

What would you like done to increase the value of your fishing experience or operation?

Grass roots people from the fishing and seafood industry (recreational, commercial and indigenous) need Research Development and Extension (RD&E) to specifically address their business requirements. A trial project undertaken during 2007/08, with the support of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), saw over 35 industry lead project concepts developed, of which 16 were successful, receiving funding of over \$1.3M.

To help improve grass roots RD&E, and to build on the success of the previous trial in a strategic and transparent way, the FRDC has approved a new three year project to gather RD&E ideas from industry people, on a national and regional scale. These ideas will be used to develop projects that address industry needs and help shape future RD&E in the fishing and seafood industry. This process will complement, but not replace, the existing FRDC and other funding processes.

The focus of the RD&E will be on improving 'value' to industry, in its broadest sense, taking into account the varying individuals and sectoral needs, including efficiency, profitability and performance, as well as other characteristics such as social aspects, enjoyment, wellbeing, amenity and cultural needs.

The first stage of the project involves gathering individuals' ideas through a series of regional meetings held around Australia. Industry members are invited to share their thoughts and ideas on how to improve their operations, and those of industry as a whole. These ideas will lead to the development and documentation of national and regional industry-focused RD&E needs. In partnership with industry, projects can then be developed which link these needs to suitable RD&E service providers, utilising a range of potential funding sources.



Workshops have already been held in Darwin and Perth and more are proposed during 2009 for:

Tas	13-14 Oct	Vic	5-6 Nov	Qld	23-25 Nov
NSW	25-27 Nov	SA	7-10 Dec		

These meetings will be hosted in conjunction with your local peak body/association, but if these dates don't suit, please contact us to make alternate arrangements. Further meetings will be held during 2010.

Feel free to pass this on to others who might be interested in turning their ideas into projects that will improve the fishing and seafood industry. Further information can be found at <http://www.fishwell.com.au/Empowering/empoweringindustry.aspx>.

If you would like to be involved on any level, to have your say, or to find out more, please contact Chris Calogeras or Ian Knuckey, see details below.

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