



Sounds off the Sunset Coast

Eavesdropping on fish is all in a day's work for Miles Parsons. Researchers at the Centre of Marine Science and Technology (CMST), Curtin University, have been listening to underwater noise for over twenty years – be it made by whale, dolphin, fish, man or even a sheet of ice cracking in the Antarctic.

Identifying fish sounds can help researchers and managers locate spawning grounds and monitor how the calling levels change over time. The louder the chorus, the more fish there are, so we can estimate how the relative abundance (the number of fish in a population) changes over time and help identify what drives the fish to spawn at a certain time and place.

In 2005, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded a unique project, which included investigating mulloway spawning aggregations in the Swan River. This new FRDC project will follow up by expanding the earlier study to more mulloway aggregations around Western

Australia. The project also hopes to determine whether pink snapper, Western Australian dhufish and black bream produce sound and, if so, can those sounds offer us any information on their ecology and numbers.

Discover more about this research project and *Sounds off the Sunset Coast* on...

Date: Wednesday 22 September 2010

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre
39 Northside Drive, Hillarys WA

Speaker: Miles Parsons, Research Fellow,
Centre for Marine Science and
Technology, Curtin University.

RSVP: Monday 20 September 2010

Email: michelle.youngson@fish.wa.gov.au
or miles.parsons@curtin.edu.au

