

Call for Applications 3 May 2017

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) that address the following priority area nominated by the FRDC's Indigenous Fishing Subprogram and Southern Rocklobster Ltd IPA.

Priority	Indigenous Capacity Building Program
Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to develop the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to engage with and participate in a range of fisheries management, policy and research and development processes. • The current pool of adequately skilled people is insufficient to cover the vast range of groups that require Indigenous expertise and input • Non-indigenous people also need to increase their capacity to work with Indigenous Australians. • There appears to be no existing program that is suitable for Indigenous participants to gain a basic understanding of fisheries management processes and governance structures, and an introduction to leadership skills. There are, however, some existing programs that have elements of what is needed in terms of content, and others that focus on Indigenous capacity building. It is likely that partnerships will be needed to bring together this program, and there is potential for elements of existing programs or materials to be incorporated, adapted or linked.
Planned outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national, culturally appropriate capacity building program for Indigenous Australians, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic fisheries research concepts and practices ○ Current approaches to fisheries management and policy overview ○ Fishery governance structures ○ Understanding of, and capacity to participate in relevant committees and workshops, e.g. Research, Ministerial, Fishery management advisory groups. ○ Providing an introduction to leadership and building leadership knowledge alongside other program components • Primarily - build on the ground capacity for Indigenous people. • Secondly - engage with managers and researchers as part of the program to build their understanding and capacity. • Develop the Program and run a trial for two years (two rounds) for 10 people per year. (Note that an EOI should provide reasonable detail of the program scope and design including components and length of time required annually). • Potential that the Program will be suitable as a lead into existing leadership programs (e.g. Recreational Fishing, National Seafood Industry Leadership Program, and/or Australian Rural Leadership program). • The longer term aim is to build on the trials and possibly run the program biennially.
Jurisdiction	Indigenous Fishing Subprogram - Up to \$200k for development and two years operations which covers participants travel costs

Priority	Development of consistent processes and procedures across all jurisdictions for the recording of by-product and by-catch species information as well as the application of consistent Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) processes for these species.
Need	<p>Southern Rock Lobster Fishery by-catch and by-product data is collected and reported in different ways across jurisdictions. This project would harmonise the process and lead to improvements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooling / collation of data across jurisdictions so that total impacts can be determined for straddling bycatch species. • Combined risk-based assessment across the entire Southern Rock Lobster Fishery. • Identification of special interest species where data collection / reporting needs to be ongoing, possibly including the development of indicators and reference points.
Planned Outcomes	Consistent, efficient reporting of by-catch across all jurisdictions sets the Southern Rock Lobster Fishery up well for future ecological impact reporting, as required for export approval or 3rd party accreditation. It is part of the top-level management that the Southern Rock Lobster Fishery aspires to.
Jurisdictions	Southern Rocklobster Ltd IPA

Priority	Modification of fishery assessment and modelling processes to better take account of changes in population structure, specifically animal size, on catch rate data.
Need	<p>The Southern Rock Lobster Fishery relies on catch information to determine the status of the stock and, therefore, for making management decisions. The ability of catch data to indicate changes in the stock is potentially biased by changes in the size structure of the stock.</p> <p>For example, larger lobsters have different catchability to smaller lobsters and can also affect overall catch rates by keeping smaller lobsters away from bait in traps.</p> <p>Larger lobsters are known to be cannibalistic of smaller lobsters so natural mortality and ecosystem productivity may also change as the size structure of the stock changes.</p> <p>This means that many of the model parameters / assumptions may change as lobster stocks continue rebuilding trajectories.</p>
Planned Outcomes	Reduced risk of bias in stock assessment and thus reduced risk of inappropriate fishery management decisions.
Jurisdictions	Southern Rocklobster Ltd IPA

Priority	Develop a food / tourism industry strategic partnership and alliance strategy through building the link between commercial fishing (regional and metropolitan coastal communities) and tourism, as a vehicle to build positive community perception of industry and expand domestic market opportunity.
Need	<p>Southern Australia is experiencing a tourism boom, particularly with Asian and European tourists. Commercial fishers from many regional and metropolitan areas have identified the strong interest from tourists to buy lobsters (or lobster-derived product) direct from them.</p> <p>In Tasmania, fishers are permitted to sell their catch direct at the wharf or to a retail outlet / restaurant, but individual fishers generally feel the time and effort required to sell direct off the boat was overly onerous. Fishers in South Australia are only permitted to sell their catch to a 'registered processor'.</p> <p>Fishers have to sell live lobsters, but many tourists do not have facilities to prepare and cook the product in their accommodation.</p> <p>There is a need to identify the barriers and opportunities for some collective approach within fishing communities between fishers and the tourism industry / seafood retail sector to help bridge this gap. There is a need to identify what information / partnership / alliance would make it easier for fishers to interact with tourists (and local community members) to both sell product (that tourists can eat) and build positive community perceptions.</p> <p>Further, the Australian Southern Rock Lobster Industry is almost solely reliant on China as its main market, there is a strong need to identify and expand the trade of the product into 'new' domestic and international markets, wherever possible.</p>
Planned Outcomes	<p>Identification of barriers (is it having to buy a whole lobster?) and opportunities that exist in relation to fisher direct sales - to the community and tourists e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to sell off the boat / not sell off the boat. Different jurisdictions have different arrangements (are the requirements simple to address e.g. paperwork easy to complete?)? • Should the product be in alternate forms? Value-added (noting live into China has achieved the highest all-time prices to date) and / or lobster tastings and / or lower priced / smaller protein portions? <p>Determination, and a more in-depth understanding, of market price points to inform any successful expansion of the domestic [tourism] trade.</p> <p>Identification of the key domestic opportunity / opportunities through working with retailers / wholesalers: is it sales from the boat, better use</p>

	<p>of allocated 'take home' Rock Lobster allowances (SA), dedicated outlets, an arrangement similar to that put in place in Western Australia?</p> <p>A map / investigation of tourism partnership opportunities - food and / or experience-based e.g. Great Ocean Road, Eyre Peninsula Seafood Trail, Limestone Coast wine region, Huon Great Eastern Drive, working with caravan / tourism park owners and tourism operators etc.</p> <p>Development of partnerships with private businesses, with relevant tiers of Govt (State / Federal), development agencies e.g. Regional Development Australia, economic development and tourism agencies) all underpinned by the goal of promoting the industry, its practices and the product.</p>
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Applying for funding http://frdc.com.au/research/applying_funding/Pages/default.aspx