Indigenous Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Priorities for Fishing and Aquaculture - endorsed at the Cairns Forum 2012 - November 2012

Purpose of Document

These RD&E Priorities were developed by the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) as part of a strategic and planned approach to identifying key RD&E priorities for indigenous participation in fishing and aquaculture in Australia.

The RD&E Priorities were based on 11 Key Principles that were identified at the Cairns Forum 2011\(^1\) held in March 2011. At the forum participants charged the IRG with taking the principles forward and identifying key RD&E priorities.

In November 2012 a second forum was held in Cairns (Cairns Forum 2012\(^2\)) and the following priorities were endorsed by participants as providing sound guidance on indigenous RD&E needs in the fishing and seafood industry.

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<th>Strategic Priorities</th>
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<th>Links to the 11 Principles Developed at the Cairns Forum 2011(^2)</th>
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| Primacy for Indigenous People            | • Explore the means to ensure Australian indigenous fishing cultural assets and associated rights are met, or addressed, within the broader understanding of fishing rights in Australia.  
• Process to determine an indigenous catch and allocation model, e.g.;  
  – examples of relevant allocation models  
  – value of the allocation to various sectors  
  – current status and case studies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ▪ Customary cultural assets and associated rights acknowledged  
▪ Allocation protocols developed  
▪ Economic opportunities developed  
▪ Legislative consistency and recognition mainstreamed  
▪ Ranger connection improved  
▪ Social analysis undertaken  
▪ Traditional Fisheries Management (TFM) incorporated  
▪ Traditional Fishing Knowledge (TFK) incorporated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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\(^1\) Support provided under FRDC Project 2010/401 'Shaping Advice for Indigenous Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E within the National Strategy'

\(^2\) Support provided under FRDC project 2012/405 'Facilitation of FRDC Indigenous Research Coordination Program to progress RD&E outcomes'
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| **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Cultural Practices** | • Identify models to incorporate TFK/TFM into aquatic resource management processes  
• Examine what fishing and non-fishing practices impact on indigenous cultural fishing practices, including identifying key iconic species  
• Explore the means to ensure that Australian Indigenous cultural assets and associated fishing rights are being addressed in the broader understanding of fishing rights in Australia  
• Identify the real understanding of the non-indigenous groups (other fisheries sectors and conservation NGO’s) about indigenous cultural fishing and develop processes/materials to enhance that understanding. | ▪ Cultural fisheries values quantified  
▪ Fishing and non-fishing impacts on indigenous practices quantified  
▪ Fishing restrictions on customary use identified and addressed  
▪ Iconic species role in TFM and TFK acknowledged  
▪ Social indicators of commercial benefits of TFK and TFM developed.  
▪ TFK acknowledged and incorporated into mainstream management  
▪ TFM acknowledged and incorporated into mainstream management |
| **Self determination of indigenous rights to use and manage cultural assets and resources** | • Addressing barriers to full and effective indigenous involvement in mainstream fisheries decision making processes and forums  
• Identifying the cost benefit of effective indigenous consultation and extension  
• Improving the involvement of indigenous people in all levels of aquatic biological resource management. | ▪ Co-management/self-management models in place acknowledging indigenous primacy and TFK/TFM  
▪ Consultation models that meet indigenous peoples’ needs utilised  
▪ Engagement and involvement with indigenous people improved  
▪ Governance models that enhance indigenous involvement developed and utilised  
▪ Processes to enhance indigenous participation in RD&E process in place |
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| Economic development opportunities arising from indigenous peoples cultural assets and associated rights | • Develop and start new commercial initiatives that maintain ongoing indigenous interests and concerns in the fishing and seafood industry  
  • Develop management measures that improves indigenous access to aquatic biological resources for commercial purposes  
  • Explore innovative benefit sharing models from fisheries resource use and access (including employment)  
  • Examine new models to ascertain the total ‘value’ of indigenous participation in fishing  
  • Explore opportunities for branding (labelling) of indigenous caught seafood and fisheries product assessed | ▪ Blockages to indigenous involvement in business around the fishing and seafood industry removed  
  ▪ Commercial fishing governance structures that meet indigenous needs are adopted  
  ▪ Commercial opportunities from indigenous branded fishing and seafood operations developed and supported  
  ▪ Measurable economic outcomes derived from the fishing and seafood industry in place  
  ▪ Social sciences and economic modeling undertaken that ascertains the real value of indigenous participation in the fishing and seafood industry |
| Capacity building opportunities for indigenous people are enhanced                 | • Building capacity of mainstream sectors to effectively engage with indigenous fishing sector and communities  
  • Building general understanding of fishing industry structures and processes  
  • Improving capacity of (and opportunities for) indigenous people to engage in research, fisheries management, compliance and other commercial activity  
  • Research outputs and information are available in appropriate formats and language (extension and adoption) | ▪ Culturally appropriate extension practices are in place that provide indigenous people with a better understanding of the fishing and seafood industry  
  ▪ Fishery management and research agencies have sufficient adequately qualified staff to engage appropriately with indigenous people  
  ▪ Indigenous people have a high level of engagement in a range of activities associated with the fishing and seafood industry across all sectors  
  ▪ Management programs acknowledge and incorporate TFK and TFM |

*Indigenous people have the right to engage in economic activity based on the use of traditional aquatic biological resources and/or the right to share in the benefits derived from the exploitation of aquatic biological resources.*

*Indigenous people have the right to access capacity building activities to further their aspirations in the use and management of aquatic biological resources.*