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# **ESD and Fisheries: What, Why, How and When.**

## **A Stakeholders Workshop**

*Ross Hodge and David C Smith*

### **Final Report**



*Sustainable Fishing - Healthy Seafood*  
Seafood Industry Victoria Inc.



F I S H E R I E S  
R E S E A R C H &  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
C O R P O R A T I O N



Department of  
Natural Resources  
and Environment

**Project No. 2000/147**

**Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

**ESD and Fisheries: What, Why, How and When. A Stakeholders Workshop**

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**October 2001**

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**ISBN: 0-9579124-1-2**

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

### 2000/147 ESD and Fisheries: What, Why, How and When. A Stakeholders Workshop.

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#### Objectives:

1. To hold a workshop to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the issues and processes surrounding ESD and fisheries.
2. To identify SCFA, industry and other stakeholder priorities.
3. To provide the basis for an action plan for addressing stakeholder priorities.

#### Non Technical Summary

#### OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

Describe the **outcome(s)** that the project results have contributed to or are likely to contribute to. (**Outcomes** are distinct from **outputs** - see note below). **Outcomes**, particularly those relating to natural resources are often difficult to quantify. Nevertheless, you should describe the outcomes in specific terms and with respect to public and private benefits. Also indicate the response to the project results by industry, fisheries managers and other beneficiaries.

**Note: Outcomes** are the results, impacts or consequences of actions by the FRDC and it's R&D partners on the fishing industry and Australia's economic, environmental and social resources.

**Outputs** are the goods and services (mainly knowledge, processes and technology) that the FRDC and It's R&D partners produce for external organisations and individuals.

ESD has become a major objective of the fisheries legislation of most jurisdictions. A key component is the need to measure and report performance against ESD objectives. Setting sustainable levels of fishing has, of course, been central to fisheries management and science for a long time. The concept of ESD, however, is far broader than the traditional focus on yields derived from target species. ESD attempts to balance the environmental, economic and social aspects of fisheries.

In 1998, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (SCFA) charged its Research Subcommittee with the task of developing guidelines for assessing fisheries against ESD objectives. In 1999, Environment Australia (EA) proposed changes to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act. It was proposed that the general exemption of commercial fish species from Schedule 4 be removed. It will be a requirement that "species are taken in a manner that is demonstrably ecologically sustainable" before being given an exemption from the Act. EA has developed a set of criteria for assessing the sustainability of commercial fisheries. SCFA formed a Sustainability Indicators Working Group to coordinate a national response.

These national initiatives should also been seen within the context of international developments such as the FAO's 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' and 'Guidelines for Developing Indicators of Sustainable Development for Wild Capture Fisheries', the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) 'Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing' and ISO 14000.

It was against this background of major developments by a range of agencies, both national and international, that this workshop was held. The initial idea was for a small workshop to be held in conjunction with Geelong's Seafood Fair. However, the concept developed rapidly following SCFA support and substantial funding from FRDC.

The workshop program involved leading representatives from the commercial and recreational sector, conservation groups, science and government. It was attended by almost 200 delegates. The workshop presented a timely opportunity to ensure that all participants were aware of the issues, spoke the same language and took ownership of the process.

Many people contributed to the organisation of the workshop including Lyn Warn, Richard McLoughlin, Kelly Roffey, Diane Mahon and Peter Dundas-Smith. In addition, Diane Mahon was the text editor for these proceedings.

## **KEYWORDS:**

## **Acknowledgments**

## FINAL REPORT

### 2000/147 ESD and Fisheries: What, Why, How and When. A Stakeholders Workshop.

#### Background

With the release of the national Strategy For Ecologically Sustainable Development (NSESD) in 1992, Australia adopted ecologically sustainable development (ESD) as the basis for managing natural resources. It is defined as 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.

ESD has subsequently become a major objective of the fisheries legislation of most jurisdictions (implicitly or explicitly). A key component is the need to measure and report performance against ESD objectives. Setting sustainable levels of fishing has, of course, been central to fisheries management and science for a long time. The concept of ESD, however, is far broader than the traditional focus on yields derived from target species. ESD attempts to balance environmental, economic and social aspects of fisheries.

In 1998, Standing Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture(SCFA) charged the Research Subcommittee with the task of developing guidelines for assessing fisheries against ESD objectives. The Research Subcommittee adopted the framework developed by Chesson and Clayton (1998). This approach was endorsed by SCFA in 1999. Concurrently, Sainsbury et al (1999) reviewed the current use of sustainability indicators to measure the performance of Australian fisheries against ESD objectives.

The need to develop a national approach to ESD and sustainability indicators has assumed greater urgency with Environment Australia's (EA) proposed changes to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act. It is proposed that the general exemption of commercial fish species from Schedule 4 be removed. It will be a requirement that 'species are taken in a manner that is demonstrably ecologically sustainable' before being given an exemption from the Act. EA has developed a draft set of criteria for assessing sustainability of commercial fisheries.

SCFA has formed a Sustainability indicators Working Group to coordinate a national response. The Research Subcommittee presented a workplan for developing sustainability indicators to this Group on October 15. This was endorsed by SCFA on 26 October 1999. One of six key tasks involves development of a consistent terminology. A draft report will be completed by February 2000.

These national initiatives should also be seen within the context of international developments such as FAO's 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries', and the Marine Stewardship Council's(MSC) 'Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing' and ISO 14000. A number of Australian fisheries have expressed interest in obtaining MSC accreditation.

The interaction of fisheries and the environment including increased scrutiny of the industry by environment groups, MSC and Schedule 4, was one of the main themes at the recent Seafood Directions Conference.

Its against this background of major developments by a range of agencies, both national and international, that this workshop is proposed. To effectively implement ESD in fisheries will require a partnership between all stakeholders. The proposed workshop is endorsed by SCFA. It is consistent with the workplan developed by the Research Subcommittee. It is the first step to ensuring all participants are aware of all the issues, speak the same language and take ownership of the process. THE WORKSHOP WILL IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES AND PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN ADDRESSING THESE PRIORITIES.

The workshop will replace an FRDC-sponsored workshop which was scheduled to be held during 1999. It will be held in conjunction with the International Seafood Fair to be held in Geelong in March 2000. Funds are required to ensure participation of at least 2 representatives from peak bodies (commercial and recreational fisheries, aquaculture conservation) from each jurisdiction and for costs of publishing workshop proceedings.

## Need

The Research Subcommittee of the Standing Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture (SCFA) has been developing a national approach to the implementation of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) in fisheries. Recently, Environment Australia (EA) has proposed changes to Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act in which the general exemption of commercial fish species from Schedule 4 be removed. It will be a requirement that 'species are taken in a manner that is demonstrably ecologically sustainable' before being given an exemption from the Act. EA has developed a draft set of criteria for assessing sustainability of commercial fisheries. SCFA has formed a Sustainability indicators Working Group to coordinate a national response. The Research Subcommittee presented a workplan for developing sustainability indicators to this Group on October 15. This was endorsed by SCFA on 26 October 1999.

These national initiatives should also be seen within the context of international developments such as FAO's 'Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries' and Guidelines for Developing Indicators for Sustainable Development for Wild Capture Fisheries', the Marine Stewardship Council;s (MSC) 'Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing' and ISO 14000. A number of Australian fisheries have expressed interest in obtaining MSC accreditation.

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## THE BASIS FOR AN ACTION PLAN ADDRESSING THESE PRIORITIES.

The workshop will replace an FRDC-sponsored workshop which was scheduled to be held during 1999. It will be held in conjunction with the International Seafood Fair to be held at Geelong in March 2000.

### Objectives

1. To hold a workshop to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the issues and processes surrounding ESD and fisheries.
2. To identify SCFA, industry and other stakeholder priorities.
3. To provide the basis for an action plan for addressing stakeholder priorities.

### Methods

The workshop will be held on the 24-25 March 2000 in conjunction with the International Seafood Fair to be held in Geelong. A STEERING COMMITTEE, COMPRISING THE PRINCIPAL AND COINVESTIGATORS AND PETER DUNDAS-SMITH (FRDC) WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PLAN THE WORKSHOP.

It is proposed that two representatives from peak bodies covering commercial, recreational, aquaculture and conservation interests from each jurisdiction will be supported to attend. SCFA will support attendance by resource managers and scientists. Other participants will be welcome but will have to meet their own costs. It is anticipated the workshop will attract 70-100 delegates.

A SELECTED, SMALL GROUP, WILL MEET THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO SYNTHESISE WORKSHOP OUTCOMES TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN ACTIONS/STRATEGIC PLAN.

### Results/Discussion

### Benefits

### Further Development

### Planned Outcomes

### Conclusion



## **References**

### **Appendix 1: Intellectual Property**

### **Appendix 2: Staff**

### **Appendix 3: Workshop Programme**

Wednesday 22 March 2000

Registration, All Seasons Ambassador Hotel

Welcome Cocktail Party, All Seasons Ambassador Hotel

#### **Day One Thursday 23 March – Blakiston Theatre, Geelong Performing Arts Centre**

Registration

Opening and Welcome Addresses

*Richard Rawson, Acting Secretary, Department of Natural Resources and Environment*

*Ross Hodge Executive Director Seafood Industry Victoria*

*Peter Dundas-Smith, Executive Director FRDC*

#### **Session One: *What is ESD and its role in Fisheries?* Chair: David Smith**

Introduction to the Concepts of ESD. *Tor Hundloe*

International Context. *Derek Staples*

National Context. *Geoff Gorrie*

#### **Session Two: *Why ESD and Fisheries?* Chair: Ross Hodge**

Environment Australia Perspective. *Conall O'Connell*

Commercial Fisheries Perspective. *Nigel Scullion*

Recreational Fisheries Perspective. *John Harrison*

Indigenous Perspective. *Lindon Coombes*

Aquaculture perspective. *Martin Breen*

Standing Committee Fisheries & Aquaculture Perspective. *Richard McLoughlin*

Conservation Perspective. *Margi Prideaux*

Social Perspective. *Melanie Fisher*

#### **Session Three: *How do we implement ESD in Fisheries?* Chair: Tom Davies**

A Review of ESD Indicators used in Australian Fisheries Management. *Keith Sainsbury*

A framework for assessing ESD. *Jean Chesson*

The Marine Stewardship Council. *Katherine Short*

The Coorong and Lakes Fishery. *Bryan Pierce and Gary Hera-Singh*

Is there a role for Marine Protected Areas. *Colin Buxton*

Developing and testing robust indicators. *Tony Smith*

Seaqual Australia. *Jayne Gallagher*

#### **Close of Day One**

Dinner Le Parisien- Speaker *Russell Reichelt*

**Day Two Friday 24 March – Blakiston Theatre**

Chair Amanda Martin

ESD and the GBRMPA. *John Tanzer*

**Session Four: *When will ESD be implemented in all Australian Fisheries?***

Chair: Amanda Martin

Implementation of ESD from an EA perspective. *David Kay*

Implementation of ESD from SCFA perspective. *Rick Fletcher*

Implementation of ESD from a Industry perspective. *Ted Loveday*

Implementation from an AFMA perspective. *Frank Meere*

Implementation of ESD from a lobby group perspective. *Duncan Leadbitter*

**Session Five: *Where to Now?*** Chair: Peter Dundas-Smith

Summarising Comments. *Russell Reichelt*

**Panel Session**

*Panellists include: Peter Yuile, Tor Hundloe, Nigel Scullion, Conall O'Connell, Margaret Moore, Peter Rankin, Keith Sainsbury, Pat Washington*

Each panellist will summarise for 5 minutes key issues. actions and time lines. This will be an interactive session with questions and comment from delegates

Closing of Workshop. *Richard McLoughlin*

**Associated Activities**

Seafood Sensations, – Courtyard, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus

International Seafood Fair – Steampacket Gardens, Waterfront Geelong

Launch of National Seafood Training Package

Hon Warren Truss, Minister for Fisheries and Agriculture

Fishermen's Pier Restaurant Waterfront, Geelong

International Seafood Fair - Steampacket Gardens, Waterfront Geelong

## Appendix 4: List of Participants

Richard Aken	Cape York Land Council - QLD
Bill Allen	Victorian Eel Fishermen's Association
Fiona Anderson	Seafood Services Australia - QLD
John H Annala	Ministry of Fisheries - New Zealand
Pascale Baelde	University of Canberra - ACT
Kaz Bartaska	Fisheries Co-Management Council - VIC
Doug Bathgate	WA Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee
Rachael Bathgate	Victorian National Parks Association
Christian Bell	Marine and Coastal Community Network - TAS
Simon Bennison	Fisheries Research & Development Corporation - ACT
Arno Blank	Victorian Ocean Scallop Association
Craig Bohm	Marine and Coastal Community Network - NSW
Carol Booth	North Queensland Conservation Council
Chris Boyton	Aquaculture Enterprises Pty Ltd - NSW
Martin Breen	Australian Prawn Farmer's Association - QLD
Margaret Brett	Fisheries Victoria, Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Steven Brockwell	Orion Fishing - VIC
Peter Brodbeck	NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing
James Baudinet Brook	Conservation Council of SA Inc
Deborah Brown	ABARE - ACT
Jon Bryan	Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Michael John Buckley	Pearl Producers Association Inc - WA
Don Buckmaster	Victorian Abalone Divers Association
Colin Buxton	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute
Karen Campbell	Department of Natural Resources & Environment - VIC
Tony Cappelluti	Ministers Office - Primary Industry; Fisheries - WA
Barry Cason	Clarence River Fishermen's Cooperative - NSW
David Chaffey	Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council
Jean Chesson	Bureau of Rural Sciences - ACT
Jane Clout	QLD Oyster Growers/Aquaculture Council of QLD
Robert Coffey	Western Zone Abalone Divers Association - VIC
John Cole	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council
Keith Collins	VRFish - VIC

Andrew John Constable	Australian Antarctic Division - TAS
Lindon Coombes	Department of Aboriginal Affairs - NSW
Ian Crisp	Oyster Farmers Association of NSW
Rod Crowther	Fisheries Co-Management Council - VIC
Fiona Curley	Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Association
Richard Davidson	Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Cooperative - VIC
Campbell Davies	CRC Reef, James Cook University - QLD
Tom Davies	Fisheries Co-Management Council - VIC
Ross Davis	Abalone Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd - VIC
Peter Dawson	New Zealand Seafood Industry Council
Trevor Dix	Tassal Limited - TAS
Murray Donaldson	Fisheries Victoria, Department of Natural Resources & Environment
John Doohan	Sunfish Qld Inc
Jennifer Doust	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia - ACT
Michael John Drynan	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia - ACT
Peter Dundas-Smith	Fisheries Research & Development Corporation - ACT
James Nicholas Dunlop	Australian Marine Conservation Society - WA
Kathy Dunn	Australian Fisheries Management Authority - ACT
Collin Dyke	Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
Martin Eadie	New Zealand Seafood Industry Training Organisation
Steve Eays	Australian Maritime College - TAS
Brian Elderidge	Tasmanian Marine Recreational Fishing Council
Melanie Fisher	Bureau of Rural Sciences - ACT
Mark Flanagan	Environment Australia - ACT
Rick Fletcher	NSW Fisheries
Neville Fowler	Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Benalla - VIC
Jayne Maria Gallagher	SeaQual Australia - QLD
John Garnham	Fisheries Victoria, Department of Natural Resources & Environment
Colin Frank Gibbs	Colin Gibbs and Associates - VIC
Alistair Gilmour	Macquarie University - NSW
Geoff Gooley	Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute - VIC
Geoff Gorrie	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia - ACT

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Michelle Grady	Conservation Council of SA Inc
Leanne Gunthrope	Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute - VIC
Graeme Hanel	Department of Natural Resources & Environment - VIC
Ray Harkins	Fisheries Co-Management Council - VIC
John Harrison	Amateur Fishermen's Association NT
Michael Harte	New Zealand Seafood Industry Council
Brian Hemming	Primary Industries and Resources South Australia Fisheries
Garry Hera-Singh	Southern Fishermen's Association - SA
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Graeme Hillyard	NSW Fisheries
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Diane James	Victorian Coastal Council
Peter Johnston	Victorian Abalone Divers Association
Robert Jolly	Department of Natural Resources and Environment - VIC
Hans Jusseit	East Coast Tuna Boat Owner's Association - QLD
David Kay	Environment Australia - ACT
Ilse Kiessling	World Wide Fund for Nature - NT
Ian Knuckey	Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute - VIC
Rosemary Lea	Queensland Fisheries Management Authority
Duncan Leadbitter	Ocean Watch Australia Ltd - NSW
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John Nicholls	Fisheries Western Australia
Conall O'Connell	Environment Australia - ACT
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Bill Risk	Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation - NT
Chris Roberts	Balkanu, Cape York Development Corporation - QLD
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Alex Schaap	Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment - TAS
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Carol Scott	SeaNet - VIC
Nigel Scullion	Australian Seafood Industry Council- NT
John Sealey	Seafood Industry Victoria Inc
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Katherine Short	World Wide Fund for Nature - NSW
Martin Anthony Smallridge	Seafood Council (SA) Ltd
Anthony DM Smith	CSIRO Marine Research - TAS
Tim Smith	Bureau of Rural Sciences - ACT
Iain Smith	Northern Territory Seafood Council
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Derek Staples	Bureau of Rural Sciences - ACT
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Judith Stove	WA Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee
David Sutton	Conservation Council of WA



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Louis Vorstermans	Victorian Aquaculture Council
Mark Douglas Wakeham	Environment Centre NT
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Patrick J Washington OAM	VRFish - VIC
Helen Webb	CSIRO - TAS
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