



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 2008	
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 Ninyette	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	15/05/08 and 24/07/08	
Background	<p>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.</p>	

	Implementation and development of management initiatives etc. is dependent on identifying the mechanism behind the decline of the hairy marron.
Update on Recovery Plan	<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. Future 'community driven' fish-outs are planned for 2008.</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 of the lower, middle and upper reaches of the Margaret River to monitor changes in distribution of Hairy Marron (funding DOF).
Action 3	Between Sep 08 and March 09 monthly 'fish-outs' were conducted by DOF in co-operation with Cape-to-Cape Catchment Group and John Bunn from ECU.