



MTSRF Project 1.3.3

Livelihood benefits of adaptive co-management of hand collectable fisheries in the Torres Strait



Research Trip #1

25th Jan 2008 – 7rd Feb 2008



About this project

Many people in the Torres Strait rely on marine fisheries (e.g. beche de mer, trochus, tropical rock lobster, dugong, turtle) to maintain their livelihoods. These fisheries are currently managed by Government Agencies, which sometimes strains the relationship between management agencies and communities. This project aims to test an adaptive co-management framework approach for trochus and beche-de-mer (i.e. managed by the government and the communities) in two Torres Strait Island communities. The project will test the success of co-management in terms of social, economic, cultural and ecological outcomes for Torres Strait Islanders. This project will help communities develop Harvest Strategy Plans for trochus and beche-de-mer.

What we will do this trip

Of the Torres Strait Island communities that have expressed interest to become involved with this project, Erub and Warraber Islands have been selected initially because of their strong involvement in these fisheries

The purpose of this trip is to:

- Introduce the project to the two communities
- Explain the objectives of the project to the communities
- Introduce Alifereti Tawake to the islander communities
- Discuss traditional fishery knowledge with community members

People Involved



Alifereti Tawake

Alifereti is a researcher with James Cook University. This project is part of Alifereti's PhD and he will be spending a lot of his time working with community members throughout the project.



Vic McGrath

Vic is the Community Liaison Officer with TSRA Land and Sea Management Unit. Vic's role is to help communicate the project activities and to assist Alifereti in the communities.



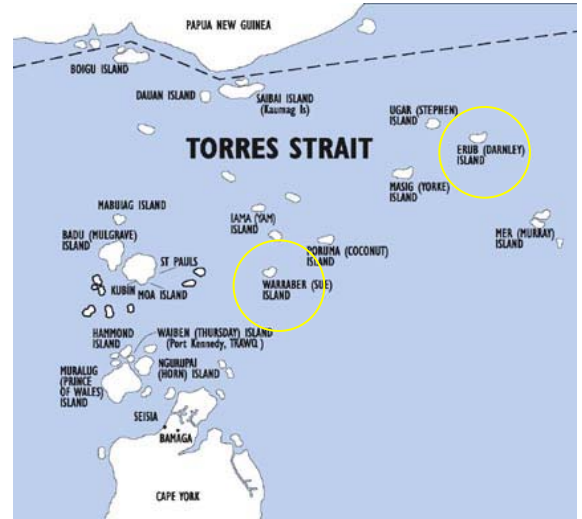
James Butler

James is a researcher with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. James is the overall project leader for this project and is Alifereti's PhD supervisor.



Where this project will be working

In late 2008, through the TSRA board Torres Strait communities were asked if they wanted to become involved in this project. Two communities expressed a keen interest in being involved. These include Erub and Warraber. Some work will also be undertaken on Masig Island. The outcomes from this work will provide a basis for other communities that wish to pursue a co-management approach to fisheries management in the Torres Strait.



What this research will involve in the future

Over the next three years this project is looking to:

- Conduct interviews to understand the traditional and scientific knowledge on the use and status of beche-de-mer and trochus.
- Develop an understanding for how the co-management of beche-de-mer and trochus fisheries may work in the Torres Strait
- Undertake household surveys on the importance of the beche-de-mer and trochus fisheries to their daily lives.
- Help the communities on Erub and Warraber Island to develop local community based harvest strategies for the beche-de-mer and trochus fisheries.

Contact Details

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