

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.
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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	30/12/08
Milestone Description	Review of potential indicators identified for finfish Initial habitat monitoring program implemented

1. Executive Summary

Review of finfish indicators

- International and national studies of indicators of the response of finfish populations and assemblages to pressures, including climate change and fishing, have been reviewed.
- The role of operational objectives for the selection of indicators for finfish populations and assemblage structure has been discussed.
- Experimental frameworks have been described that will help direct the monitoring of indicators, investigation of the response of indicators to pressures, and provide feedback on management decisions designed to achieve particular objectives for ecosystem state.

Initial implementation of habitat monitoring

- Initial broad scale habitat monitoring has been conducted at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.
- A subsequent power analysis of data obtained with the drop camera system suggested that acceptable power to detect change in the cover of key benthic habitat types could be achieved with moderate sampling effort.