

WAMSI NODE 4 MILESTONE PROGRESS REPORT (MPR)

Project Details

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| Project No. and Title | 4.5 Socio-economic implications of EBFM |
| Node Leader | Rick Fletcher |
| Project Leader | Malcolm Tull |
| SubProject No. and Title | 4.5.2 Modelling |
| Project Start Date | 1/10/07 |
| Project End Date | 30/6/11 |
| Due Date for this Milestone | 30/9/09 |
| Milestone Description | Field work ongoing |
| Milestone \$ | \$80,870 (UWA) |

Project Objectives

1. Executive Summary

1. Draft Report for 4.5.2 on the mathematical model is being developed and the use of field study data is being prepared and the model with indicative results was presented in a seminar at DoF on February 12. The seminar presented the theoretical model and results for a catch rate analysis that allow estimates of response elasticity for the number of trips in response to an improvement in catch rate. Model estimates were based on previous FRDC funded fisher surveys for West Coast Demersal fishery.
2. Development of Recreational Fisher Behaviour Survey (telephone questionnaire) and Social and Economic Impact Assessment Survey (online and mail), Commercial Boat Owners plus Charter Boat owners and Clients surveys are nearing completion. The telephone survey has been implemented with data collection finished as of first week of May 2010. There are >500 responses and these data will be analysed to determine (a) changes in basic fishing behaviour compared to the base data from the original FRDC surveys (b) fisher response to the recent changes in the management regime for the West Coast demersal fishery.
3. A TRF application was lodged in October 2009 for funds to carry out field survey work considered extremely helpful to the progress of the project. This FRDC project has been approved and work has commenced on designing surveys to be undertaken in late 2010. The analysis of the April/May survey will be completed by mid 2010 and results will be the basis for putting the TRF funded survey into the field.
4. Development of a model to integrate results from the recreational fisher surveys into a model that integrates commercial fisher behaviour, recreational fisher behaviour and matches the two with the sustainable biomass has been completed.

The research to date will lead to :

1. Improved understanding of the behavioural responses of recreational fishers which is an important input to the development and management of the fishery at the sub-regional level within the West Coast Bioregion over the long-term under different scenarios of economic and demographic growth, resource exploitation regimes, and stock recovery.

2. Enhanced understanding of the social, economic and environmental values of a fishery that informs the management process, assists with resource allocation decisions, and enables long-term monitoring programs of socio-economic values. This facilitates the incorporation of socio-economics into the EBFM framework. Most important, completion of the models and survey research will inform development of optimal management regimes.