

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	30/6/09
Milestone Description	Completion of video analysis.

1. Executive Summary

Baseline information on the demersal fish assemblages within the Metropolitan area was collected using baited stereo-video stations. The sampling was directed using the knowledge of experienced fishermen, and researches from the Department of Fisheries and UWA.

Recent changes to legislation, banning commercial wet line 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 sample 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 assess any changes in the community and to investigate whether they are due to changes in fishing pressure or other impacts, such as climate change.

This project has provided a valuable chance to interact with commercial and experienced fishermen and build capacity within the Department of Fisheries and UWA to conduct such surveys. The analysis of the video images has been completed and the data is currently being compared with similar data sets collected along the coast of Western Australia.