



**SEQ Fish Managing Director
Dr Philip Chamberlain and
Production Manager
Mr Matt Johnson measure
juvenile turtles**

Australian Turtle—a new industry?

SEQ Fish has just completed an RIRDC funded project to assess the viability of a new industry in Australia based on breeding and growing Australian native freshwater turtle for human consumption.

Currently millions of turtle are consumed annually in China, with many illegally caught in SE Asia, causing pressure on endangered species.

A large market exists in Asian restaurants in Aus-

tralia, as well as export of frozen product to China.

Of the four local species studied over the last 5 years, results suggest that *Emydura macquarii* (signata), the Brisbane River Short Necked turtle is the most likely candidate for aquaculture systems, due to its fecundity, growth rate and hardiness.

Data has been collected on many aspects of farming this species,

including broodstock management and nutrition, egg laying, collection and incubation, hatchling management, as well as growth rates and diets.

We are able to offer assistance to industry to develop new or existing aquaculture markets, and the improve health of fish stock to maximise production potential .

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