

Qld Coastal Conference

Poster abstract for Department Primary Industries and Fisheries, Marine Habitat

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Fisheries Extension

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries provides education and extension resources on marine fish habitats for schools, stakeholders and the community. Fisheries staff also undertake extension activities with local governments, the development industry, conservation and community groups, fishing industry and recreational fishers.

Nature's nautical nurseries (NNN) is an interactive CD-ROM based educational program to give upper primary school students and teachers an insight into coastal fish habitats. The module has linked interactive sections on how plants and animals live in the different habitats as well as concepts like food webs and the importance of maintaining connectivity between the adjacent habitats.

Six types of marine fish habitats are explored from the upland ecotone to the sea (*Melaleuca* forests, saltmarsh, mangroves, muddy shores, shallow water sandbanks and seagrass beds). The three themes of habitat introduction, food chains and connectivity link the learning outcomes.

Attending teacher conferences and forums, visiting schools to talk to students and supporting community events such as seafood or environmental festivals and Expos are important parts of our communication strategy. DPI&F produces a range of posters, field guides, booklets and web-based information on all aspects of marine fish habitat management and protection.