

Estimates Committee 2005
Questions Taken On Notice

(23/06/2005 to 01/10/2005)

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Subject: Fisheries - Research Projects

From: Ms Fay MILLER to Honourable Kon VATSKALIS
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

Question: 8-7
What are the current research projects being carried out for fisheries and what is the cost of each of these projects?

Answer:
Answered On: 04/08/2005
Answer: Current research projects underway for fisheries focus on aquaculture, aquatic resource management and aquatic resource research.

AQUACULTURE	\$21 500
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Research project, <i>Commercialisation of mud crab aquaculture</i> . The project has developed hatchery techniques for economic commercial-scale production of juvenile mud crabs. Current grow-out trials include pond and mangrove enclosure experiments. This work will have both commercial and indigenous community applications.	1 500
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>Development of a Pearl Oyster Anatomical and Histological Atlas</i> . This atlas provides support to the pearl industry, providing a basis for disease control and recognition.	13 000
DBIRD, CDU and Farm Biz-sponsored <i>Workshop on recirculating water in aquaculture ventures</i> . This project extended to stakeholders approaches to minimise water use and mitigate disease and effluent problems.	7 000
AQUATIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	13 000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation –funded research project, <i>Workshop on future management options for the offshore demersal tropical snappers</i> . A project designed to bring stakeholders, managers and scientists together to examine ways to derive future optimum benefit from the off shore snapper resources	13 000
AQUATIC RESOURCE RESEARCH	424 500
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>Assessment of the implications of target fishing on jewfish aggregations</i> . This aims to characterise the aggregations, and so to identify management options.	134 000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>Spatial management of fisheries</i> . This is a partner project to the previous, using sonic tracking to study the movements of jewfish around and between aggregations. NT are partners in this project, led by Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute.	1 000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>Monitoring the abundance and habitat of northern Australian mud crab</i> . This project has characterised and mapped mud crab habitat, and used an innovative depletion and mark-recapture web approach to define local densities. The major report on the project is soon to be released.	28 000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Research project, <i>The stock structure of northern and western Australian Spanish mackerel</i> . This work is to ascertain management	20 000

responsibilities and the appropriate scale of management for these straddling stocks. This NT-led project is a collaboration between NT, Qld and WA Fisheries agencies, and Univ. Qld.

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>The sustainability of northern Australia sharks and rays (Phase 2)</i> . One of a suite of projects developed to ensure the sustainability of our shark fishery, this project is to identify those species requiring further research and mitigating action.	21 000
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation project, <i>Genetag: a pilot application of genetic mark-recapture to estimate harvest rates in the NT Spanish mackerel fishery</i> . This project has developed a new way of tagging fish – genetically, and with minimal impact on the tagged fish – to provide key information for fishery assessment and management. It has attracted considerable national and international attention, and has generated a small business to manufacture the genetag hooks.	200 000
NT Fishing Industry Research & Development Fund project, <i>Preliminary assessment of grey mackerel caught in the NT Offshore Net and Line Fishery</i> . This highly valued species has had minimal previous research. The project aims to collate existing information, so enabling assessment and development of research and monitoring strategy	15 000
Northern Australia Fisheries Committee project, <i>Consultancy to review management and research options for the northern Australian shark fisheries</i> .	5 500