



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT THREATENED SPECIES OR COMMUNITY RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name Hairy Marron Recovery Team

**Reporting Period
(Financial/Calendar Year)** Calendar year 2007

Current membership

| Member | | Representing |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Chair | Martin de Graaf | Department of Fisheries (DoF) |
| 2. | Michael Burgess | DoF |
| 3. | Kim Williams | DEC |
| 4. | Peter Mawson | DEC |
| 5. | Ken Ninnette | DEC |
| 6. | Hayley Rolfe | Cape-to-Cape Catchment Group |
| 7. | Drew McKenzie | Cape-to-Cape Catchment Group |
| 8. | John Bunn | ECU |
| 9. | Liz McLellan | WWF |
| 10. | Margaret Moir | Local resident |
| 11. | Nic Dunlop | Conservation Council of WA |

Dates meetings were held 08/03/07 and 31/05/07

Background

During the 1980s the common and widespread 'smooth' marron was accidentally introduced in the Margaret River. Since this introduction the Margaret River or 'hairy' marron has drastically declined. At present the hairy marron has more or less disappeared from the lower and middle reaches of the Margaret River and only occurs in reasonable number in upper reaches (Rapids Conservation Park). On 10 October 2003 the Interim Recovery Team met for the first time to discuss current status and develop potential recovery actions. An interim recovery plan was prepared in 2004. A successful community awareness project (funded by TSN) has been finalized. This project resulted in raising the profile of hairy marron in Margaret River and proper educational material (id keys, posters, signage etc). Since August 2005 landholders are actively involved in scientific sampling. Researchers from DoF, ECU and UWA are trying to determine the process behind the replacement of hairy marron with smooth marron.

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| | Implementation and development of management initiatives etc. is dependent on identifying the mechanism behind the decline of the hairy marron. |
| Summary of achievements | <p>Part of the river is closed for recreational fishing. The hairy marron is listed as 'threatened' at the State level and is currently recognized as a critically endangered species at federal level.</p> <p>The recovery plan is still in a 'draft' version. The management of Hairy Marron recovery in the wild, if possible at all, is strongly dependent on the mechanism (competitive exclusion or hybridization) behind the replacement of Hairy marron by the introduced Smooth marron.</p> <p>The recovery team is waiting for the results of John Bunn's PhD research, which deals with the possible replacement mechanism. At present management is 'ad hoc', and changes as soon as new scientific information becomes available.</p> <p>The active removal of smooth marron in the upper reaches of the Margaret River seemed to have stabilised the remaining populations of hairy marron.</p> |
| Goals for next year | |
| Action 1 | Continuation of hairy marron breeding program at Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre (funding DoF). |
| Action 2 | Continuation of annual survey (January 2008) of the lower, middle and upper reaches of the Margaret River to monitor changes in distribution of Hairy Marron (funding DoF). |
| Action 3 | Finalisation of John Bunn's PHD field work. |
| Action 4 | Future 'community driven' fish-outs are planned for smooth marron. |



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PROGRAM INFORMATION

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| Recovery Team name | LANCELIN ISLAND SKINK |
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| Reporting Period (Financial/Calendar Year) | Financial year 2007-8 |
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Current membership

| Member | | Representing |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Chair | David Pearson (acting) | DEC, Science Division |
| 2. Exec. Officer | David Pearson (acting) | DEC, Science Division |
| 3. | Barb Jones | Wildlife Consultant |
| 4. | Rebecca Carter/Keith Hockey | DEC, Mid West Region, Jurien |
| 5. | Anita Jarvis | Shire of Gingin |
| 6. | Renée Hartley | DEC, Mid West Region, Jurien |
| 7. | Dave Mitchell | Friends of Lancelin Islands |
| 8. | Nic Dunlop | Friends of Lancelin Islands |
| 9. | John Lemon/ Helen Robertson | Perth Zoo |
| 10. | Ian Anderson | DEC, Mid West Region, Lancelin ranger |
| 11. | Brad Maryan/Brian Bush | WA Society of Amateur Herpetologists |
| 12. | Paul Doughty/Brad Maryan | WA Museum |
| 13. | Nicky Marlow | DEC, WATSCU |
| Dates meetings were held | | None held in 2007-8 |
| One to two paragraph summary of | | The translocation of captive bred Lancelin Island Skinks to Favorite Island in Jurien Bay in 2002 appears to have been successful with |

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| achievements suitable for WATSNU | <p>ongoing monitoring during 2007-8 capturing juvenile skinks, as well as wild-born adults in breeding condition.</p> <p>Monitoring of the Lancelin Island population during March 2008 by Mid West staff (Renée Hartley, Sonja Creese and Michelle Swann) was affected by cool weather. Nonetheless 9 individuals were captured; one a mature female in breeding colouration (bright yellow belly) and the remainder recent hatchlings, weighing between 0.7 and 1.2 g.</p> |
| List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Recovery Plan) | The original Recovery Plan was produced in 2000 (Pearson and Jones) to cover the period 1999-2003. There has been no update of this Plan. |
| Action 1 Genetic status of <i>Ctenotus lancelini</i> and associated taxa | Complete – Lancelin Island Skink found to be a distinct taxon, sufficiently different from <i>Ctenotus labillardieri</i> to warrant specific status. |
| Action 2 Population monitoring on Lancelin Island | Monitoring has not been as regular as suggested in the Plan (which proposed annual monitoring), due to funding constraints. Monitoring conducted in March 2008 by the Mid West region resulted in the capture of 9 individuals; one adult post-reproductive female and eight neonates over 504 trap nights. Cool weather affected capture results, but skinks were caught on grids at several sites on the Island. |
| Action 3 Research and monitoring of habitat on Lancelin Island | No permanent quadrats and photo points established as suggested in Plan. Perceived importance of weed control has diminished as skinks appear to be maintaining populations despite the presence of various weed species. |
| Action 4 Visitor and fire management on Lancelin Island | Boardwalk and information bollards/ boards in place on Lancelin Island and activities on the Island are monitored by the ranger in Lancelin. |
| Action 5 Liaison with the public, local government and the media | Newspaper article regarding monitoring of the translocated population on Favorite Island placed in a local paper. Information on the translocation placed in visitor information board on the foreshore near the Jurien Bay jetty. |
| Action 6 Management of known mainland population | There have been no further captures on Lancelin Island Skinks at the site of the single mainland capture (1993). During March 2008 coinciding with trapping on Lancelin Island, traps were placed in the same area as the initial capture. None were captured in 291 trap nights. |
| Action 7 Survey for further populations | No action due to funding constraints. |
| Action 8 Captive breeding | Complete- translocation to Favorite Island undertaken; breeding stocks released. Small number of skinks retained by the Zoo for display purposes. |
| Action 9 Evaluation of translocation options | Complete- Islands inspected in Lancelin to Dongara area to find a suitable site. Favorite Island in Jurien Bay was best available site. Translocation proposal prepared and approved. Lizard communities on Favorite Island monitored for a year (March 2001- March 2002) prior to translocation (March 2002) and twice yearly (in most years) post-translocation. Translocation appears successful with juveniles and F2 generation animals in breeding condition captured regularly. |