

PROPOSED ACTION

1. That a pilot survey of two to three weeks be conducted in which this technique is applied over a series of reef habitats in the Capricorn-Bunker area. At this stage it is recommended that a team of biologists undertake the survey. A budget is attached. In view of the flexibility it would provide, chartering a boat e.g. 'Sea Hunt' and operating from it seems the most feasible approach.

Five divers and two inflatables so that four divers (in two teams) are always available is envisaged as the most productive approach, so that preferably four areas could be surveyed each day with two dives/day. This would enable six reefs in the Capricorn group and five in the Bunker group to be surveyed. The time at Heron Island would be spent in retraining for length estimation underwater and surveying Heron and Wistari Reefs. Once on the 'Sea Hunt' the following reefs would be surveyed: Masthead, Rock Cod Shoals, Northwest and One Tree in the Capricorn group.

In the Bunker Group, Lady Elliot, Lady Musgrave, Boulton, Llewellyn and Fitzroy would be surveyed.

<u>Budget for Coral Trout survey Capricorn-Bunker Groups</u>		\$
Heron Island		
Accommodation 6 @ \$15/night for 6 nights	450	00
Food \$20/person and extras	150	00
Charter of Boat 'Sea Hunt' 8 days @ \$300/day	2 400	00
Air Fares - 3 ex Sydney return @ \$150	450	00
- 3 ex Townsville return @ \$200	600	00
Helicopter - 6 @ \$41/head	250	00
Salaries - Payment to two diving participants @ \$250/week	1 000	00
Incidentals		
Air at Heron Island	70	00
Fuel at Heron Island	30	00
	<u>\$4 500</u>	<u>00</u>

2. That bimonthly surveys be commissioned at Heron Island, One Tree Island and Lizard Island so that seasonal variation in coral trout numbers can be monitored. This should also provide some information on recruitment. A budget is attached. The budget allows for a five days training period for the divers at Heron and One Tree Islands.

Budget for surveys of coral trout at Heron Island,
One Tree Island and Lizard Island

<u>Payment for surveying</u>	<u>12 months</u>
	\$
2 divers at Heron Island (2 dives one day/month)	1 200
2 divers at One Tree Island (2 dives one day/month)	1 200
2 divers at Lizard Island (2 dives one day/month)	1 200
	<u>3 600</u>
(Pay at the rate of base-grade clerk i.e. @ \$24/day)	
<u>Training</u>	
Accommodation - 3 people 5 days at Heron Island	225
Food - 5 people 5 days	120
Air at Heron	30
Fuel at Heron	10
(2 air-fares ex Sydney return	300)
1 air-fare ex Townsville	200
(2 helicopter fares	164)
1 Helicopter fare	82
T.A. and incidentals	<u>100</u>
	<u>1 231</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u><u>4 800</u></u>