



FRDC STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

June 2018

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FRDC Programs Continual Improvements – Project ‘Products’

The FRDC have been working to identify the most appropriate forums to centralise and make accessible the suite of other project ‘products’ – e.g. publications, flyers, images & footage, statistical models – generated as part of FRDC funded RD&E activities. The FRDC acknowledges that it has a role in centralising and making accessible these products while ensuring that credit is provided to the author(s).

The FRDC’s intention of centralising these project products is to enhance the extension and improve the broader adoption of R&D outputs and outcomes. In addition, the centralisation of RD&E project products – particularly data and statistical models – will aid in improving the transparency of FRDC funded research and more broadly Australian marine science.

Currently, FRDC make available downloadable copies of Final Reports via the FRDC website <http://frdc.com.au/Research/Final-reports>. However, it is likely that other product specific platforms are required and their development will be explored in the near future in consultation with our stakeholders. We will provide an update in future Stakeholder Briefings.

FRDC Stakeholder Survey

Every few years the FRDC surveys diverse group of stakeholders – fishing and aquaculture, Indigenous, researchers and government, to find out their views on the priorities, work and investments being undertaken. In 2018 the FRDC took a slightly different approach, in that we asked all stakeholders [those with an email address or mobile phone number] to have their say.

If you have not received or missed the email, you can still have your say until 15 June. The survey itself is conducted online and will take around 15 minutes to go through all the questions.

Survey Link: <https://surveys.intuitivesolutions.com.au/s3/FRDC-2018-Stakeholder-Survey>

The FRDC gets regular feedback, both directly and indirectly, but our stakeholders do have diverse and differing views, and this survey is a way to give everyone the chance to have their say and share their thoughts.

The results will be used to improve what we do and how we deliver it. The survey results will be posted on the FRDC website in the coming month. See <http://www.frdc.com.au/Services/Market-research>

FRDC Performance Review

Under its Funding Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) the FRDC is required to undertake a review of its performance. FRDC management agreed to the terms of reference with DAWR in Sep 2017. Foresthill Consulting (led by Scott Williams) was selected to undertake the review in November 2017, and the Review is well under way. Foresthill Consulting has undertaken a number of face-to-face interviews, but is also seeking FRDC stakeholder feedback via a website it has set up at www.frdcreview.org. If you would like to provide stakeholder feedback on the FRDC, you can do so anonymously on the website.

Status of Australia Fish Stocks (SAFS) Reports Update

SAFS species chapters

One hundred and twenty author teams, comprising 95 scientists from around Australia, are currently writing species chapters for SAFS 2018. A further 53 independent scientists will review the draft chapters. The Fisheries Statistical Working Group, comprising representatives from each jurisdiction,

has been working diligently behind the scenes to provide the data that underpins the species chapter.

The draft chapters will be submitted to the FRDC in June. Each chapter is then subject to initial consistency and technical review. From July to October the chapters undergo independent external peer review and completion. These final chapters are edited and cleared, uploaded to the web and checked prior to public release in early December.

Reducing the number of undefined species

Malcolm Haddon and his CSIRO colleagues have been visiting jurisdictions conducting training workshops on the stock assessments of data limited species (FRDC Research Code: 2017-102 “Reducing the Number of Undefined Species in Future Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports: Phase Two - training in the assessment of data-poor stocks”). The workshops have been well attended and well received. To date, workshops have been held in all jurisdictions. These workshops provide options to minimise the proportion of 'undefined' species in SAFS and expand the capacity for data-poor stock assessments within Australia.

Recent SAFS Advisory Group meetings

The SAFS Advisory Group held meetings on 26-27 March and 27 April 2018. Key outcomes included:

- Stock structure for 120 species (including Negligible stocks) was finalised
- SAFS 2018 Authors Guide was released
- The provision of scientific evidence on how stock status was derived in terms of biomass and fishing mortality when there is no formal published stock assessment
- Mapping overfished (depleted) and transitional-recovering (recovering) stocks and tracking progress is being progressed through the FRDC jurisdictional Research Advisory Committees.

(Dedicated SAFS website: www.fish.gov.au/Reports)

Fight Food Waste CRC

In March 2018 the Fight Food Waste CRC was approved by the Federal government. The FRDC through the Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries and the Abalone Council of Australia were partners of the bid. However, a component of the initial bid which was of interest to a number of fishing industry sectors, *Protecting Provenance and Brands Program*, was not funded.

Although the CRC Program noted that the overall application was one of the best written and articulated, they felt that the case for the food fraud funding was not as strong as for food waste.

The FRDC and key stakeholders interested in the non-funded component are now looking at options for undertaking further investment in this area. Alison Turnbull from SARDI and Janet Howieson from Curtin University. We will provide an update in future Stakeholder Briefings.

National Marine Safety and Welfare RD&E Initiative

FRDC to launch Marine Safety and Welfare Initiative

Putting marine safety front and centre, the FRDC is set to launch its new National Research, Development and Extension Marine Safety and Welfare Initiative, working with industry partners such as Austral Fisheries and West Australian Fishing Industry Council.

The new initiative, will be ambitious, with a goal of zero deaths, a significant reduction in injuries and 100 per cent compliance with safety regulations.

Over the past year the FRDC's internal policies have made wearing life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs) mandatory for all FRDC staff and all those working on FRDC projects while onboard vessels.

The FRDC's national research initiative will build on and broaden previous FRDC investment in this area, committing research funding around the following four key areas.

1. Education: the development of electronic learning tools to facilitate the uptake of knowledge required for an improved culture of safety awareness, including general workplace safety requirements under workplace health and safety legislation and Australian Maritime Safety Authority legislation (FRDC Research Code: 2017-194 "Sesafe – Delivering industry safety through electronic learning"). View resources at <http://www.sesafe.com.au/>
2. Adoption of a new 'safety focused' culture within the industry: for example, through the promotion of 'marine safety champions' or the development of capabilities to ensure that safety regulations are adopted.
3. Behaviour, understanding and influencing: for example, to understand the inhibitors and motivators for behaviour change in relation to industry safety (FRDC Research Code: 2017-046 "What's stopping you from protecting yourself and your mates? Identifying barriers to the adoption of safe work practises in the small-scale wild catch commercial fishing industry").
4. Coordination and communication: the initiative will establish a coordination and communication hub to ensure all FRDC marine safety projects are linked and collaborate effectively, and will establish a process for collecting and reporting statistics on marine safety and welfare (FRDC Research Code 2017-231 "To develop a national marine safety extension resource toolkit and to trial with all fisheries jurisdictions").

As part of the national initiative the FRDC is in discussion with further industry partners and organisations who share a vision to make commercial fishing a safe workplace and an attractive one for young people to work in.

Details of the projects attached to this initiative are available on the FRDC's website (www.frdc.com.au).

Aquatic Animal Welfare

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) was an agreed blueprint for animal welfare in Australia that ran from 2005 to 2013 and aimed to enhance welfare outcomes for all animals. As part of this strategy a suite of codes of practice, guidelines and brochures for aquaculture, wild catch commercial and recreational fisheries as well as restaurants. These publications can be found at <http://www.frdc.com.au/en/Environment/Aquatic-Animal-Welfare/AAW---Research>. To assess the level of engagement with this material, project 2017-221 "Raise awareness of the guidelines developed by the AAWWG (Aquatic Animal Welfare Working Group) with industry and review their adoption, uptake rates and utility" has begun to assess the awareness of the material developed and identify mechanisms to further extend the information. Following the workshop, future priorities in the aquatic animal welfare area will be identified.

Human Dimensions Research Subprogram

Across Australia, the seafood industry councils and individual sectors have identified the need to calculate their social and economic value beyond Gross Value of Production. An excellent example of this work was the FRDC funded studies undertaken by Dr Kate Barclay (UTS) for wild catch fisheries in NSW (FRDC Research Code 2014-301 "Social and economic evaluation of NSW coastal commercial wild-catch fisheries") that was then replicated to also include the aquaculture industry (FRDC Research Code 2015-302 "Social and economic evaluation of NSW coastal aquaculture"). These

projects highlighted the suite of social and economic contributions that NSW's seafood sector provide to the State, with the results of this work well received by the NSW Professional Fishermen's Association.

Currently, a similar project has been initiated in Victoria as nominated through Seafood Industry Victoria (FRDC Research Code: 2017-092 "Valuing Victoria's Wild-catch fisheries and aquaculture industries").

Given the increasing interest in this area, the FRDC's Human Dimensions Research Subprogram are coordinating a project (National Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry Contributions Study) that will look across all available methodologies and develop a common approach to provide values that are comparable and can be replicated at national and regional scales. This project will be seeking regional case studies to trial this work and will be looking to the Research Advisory Committees to partner (co-contribute) to these case studies.

National Carp Control Plan

The National Carp Control Plan team was formed to tackle the challenge of identifying a smart, safe, and effective approach to manage carp impacts in Australia. A key focus of this process is to explore the potential use of biocontrol.

Under the NCCP we have engaged 19 of Australia's leading universities, research institutions and expert organisations to deliver independent and rigorous science and explore carp control options. Research includes field studies to estimate carp biomass in affected habitat types, further testing of the species-specific nature of the carp virus, strategies for cleaning up dead carp if the virus is approved for release, assessing mechanisms to reduce risk of negative impacts to people whose business or recreation depends on carp-affected waterways, complementary methods to control carp such as commercial fishing and genetic biocontrol, as well as research into alternate uses for carp biomass.

Those working on addressing knowledge gaps and risks join others from around Australia exploring regulatory considerations, consulting, communicating and engaging with stakeholders, and conducting operational planning activities.

As the NCCP is now over half way through, as activities are completed research findings will go through an extensive independent peer review process to ensure they are robust before being considered and made public. Currently three projects are being reviewed with another four due for review mid year.

A link to NCCP's March Progress Report is provided here [<http://www.carp.gov.au/FAQ/Updates>] summarising the research work underway and the findings that are emerging from this important work. The next progress report is due later this month.

One common concern raised by stakeholders through consultation conducted to date is that more time is needed to review research findings and ensure that the right recommendations are made in relation to carp control.

The NCCP was set an initial deadline of December 2018 to deliver recommendations to governments. While we still have six months remaining, those working on the plan wish to provide assurance that deadlines will not shape outcomes.

This is an important consideration for our nation and one that must deliver long term improvements to our waterways, and how we enjoy them. If those collaborating to develop the NCCP believe that adequate research and consultation with communities cannot be delivered within the agreed timeframes, an extension will be sought.

The NCCP reiterates its promise to:

- make findings of all research projects commissioned by the NCCP available via its website www.carp.gov.au.
- ensure a suitable period of time is available to seek feedback from stakeholders on research underpinning the Plan, and draft recommendations.
- share with the public key outputs for comment, including:
 - the draft National Carp Control Plan Operations Strategy, which will describe how release and clean up might occur, and outlines roles and responsibilities.
 - NCCP reports which describe risks and how they might be managed if approved.

Have Your Say - www.yoursay.carp.gov.au

A new engagement platform has just been launched to provide people with an opportunity to read more about the research underway and ask questions in relation to the NCCP program and particular areas of focus.

Over coming months we will be taking a deeper dive into the areas that we have learned are of most interest to the public, and provide an opportunity for users to have their say in relation to those topics. We encourage you and your members to register and share your thoughts: <https://yoursay.carp.gov.au/>

To provide further detail around the work we are undertaking, the NCCP will also be hosting a series of research update webinars on Bang the Table to provide stakeholders like yourself an opportunity to hear directly from leading scientists on the work they are undertaking and to ask any questions you may have in relation to this work. Register for more information as the schedule is announced.

Key events 2018

Date	Event	More information
8 June	World Oceans Day	http://www.worldoceansday.org/
18 -21 June	SeaWeb Seafood Summit	http://seaweb.org/
1-5 July	2018 Annual Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference	http://amsa18.amsa.asn.au/
16-20 July	International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade Conference	http://www.iifet2018.org/
1-2 August	NZ Seafood Industry Technical Day and Conference	https://www.seafood.org.nz/
9-10 August	Australian Abalone Growers Association Industry Workshop	
13-15 August	Ridley Australian Prawn Farmers Association Symposium 2018	www.apfa.com.au/2018-symposium
18-19 September	Australian Barramundi Farmers Association AGM and industry workshop	
28 September	National Symposium On Seafood Marketing	http://queenslandseafoodmarketers.com.au/seafood-marketing-symposium/

7-11 October	Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference 2018	http://asfb2018.org.au/
10-14 December	Fish Passage 2018 – International Conference on River Connectivity	https://fishpassage.umass.edu/

Date	Research Advisory Committee meetings	More information
		See the FRDC website - http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees
11 July	QLDRAC (by invitation)	
12 July	COMRAC (by invitation)	
17 July	WARAC (by invitation)	
19 July	NSWRAC (by invitation)	
25 July	NTRAC (by invitation)	
26 July	TASRAC (by invitation)	
31 July	SARAC (by invitation)	
2 August	VICRAC (by invitation)	

FRDC board meeting dates

12-14 June	FRDC Board Meeting, Hervey Bay	02 6285 0400
15-16 August	FRDC Board Meeting, Canberra	02 6285 0400

See the FRDC website for more events (<http://frdc.com.au/en/Media-and-Publications/Events>).

Key new projects approved since last update in March 2018

NOTE: may not yet be contracted

Project Number	Title	Applicant	PI	Budget \$
2017-183	Alternate business models for Community Supported Fisheries	Wildcatch Fisheries SA	Franca Romeo	100,280
2017-179	Sensory testing of seafood - fresh versus frozen - and development of frozen seafood recipes	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	Andrew Forrest	95,000
2017-148	Identifying synergistic genetic biocontrol options for <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> in Australia	Wedekind Gutachten	Claus Wedekind	80,000
2017-219	Establishing a network of investors to help drive growth in Australian fishing and aquaculture businesses	Fish 2.0	Monica Jain	159,000
2017-220	Testing established methods of early prediction of genetic merit in abalone broodstock	James Cook University (JCU)	Jan Strugnell	85,422
2017-222	Engineering Options for the National Carp Control Plan	The Wedge Group Pty Ltd	Karl Mathers	54,940
2017-196	Marketing Symposium 2018	Queensland Seafood Marketers Association Inc (QSMA)	Marshall Betzel	40,000
2017-186	Oil and Gas: National coordination - seismic and other issues	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc (WAFIC)	Mannie Shea	426,974
2017-190	Assessment of gamma irradiation as a feasible method for treating prawns to inactivate White Spot Syndrome Virus	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	Stephen J. Wesche	220,000
2017-224	Southern Rock Lobster Clean Green program, revision, digitisation & extension across the supply chain	Southern Rocklobster Ltd (SRL)	Ross J. Hodge	731,800
2017-231	To develop a national marine safety extension resource toolkit and to trial with all fisheries jurisdictions	Taylor Health and Safety Pty Ltd	Tanya L. Adams	350,000
2018-059	World Fisheries Congress 2020 - Sharing our Oceans and Rivers: a 2020 vision for the world's fisheries	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Jane Ham	200,000
2017-214	Comparative evaluation of Integrated Coastal Marine Management in Australia - Workshop	CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Hobart	Robert Stephenson	14,640
2017-198	Assess new technologies and techniques that could improve the cost-effectiveness and robustness of recreational fishing surveys	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Mike Steer	38,370
2017-193	Building Biosecurity Capability across the Wild Harvest Fisheries	Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA)	Eric Perez	131,450
2017-236	National Carp Control Plan - Aboriginal Community Engagement	Marcia Ella Consulting (MEC)	Marcia Ella-Duncan	180,000

2017-221	Raise awareness of the guidelines developed by the AAWWG (Aquatic Animal Welfare Working Group) with industry and review their adoption, uptake rates and utility	Safe Sustainable Seafood Pty Ltd	Mark Boulter	36,250
2018-060	Blue carbon and the Australian seafood industry	CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Hobart	Mat Vanderklift	50,803
2017-069	Indigenous capacity building program	Fishwell Consulting	Ian Knuckey	194,892