

## 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	4.2.2a Indicator regions
Project Start Date	1/1/08
Project End Date	30/6/11
Due Date for this Milestone	30/6/08
Milestone Description	Appoint 2 x postdoctoral researchers and Senior Research Scientist. Steering Committee established. Steering Committee confirm indicator regions. Synthesis of historical and existing data completed. Potential indicators identified for habitat/sessile benthos (SB). Sampling plan for habitats/SB indicators developed.

### 1. Executive Summary

#### **Appoint 2 x postdoctoral researchers (UWA) and Snr Research Scientist.**

Ben Radford and Tim Langlois were appointed as research fellows and with Jessica Meeuwig as the senior research scientist in July of 2008.

#### **Steering Committee established.**

A steering committee consisting of three senior Department of Fisheries research staff has been convened by the node leader. The steering committee consists of Drs. Brett Molony, Daniel Gaughan and Lynda Bellchambers. This was confirmed in writing by Dr. Rick Fletcher on the 15/3/2009.

#### **Steering Committee confirm indicator regions.**

The trial sites for indicators were discussed and identified in consultation with staff from the Department of Fisheries. The indicator regions were confirmed as the Abrolhos Islands, Rottneest Island, and the Cape Naturaliste region in writing by Dr. Rick Fletcher on the 15/3/2009.

#### **Synthesis of historical and existing data completed.**

A collation and synthesis of existing data sets for selected WAMSI sites has been completed. An excel spreadsheet is presented as Attachment 2. A cover letter (Attachment 1) outlines the criteria for data included in the synthesis.

#### **Potential indicators identified for habitat / sessile benthos (SB).**

A review has been completed that presents the utility of benthic habitats as EBFM indicators (Attachment 3). This document also reviews potential indicators for finfish which is due in the December 2008 milestone report.

The major issue with using habitats in monitoring programs is the cost and the issue of spatial and modelling error. These are presented as three short case studies in the review. The review is presented as attachment 4.

**Sampling plan for habitats / SB indicators developed**

Sampling strategies are presented in the review (attachment 3) and outlined in the research activity section below. The plans are presently being developed furthering collaboration with staff from the Department of Fisheries WA and are outlined in more detail in later milestones.