

# National Centrostephanus Management

Towards a national business plan for collaborative management of Centro 2023



A key outcome of the recent National Centrostephanus (Centro) Workshop was a commitment to establish a Task Force comprising representatives of the three state fisheries agencies, the Victorian Fisheries Authority, Marine Resources - Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) and NSW Government Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries, the CSIRO and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC). Additional Commonwealth agency participation will be sought, with future opportunities for involvement from other organisations, including peak bodies and First Nations. The immediate focus of the Task Force will be to produce a business plan for collaborative management of Centro by June 2023.

NRE Tas is coordinating the National Task Force developing the Centro Business Plan in partnership with FRDC and CSIRO. The plan sets out the key actions and initiatives required to effectively monitor and manage the Longspined Sea Urchin. The plan aims to establish cross-jurisdictional priorities for improved management outcomes, considering:

The range expansion of Centro (*Centrostephanus rogersii*), also known as the  
**Longspined Sea Urchin**

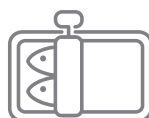


Strategies to  
**rehabilitate**  
damaged ecosystems



Management needs to ensure  
**marine ecosystem health**  
across Tasmania, Victoria, and NSW

Potential new markets  
for Centro as a  
**food product**



**Potential controls**  
and interventions to  
manage densities below  
key ecological thresholds



Productive  
**utilisation of waste**  
from food processing.



Ultimately, the Task Force is working to generate a strategy which provides a roadmap for regional scale collaboration on best practice Centro management. The Plan will achieve improved coordination and action, plus a greater diversity of interests in Centro management across its range in Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria.

The business planning process, which will commence in May 2023 and conclude in July 2023, will include the following components:



### **Task Force Establishment:**

Establishment of a national Task Force and other stakeholders to review the business plan scope, aims, objectives, measures of success and outcomes.



### **Consultation:**

The Task Force will consult and engage with national stakeholders to gain input and feedback on Centro management priorities and actions. All industry stakeholders are invited to be part of the consultation process (contact NRE Tas to be involved).



### **Review:**

An extensive review of the Senate Enquiry findings and the recently held National Centrostephanus Workshop findings will be conducted to establish priorities.



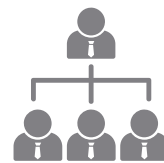
### **Vision:**

Following consultation and review, the Task Force will develop a vision for the collaborative portfolio of actions to address the challenges and opportunities posed by Centro, and develop an aspirational statement of what can be achieved in the next five years.



### **Plan:**

The Task Force will develop a five-year action plan which identifies a strategic management approach. It will consider the level of funding received and the feedback from the consultation approach. A funding model will be developed to underpin the action plan, detailing both priority budget items and potential sources of funding.



### **Governance:**

The plan will include the establishment of a governance structure detailing roles and responsibilities for each major functional group, researchers, funders, government(s), industry, First Nations/community implementers at all levels (local, state, national and global). The plan will then be handed over for implementation.

## **Why do we need a plan?**

The costs of pest species, if unchecked, can represent a significant drag on local and regional economies. Effective management of pest species requires a coherent strategy and appropriate level of financial commitment to support both strategy development and “in the water” control efforts over a meaningful time frame. Well-targeted efforts can generate a significant economic return for fisheries, tourism and related marine industries and their dependent coastal communities, as well as promote the recovery of ecologically important species such as kelp forests and improve the long-term resilience of marine habitats.

Unlike other invasive species such as the Crown of Thorns Starfish, Centro control provides a significant economic opportunity. Its edible roe is a highly valued seafood, and its cast and entrails show promise as an agricultural fertiliser. Commercial divers in Tasmania currently harvest ~500 tonnes of Centro per annum to supply valuable national and export markets; if managed on an integrated basis, this new fishery has the potential to create a self-funding mechanism for management of Centro abundance throughout parts of SE Australia.

As has been noted in recent submissions to the Senate Inquiry into Climate Related Marine Invasive Species, a regional scale control plan is urgently needed that seeks to:

1. Prevent the further expansion of Centro to new reefs;
2. Reduce the impacts of Centro on existing reefs to facilitate ecological recovery; and
3. Optimise control efforts to enable commercial harvesting to play an appropriate role in the ongoing control of Centro while targeting additional control efforts such as culling in areas where commercial harvesting is not viable or where there is sensitive habitat (e.g. kelp regrowth) or vulnerable species (e.g. handfish) that need specific protection.

Our stakeholder consultation process is currently underway. This will inform the business plan.

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