



Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Brunoro

I wish to provide the additional supplementary submission in relation to submissions previously made by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPAC) to the Inquiry into the Role of Science for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Under the Marine Biodiversity Hub of the National Environmental Research Program (NERP), researchers within the *National Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting* theme are working to help DSEWPAC develop a national environmental monitoring strategy designed to evaluate marine ecosystem health in general as well as the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network.

The work program began in late 2011 and is guided by a multi-year workplan (2011-2014).

To date, researchers within this research theme have:

- begun cataloguing new and existing data sources that could be relevant to the indicators (identified by CSIRO in earlier research) and the objectives of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves in the SE planning region;
- undertaken survey design for the Flinders Commonwealth Marine Reserve and Solitary Islands (to help identify logistical and statistical issues associated with ocean survey techniques); and
- undertaken two pilot survey expeditions, employing and testing different survey approaches, such as baited underwater cameras and multi-beam sonar.

A third survey, based on the Houtman-Abrolhos area in the South-west Marine Region, is planned to be undertaken in 2013.

It is expected that there will be three outcomes of this research theme:

- A considered understanding of the data requirements for managing a network of Commonwealth Marine Reserves including how to mobilise national capacity to provide the required data;

- A considered understanding of the data requirements to evaluate and report on national marine ecosystem health including how to mobilise national capacity to provide the required data (especially with the [Integrated Marine Observing System](#) and [National Plan for Environmental Information](#)); and
- Access to the relevant data analyses (within limits of existing data) to report on national-scale marine ecosystem health for input to the 2016 State of Environment report.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Oxley  
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Marine Division