

Hello

Welcome to the final edition of FRDC News for 2023.

What a year it has been for our stakeholders and FRDC – working closely with over 1100 partners on over 451 projects to help boost the fishing and aquaculture sectors. [Watch a recap of the year.](#)

Also in this edition, learn how FRDC and a group of partners are mapping our **future of seafood**, how WA Fisheries are working with traditional owners to develop a **Kimberley Mud Crab Fishery** and catch up on what our Extension Officer Network has been up to over the last 18-months, in a reflection on how their **unseen hands are making big differences**...and much more!

Best wishes and safe travels for the holiday season.

As always, we're keen to get your feedback is most welcome along with any story requests. Please submit them in this [form](#) and the **Communications Team** will be in touch.

FRDC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

TOP STORIES



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2023 Year in review

113 new projects, 43 sponsored events - plus so much more. Take a quick look back at some of the highlights of a remarkable year at FRDC.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1 to 5](#)

Are we prepared to sail? Mapping the future of Australia's seafood voyage

FRDC has announced its partnership in a new ground-breaking project to chart the course for Australia's seafood expansion.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1 to 5](#)



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FRDC's Extension Officer Network: Unseen hands creating big differences

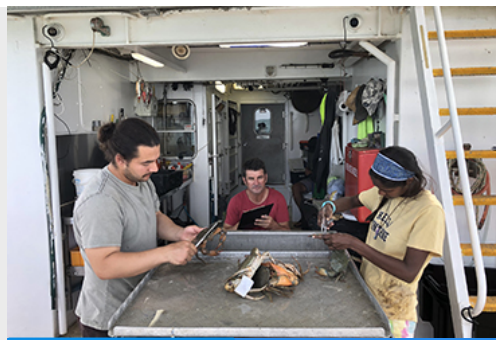
FRDC's Extension Officer Network (EON) continue to be the quiet achievers of fishing and aquaculture, bridging the gap between FRDC's research and real-world impact.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 2,4 and 5](#)

Developing a Kimberley Mud Crab fishery

A new research project is working with Aboriginal communities to gather biological data on two mud crab species in Western Australia, to develop local fisheries and provide economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

This reflects R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 2,4 and 5



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Taste tests assess new Southern Bluefin Tuna products for Australian diners

A range of new Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) products designed for Australians are hitting the market, allowing producers to diversify and improve the viability of the sector.

This reflects R&D Plan Outcomes 1 and 2

Smartphone option to add critical recreational catch data

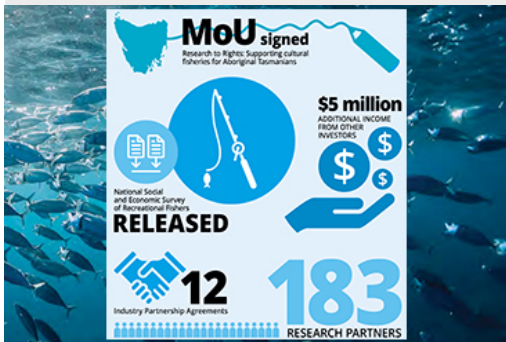
Smartphone apps can add valuable information about recreational fishing catch and effort to improve fisheries management, but further research is needed to make them a robust alternative to the accepted 'gold standard' data collection method.

This reflects R&D Plan Outcomes 2 and 3

Photo credit: Scott Amon Photography



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FRDC 2022-23 investment for innovation and impact

FRDC's accomplishments in 2022-23 have set new benchmarks in research, development, and innovation, with a remarkable investment of \$38.96 million in Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors, as highlighted in our recently release annual report.

This reflects R&D Plan Outcomes 1 to 5

IN BRIEF

- Applications are sought for the [part-time position of Chairperson of FRDC](#) for a term of up to three years.
- Australia's [National Marine Science Committee \(NMSC\)](#) is seeking an [Independent Chair](#) to lead the next phase of its growth as the government finalises and implements its Sustainable Ocean Plan, and marine sectors continue their focus on improved sustainability and pursuing net zero solutions.
- Southern Rock Lobster Limited (SRL) is seeking to appoint a new [volunteer Independent Scientific Board Member](#).
- Affectus and FRDC [want to hear about your understanding](#) with the learning and training preferences of the people working within the seafood sector, to help design future learning and leadership programs.
- FRDC, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Seafood Council, and Women in Seafood Australasia have partnered to help investigate ways to grow and retain women working in the Northern Territory's commercial seafood sector, where worldwide they are significantly underrepresented. You can read more about the project [here](#).
- Australian hospitality venues will soon be required to tell customers where their seafood was caught after the [federal government announced](#) country-of-origin labelling would be made mandatory for the fishing and aquaculture sectors.
- Central Queensland University are offering [three 1000-dollar scholarships](#) to assist with expenses related to participation in the upcoming AgEd24 3rd Symposium.
- [Entries are now open](#) for the Royal Queensland Aquaculture Awards 2024.

MOVERS

- **Matt Barwick** will commence a 12-month secondment as Director of the Reef Trust's within the International Environment, Reef and Oceans Division at the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water from January 2024.
- **Ian Curnow** will step down from his role as Senior Executive Director of Fisheries within the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade, at the end of this year.
- **Andrew Robson** has taken on the role of President for the Queensland Oyster Growers Association.
- **Mark Gervis** has concluded his role as General Manager of Southern Ocean Mariculture with Hamish Ebery taking up the role.
- **Sarah Bakić** has taken on the role of Communications Manager at Seafood Industry Australia.
- **Chris Cvitanovic** has started a new role as Research Program Manager of Fisheries at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.
- **Lukina Lukin** has joined the Commission at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).
- **Marc Anderson** will commence as the Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op Chief Executive Officer from March 5th, 2024, replacing Matt Rutter who will finish at Christmas.

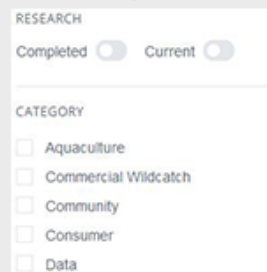
FRDC PROJECTS

Interested in our research projects?

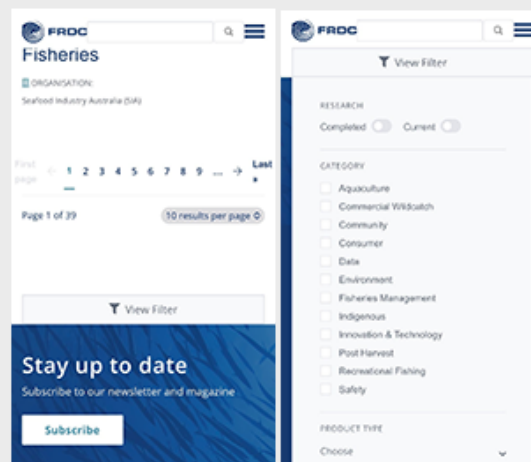
A dynamic list of our **current** and **completed** projects are available on our website. Not only can you search for a project number on our search facility at the top of our website, you can also filter our projects by topics, species, organisation and more on the search page by:

1. using the filter list on the right side of the search results page when searching from the desktop (see Desktop view image below) or
2. navigating to the bottom of any web page and click on *View filter* section to expand the filter options when viewing on mobile devices (see Mobile view image below)

Desktop view



Mobile view



Reporting Guidelines

For our researchers, information on **reporting guidelines** is available from <https://www.frdc.com.au/reporting-guidelines>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date with our schedule of exciting and informative gatherings, from conferences to workshops and more. Whether you're looking to network with like-minded individuals, learn from industry experts, or simply have a good time, you'll find it all here. Browse our events calendar, find one that interests you, and join us for a memorable experience!

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As always, we love your feedback and story suggestions, which you can submit on our website <https://www.frdc.com.au/contact-us>

Keep updated!

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