



AUSTRALIAN  
SEAFOOD  
COOPERATIVE  
RESEARCH CENTRE

## SEAFOOD CRC TUNA RESEARCH “ARMY” SALUTES ANOTHER AWARD FOR ITS SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

14 August 2010

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> may be unlucky for some but not for the Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). Last night, at the South Australian Science Excellence Awards held at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide, the Australian Seafood CRC was delighted to win its second award for 2010 – this time taking out the prestigious prize for excellence in research collaboration.

The award relates to a series of internationally recognised research-breakthroughs enabling the breeding and rearing of the larvae of the much prized Southern Bluefin Tuna, in a land-based hatchery. This has been the result of an extensive research effort involving a large consortium of the leading scientists in the field, many of them based in South Australia.

Dr Graham Mair, Program Manager at the Australian Seafood CRC said, “We put together an unrivalled team of experts drawing on the best researchers in Australia and overseas working together in a strong partnership with Clean Seas Tuna and its founder Dr. Hagen Stehr - this award is a great way for the team to be recognised for their commitment and dedication to this research breakthrough”.

This award also recognises the considerable investment in R&D made by the progressive South Australian company, Clean Seas Tuna who recognised early on that progress towards their target outcome of a new aquaculture sector based on hatchery bred tuna would require the coordinated support of the best researchers available. “They really embraced the concept and value of strong research partnerships” Dr. Mair added “the collaboration has really paid off for Clean Seas Tuna over the past two years with the production of millions of baby Southern Bluefin Tuna, some of which have been on-grown for more than 200 days – a world first achievement”.

The award recognised the significant involvement of seven national partners and engagement with a further nine international partners. National partners included the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the South Australian Research Development Institute (SARDI), the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), Flinders University, University of Tasmania (Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute), New South Wales Department of Industry and Investment and the Northern Territory Department of Regional Development, Primary Industries, Fisheries and Resources.

Not only were leading national and international researchers involved but just as importantly, the research is supporting and mentoring 5 PhD students and 6 Honours students at Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and USC. These students

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not only complement and expand the research effort but they also represent the next generation of great aquaculture scientists.

Dr. Mair further added, “This research collaboration has brought Clean Seas Tuna much closer to the reality of a highly valuable export business for Australia through the increased supply of hatchery bred tuna to the world market to meet the rise in demand which comes as the supply of wild caught tuna, particularly in the northern hemisphere, is increasingly threatened. As a scientist, nothing makes me prouder than working in collaborative research that is delivering direct end-user benefits”.

For More Information:

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