

Media Alert



Fisheries research board visits Port Lincoln

12 February 2024

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Directors will visit Port Lincoln on 14–15 February 2024 to meet with industry, researchers and government to gain further understanding of fishing and aquaculture initiatives in the state.

FRDC Chair, Mr John Williams AM, said the FRDC Board was meeting in Port Lincoln because it is a key fishing and aquaculture region in South Australia.

“With Port Lincoln laying claim to the largest fishing fleet in the Southern Hemisphere – and having thriving fisheries and aquaculture including fresh-farmed and wild-caught, high-quality, southern bluefin tuna, yellowtail kingfish, southern rock lobster, green lip and black lip abalone, Spencer Gulf king prawns, Boston Bay blue mussels, and Pacific and Angasi oysters – it’s an obvious choice for the FRDC Board to visit,” Mr William said.

“It is important for our Directors to have our meetings in regional areas, to meet key stakeholders and visit research and seafood production facilities. We are committed to understanding the research, development and extension (RD&E) issues, needs and priorities of our fishers and aquaculturists so we can ensure our investment portfolio delivers benefit to them.”

“Over the past year FRDC has invested over \$3.82 million dollars into RD&E projects in South Australia,” he said. “This includes a significant joint investment with the South Australian Government on the Snapper Science program – a \$5 million initiative (\$2.5 million from FRDC) involving 12 research projects looking at Snapper recruitment, population biology, stock structure and fishable biomass estimates.

“The Snapper fishery is a core component of South Australia’s fishing culture and FRDC is working closely with the program leader, the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) on the science projects, so we’re eager to get an update on this work,” said Mr Williams.

FRDC Managing Director Dr Patrick Hone, said the Board placed a strong emphasis on engaging with stakeholders while in Port Lincoln.

During the visit the Board will meet with stakeholders from a number of key sectors and organisations including:

- SA Sardine Association
- Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Association
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Association
- Seafood Industry South Australia
- Indigenous Fishers
- Recfish SA
- South Australian Research and Development Institute
- Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)
- Seafood and aquaculture businesses

Patrick said the Board was particularly looking forward to meeting with Tiahni Adamson, Young South Australian of the Year 2024.

“Tiahni is a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman working as a community engagement officer at climate change solutions company CH4Global. CH4Global is one of the leading aquaculture companies growing *Asparagopsis* seaweed and producing methane reducing feed supplements for cattle,” he said.

“FRDC is administering the \$8.1m Australian Government commitment to progress seaweed research and support the establishment of a National Hatchery Network for the commercialisation of seaweed production as a key input into feedstock to help reduce methane emissions,” Dr Hone said.

This investment will also help the sector expand seaweed research expertise and capability, enhance breeding techniques, and support existing and future industry stakeholders to navigate regulatory processes.

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About FRDC

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) takes a leading role in planning and investment in fisheries research and development (R&D) to support the ongoing sustainability of our aquatic sectors and aquatic ecosystems.

We are a co-funded partnership between the Australian Government and fisheries and aquaculture. We are a statutory corporation under the *Primary Industries Research and Development Act 1989* (the PIRD Act) and are responsible to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

We plan, invest in and manage R&D for fishing and aquaculture and the wider community, and we encourage adoption of the resulting knowledge and innovation for impact. We coordinate government and industry investment and work with stakeholders to establish and address their R&D priorities.

On behalf of the Australian Government, we have a significant responsibility to ensure research is undertaken to assist in the management of fisheries and aquaculture resources for their ongoing sustainability. This means funding is directed to research that has a benefit for Indigenous, commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture while also delivering a public good benefit to the Australian community.

Photo opportunities

Journalists are invited to meet the FRDC Board on Thursday 15 February 2024:

- **8.20am** Port Lincoln Marina where several vessels will be unloading
- **2.00- 5.00pm** PIRSA Lincoln Marine Science Centre
- **4.10 – 4.50pm** The Board will be meeting 2024 Young South Australia of the Year Tiahni Adamson with photo opportunities from 4.50pm

