

APPENDIX J: Cooperative Research Centre

A **Cooperative Research Centre for Fisheries Development** is a centre of excellence for integrated research, development, training and extension with a limited lifespan (usually 7 years). CRC Fisheries Development Centre can be a knowledge-based partnership of fisheries development managers, researchers and industry as in the Australian Reef CRC where its mission is to plan, fund and manage world-leading science for the sustainable development and use of the fisheries and aquatic resources. A similar CRC for Sri Lanka could be developed to provide a co-ordinated research approach ensuring that industries and management are sustainable and that ecosystem quality is maintained. Such a CRC may be co-funded by government, industry and donors.

A Cooperative Research Centre **such as the Reef CRC** is implemented by a research and development company such as CRC Fisheries Development Research Centre Pvt which is limited by guarantee. The CRC operates through a **Board which has an Independent Chair** with private sector and fisheries sector representatives. The Board assesses company performance, financial status and conformance to all requirements of the company, whether they come from legislation or obligation to members and stakeholders. The Board evaluates its own performance and that of management through an annual survey. A procedure exists for disclosure and recording of conflict of interest.

The **Task Review Committee** reviews tasks and policy proposals on behalf of members of CRC and advises and makes recommendations to the Board. The **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)** provides scientific and technical advice to the Board through the CEO and Task Review Committee on the research and technology transfer aspects of CRC Reef's programs. The SAC is supported by task or issue-specific **Steering Committees**. The research priorities for CRC Fisheries development research are determined by the Board in consultation with users of the research. The research priorities could be: Aquaculture development offshore fisheries development; Sustainable fisheries and aquatic resources, Fish health and nutrition, Participatory co-management, Impacts on coastal resources.

