




## Utilisation of a recovering wetland by a commercially important species of penaeid shrimp

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**Abstract** Penaeid shrimp represent an important group of valuable exploited species known to either directly utilise saltmarsh habitat, or utilise saltmarsh-derived productivity. Consequently, both areal coverage and primary productivity of saltmarsh habitat has direct consequences for the productivity of these important fisheries, and they are likely to be key beneficiaries of habitat repair. This study aimed to establish quantitative estimates of abundance of School Prawn, *Metapenaeus macleayi*, across a

asymmetry observed in the distribution of prawns across the wetland is likely to be due to a combination of water quality and inter-specific interactions. These results show that the recovering wetland is supporting a high abundance of School Prawn. Our estimates of recruitment for School Prawn will also be useful in gauging the potential increases in fisheries productivity arising from habitat repair in this, and other systems.