

# Foraging ecology and ectropic role of the Australian Sea Lion in marine ecosystems



**Project Number:** 05N117-04

**Project Start Date:** 1/10/2007

**Project Completion Date:** 30/09/2008

## Project Description

This study will provide an understanding of the role of the Australian sea lion in the trophodynamics of the western continental shelf marine ecosystem. It will provide essential information for the effective conservation of this rare species within the framework of marine ecosystem management. In addition, population monitoring will be conducted to provide information on important parameters of life history including assessment of threats from human activities. This will include the direct effects of incidental capture and indirect effects of potential resource competition from fishing. This study will be conducted over three years and will assess the impact of changing environmental conditions (i.e. Leeuwin current strength) on these parameters for this species. This can be used as a proxy for assessing climate change impacts as it is proposed that a weakening of the Leeuwin current will be a consequence of global warming. Abundance and distribution of other marine vertebrates within the NAR will also be conducted during the course of the project.

**Delivery Organisation:** Department of Fisheries

**Total IP2 Funding:** \$60,000

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