

FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH TRUST ACCOUNTREPORT ON PROJECT COMPLETED 1975

1. Title of Proposal:- Background study on the commercial utilization of sea urchin.
2. Name of Applicant:- Department of Agriculture, Tasmania
3. Division, Department or Section:- Fisheries Division.
4. Proposal:- To sample selected populations of sea urchins, Heliocidaris erythrogramma, at regular intervals to determine seasonal changes in gonad size and condition with a view to indicating if, where and when, the gonad might be effectively utilised for food processing.
5. Name of person responsible for the Programme:- Trevor G. Dix BSc(Hons), PhD, Officer-in-Charge, Marine Laboratory, Tarooma.
6. Qualifications of Staff Employed on the Programme:-
 - a) Trevor G. Dix BSc (Hons), PhD;
 - b) Two technical officers (P. Frost and D. Thomson), both competent divers with small boat experience.
7. Location(s) of Operations:- The project is based at the Fisheries Research Laboratory Tarooma. Sampling of at least 50 urchins was conducted at regular intervals at three localities (Alum Cliffs, 1 km from the Laboratory, Blubber Heads, south east coast, and Stapleton Point, east coast). Other samples were taken around the Tasmanian coastline, the localities being determined from information by commercial abalone divers and fishermen and on the basis of research data gained from areas already sampled.
8. Date project commenced:- The technical officers were appointed at the beginning of October 1974, nearly three months after the proposed starting date. Resolution of medical requirements and the necessary stringent tests caused the main delay in starting the programme. First samples were taken within one week of appointing the staff.
9. Completion date:- December 1975
10. Report on Project:- A summary report was presented soon after the project field sampling was completed in December 1975.

Subsequently, 2 reports have been prepared:-

 1. "Reproduction in Tasmanian populations of Heliocidaris erythrogramma (Echinoidea : Echinometridae)"

2. "Survey of Tasmanian sea urchin resources."

The first has been submitted for publication in the Australian Journal of marine and Freshwater Research, the second is in MS form due for publication in the next issue of Tasmanian Fisheries Research.

These papers cover all major segments of the project. Copies can be made available prior to publication if requested from the programme leader.