

The Critical Fish Habitat Project

Reintroductions of threatened fish to the Lower Lakes 2011–2013



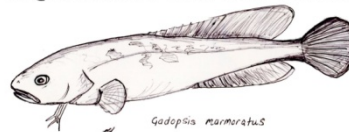
Chris Bice* and Nick Whiterod



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

AQUASAVE CONSULTANTS



**Government
of South Australia**



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

Lower Lakes threatened small-bodied fish

Southern purple-spotted gudgeon



Murray hardyhead



Yarra pygmy perch



Southern pygmy perch



Critical water shortage 2007–2010

Boggy Creek

Spring 2007



Goolwa Channel

Autumn 2007



Summer 2008



Summer 2009



Captive maintenance and breeding



Photo M. Hammer



Photo M. Hammer

Surrogate refuge dams



Crouch Dam
Yarra pygmy perch



Munday Dam
Murray hardyhead

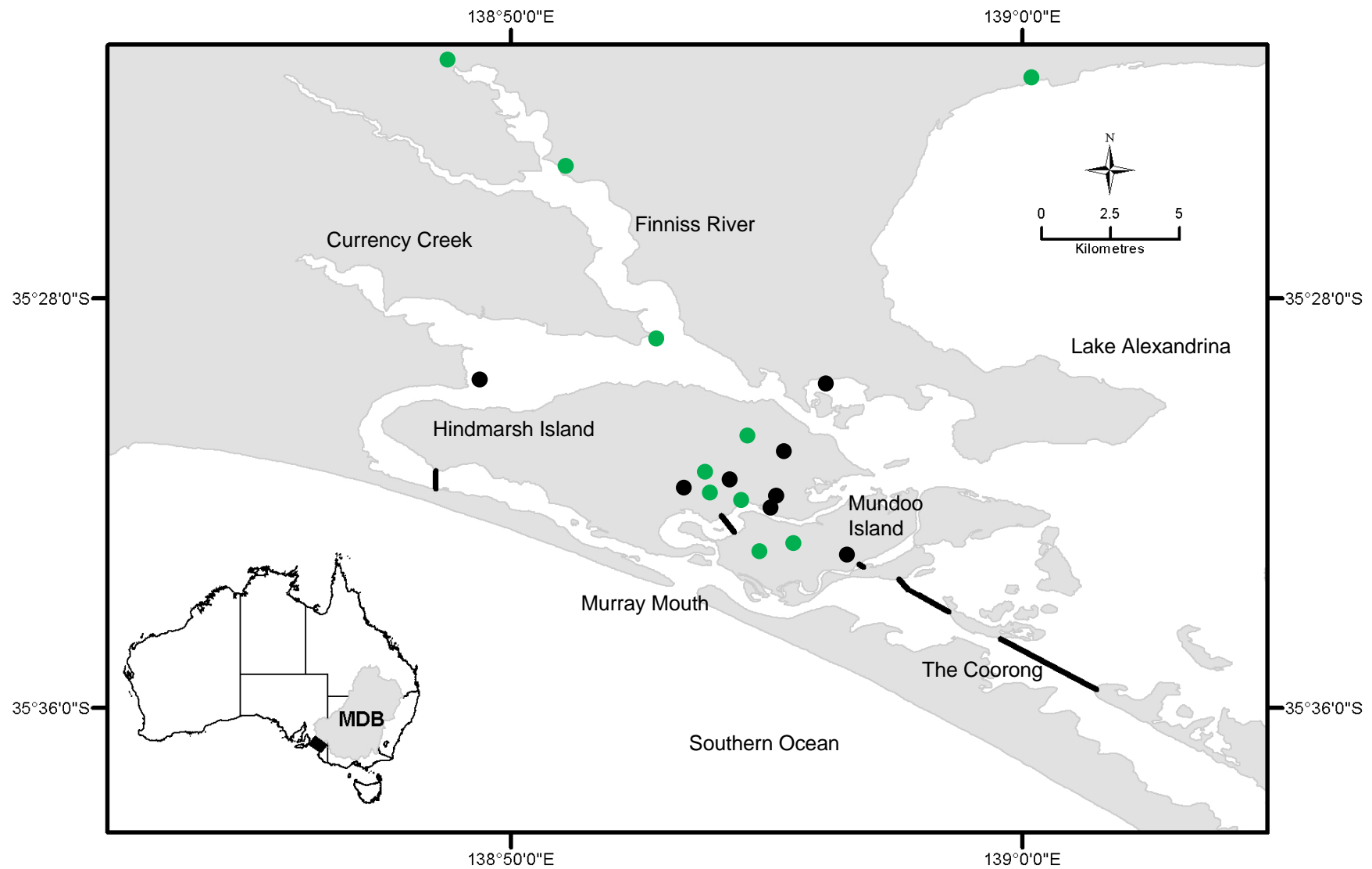
CFH project 2011–2013



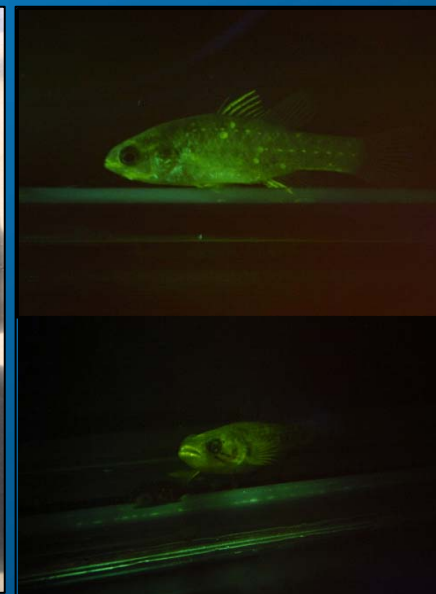
Government
of South Australia



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE



Reintroduction method



>15,000 fish released over three releases



Recapture summary

- 35 individual threatened fish recaptured at release sites
- Reproduction detected for southern pygmy perch



Species recovery?

- Survival 8–12 months all species
- May require prolonged reintro and monitoring effort
- Management must maintain vital aquatic habitat



Thanks to,

- Mike Hammer (Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory)
- DEWNR project managers: Adam Watt and Arkellah Hall
- Scotte Wedderburn and Tom Barnes (Adelaide University)
- Adrienne Frears, Jason Higham, Mel Tucker, Karl Hillyard, etc (DEWNR)
- Hatchery operators: Todd Goodman (Native Fish Australia) and Simon Angley (Alberton Primary School)
- Luciano Behegaray, Simon Westergaard and team (Flinders University)
- Brenton Zampatti, Phillipa Wilson, Arron Strawbridge and Rod Ward (SARDI)
- The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA)
- Landholders: specifically Kevin Wells, John Lovejoy, Colin and Sally Grundy, Robert Crouch, Bruce Munday, Simon and Vicki Oster , and Ian and Robyn Powell
- And anyone I've forgotten

