

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	4.2.2b Metro fish indicators.
Project Start Date	1/1/08
Project End Date	30/6/11
Due Date for this Milestone	30/6/08
Milestone Description	Identification of focus areas in metro region.

1. Executive Summary

It is proposed to collect vital baseline information on the demersal fish assemblages within the Metropolitan area using baited-video stations. A sampling will be developed using the knowledge of experienced commercial fishers and researches from the Department of Fisheries.

Recent changes to legislation, banning commercial wetline fishing in the Metropolitan area, have provided an important natural laboratory with which to assess the impacts of fishing on the assemblage of demersal fish. The use of stereo-baited remote underwater video (stereo BRUV) systems to samples these areas, provides a multispecies measure of the state of the fish community, including length measurements of the fish observed. This data will form an important baseline with which to asses any changes in the community and to investigate whether they are due to changes in fishing pressure or other impacts, such as climate change