

WAMSI NODE 4 MILESTONE PROGRESS REPORT (MPR)

Project Details

Project No. and Title	4.2. Assessment of marine communities and the impact of anthropogenic influences.
Node Leader	Rick Fletcher
Project Leader	Euan Harvey
SubProject No. and Title	4.2.1a Bioregional assessments
Project Start Date	1/1/08
Project End Date	31/12/10
Due Date for this Milestone	30/6/09
Milestone Description	Complete 3 rd and 4 th sampling trips to Peel Harvey Estuary and 2 nd trip to Leschenault Estuary. Report on completed sampling trips.

1. Executive Summary

The fish fauna at 20 sites throughout Peel-Harvey Estuary and 16 sites throughout the Leschenault Estuary have been sampled in each of the first four seasons (winter 2008 – autumn 2009). Sampling was undertaken using a 102.5 seine net and a 21.5m seine net in the Peel-Harvey Estuary and a 40.5 m seine net and a 21.5m seine net in the Leschenault Estuary. The dimensions and mesh sizes of the seine nets were chosen so that they were the same as those used in earlier studies and will thus enable comparisons to be made between the characteristics of the current fish faunas and those of previous decades. All samples have been processed and the resultant data placed on computer and subjected to preliminary analyses. It is too early to make definitive statements regarding the implications of the results.