DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES
2007/2008 MARINE FISH HABITAT SCHOLARSHIPS (HONOURS)

OPEN TO STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE MARINE SCIENCE DISCIPLINE

(Established in 2005, with funding awarded by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries for two (2) scholarships of up to $5,000 each, to encourage research into the area of marine fish habitats.) The scholarship is available to eligible students undertaking Honours at either a mid-year July 2007 commencement date or next year for January 2008 commencement date, at the University Queensland.

1. The scholarship is awarded for the purpose of assisting and encouraging a meritorious student to study Honours in the area of marine fish habitat.

2. Candidates for the scholarship must be eligible for entry to honours in the general discipline of marine science.

3. The scholarship is awarded on the recommendation of the Deputy Executive Dean and Director of Studies, Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences. To assist in the selection process the Deputy Executive Dean and Director of Studies will convene a selection committee, the membership of which will include a representative from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

4. The scholarship is competitive and awarded to the applicant showing the greatest merit, as demonstrated by -
   - academic achievement throughout the undergraduate degree,
   - *thesis topic under consideration and how well the research topic addresses an issue relevant to marine fish habitat.

5. The scholarship is tenable for the duration of the recipient's Honours program subject to the student making satisfactory progress.

6. The scholarship may be held concurrently with another award providing this award does not represent a conflict of interest with the objectives of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Scholarship or jeopardises the student's ability to complete the honours program.

7. The successful applicant will be asked to sign a three way agreement with the Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries and The University of Queensland, which outlines respective responsibilities pertaining to the scholarship and its outcomes.

*THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE CONTAINS THE TOPIC GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA. APPLYANTS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO READ THE INFORMATION PACKAGE AND SPEAK WITH THE RELEVANT PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR APPLICATION.
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND FISHERIES
2007/2008 MARINE FISH HABITAT SCHOLARSHIP (HONOURS)
OPEN TO STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE MARINE SCIENCE DISCIPLINE

APPLICATION

NAME ________________________________________________________________

STUDENT NO ________________________________________________________

ADDRESS __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

TELEPHONE NOs _____________________________________________________

EMAIL _____________________________________________________________

Please attach the following:

- University academic record
- Any special academic achievements or awards received at the University of Queensland or any other secondary or tertiary institution
- The project proposal format outlined in the attached DPI &F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program Information Package (*this does not need to exceed 4 pages*)
- Relevant work experience related to marine science

NOTE: Short-listed applicants may be asked to attend a selection interview and therefore must be available to attend an interview (July 2007 for students commencing Honours in July 2007; and at a later date (to be advised) for students commencing Honours in January 2008).

SIGNED ___________________________________ DATE __________________

Applications should be submitted to: Ms Kaerin Gardner
Research & Innovation Associate
The Faculty of Biological and Chemical Sciences
Phone: 07 3365 8868

The application closing date for the mid-year scholarship is 13 July 2007.

The application closing date for the January 2008 scholarship is to be advised.
DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships

2007/2008 Program Information Package

In recognition of the importance of marine fish habitats and the need to enhance knowledge of these habitats for fisheries management, the Queensland Government has established the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program. Two scholarships may be awarded for Honours research based on fisheries links with these habitats and their management needs. Eligible students may apply for either one $5,000 scholarship (commencing July 2007) or one $5,000 scholarship (commencing January 2008).

This Information Package outlines the DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program and Scholarship Project Proposal Format. The package has been developed for prospective applicants enrolling for Honours undertaken at the University of Queensland.

Background

For fish and fisheries, marine fish habitats support food production for many dependent species as well as providing nursery habitat and shelter for juvenile fish. Supporting complex food webs, these habitats in turn sustain many traditional, commercial and recreational fisheries, as well as releasing nutrients for offshore plankton production. Marine fish habitats also provide a connection for many species needing to move to and from freshwater at different times of their lives to breed and complete their lifecycle.

Mission statement

The Department’s mission is to maximise the economic outcomes for Queensland’s primary industries on a sustainable basis. The DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program will contribute to achievement of:

- advancement of Queensland government priorities in relation to DPI&F by protecting the environment for a sustainable future;
- strengthening the profitability and viability of Queensland’s primary industries; and
- ensuring the sustainable management and economic development of Queensland’s fisheries.

Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program Objectives

1. Undertake research on marine plants (including mangroves, seagrasses, saltmarsh vegetation) and/or declared Fish Habitat Areas (Fisheries Act 1994);

2. Enhance knowledge of marine fish habitat functions and contributions to fisheries productivity in Queensland;

3. Promote the importance of marine fish habitats to Queensland’s fisheries through publicly available documented research; and
4. Conduct research that seeks to assist DPI&F and/or other stakeholders to manage and maintain healthy marine fish habitats which sustain fisheries productivity in Queensland.

Examples of possible research projects include (but are not limited to):

- Document impacts and develop best management practices for habitat sensitive engineering designs (eg fish-friendly structures) and technologies to support protection and management of estuarine fish habitats subjected to urban pressures (examples of such habitats include inshore fish habitats; urban fish habitats; saltmarsh/claypan areas; and degraded fish habitats which may be subject to ongoing degradation);
- Explore restoration and rehabilitation techniques for marine fish habitats;
- Directly undertake, or facilitate, research into key urban management issues affecting marine fish habitats;
- Surveying stream crossings and their impacts on the health of or use of marine fish habitats by fish; or
- Assessment of the effects of pruning on the health of mangroves impacted by ongoing infrastructure maintenance.

How to apply

Applications submitted for the Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships (Honours) Program must be made using the advertised University of Queensland Application Form, with the proposal in the format shown in 'Project Proposal Format' attached in the two (2) following pages. All project proposals should be submitted in 11 point Arial font and not exceed four (4) pages in length.

The DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program Objectives are outlined in this Information Package and must be addressed when developing the proposed project.

In addressing the Program Objectives, applications that refer to DPI&F’s Urban Fish Habitat Management Research Program: 2005/2006 and beyond, are likely to receive funding preference. The Research Program includes the following research streams:

- Fish habitat utilisation;
- Land use activity impacts on fish habitats;
- Management of marine plants;
- Intertidal and subtidal structures as fish habitats; and
- Rehabilitation of fish habitats.

The Research Program is available at the DPI&F Urban Fish Habitat Management (UFHM) Research Program webpage http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb/13347.html. Current DPI&F priorities for research are also listed within the Research Program.

DPI&F Contacts

Applicants should contact either Mr Kurt Derbyshire on telephone number (07) 3225 1469 or Ms Melissa Dixon on telephone number (07) 3224 2241 to discuss the Scholarship Program.
2007/2008 DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship Project Proposal Format

Project title
Provide a brief project title (20 words maximum).

Mission Statement
Provide a brief statement of the project's aim (250 words maximum).

Need
Describe the research and management issue(s) that your proposal will address. Define the need for and benefits of the research. In particular, demonstrate how your proposal will meet the DPI&F Marine Fish Habitat Scholarships Program Objectives listed in the Information Package (first two pages).

Project Objectives
Provide a numbered list of objectives for your proposal. Address "what" is to be achieved, rather than "how" and "why".

Project Outline
Describe the proposed methodology. Include details of:

- How (sampling/laboratory techniques; data analyses; communication of results; etc.);
- Where (site locations);
- When (period of project; frequency of sampling; etc.); and
- Who (project leader; supervisors; assistants; etc.). Nominate staff involved and percentage of time spent on the project.

Project Outcomes
Describe the expected research and management outcomes from the project. Include details of:

- Any outcomes which could be aligned to additional research (current or proposed); and
- Any outcomes which could be applied to fish habitat management (measures for protection of fish habitat; best practice management guidelines for use of fish habitat, etc).

Consultation
Briefly outline any consultation undertaken with managers, researchers, industry and others in the development of the proposal.
Budget

Itemise costs (as described below), including, but not necessarily limited to: travel, sampling, laboratory and/or computing analyses, printing, stationery, equipment etc.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Items</th>
<th>Total $ (including GST)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation for field trips</td>
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<td>Car hire and fuel</td>
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<td>Vessel hire and fuel</td>
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<td><strong>Operating</strong></td>
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<td>Sampling</td>
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<td>Laboratory and/or computer analyses</td>
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<td><strong>Equipment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship Contribution</td>
<td>Maximum $5,000 (+ $500 GST)</td>
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<td>Other Funding (if relevant)</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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