



FEBRUARY 2024

Hello

Welcome to the February edition of FRDC News.

In this edition, FRDC highlights the collaborative work of Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors to help **'cool down' the impacts of climate change**, the discovery of a **first-of-its-kind tool** to help Tuna farmers, and why Australia is leading the world in **shark and ray management**.

As always, your story suggestions and feedback are most welcomed. 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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'Cooling down' the impacts of climate change

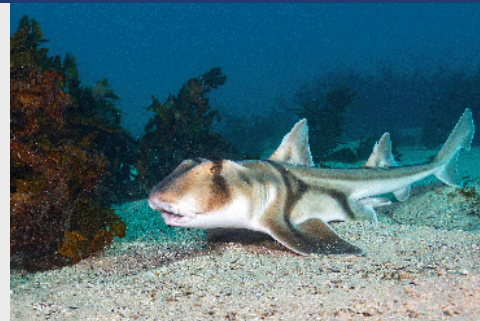
Rising sea temperatures resulting from climate change are motivating Australia's fisheries and aquaculture sectors to adapt quickly to the opportunities and challenges facing them.

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

Australia leads the world in shark and ray management

In the wide world of sharks and rays, Australia is doing remarkably well, according to the latest comprehensive national assessment of shark, ray and chimaeras (ghost sharks) stocks.

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



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A new energy future for aquaculture

A new research collaboration is investigating energy options for the aquaculture sector to help operators reduce carbon emissions and save money.

Photo credit: Tassal

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 2 and 3](#)

Rapid parasite detecting test helping Southern Bluefin Tuna farmers

Cutting-edge research funded by FRDC has resulted in the development of a first-of-its-kind mobile diagnostic tool, allowing Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) farmers to quickly identify blood flukes in their stocks.

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



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Farewell John Williams

As Ex-Senator John Williams completes his tenure as Chair, FRDC takes a moment to reflect on the notable achievements and successes that have marked John Reginald "Wacka" William AM's extensive and diverse career.

Government Grants of up to \$1.1m available to help boost efficiency of fishing and operations

The Federal Government and FRDC are offering up to \$1.1 million dollars for SME's who can provide innovative solutions to improve the energy efficiency of the commercial fishing sector.

This reflects R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4



Impossible?

Up to \$1.1m grants for innovators!



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Vale Dr. Peter O'Brien

FRDC received the heartbreaking news about the passing of the influential and highly accomplished Peter O'Brien.

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IN BRIEF

- **Do you have an idea that can reduce carbon emissions in Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors?**
The [Business Research and Innovation Initiative \(#BRII\)](#) is offering grants of up to \$1.1 million dollars if you do. This is an exciting opportunity to capitalise on your innovation and help the environment at the same time. See [business.gov.au/BRII-RLE](#) for more info.
- **Do you know a local hero generating game-changing innovations or ideas? Or a PhD student making pioneering strides in research?** This is YOUR chance to amplify their voices and let the world know. Nominate a high achiever in your state or territory, for a Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Award, sponsored by FRDC:
 - [Sydney Fish Market's 'Seafood Excellence Awards' \(NSW\)](#)
 - [Queensland Seafood Marketers Association Awards](#)
 - [Western Australian Fishing Industry Council's 'State Seafood Awards'](#)
 - [Seafood Industry Victoria's 'Seafood Industry Awards'](#)
 - [Northern Territory Seafood Industry Councils 'NT Seafood Industry Awards'](#)
- **SafeFish is offering a supplementary grant opportunity** for a [passionate post-graduate student](#) undertaking a research project relevant to food safety or market access of Australian seafood.
- **Help shape the future of Australia's fisheries & aquaculture!** Share your experience with FRDC in Forest Hill Consulting's independent review of FRDC's performance. Submit feedback or request an interview [here](#).
- **Are you interested in presenting at the 2024 Seafood Directions Conference?** [Submit an abstract](#) relevant to the theme "Future of Seafood" and deliver a 10-20-minute presentation **by the 15 April 2024**.
- Get ready to **explore the exciting possibilities of fishing and aquaculture with Finnovation!** Learn how FRDC is changing the landscape with a new co-investment opportunity to fast-track commercialisation of novel solutions for the challenges facing fishing and aquaculture. Whether it's new fishing gear, regenerative aquaculture practices, biosecurity safeguards or any innovation that addresses current and future challenges in our sectors. Dive into [www.frdc.com.au/finnovation](#) for all the details.

[Subscribe today](#) to stay in the loop on the latest updates and be the first to know when you could have an opportunity to help accelerate the growth of Australia's aquatic innovation pathway. Let's make a difference together!

IN THE NEWS

- An alliance of eighteen leading Western Australian institutions is calling for a state ocean policy to protect the natural and economic value of our ocean and coast. The [call is one of six priorities](#) outlined in the 2024 State of the Blue Economy report.
- Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry [recently announced a new portal](#) aimed at encouraging a wider variety of applicants to apply for agricultural portfolio boards.

You can visit the portal directly [here](#).

MOVERS

- **Giles Bolton** has been appointed as Chair of the MSC Board of Trustees.
- **Dr Nicola Pitt**, formerly with Action Market Research, has started a new position at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
- **Dr Justin Coombs** will be stepping down as CEO of Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre at the end of April.
- **Steven Matthews** has stepped down from his role as Program Director, Research and Business Services at NT Fisheries.
- **Michael Usher** has been appointed as Chief Scientist with NT Fisheries.
- **Craig Aspinall** has started a new position as Manager of the Aboriginal Water Program at the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water.
- **Chris Wilcox** has resigned from his role as Director of Fisheries and Conservation at the Minderoo Foundation.
- **Matt Lowe** has been appointed as Deputy Secretary of the Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group at DAFF.
- **Alice McDonald** has finished in her role as Climate Adaptation Senior Program Manager, with Dan Corrie taking over her role.
- **Jessica McInerney** has commenced a new position as Futures of Seafood, Engagement Manager (FRDC Project 2023-092).

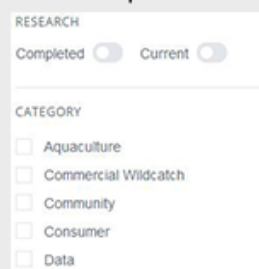
FRDC PROJECTS

Interested in our research projects?

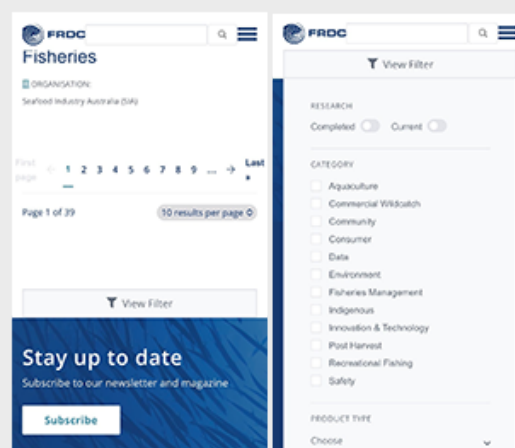
A dynamic list of our **current** and **completed** projects are available on our website. Not only can you search for a project number on our search facility at the top of our website, you can also filter our projects by topics, species, organisation and more on the search page by:

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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