

Progress Report STP 2016-006 (FY 2015-2016)

**The impacts of suspended sediment on fish
assemblage structure in northwest Australia**

Marine Science

Project Core Team

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Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
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The impacts of suspended sediment on fish assemblage structure in northwest Australia

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Progress Report

Anthropogenic impacts are dramatically increasing the amount of sediment in coastal waters. The detrimental impact of sediment loading on coral reefs is well known, yet the impacts on fish are poorly understood. The Mackerel Islands off Onslow in Western Australia's Pilbara region provide an opportunity to assess the impact of varying levels of suspended sediment on fish communities in the natural environment. This study aims to examine the impact of different levels of turbidity and light attenuation on the fish community assemblage, including various feeding guilds.

During 2015/16, the project proposal was finalised and fieldwork undertaken to collect benthic and fish data. Analyses of these data is now underway.