## Case Study Name:
- Indigenous Community-based Fisheries in Australia

## Authors:
- Carter, J., and Hill, G.

## Document Type:
- Journal article

## Year:
- 2007

## Language:
- English

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- Journal of Environmental Management 85, 866-875

## Full Citation:

## Region:
- Oceania

## Country:
- Australia

## Ecosystem Type:
- Marine

## Social Characteristics:
- Indigenous community-based, aboriginal

## Scale of Study:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Resource Type:</strong></th>
<th>fisheries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Initiative:</strong></td>
<td>Research driven project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Based Work:</strong></td>
<td>Fisheries management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords:</strong></td>
<td>Community-based fisheries; Indigenous Australians; Design principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong></td>
<td>The commercial sea cucumber species known as Sandfish (Holothuria scabra) occurs intertidal and sub tidally in the Northern Territory of Australia, on or adjacent to Aboriginal land. A 4-yr program of community-based fisheries research with Aboriginal Australians was implemented to assess the viability of indigenous Australians’ involvement in the wild-stock fishery. The research involved extensive and intensive indigenous participation, unusual in Australian biophysical sciences research, during field survey and habitat mapping, complemented by commercial catch data modeling and discussion of its implications. Field surveys produced Sandfish distribution and site-specific density, and revealed some areas that were not commercially fished. Catch data modeling results suggested that no additional effort could be sustained, however commercial fishers increased their effort, expanding their operations into the newly mapped areas. These actions effectively precluded indigenous peoples’ aspirations of entry into the commercial fishery. The efficacy and outcomes of participatory program design with indigenous Australians need critique in the absence of the political will and statutory backing to provide equitable access to resources.</td>
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