

# **FISH HABITAT WORKSHOP – PHASE TWO**

**SHEARWATER CONSULTING PTY LTD**

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**FISH HABITAT WORKSHOP**  
**2012/029.20**

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In submitting this report, the researcher has agreed to FRDC publishing this material in its edited form.

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# Acknowledgments

We thank Qld Fisheries, James Cook University, Sunfish, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and Local Council Representatives, for attending the workshop and contributing to discussions.

# Executive Summary

The Workshop (2012/029: Coastal fish habitat workshop) was held in Townsville in February 2012 in response to FRDC advice on project 2012/037 The life-cycle habitat requirements of coastal fisheries species; identifying key knowledge gaps and research needs. The workshop aimed to produce a FRDC application that addresses QFRAB priority "Quantify the value of Fisheries Habitat to document ongoing economic contributions of fish habitats supporting fisheries production and catches by all fisheries sectors; to incorporate these values within impact and offset assessments for development proposals. It aimed to produce a new application that would fully address the QFRAB priority on Fisheries Habitat across the commercial, recreational and indigenous sectors.

FRDC subsequently recommended that a literature survey and a business case be developed and presented to a further workshop organised by the Qld FRAB (2012/029.20: Fish Habitat Workshop - phase two).

The Literature survey and business case were to be presented to the workshop participants with a view to deciding if an amended project application could be developed based on the outcomes of these two presentations.

A further Workshop (2012/29.20) was convened in Townsville on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The participants were the same as attended 2012/029. The Literature survey prepared by Marcus Sheaves and the Business case prepared by Peter Wulf were presented to the Workshop.

A Facilitator presented the findings of the two papers and workshop participants discussed and analysed the various recommendations contained in the reports.

A small group was charged with preparing a new application to be presented to FRDC for further approval.

This application (MS031) and was tendered to QFRAB and FRDC for further approval.

It was further developed as 2013/046: Life history specific habitat utilisation of tropical fisheries species.

# Introduction

The Townsville Workshop (2012/029: Coastal fish habitat workshop) in 2012 recommended that a literature survey and a business case should be developed and presented to a further workshop organised by the Qld FRAB.

Stakeholders from Qld Fisheries, James Cook University, Sunfish, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Local Council Representatives were in attendance.

Attachment 1 shows attendees.

# Objectives

1. Confirm the literature survey addresses the requirements specified in FRDC 2012/037
2. Achieve a Business Model that allows for stakeholders to invest in further research developments
3. Compile a further FRDC project application to develop scenarios envisaged in the original FRDC application 2012/037.

# Methods and Results

1. Confirm the literature survey addresses the requirements specified in FRDC 2012/037
2. Achieve a Business Model that allows for stakeholders to invest in further research developments
3. Compile a further FRDC project application to develop scenarios envisaged in the original FRDC application 2012/037.

A literature survey and business case were presented to the workshop participants in Townsville on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, as a basis for deciding if an amended project application could be developed based on the outcomes of these two presentations. The participants were the same as attended workshop 2012/029 and the Literature survey was prepared by Marcus Sheaves and the Business case prepared by Peter Wulf. Both these were presented to the Workshop.

A Facilitator presented the findings of the two papers and workshop participants discussed and analysed the various recommendations contained in the reports. A small group was charged with preparing a new application to be presented to FRDC for further approval. The objectives of the new application were to:

- a) Produce detailed models of the life history stage-specific habitat utilisation of key species;
- b) As part of the process of developing that understanding, to normalise and consolidate fisher knowledge;
- c) Estimate the relative contributions of different juvenile habitats to adult populations;
- d) Quantify the key resources provided by critical habitats over life histories;
- e) Development of achievable measures of fisheries benefits of habitat repair and revitalisation actions, and
- f) Develop appropriate information outputs.

Proposed project performance indicators included: (i) a detailed matrix of habitat use X life-history stage for key fisheries species (underpinned by technical reports), (ii) a technical report and draft science paper providing the best possible estimates of contributions of key juvenile habitats to adult stocks, (iii) a technical report and draft science paper defining key resources provided by critical habitats over life histories, (iv) a technical report and draft science paper integrating the outputs of objectives a-d to provide achievable estimates of the benefit of repair and revitalisation actions, (v) acceptance of the habitat matrix and technical reports detailed above by key end-users.

The application was developed and became known as MS031, and was tendered to QFRAB and FRDC for further approval. MS031 was accepted by FRDC (2013/046: Life history specific habitat utilisation of tropical fisheries species (Principal Investigator Marcus Sheaves)).



## **Extension and Adoption**

The Workshop produced a project application for submission to the QLD FRAB.

# APPENDIX 1:

## **HABITAT WORKSHOP TOWNSVILLE – 30 APRIL 2013: ATTENDEES**

Crispian Ashby	FRDC
James Fogarty	QFRAB
Marcus Sheaves	JCU
Tom Roberts	QFRAB
Colin Simpfendorfer	JCU
Mark Reed	GBRMPA
Randall Owens	GBRMPA
Peter Wulf	NQ Ports
Barry Pollock	SUNFISH
Colin Creighton	FRDC
Rebecca Shepard	DAFF
Nikki Moore	DAFF
Katya Abrantes	JCU
Renae Tobin	JCU
Nathan Ryan	Fisher
Lowri Pryce	Oceanwatch