



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility Milestone Report, September 2008

Program 4: Marine Species and Communities of Conservation Concern

Project 1.4.2: Sustainable use of marine species of conservation concern

Project Leader: Professor Helene Marsh, James Cook University

Schedule of activities for Year 3 (2008/2009)

Objective (a) – To evaluate the effects of acoustic alarms on behaviour of marine wildlife, with emphasis on coastal dolphins.

Proposed Activity	Dates
Analyse records of humpback dolphins from video and tape record obtained during field work in Moreton Bay.	November 2008
Fieldwork: Data collection in Cleveland Bay.	November 2008 – May 2009
Data analysis from Cleveland Bay fieldwork.	May 2009 – August 2009
Conduct interviews with fishers about options of using hydrophones and acoustic alarms to minimise risk of dolphin by catch.	November 2008 – May 2009
Submit progress report to MTSRF.	June 2009
Analyse data.	June 2009 – August 2009
Present pre-completion PhD seminar.	September 2009
Write up papers and PhD Thesis.	September 2009 – February 2010
Submission of PhD Thesis.	February 2010

Objective (b) – To evaluate the economic factors related to Indigenous hunting and its management (planned change of topic: To evaluate the economic factors related to Indigenous sea country management in Torres Strait).

Proposed Activity	Date
Phase One: Community engagement and confirmation of candidature	
Spatial management workshop and meeting with Torres Strait Research Authority project officers	October 2008
Introduction of the principal investigator and research project to the communities	October 2008
Development of research agreements with communities	November 2008- February 2008
Confirmation of candidature	November 2008
Approval of modification of topic by Torres Strait Operations Committee	December 2008
Phase Two: Data collection	
Focus groups and in depth interviews	March 2009 – June 2010
Commence data analysis	March 2009
Phase Three: Feedback to communities and write up	
At each step of the research process, results will be given back to the communities, discussed and modified accordingly before moving on to the next step. Results and findings will be published in plain English reports to the communities.	From March 2009
Progress report to MTSRF	June 2009
A workshop will be organised between participants and members of the research team to give the results of the PhD at its completion.	August 2010
Pre-completion seminar JCU	August 2010
Write thesis and papers	August 2010 – February 2011
Submit thesis	February 2011

Objective (c) – To explore the potential of spatial closures as a hunting management tool in association with Traditional Owners and agency staff.

Activity	Date
Organise workshops with GBRMPA and communities	February 2009
Hold community workshops	April 2009
Submit progress report to MTSRF	June 2009
Submit final report to MTSRF	August 2009

Plan of communication activities for Year 3 and summary of any liaison

Objective	Activity	Date
a	Presentation to MTSRF Conference	April 2009
	Present to GBRMPA Reef Advisory Committee	April 2009
b	Presentation to Torres Strait Spatial Closures Workshop	October 2008
	Presentation to MTSRF Conference	April 2009
	Presentations to Torres Strait communities	From March 2009