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Australian Government
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation

Seafood industry stepping up with new leadership skills

Eleven members of the seafood industry from four states and two territories graduated from the National **Advance in Seafood** Leadership Development Program on the 14th of September in Canberra.

The six month Program which equips the next generation of leaders with the skills, knowledge and whole of industry perspective to make a positive contribution to the industry is supported by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and delivered by Leading Industries. The Program commenced in March in Melbourne and concluded in Canberra with the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Senator The Hon Eric Abetz speaking at the graduation dinner.

“It is encouraging to see members of the seafood industry stepping up and taking on the challenge of learning new skills and accessing knowledge from current leaders to secure the future success of the seafood industry,” said Minister Abetz.

The **Advance in Seafood** Program focuses on developing leadership skills in stakeholders of the seafood industry, with opportunities provided for the participants to practice the skills they learn in the sessions that cover networking, profiling the industry, planning and lobbying to bring about change, team leadership, communicating with impact and gaining outcomes from meetings.

Leading Industries Training Manager, Ms Cheryl Phillips said “No matter how good our products, our marketing, our management and our environment - the future of the seafood industry is dependent on the capacity of our people,” she said.

The graduation session hosted an industry dinner at which the participants were introduced to industry leaders. This provides a platform for the participants and the current industry leaders to form links and build relationships.

Dr Patrick Hone, Executive Director of Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, the major sponsor of the Leadership Program, said meeting this year’s graduates of the **Advance in Seafood** Leadership Development Program was a pleasure.

“The vision and energy the participants share in regards to the purpose of the program will provide many benefits to the seafood industry as they transform their skills into their own businesses and in turn the seafood industry,” Dr Hone said.

“The graduates need to make their own luck and never be afraid of failing,” he said.

Program participant Mr Jonas Woolford, Abalone Diver, South Australia says of his experience;

“Prior to taking part in the *Advance in Seafood* Program I was tentative about taking on challenging new roles on committees or boards but upon completing the six month Program I feel I have grown in confidence, courage and professionalism, and I am prepared and eager for such roles that come my way,” Mr Woolford said.

Member of the Native Title Tribunal, Mr Bardy McFarlane was a guest speaker at an industry panel session associated with the Program. His presentation on building successful relationships was a highlight for the participants. In Mr McFarlane’s view, gone are the days of industry and government coming to cosy arrangements about fisheries management. There is a much greater need to work together than ever before.

“Nowadays fishing has to operate within an environment of sustainability and a recognition that a whole range of other “users” want to have a say in what is going on. The fishing Industry has to listen and engage with all of these other groups” Mr McFarlane said.

“The Advance in Seafood Program is a great platform for building relationships between the various sectors within the seafood industry and I was impressed with the diversity of perspectives in the room and the willingness to communicate and cooperate towards a common vision which the group agreed on,” he said.

Mr Grahame Turk, Managing Director of Sydney Fish Market praised the Advance in Seafood Leadership Development Program for it’s critical role in developing the seafood industry leaders of tomorrow.

“The time for visionary leadership in the seafood industry has never been more pertinent,” he said.

“The leaders of tomorrow’s seafood industry will need a host of skills and abilities to face the challenges that lie before them. I believe the *Advance in Seafood* Leadership Development Program provides participants with the foundations and connections to go on and do great things for themselves and for this industry.”

“The level of professionalism displayed by some of these young leaders I have personally seen convinces me of this fact.”

One of the Program Graduates, Ms Kate Milner, SeaNet Extension Officer Victoria for OceanWatch Australia says “As tomorrow’s industry leaders, this group of graduates has a great opportunity to lead by example and pursue excellence in our careers. However, we must never lose sight of the need to continue to represent the interests of our colleagues,” she said.

The program has been developed and delivered by Leading Industries with support from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Sydney Fish Market, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

A list of the participants’ projects follows. Contact Leading Industries Training Coordinator, Kelly Tape on 0408850110 or Kelly@leadingindustries.com.au for further information or participant contact numbers.

Graduates Projects and Summaries

Name	Sector	State	Projects
Andrew Baker	Aquaculture/ Oysters	NSW	Develop a team of oyster farmers to export 10% of rock oysters annually. Reinvigorate oyster farmers and educate them in quality standards.
Joe Coco	Training/ Aquaculture	Qld	Coordinate the development of On-Line material as a flexible resource for the Seafood Industry Training Package, which in turn will provide alternative learning opportunities for existing workers and new potentials in the Aquaculture Industry.
Heidi Mumme	Pearls/ Research	NT	Development of a food safety plan including quality assurance for the pearling industry. This will include reporting processes in relation to pearl meat on the domestic market.
John Mayze	Government/ Research	Qld	Is it full: an objective tool to determine the meat content of mud crabs.
Kate Milner	Fishing	TAS	Initial trials for a rotated-mesh panel (T90) for use in the South-East trawl fishery, as a bycatch reduction device.
Daniel Gixti	Research/ Recreation	Vic	Communication interactions between recreational fishing groups: Expectations, delivery and satisfaction.
Erik Poole	Retail/ Quality Assurance	NSW	Update the Sydney Fish market handling and information guidelines. Produce information for the SFM website and booklets for relevant stakeholders.
Helen Jenkins	Processing	VIC	Development of Austrimi SURIMI Scholarship for a University student undertaking Bachelor of Food Science & Nutrition study that will involve an overseas trip to visit Austrimi's unique group of companies.

Melanie Snart	Government Compliance	SA	Develop a document for the Director of Fisheries with recommendation/s for implementing a photo identification card for all State Commercial Fishers in South Australia.
Scott Walter	Agri-Politics/ Aquaculture	Qld	Develop and commence implementation of a strategic plan for the Australian Prawn Farmers Association.
Jonas Woolford	Fishing/ Abalone	SA	A study into the traceability and authenticity of Abalone.