



FRDC
FISHERIES RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Strategic Opportunity 3



Investigate opportunities to optimise equitable sharing and security of access to Australia's aquatic resources

Access to aquatic resources, guided by good management, is fundamental for the continued delivery of economic and social benefits such as food, income, employment, recreation and cultural identity, however, resource sharing among users can be contentious. As the 'blue economy' takes shape and seafood species move in response to a changing climate, Australia's seascapes are likely to become busier and more contested.

It is therefore vital to optimise benefits for the Australian community by sharing resources fairly, using open and evidence-based processes within the limits of sustainability.

Aquatic resource management decisions can occur without a multi-sector view necessary to ensure that the Australian community receives the best value. This has led to trade-offs, environmental impacts, unnecessary complexity, ineffectiveness, inefficiency and increased costs. To rectify this, FRDC is investing to support integrated and effective management of Australia's aquatic resources that promote development and adoption of change-resilience management measures.

FRDC is investigating mechanisms to mitigate spatial squeeze concerns for fishing and aquaculture.

Specific actions include:

- Project 2022-104 "Review and quantify the cumulative effects of expanding industrial coastal developments, and emerging offshore renewable energy on the fishing industry in WA" with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC). FRDC is also co-designing (with stakeholders) an R&D prioritisation program in this region
- Partnering with the Blue Economy CRC to develop an integrated marine spatial planning framework for Australia.

