

## Media Release

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### A Call For Recreational Fishers To Help Research

Marine and Tropical Science Facility researchers from James Cook University have caught, tagged and released nearly three thousand reef fish this year in the Keppel Island Group with the assistance of the Keppel Bay and Gladstone Sportfishing Clubs. The majority of fish tagged in 2007 were Longfin Rockcod, but Coral Trout, Stripey Snapper, Red Emperor, Blue Tuskfish and Estuary Cod were all represented in the total catch. Now the researchers need your help.

Fishers that catch a tagged fish are asked to report the catch to help build a picture of fish movement patterns within the area.

The information needed is the tag number, the fish species and length, as well as the date and location of the capture, with GPS readings if possible.

The information can be sent to the key researcher, David Williamson, via freecall 1800 077 001 or on-line at [www.info-fish.net/tagged.asp](http://www.info-fish.net/tagged.asp).

Information collected will be used to help determine the patterns of fish movements within and between the reefs of the Keppel Islands.

This research is conducted with the support of funding from the Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTRSF), which is represented in North Queensland by the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre. A key research area of the MTRSF is building greater understanding of the threats, impacts, and options for mitigation of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef. The connectivity and resilience of fishes on the Great Barrier Reef is a significant factor.

Further information on this research project is available by contacting the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre.

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