





## APPENDIX B8. PRESENT RESEARCH PLAN

Research Project	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Priority	Actual/ Possible funding source	Comments
<b>General Biology</b>									
Factors affecting recruitment of prawns to estuaries							H		Identify the main nursery areas for prawns. Investigate spawner recruit relationship
Studies on the growth and mortality of school prawns							M	FRDC	Funding has been approved by FRDC but the commencement date has been delayed a year.
Investigations into the effects of riddling upon the survival of prawns							H		Priority # 3 at Small Prawn Summit. Studies were incorporated into the the growth and mortality study that went to FRAC in 2000 but FRAC wanted the riddling component deleted from the proposal. A proposal will be submitted again to FRAC if there is MAC support
Population dynamics of Hawkesbury River Squid Fishery							U	SPIRT	Assessment of the fishery and development of species specific gear. Studies are under way.
<b>Stock Assessment</b>									
Annual analysis of catch and effort statistics							U		Analysis of data on LCATCH dadatabase. This is On-going
Log-book for the EPT							L		Consider implementing a log-book into the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery.
Observer-based surveys to collect information about catches of the EPT							H		A scientifically based observer program. Priority # 1 at the Small Prawn Summit. Develop an optimal sampling strategy for collecting species and size information data on species in the catch of the Ocean Prawn Trawl Fishery. This will be an observer study that will be on-going.
Map the trawl grounds of the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery.							L		Applications so far have been unsuccessful. Industry is being asked to cooperate.
Map environmentally sensitive areas within estuaries of the Estuary Prawn Trawl Fishery							H		
Assessments of target species other than penaeids							H		Samples to be collected as part of observer surveys. Possible application for external funding help fund post-graduate studies.

Estuary Prawn Trawl Research Plan (cont).

<b>Habitat and Ecosystem</b>									
Investigate the effects of square mesh codends upon the species and size composition of catches.								FRDC	Priority # 1 at Juvenile Prawn Summit. FRDC project commences 2001-02
Investigate the effects of fishing upon the sea-floor and the benthic and epibenthic communities								U	
Alternative gears or configurations for trawl gear to target specific species								L	Reduce impact of trawl gear on the sea-floor and epibenthic communities. Identified at the Juvenile Prawn summit as an area needing reserach
Biology of non-target species								M	Information about species discarded from the by-catch to be collected as part of observer studies.
<b>Management and Modelling</b>									
Determine biologically optimal harvest conditions for eastern king prawns								U	Data already exist for this to be at least initially, a "desk top" study.
Ascertain the most appropriate trigger points for managing the EPT fishery								L	Desk-top study
Socio-economic study of the EPT								L	Information would be helpful as baseline data to assess the impact of the Fisheries Management Strategy.
<b>Production Technology</b>									
<b>Post Harvest</b>									
<b>Industry Development</b>									
<b>Resource Access</b>									

*In Progress*   
*Application*   
*Planned*   
*Identified* 

H = *High Priority*  
M = *Medium Priority*  
L = *Low Priority*  
U = *Underway*