

Concept Plan SP 2013-006

The influence of macroalgal fields on coral reef fish

Marine Science

Project Core Team

Supervising Scientist	Shaun Wilson
Data Custodian	
Site Custodian	

Project status as of Nov. 4, 2020, 9:14 a.m.

Approved and active

Document endorsements and approvals as of Nov. 4, 2020, 9:14 a.m.

Project Team	granted
Program Leader	granted
Directorate	granted

The influence of macroalgal fields on coral reef fish

Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program

Marine Science

Departmental Service

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Communities

Aims

Expected outcome

The project will improve understanding of how natural processes, influence the distribution and abundance of macroalgae. The project will also identify aspects of macroalgal meadows that promote diversity and productivity of ecologically and commercially important species.

Strategic context

Corporate Plan: The objectives of the project align with the vision, mission and responsibilities of DEC outlined in the DEC Corporate Plan (2007 -2009). The project also partly addresses the following Strategies outlined in the Corporate Plan (2007-2009):

Strategy 1.5 Incorporate consideration of climate change impacts upon biodiversity conservation in all planning and introduce adaptive management where feasible.

Strategy 1.6 Ensure that all use of native plants and animals is sustainable

Strategy 8.4 Develop and maintain close working partnerships between the department's scientists and operational groups, and with external research organisations.

Science Division Strategic Plan for Biodiversity Conservation Research: the project specifically addresses the following goals and strategies:

G1. Understand the composition of, and patterning in, terrestrial and marine biodiversity

G2. Understand the threats to biodiversity and develop evidence-based actions to ameliorate threats

G6. Monitor and evaluate the condition and trends of species, populations and communities in terrestrial and marine ecosystems

S3. Expand research capability by building strategic partnerships

Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area Management Plan:

The following strategies outlined in the above management plan are addressed within the context of this project:

- Undertake research to better characterise the diversity, distribution and abundance of seagrass and macroalgal communities within the reserves (CALM, DoF) (H).
- Educate users of the important ecological role of seagrass and macroalgal communities and the potential impacts of human activities, particularly vessel mooring, and nutrient and pollution inputs on these communities (CALM) (M).
- Undertake research to support the development of management targets for commercially and recreationally targeted finfish species (DoF, CALM) (H-KMS)

Expected collaborations

Martial Depczynski AIMS (0.1 FTE), Ben Radford AIMS (0.1 FTE), Thomas Wernberg UWA (0.1 FTE), Christopher Fulton ANU (0.1 FTE)

Proposed period of the project

June 12, 2013 – None

Staff time allocation

Role	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientist			
Technical			
Volunteer			
Collaborator			

Indicative operating budget

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Consolidated Funds (DPaW)			
External Funding			