



An adaptation blueprint for coastal communities

Project Background

Commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, aquaculture, fish processing, as well as transport and other associated industries all depend on the marine environment. These marine dependent sectors contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of communities and impact the way the community operates. The economic health of marine dependent sectors has significant flow-on effects to other parts of the economy which affects the social fabric of the community. Changes in the marine environment, such as those expected from climate change, are likely to significantly

impact small- to medium-sized rural coastal communities with marine-dependent sectors. Consequently, the need for effective adaptation in these coastal communities has been recognised. Developing tools to reduce risks and increase capacity to cope with, and benefit from, change is urgently needed. These tools can't be developed unless we understand the needs, priorities, perceptions, and attitudes of people in the communities. Without such information, the ability to make timely and effective adaptation decisions will be limited.



Project Outline

St. Helens in Tasmania, Geraldton in Western Australia and Bowen in Queensland have been selected to collect information on:

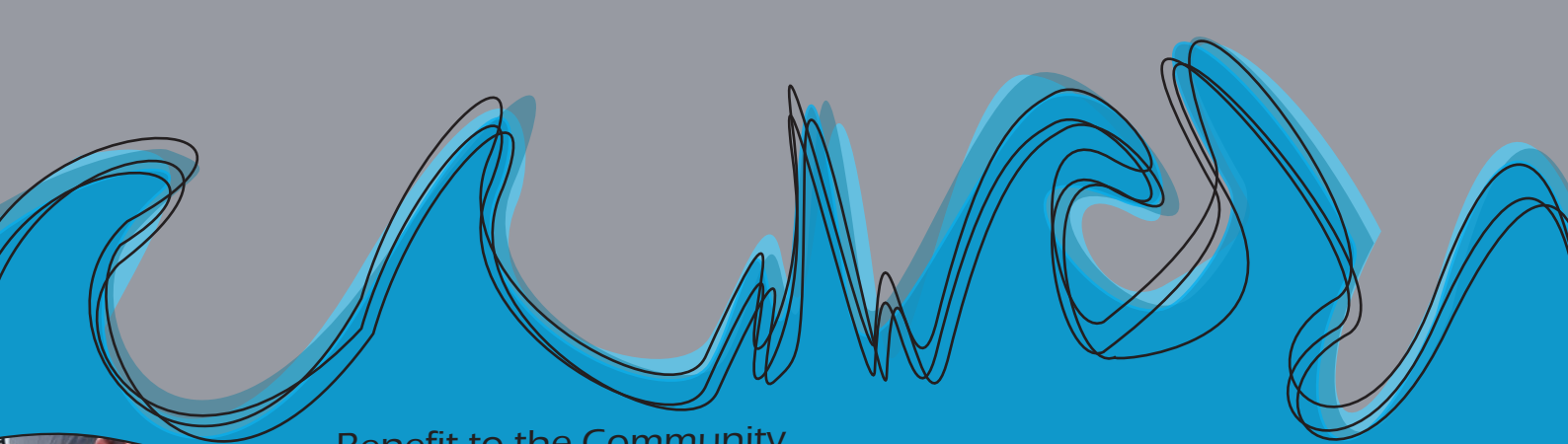
- the role of marine dependent industries in communities;
- the connection of marine dependent industries to other economic activities;
- the role of marine dependent industries in the social fabric of communities; and
- the potential impacts on the community from changes in the utilisation of marine resources due to a changing climate.

Outcomes

From the information collected, the project will develop a 'blueprint' for adaptation plan development in coastal communities at two levels:

1. A detailed assessment – where scientific input is available.
2. A general assessment – where scientific input is not readily available.





Benefit to the Community



The outcomes of the project will assist industries, governing bodies, communities and individuals to make informed decisions to maximise opportunities for the future. The location and case studies (i.e. size of town and types of industries) were chosen to enable our results to also

address the needs and priorities of coastal rural communities throughout Australia. We are spending time in each community to learn about their marine industries. To register your interest or for more information please contact your local OceanWatch representative or the researchers listed below.

More Info

<http://www.oceanclimatechange.org.au>

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/publications/coastline/east-coast-rock-lobster.aspx>

<http://www.redmap.org.au/>

<http://nccarf.edu.au/marine>

http://www.daff.gov.au/fisheries/environment/climate_change_and_fisheries/cc-action-plan-fish-aquaculture

http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/221923/Risk-assessment-report_Part1-Fisheries-and-Aquaculture-Risk-Assessment.pdf

http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/222092/Risk-assessment-report_Part2-Species-profiles-02.pdf

Pearce A, Lenanton R, Jackson G, et al (2011) The "marine heat wave" off Western Australia during the summer of 2010/11. Fisheries Research Report No. 222. Department of Fisheries, Western Australia. 40pp.



Contact

Dr Stewart Frusher, University of Tasmania.

Email: stewart.frusher@utas.edu.au; Ph (03) 6226 1771

Dr Nadine Marshall, CSIRO Townsville.

Email: Nadine.Marshall@csiro.au; Ph (07) 4753 8537

Dr Malcolm Tull, Murdoch University.

Email: M.Tull@murdoch.edu.au; Ph (08) 9360 2397

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The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Plan (NARP) for Marine Biodiversity & Resources identifies research priorities in five sectoral areas: marine aquaculture, commercial & recreational fishing, conservation management, tourism & recreational uses, and cross-cutting issues.

