

Appendix 5 - ASBTIA/FRDC Ranching Strategic R,D&E Plan

ASBTIA/FRDC Ranching Strategic R,D&E Plan – 2013 to 2018: *Delivering a competitive edge in a global seafood market*

Mission

Delivering cost effective research, development and extension ensuring a profitable and sustainable Southern Bluefin Tuna ranching focused on environmental awareness, performance and innovation.

Objectives

The key objective of this SBT Ranching Strategic R&D Plan is to facilitate the expansion and profitability of the SBT Ranching Industry. This Plan represents a focused approach to research and development for the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Ranching Industry based in Port Lincoln and emphasises the importance of strong stakeholder engagement, government and community recognition of the industry, and take up of the outcomes of R&D by the industry.

Research needs to reflect the challenging conditions and factors facing industry, and the need to provide an appropriate mechanism to manage and coordinate R,D&E to ensure key priority areas are addressed. As such, the SBT Research Council has been established with an independent chair and a membership encompassing key stakeholders (most notably the SBT Industry), independent scientists, research providers and industry regulators.

The Council's principal role is to provide advice to the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, with focused R,D&E achieving the following functions:

- Ensure sustainable development of the industry;
- Improve resource access and property rights;
- Improve profitability;
- Improve community relations;
- Enhance market development; and
- Improved safety and training.

The Council will report annually to both the ASBTIA and the FRDC on its achievements against this Plan.

Key Priority Areas

Due to the nature of the SBT, industry and political framework addressing R&D priorities can often be complex and very challenging. The SBT Ranching Industry has identified the following key areas and the interpretation of these areas will vary from year to year. It should be noted that research can share common themes and the positioning is somewhat subjective and decided primarily by convenience. The SBT Research Council and industry will identify research priorities every six months within these themes during research meetings and workshops to reflect a continuous changing research environment.

- Supply of quality stock for ranching
- Availability of lease sites for existing or future SBT ranching companies
- Environmentally sustainable practices
- Baitfish availability and quality diets for use as feed
- Accommodate climate change to optimise benefits and minimise risks
- Up-skilling industry through extension of research results
- Improving and optimising ranching operations
- Optimising SBT product quality and safety
- Developing a market & consumer culture
- Facilitate continuous improvement in OHS&W
- Improving the industry profile and image

Measuring Performance

Monitoring, review and evaluation processes are applied to this SBT Ranching Strategic R&D Plan with the overall responsibility resting with the SBT Research Council. The Research Manager is responsible for undertaking day-to-day management activities and reporting to the SBT Research Council.

This SBT Ranching Strategic R&D Plan guides research direction and investment. The SBT Research Council provides research direction and allocation of resources to maximise returns on research investment. This SBT Ranching Strategic R&D Plan will be subject to annual review, and as appropriate, themes adjusted to incorporate research outcomes and changes in the operating environment.

Delivery of Outcomes

The SBT Research Council will continue to deliver the following outcomes in a forum of close interaction between the commercial industry and research organisations:

- structured meetings to review project progress, milestones and budgets;
- research workshops for extension of research outcomes and direction of future research;
- an annual review of the industry's strategic R&D plan and research priorities;
- provision of research updates and newsletters when appropriate;
- maintain a secure depository for all SBT research outcomes;
- regular informal meetings between industry, research organisations and researchers.

Research needs to look at future issues in addition to current problems; it must be focused to improve industry productivity and profitability – if it does not achieve that, then it is not worthwhile.