



## Strategic Opportunity 1



### Activate a program to improve resilience of fishing and aquaculture to a changing climate

Climate change is impacting Australia's aquatic ecosystems, sectors and industries that rely on those systems. Australia's oceans provide important functions including oxygen production, nutrient recycling and climate regulation and generate considerable economic wealth through fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, energy and transport. There is significant effort underway to understand climate change causes, but for Australian fishing and aquaculture, it is vital to recognise that changes are occurring, appreciate the associated risks and opportunities and respond by executing strategies to improve resilience through adaptation and mitigation.

This program has initiatives to build capacity and capability and generate new knowledge regarding:

- Risks and opportunities presented by climate change
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) performance of sectors
- Alternative fuel solutions for wild harvest fisheries
- Renewable energy pathways for the aquaculture industry
- Alternative management strategies for Australian fisheries that can help improve their resilience

- Ecosystem restoration using 'blue carbon' solutions to rebuild natural ecosystems, improving fisheries productivity and delivering improved carbon sequestering capacity
- Sharing relevant information on what is working and what is not, through a national community of practice to allow system-level adaptation.

At the end of 2022, FRDC published a special 'call for climate resilience projects', with the intention to deliver a program of investment that aims to help build resilience to a changing climate.

#### Projects underway include:

- Research led by Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) in partnership with Austral Fisheries to establish proof of concept for alternative fuel solutions. The project team and FRDC staff met with AMSA towards the end of 2022 to clarify regulatory process to allow trial of vessels utilising 'greener' means of propulsion
- Project 2021-104 "Applying the fisheries climate adaptation handbook to Australia's state fisheries".

