK and TFM developed. ▪ TFK acknowledged and incorporated into mainstream management ▪ TFM acknowledged and incorporated into mainstream management
<p>Self determination of indigenous rights to use and manage cultural assets and resources</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have the right to determine courses of action in relation to use and management of aquatic biological resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing barriers to full and effective indigenous involvement in mainstream fisheries decision making processes and forums • Identifying the cost benefit of effective indigenous consultation and extension • Improving the involvement of indigenous people in all levels of aquatic biological resource management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-management/self-management models in place acknowledging indigenous primacy and TFK/TFM ▪ Consultation models that meet indigenous peoples' needs utilised ▪ Engagement and involvement with indigenous people improved ▪ Governance models that enhance indigenous involvement developed and utilised ▪ Processes to enhance indigenous participation in RD&E process in place

Strategic Priorities	RD&E Actions To Achieve Priorities	Links to the 11 Principles Developed at the Cairns Forum 2011 ²
<p>Economic development opportunities arising from indigenous peoples cultural assets and associated rights</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have the right to engage in economic activity based on the use of traditional aquatic biological resources and/or the right to share in the benefits derived from the exploitation of aquatic biological resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and start new commercial initiatives that maintain ongoing indigenous interests and concerns in the fishing and seafood industry • Develop management measures that improves indigenous access to aquatic biological resources for commercial purposes • Explore innovative benefit sharing models from fisheries resource use and access (including employment) • Examine new models to ascertain the total 'value' of indigenous participation in fishing • Explore opportunities for branding (labelling) of indigenous caught seafood and fisheries product assessed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blockages to indigenous involvement in business around the fishing and seafood industry removed ▪ Commercial fishing governance structures that meet indigenous needs are adopted ▪ Commercial opportunities from indigenous branded fishing and seafood operations developed and supported ▪ Measurable economic outcomes derived from the fishing and seafood industry in place • Social sciences and economic modeling undertaken that ascertains the real value of indigenous participation in the fishing and seafood industry
<p>Capacity building opportunities for indigenous people are enhanced</p> <p><i>Indigenous people have the right to access capacity building activities to further their aspirations in the use and management of aquatic biological resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building capacity of mainstream sectors to effectively engage with indigenous fishing sector and communities • Building general understanding of fishing industry structures and processes • Improving capacity of (and opportunities for) indigenous people to engage in research, fisheries management, compliance and other commercial activity • Research outputs and information are available in appropriate formats and language (extension and adoption) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally appropriate extension practices are in place that provide indigenous people with a better understanding of the fishing and seafood industry ▪ Fishery management and research agencies have sufficient adequately qualified staff to engage appropriately with indigenous people ▪ Indigenous people have a high level of engagement in a range of activities associated with the fishing and seafood industry across all sectors • Management programs acknowledge and incorporate TFK and TFM