

## Enhancing SA's scientific capacity, benefiting the yellowtail kingfish industry

Students now have the opportunity to gain invaluable industry experience, use cutting edge technology, as well as work in collaboration with a team of leading researchers to address issues facing the finfish industry today.



Yellowtail kingfish fingerlings. Photo taken by Caroline Fisher.

Thanks to a collaboration between the Australian Seafood CRC (AS CRC), the South Australian Research and Development Institute, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and Cleans Seas Tuna, the AS CRC Finfish Aquaculture Nutrition Student Research Innovation Network (FANSRIN) aims to foster the development of students working on issues pertinent to finfish nutrition for the future of the industry.

This new initiative is managed by Dr Kathy Schuller (Flinders University), Dr Trent D'Antignana (Flinders University and SARDI), and Dr David Stone (SARDI).

The seven honours students and two masters students who form the network are researching topics that relate to two larger AS CRC projects – 'Sustainable feeds and feed management for yellowtail kingfish' and 'Understanding yellowtail kingfish'.

These overarching projects will

*Marine Innovation SA (MISA), an initiative of the South Australian Government, is a partnership between the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Flinders University, University of Adelaide, South Australian Museum, Primary Industries and Resources SA and the SA seafood industry.*

provide specific information to improve nutrition, feed management and product quality of yellowtail kingfish farmed in Spencer Gulf, SA.

By bringing students together as part of a network, they have the opportunity to work in collaboration with each other and gain access to a range of supervisors and industry expertise.

More broadly it promotes collaboration between intrastate, interstate and international institutes.

The proposed research also uses innovative techniques to tackle a range of problems, training the next generation of scientists in the application of frontier technologies at both the cellular and molecular level.

Significantly, all of the projects are directly relevant to the industry, enabling students to gain an understanding of industry's needs and problems as well as the opportunity to work directly with them. This encourages students to consider the commercial importance of their research as well as the scientific.

It is hoped that this invaluable 'hands-on' experience and knowledge will lead to students continuing to work within the industry once they complete their studies, benefiting the future of the industry.

The development of this initiative is a win for both education and for the industry, producing students with extensive research experience, an understanding of the challenges that face the industry and the ability to work collaboratively across both sectors.

FANSRIN currently focuses on South Australian students and research but will look to take on a more national perspective in the future. It is also envisaged that the network model will be used more broadly to enhance the scientific capability within different research areas, e.g. Climate Change.

## Key Points

An Australian Seafood CRC network of honours and masters students has been developed, bringing together students who are working on related aspects of yellowtail kingfish nutrition.

FANSRIN promotes collaboration and provides students with access to a range of supervisors and expertise.

Projects are directly related to the finfish industry, providing students with an understanding of the needs of industry and hands on experience.

The proposed research also uses innovative techniques, training students in the application of frontier technologies including at the cellular and molecular level.

It is hoped students will continue to work in the industry once they have completed their studies, securing the future of the industry.

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