



FRDC STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

September 2018

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New Commonwealth Assistant Minister for Fishing and Aquaculture – Tasmanian Senator Richard Colbeck

New Prime Minister Scott Morrison has appointed Senator Richard Colbeck to the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio to assist Minister Littleproud. Senator Colbeck will take responsibility for fishing and aquaculture. Senator Anne Ruston is now the Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific in the Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism and Investment Portfolio. Senator Colbeck has a very good knowledge of fishing and aquaculture from his previous time as the assistant minister. It is expected [to be confirmed] that Senator Colbeck will be responsible for the same key areas Senator Ruston was, namely:

- The revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines
- The revised Commonwealth Bycatch Policy and Guidelines
- Quantifying the recreational catch of Southern Bluefin Tuna – IMAS has won the tender to undertake the survey
- Developing a Commonwealth Resource Sharing Policy
- Establishing a Fishing and Aquaculture Ministerial Advisory Council

FRDC Internal Restructure of Portfolio Management

Some stakeholders will be aware of recent changes to the FRDC management of the various Advisory Groups – Research Advisory Committees, Industry Partnership Agreements & Subprograms. This change has been brought about by a review of the FRDC structure. This has resulted in changes to who looks after each RAC or IPA.

These changes can be seen on the FRDC Organisation Chart at – <http://frdc.com.au/-/media/Fish-FRDC/Corporate-documents/FRDC-Organisation-Chart-8-July-2018.ashx?la=en>

The RAC, IPA and Subprogram webpages have also been updated with the new contact for FRDC staff members. The pages also have new “relevant project listing” at the bottom of each page. This lists all projects related to the relative area.

Annual Operational Plan (AOP)

The FRDC’s 2018-19 Annual Operating Plan has been submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resource and the Assistant Minister.

The FRDC AOP sets out the key priorities for the coming year, as well the performance targets. The AOP can be found on the FRDC website at <http://www.frdc.com.au/-/media/Fish-FRDC/Corporate-documents/Annual-Operating-Plans/FRDC-2018-19-AOP.ashx?la=en> .

Investments in 2018–19 will continue to focus on the three national priorities, subprogram and stakeholder/jurisdictional RD & E plans see: <http://www.frdc.com.au/Partners> .

In addition, the FRDC looks across its portfolio and identifies areas that require adjustment [to maintain a balanced portfolio] or to specifically respond to areas for investment or focus.

This process starts in August, when the FRDC Board reviews the business environment and strategic direction with input from its representative organisations. The following focus areas have been identified as priorities for FRDC in 2018-19.

- Biosecurity – prevention and risk management
- Animal Welfare – turning information into practise
- Digital Strategy - Data – Progress harmonisation and increased availability
- Work health and safety (WHS) – promoting and implementing on water and on farm safety.

The FRDC will explore, through the Fish-X and Fish 2.0 projects new approaches to identify funders, develop and respond to issues or business opportunities. The two projects will deliver alternate paths for industry development, as well increasing the speed of innovation and adoption by stakeholders. These projects also aim to broaden the FRDC investor base, bringing in new funding partners.

The National Carp Control research program will continue to be delivered to inform the development of the National Carp Control Plan for the Australian Government to consider.

Following changes to the *Primary Industry Research and Development Act* the FRDC will commence seafood marketing activities, where industry request it – either via voluntary funding or a statutory marketing levy(s).

FRDC financial income and expenditure planning 2017–21.

REVENUE	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
<i>Australian Government 0.5% AGVP</i>	14.92	14.85	15.10	15.35
<i>Matching of industry contributions</i>	7.46	7.42	7.55	7.68
Total revenues from the Australian Government	22.38	22.27	22.65	23.03
Contributions revenue from Industry	7.59	7.61	8.70	8.70
Projects revenue from other parties	5.50	4.02	3.00	3.00
Other revenue	0.26	0.30	0.25	0.25
Marketing and promotion	0.50	0.50	1.00	2.00
TOTAL REVENUE	36.23	34.70	35.60	36.98
EXPENDITURE	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Programs Expenditure				
Total RD&E expenditure	30.20	28.35	28.56	28.89
Total Marketing expenditure	0.41	0.45	0.90	1.80
Management and accountability	5.26	5.88	6.08	6.25
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	35.87	34.68	35.54	36.94

Marketing Legislation Passes

On 16 August 2018 the FRDC got the news it has been waiting on for a long time. FRDC can now undertake marketing activities with voluntary funds - no levies required.

The changes come about as a result of the Primary Industries Research and Development Amendment Bill 2017 being passed by both houses of parliament.

Up to this point any marketing activities the fishing and aquaculture businesses wanted FRDC to run collectively required them to go through the lengthy process of establishing a mandatory marketing levy. This burden is now gone and allows for more flexible and custom programs to be developed.

Industry still has the option (should they want) to establish a full levy, but would be required to meet the twelve levy principles [see: Department <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/levies>]

The change opens the doors for FRDC to partner with and deliver any marketing activities on behalf of Australia's seafood industry. For example, if the seafood industry want to run a trade event (either here or overseas) to promote Australian seafood. FRDC and industry partners could identify an event of interest (say a trade show), pay a fee and be part of the event. Any and all interested companies could sign up. This is very similar approach used by Wine Australia for international trade shows – each company pays a fee to attend and be part of the show.

What next?

The FRDC is keen to start discussions with any industry partners looking to undertake or be part of marketing activities. It is important to note, that the FRDC can only undertake marketing where industry request and provide funding for the activity. In these cases the FRDC will work with them to develop plans and processes [approvals/sign offs] to undertake requested activities.

Market Data Updates

FRDC has updated the two trade pages for prawn and rock lobster import and export data:

<http://www.frdc.com.au/Services/Seafood-Trade-and-Market-Access/Prawn-Shrimp-Import-and-Export-Data>

<http://www.frdc.com.au/Services/Seafood-Trade-and-Market-Access/Rock-Lobster-Exports>

FRDC Performance Review

Under its four year Funding Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) the FRDC is required to undertake an independent review of its performance prior to renegotiating the next Funding Agreement. FRDC board 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.

FISH 2.0

The FRDC have sponsored FISH 2.0 Program. The Fish 2.0 competition connects seafood businesses and investors in order to grow the sustainable seafood sector. Fish 2.0 provides businesses with opportunities to gain visibility and find strategic partners. The focus for the Australian Track and the areas the program are looking for are:

- Aquaculture production and technologies, including new fish feeds and disease control
- Changing and improving seafood supply chains
- New seafood products for consumers
- Sustainable packaging and logistics, and reducing waste in seafood supply chains
- Traceability and transparency
- Wild capture fisheries and technologies supporting sustainability or fisher safety

FRDC also published a story on FISH 2.0 in FISH Magazine <http://www.frdc.com.au/Media-and-Publications/FISH/FISH-Vol-26-2/FRDC-sponsors-innovation-competition>.

Fish 2.0 applicants will participate in a workshop and investor event in Melbourne on October 23-24. The workshop is open to all Australia seafood ventures who apply. Fish 2.0 alumni are also welcome to apply to attend. The application is simple and can be completed online at www.fish20.org/australia

Status of Australian Fish Stock Reports (SAFS) Update

As of July 2018, the Status of Australian Fish Stock Reports (SAFS) are being used as evidence based science to inform the United Nations Sustainability Goal Number 14 'Life Below Water' (indicator 14.4.1 'Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels'). This broad goal seeks to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

To learn more go to:

- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- The Australian Government's report on 'Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Voluntary National Review) 2018': <https://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/2030-agenda/Pages/sustainable-development-goals.aspx>
- The Australian Government's reporting Platform on Sustainable Development Goals: <https://www.sdgdata.gov.au/>
- Full Status of Australian Fish Stock Reports (to be updated in December 2018): <http://fish.gov.au/>

Rural R&D for Profit – Round 4

On 10 August 2018 the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources announced that round four of the Rural R&D for Profit Program is open for applications. The Minister's media release can be found [here](#).

Program documentation, including guidelines and the online application form, can be found at [GrantConnect \(https://www.grants.gov.au/?event=public.GO.list&orderBy=Close+Date+%26+Time+-+Ascending&GOID=&keyword=agriculture\)](https://www.grants.gov.au/?event=public.GO.list&orderBy=Close+Date+%26+Time+-+Ascending&GOID=&keyword=agriculture) Applications close on 5 November 2018.

Applications through the online form must include an 'organisation ID' number and all RDCs already have this ID number.

Further information can be found on the Departments website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation/rural-research-development-for-profit>).

FRDC Seafood Industry Safety & Welfare National Strategy

FRDC have taken the lead in developing a nationally integrated effort to improve the safety, health and welfare of Australia's seafood industry. A key driver was knowledge that commercial fishing safety performance has not improved in last 15 years and is now considered one of the most dangerous occupations (even though this statement has not been statistically evaluated).

There have been significant resources (financial and physical) allocated to workplace health and safety (including mental health, training and systems for data collection) over the last 15 years in the commercial fishing industry. However the majority have been "stand alone" and there has been limited extension for the wider industry to adopt. In addition, there have been limited resources within industry to continue the developmental work required.

The FRDC Seafood Industry Safety & Welfare National Strategy broadly focuses on the integration of previous and new investments made in the area of workplace health and safety and mental health and culture.

Current FRDC investments in the area of workplace health and safety and mental health are:

- [2016-400](#): Sustainable Fishing Families: Developing industry human capital through health, wellbeing, safety and resilience

- 2017-046: “What’s stopping you from keeping yourself and your mates safe?” Identifying barriers to the adoption of safe work practices in the small scale wild catch commercial fishing industry
- 2017-194: SeSAFE – Delivering Industry Safety through Electronic Learning (see also www.sesafe.com.au)
- 2017- 231: National Marine safety and welfare extension resource toolkit and to trial with all fisheries jurisdictions
- 2018-106: Identifying electronic platforms to increase safety at sea in the Australian commercial fishing fleet
- FRDC are also contributing to Agrifutures Australia’s (former RIRDC) Primary Industries Health and Safety Program

FRDC and its partners in this strategy are in the process of having all these initiatives overseen by one steering committee to ensure best possible collaboration, avoid duplication, and importantly maximise the focus on the outcome of significant improvements in safety. Of a number of identified priority areas under the Seafood Industry Safety & Welfare National Strategy – FRDC acknowledge that there is a need to develop a communication plan.

Industry Wellbeing and Mental Health

At the end of September, the FRDC’s Human Research Dimensions Research Subprogram will host the “Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safety in the Seafood Sector: Making a difference” workshop. This workshop aims to guide future FRDC investment in RD&E to improve levels of mental health, wellbeing and safe work behaviours and culture across Australian fisheries and aquaculture. The workshop will likely have updates from current relevant FRDC projects, industry organisations and their initiatives/partnerships, perspectives from government agencies and regulators, as well as leaders in related agri-business sectors on equivalent programs and interventions.

Annual Stakeholder Workshop

The FRDC’s Annual Stakeholder Planning Workshop will be held August 29th & 30th in Adelaide, and provided a forum for representatives of each Research Advisory Committees (RACs), Industry Partnership Agreements (IPAs) and Subprograms and external stakeholders to present their research priorities. The primary objective of the Stakeholder Planning Workshop was to establish collaborative opportunities for co-investment in RD&E that will have multi- jurisdictional and, or national benefit.

The workshop will result in priority areas being established. More information including workshop outcomes and presentations will be provided via the FRDC webpage – <http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Stakeholder-workshops>.

Inshore Fishery Subprogram – update

The newly established (Commercial) Inshore Fishery Subprogram is holding its second meeting in late-September to develop a terms of reference and finalise the Governance Committee. At this meeting, it is expected that a shortlist of activities – initially focusing on improving social license for these commercial operators – will be discussed which could become shared pilot projects.

To date, the Subprogram held an initial meeting in mid-2018, with the Executive Officers from the State & Territory based wild catch industry councils in attendance. It was agreed that the issue of resource allocation and access would not be addressed by the Subprogram – but rather there would be a focus be on taking advantage of sharing existing knowledge and opportunities, developing new opportunities and trial initiatives such as new technology. Meeting participants outlined activities

relevant to inshore fisheries – current and in planning – and identified commonality in RD&E priorities.

Key events 2018

Date	Event	More information
2-6 September	8th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health	https://isaah2018.com/
12-15 September	International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA) meeting	
18-19 September	Australian Barramundi Farmers' Association AGM and industry workshop	
21 September	"Mental Health, Wellbeing and Safety in the Seafood Sector: Making a difference" workshop (invite only)	
25 – 28 September	Third Elsevier Aquaculture Conference 2018: International Advances in Aquaculture Research	https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/aquaculture
27 September	National Inshore subprogram workshop (invite only)	
28 September	National Symposium On Seafood Marketing	http://queenslandseafoodmarketers.com.au/seafood-marketing-symposium/
29 September	Tin Can Bay Seafood Festival	http://www.visitgympieregion.com.au/events-1/tin-can-bay-seafood-festival
October	National Seafood Month	
7-13 October	Mental Health Week	http://www.mhcsa.org.au/mhcsa-events/mental-health-week-2018/
7-11 October	Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference 2018	http://asfb2018.org.au/
10 October	World Mental Health day	https://1010.org.au/
15-16 October	Indigenous Reference Group meeting	
17 October	Australian Fisheries Managers Forum (invite only)	
19 October	Proposed date for the 5th meeting of the Australian Fisheries Ministers (invite only)	
19 October	Women's Industry Network Seafood Community workshop and 20 th anniversary dinner (invite only)	http://winsc.org.au/
18-21 October	7th Global Conference on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries	http://www.gafconference.org/
22-25 October	Fish 2.0 Australian Workshop	https://www.fish20.org/ventures/2018tracks/australia
7-8 November	National Priority 1 Steering Committee meeting (invite only)	
19-21 November	FRDC Board meeting (invite only)	
10-14 December	Fish Passage 2018 – International Conference on River Connectivity	https://fishpassage.umass.edu/

FRDC board meeting dates

Date	Research Advisory Committee meetings	More information
23 October	QLDRAC (by invitation)	See the FRDC website - http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees
11 October	COMRAC (by invitation)	
16 October	WARAC (by invitation)	
4 October	NSWRAC (by invitation)	
10 October	NTRAC (by invitation)	
19 October	TASRAC (by invitation)	
30 October	SARAC (by invitation)	
18 October	VICRAC (by invitation)	

Key new projects approved since last update in June 2018

NOTE: may not yet be contracted

Project Number	Title	Applicant	PI	Budget \$
2017-026	Can spatial fishery-dependent data be used to determine abalone stock status in a spatially structured fishery?	University of Tasmania (UTAS)	Craig Mundy	562,128
2017-138	Understanding the Markets for Western Rock Lobster	Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC)	Matt Taylor	400,000
2017-140	Digitising the Western Rock Lobster Industry	Western Rock Lobster Council (WRLC)	Matt Taylor	550,000
2017-143	Boosting the emergence of Cobia farming in Australia	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	Peter Lee	1,175,716
2017-210	National fisheries and aquaculture industry social and economic contributions study: Phase 1	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Taroona	Emily Ogier	393,218
2017-215	Storm Bay Biogeochemical Modelling & Information System: Supporting sustainable aquaculture expansion in Tasmania	CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Hobart	Karen Wild-Allen	1,649,325
2017-225	Improving risk management of paralytic shellfish toxins (PST) in the Blacklip Abalone (<i>Haliotis rubra rubra</i>)	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Alison Turnbull	142,955
2017-237	NCCP: Risks, Costs, and Water Industry Response	Water Research Australia Ltd	Tim Kildea	50,000

2017-238	Water treatment to control influent water biosecurity risk on Australian prawn farms. Effectiveness and impacts on production ponds.	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	David Mann	155,700
2017-239	Seafood Directions 2019	Seafood Industry Victoria Inc	Johnathon Davey	65,000
2017-241	Understanding blood flukes infecting Southern Bluefin Tuna	RMIT University Melbourne City Campus	Nathan Bott	30,000
2017-242	Our pledge: Australian seafood industry response to community values and expectations	Seafood Industry Australia (SIA)	Jane Lovell	172,450
2017-243	Program management - Atlantic Salmon aquaculture expansion modelling and monitoring program (Storm Bay)	Rockpool Land and Water Services Pty Ltd	Jason Whitehead	52,800
2017-244	Fish for the future: creating a new investment model for the FRDC	Food Futures Company Pty Ltd	Christine Pitt	80,000
2017-246	WINSO 2018 Annual Conference Sponsorship	Women's Industry Network Seafood Community	Leonie Noble	30,000
2017-247	Wild catch Barramundi Workshop to explore future options to improve fisheries	Queensland Seafood Marketers Association Inc (QsMA)	Marshall Betzel	10,000
2017-250	WAFIC, Recfishwest, DPIRD and SSPWA attendance at 'Engaging Leaders Innovating Across Sectors' (ELIAS)	Western Australian Fishing Industry Council Inc (WAFIC)	Alex Ogg	18,000
2018-016	Improving data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander marine resource use to inform decision-making	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)	Daniel Casement	200,000
2018-025	Processing innovation to produce novel, investment ready, WA seafood products	Curtin University	Janet Howieson	238,881
2018-026	e-fish – proof of concept for a comprehensive integrated end-to-end digital solution for fisher reported data	AFMA	Andrew Powell	240,000
2018-047	Barramundi origins: determining the contribution of stocking to the barramundi catch on Queensland's east coast	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	Richard Saunders	261,777
2018-061	Abalone Council Australia Ltd Planning and Management for a National Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Program	Abalone Council Australia Ltd	Dean Lisson	666,700

2018-063	Maximising industry representational capacity and capability through improved skills and knowledge	Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC)	Julian J. Harrington	40,000
2018-068	Non-market values to inform decision-making and reporting in fisheries and aquaculture – an audit and gap analysis	Queensland University of Technology (QUT)	Louisa Coglan	130,000
2018-084	Development of technical and extension material to support Murray Cod aquaculture industry expansion in Australia	Freshwater Native Fish Association (FNFA)	Noel Penfold	76,000
2018-090	Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) using a hydrodynamic model for dispersion of OsHV-1	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)	Shane Roberts	70,168
2018-091	Assessment of national-scale tracking of commercially important fish species	Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS)	Michelle Heupel	85,000
2018-097	Survey of Enterprise-level Biosecurity across the Australian Aquaculture Industry	Instinct and Reason	Rob Mercer	36,505
2018-098	Vaccination for emergency and long-term control of nodavirus in Australian marine aquaculture	University of Queensland (UQ)	Andrew Barnes	668,462
2018-101	A trivalent vaccine for sustainable yellowtail kingfish growout	University of Queensland (UQ)	Andrew Barnes	809,040
2018-106	Identifying electronic platforms to increase safety at sea in the Australian commercial fishing fleet	Diversity Sustainable Development Consultants Pty Ltd	Geoffrey Diver	22,342
2018-112	NCCP: Carp Questionnaire Survey and community mapping tool - Empowering the community to be part of the national solution to Carp through the National Carp Control Program	Centre for Invasive Species Solutions	Peter West	44,000