

Abalone Industry Reinvestment Fund (AIRF)

Updated: August 2024

Quantifying potential of the IMAS Timed-Swim program to detect change in stock levels

Lead Agency: Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

Funding: \$272,649.00

Start Date: 1 January 2023

End Date: 1 May 2025

Status: CURRENT

Aims and Objectives:

The primary aims of this project is to define the potential for the Timed Swim method to reliably assess change in stock status in key areas of the fishery (strategic), or to assess stock status in areas of specific interest or concern (tactical).

This project has two primary objectives:

- Determine the potential effect size that Timed Swim surveys can detect at block level.
- Examine the relationship between fishing pressure and reduction in abalone abundance.

Progress Report:

- The project is progressing well, with most fieldwork nearing completion.
- The Actaeons 'Pre', 'Mid', and 'Post' season surveys were completed in March 2024. These data are currently being analysed to determine the magnitude of effect the method can detect in abalone abundance over the duration of a longer fishing season (i.e. 8-months), meeting the first objective.
- The pre-season greenlip surveys were completed in June 2024, and the post-season greenlip surveys are currently underway, expected to be finished by September 2024. Initial data are being assessed to examine the method's capacity to determine the magnitude of effect on abalone abundance following a period of intense fishing pressure (i.e. 3 days), meeting both objectives.

[Full Progress Report](#)