Invasive Species
SARDI Aquatic Sciences

This new SARDI Aquatic Sciences subprogram conducts research and provides practical advice to river managers and key stakeholders regarding the distribution, abundance, ecological impacts and management of invasive freshwater fishes such as common carp (Cyprinus carpio).

Research projects are conducted in collaboration with state and federal agencies, including the Murray Darling Basin Commission, the Invasive Animals CRC, AMLR & SA MDB NRM Boards, Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre (VIC), NSW Fisheries, the University of Adelaide and the Adelaide City Council.

Overview & Research Projects
Presently, there are four key research projects within the subprogram:


3. ‘Development and implementation of an integrated carp management strategy for the Torrens Lake, Adelaide’ – The strategy is informed by recent information indicating that carp exhibit distinct, predictable distribution and habitat selection patterns that can be exploited for control purposes. Program Staff
Dr Leigh Thwaites - Research Officer
Anthony Conallin - Research Officer
David Fleer - Technical Services
Aaron Strawbridge – Technical Services

4. ‘Integrated carp management at Banrock Station wetland’ (project has been on hold since Aug 2007 due to the ongoing drought conditions in the SA Murray) - envisaged to be the first to quantitatively demonstrate the effects of carp on the aquatic environment, and additionally, the ecological benefits their removal using an integrated approach. We also advise and provide research services to other projects focussed on a) developing carp population models for the MDB, b) identifying carp recruitment ‘hot spots’, and c) quantifying the ecosystem impacts of trout on native fish communities within the Mount Lofty Ranges, SA.

Selected Publications