



News

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New Fisheries Research Centre for JCU

James Cook University has strengthened its commitment to the tropical marine environment with the formation of the Fishing and Fisheries Research Centre.

The new Centre will focus on research that provides information in support of sustainable management of tropical fisheries and marine environments.

Located within JCU's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the new Centre includes six senior research staff, five technical staff and eight post-graduate students.

Researchers are working on projects investigating a wide range of fisheries related topics, including the effects of fishing on coastal and reef fish stocks, the social and economic importance of fisheries, the biology of fish and sharks, and the structuring of fish populations.

The Director of the new Centre, Dr Colin Simpfendorfer said that the skills and experience within the team were diverse.

"They provide the ability for us to focus on a broad range of fisheries issues from the beach to the reef throughout tropical Australia."

The new Centre has evolved from the Fishing and Fisheries Team, which operated within the former CRC Reef Research Centre.

Using the skills and expertise developed over the past 12 years, the new Centre will continue its work on important fisheries issues through research projects funded by the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Science Research Facility, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

"The Fishing and Fisheries Research Centre will build on the group's record of providing high quality research that has direct application to management agencies and fisheries stakeholder groups," Dr Simpfendorfer said.

The work of the Fishing and Fisheries Research Centre will be highlighted at the JCU Townsville Campus Open Day on September 2.

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