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KAAC's tri-nation ACIAR Trochus project successfully ends

Prawn Farming in the Kimberley Project

Following completion of the first successful cycle of the 'Commercialisation of prawn farming in the Kimberley' project, the hatchery and ponds were dried out in preparation for the next spawning and grow-out cycle.

During this time the prawn project upgraded its algal production facilities at the Manbana Hatchery to include bag culture, which will address some of the bacterial problems experienced.

With the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf fishery closed for broodstock collection as a result of the presence of Gill Affected Virus (GAV), broodstock survey and collection was undertaken in the Nickol Bay fishery twice in May by hatchery and Fisheries staff in conjunction with prawn trawlers.

Black tiger prawn broodstock were difficult to source in the area at that time of year with only 12 animals collected for spawning and 10 for health testing during the first trip. On the second

trip 96 banana prawn broodstock, *Penaeus merguensis*, were collected for hatchery production whilst black tiger prawn numbers were poor.



Banana prawn larvae, at nauplii stage 3, produced in hatchery trial (Photo courtesy of Joe Triscari)

Spawning of the banana prawns was undertaken at the Manbana hatchery however egg quality was poor and larval numbers low as a result of the low temperatures in May and June.

The hatchery will now close down until further broodstock collection is undertaken in August for a September hatchery cycle.

Trochus Stock Enhancement Project

The 3 year ATSIC funded trochus stock enhancement project ended in April 2005, following the stocking of all accessible reefs with adult

trochus and the stocking of half of those reefs with juvenile trochus. Delays were experienced in the production of juvenile trochus due to unforeseen hatchery problems, primarily the unsuitable saline bore water available at the park, resulting in a delay in juvenile seeding.

A further trochus project has been proposed over the next 18 months to complete juvenile stocking activities and work with communities to implement harvest and maintenance plans for commercial activity.

Mr Charla Clements, KAAC Chair and Community Coordinator, will visit licensed communities with representatives from the Indigenous Coordination Centre over the next month to undertake participatory planning for the trochus enterprises.

The Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs – Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination, has provided funding to KAAC to undertake this process and planning for the new trochus project.

ACIAR Trochus Project

The tri-nation ACIAR trochus research project ended this June with the final AGM held in Broome and One Arm Point from 30 May to 2 June.

Project staff Anama Solofa and Robert Jimmy from the Samoa and Vanuatu

nodes travelled to Broome for the AGM, with Project Coordinator Dr Chan Lee. Barney Smith, ACIAR Fisheries Program Manager also visited Broome for the meetings.

The final AGM for the project included a site visit and meeting at One Arm Point with project participants and community representatives.



ACIAR trochus project meeting at One Arm Point (photo courtesy of Dr Chan Lee)

The final report on the project and research outcomes has been prepared. The stocking activities were found to be successful in Vanuatu with outcomes to be extended into other communities, whilst results from the Samoa node were inconclusive due to the short project time following introduction of trochus.

Results from the Kimberley node indicated that closure of some reefs to trochus fishing has had a positive impact on trochus populations.

Thankyou to all those who contributed and committed to the ACIAR trochus project over the past 3 years particularly Barney Smith (ACIAR), Dr Chan Lee (Project Coordinator),

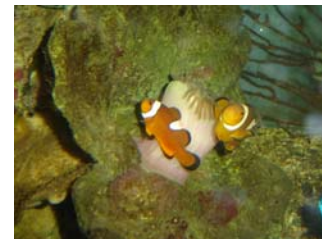
Charla Clements (Community Coordinator), Department of Fisheries Western Australia particularly Justin Bellanger (Research Scientist), Samoa Fisheries Division, Vanuatu Department of Fisheries and participating communities.

From the Kimberley node thanks go to the One Arm Point Community, Ardyaloon Inc, Jayedi A/C, Gumbarnun A/C, and Gudumul A/C.

Manbana Activities & Future

Following the end of the trochus stock enhancement project and associated funding, Manbana was forced to close its hatchery and tourism centre temporarily for the month of April.

Indigenous Business Australia has supported KAAC in providing funds to undertake planning for the development of commercial marine ornamental fish production and tours at the Discovery Centre.



Breeding clownfish at Manbana

This allowed Manbana to reopen the Discovery Centre to the public in May in time for the peak tourist

season. June 2005 saw a large number of visitors through the doors of Manbana and it was the best month for the Discovery Centre since opening.

Following completion of the planning KAAC will seek funding to support the commercial development of Manbana into a sustainable enterprise.

Mistakes

“The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest of them all – doing nothing”

- Anon

Export Market Development Scholarship

KAAC and Manbana Manager, Jacynta Fong, gained a scholarship in April to attend the Export Market Development (EMD) Training Course hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Jacynta attended the course, an initiative of the

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Warren Truss under the Young People in Rural Industries Programme, in Sydney in May.

The course covered every aspect of exporting from export planning and determining the export readiness of a business, to procedures, documentation and legal implications. With industry and export representatives attending the presentation dinner, participants had the opportunity to make some valuable contacts.



Jacynta Fong receiving EMD Course certificate from Minister Truss (Photo courtesy of DAFF).

The knowledge gained through the EMD Training Course will assist Manbana in assessing export potential and becoming export ready in the future, with its marine ornamental fish production.

Young Rural Leaders Scholarship

KAAC Prawn Hatchery Manager, Digby Fleming, was successful in achieving a scholarship to attend The Young Rural Leaders' Course in Canberra in June, as part of the Young People in Rural Industries Programme.

The course provided an excellent opportunity to network with other young leaders from rural industries, and to develop the skills and knowledge to effectively contribute to policy and decision-making at a national level.

MSH Pty Ltd Directors Sought

With the change in focus of MSH Pty Ltd, and the move towards a Broome based Board of Directors, inaugural Directors Brian Stempel and Ian Taylor have resigned from the Board of MSH, following over 3 years commitment during the developmental stage of Manbana.

MSH will be seeking new Broome based Directors with business and industry skills to support the company to achieve commercial sustainability in both its hatchery and tourism operations.

Kimberley College of TAFE – Broome Tropical Aquaculture Park

The TAFE's Broome Aquaculture Centre (BAC) successfully undertook a yellow tail bream trial producing nearly 20,000 fingerlings in June at the hatchery.

Barramundi production at the facility will continue later in the year.

TAFE students at BAC completed Certificate 3 Seafood Industry (Aquaculture) in June and the TAFE will be

conducting Certificate 4 in Semester 2. Students also continue accredited aquaculture training at Pandanus Park Aboriginal Corporation near Derby.

For more information on the hatchery and aquaculture training contact 9192 9140

This newsletter is prepared on behalf of KAAC by Ms Jacynta Fong as the editor. The views expressed and the information given in the Newsletter is provided without prejudice for circulation to all KAAC members. It does not represent the official views of KAAC or MSH Pty Ltd.

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