



**29th Symposium on Sea Turtle
Biology and Conservation**
17-19th February 2009 Brisbane, Australia



Dissemination of FRDC marine turtle research at the 2009 International Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology through hosting of a sponsor stand

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Australian Government

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OBJECTIVE:

1. Disseminate Australian research results focusing on sea turtle interactions by commercial fishing at the 29th International Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology, Brisbane February 2009.

Non-Technical Summary

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED TO DATE:

Attendees to the Symposium have a better understanding of the steps taken by Australian funding bodies, researchers, fishers and managers to address marine turtle issues within the commercial fishing industry.

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation booth was both informative and interesting for the 850 delegates attending the 29th International Symposium on Conservation and Biology.

During the first day of the symposium many delegates visited the FRDC booth and as word spread on how interesting it was numbers visiting the booth increased up until the end of the symposium.

Attractions were posters, live demos, ongoing film playing, sample bags, handouts, sales and a prize draw. Including:

- Posters – supplied by CSIRO, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, and Bureau of Rural Sciences on Australian research projects;
- Handouts – CSIRO reprints and FRDC literature
- Demos on the use of dehookers and line cutters

- Ongoing playing of 'One in a Thousand' film
- Sample bags (donated by Samiesgirl Seafood Markets) containing the handouts and also turtle lollies, a Seafood Cookbook, a childrens storybook 'Angels do Swim' and a fun keyring
- Approximately 50 'One in a Thousand' Marine Turtle Education Kits were sold
- Approximately 80 t-shirts and caps (left over from FRDC turtle research) were distributed.

The FRDC booth at the Symposium was very well received. Posters displaying various research projects (including from BRS, FRDC and Qld DPI) were on display. We continuously played the 'One in a Thousand' film to maintain interest and sold around 50 copies of the Education Kit. Most of the FRDC publications and CSIRO reprints were taken by participants and we distributed T-shirts left over from the Longline Turtle Project. Demonstrations of the use of dehookers and line cutters were also conducted. One glitch was that AFMA Observer, Steve Hall, was unable to attend. Steve was sent to sea and told his priority was to work so he asked AFMA to find a replacement as tickets had been purchased and motel room booked etc. AFMA failed to notify me and organised for another staff member to attend to represent AFMA and paid again.

KEYWORDS: Marine (sea) turtles, bycatch mitigation



MEDIA RELEASE 17 July 2008

EXPERTS HEAD TO BRISBANE TO TALK TURTLE

Sea turtle experts from around the world will converge on Brisbane in early 2009 for the 29th International Symposium on Sea Turtle Conservation and Biology.

Australia's world-renowned turtle researcher Dr Colin Limpus is the International Sea Turtle Society's current President-elect, and host of the 2009 symposium.

"Sea turtles are threatened by climate change, environmental degradation, and human activities throughout much of the world" says Dr Limpus, "Understanding and effectively managing and protecting their populations is critical to the long term survival of these magnificent creatures".

The symposium will explore themes such as building communication and networking at local, regional and global scales. It aims to create linkages between communities and to connect managers and policy-makers at all levels with the latest information coming out of sea turtle research and conservation programs.

Australia has some of the largest populations of sea turtles in the world and a long history of concern for them.

"This will be the first time in almost 30 years that the symposium has been held in Australia" says Dr Limpus, "The international sea turtle community has been hearing about Australian sea turtles for decades. Finally we have the chance to showcase our work in a location where delegates can visit our turtles, and their habitats, for themselves."

"The 29th symposium is an exciting opportunity for both Australian and international delegates - a coming together of researchers managers and communities in a wonderful city, in a beautiful country".