



**FRDC NEWS**  
May 2024

## Bridging traditions and science

Sea Cucumber knowledge  
empowers Torres Strait Island fisher

[Read More](#)

## Welcome MAY 2024

Hi ,

Welcome back to FRDC News, our top story explores one person's ambitious goal to reopen his local sandfish fishery using the power of Sea Cucumbers!

Other articles in this edition include revolutionising fish screens to help deliver a river fish renaissance, a project unravelling the mysteries of jellyfish blooms and a project posing the complicated question "can peak bodies speak for all anglers?" plus much more!

As always, your article suggestions and feedback are welcomed. Please submit them in this [form](#) and the [Communications Team](#) will be in touch.



FRDC acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and culture. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

### Top stories



#### [Torres Strait fishers expand their skills and vision](#)

Support to build Torres Strait Islander fisher skills is helping share traditional knowledge and use science to identify new commercial opportunities, such as the farming of Sea Cucumbers.

[Read More](#)



#### [Revolutionary fish screen technology - a river renaissance for millions of native fish](#)

New fish screening technologies have the potential to save millions of native fish, which includes dozens of endangered species, while protecting the biodiversity and productivity of our river systems.

[Read More](#)



#### [It's nothing to be jelous about: Uncovering the secrets of jellyfish blooms](#)

New FRDC research seeks to understand why jellyfish blooms are persisting in the Hawkesbury Estuary – a significant disruption causing financial distress for commercial trawl and mesh fishers working in the river.

[Read More](#)



## Can peak bodies speak for all anglers? Research suggests its complicated

An investigation led by Tasmania's peak recreational fishing body, TARFish, explores how peak bodies successfully represent the views of recreational fishers to government.

[Read More](#)



## Wild Prawns on the hospitality education menu

A groundbreaking online training initiative for the food service sector aims to strengthen awareness of Australia's wild-caught Prawn fisheries and the rich culinary diversity they offer.

[Read More](#)

## In Brief

- The International Seaweed Symposium 2025 is pleased to welcome submissions of abstracts, and proposals for mini-symposia and workshops. [Find out more](#)
- Linda Sams, who leads sustainable development at Cermaq Canada, has been announced as a keynote speaker for Seafood Directions. [Find out more](#)
- The AMSA-NZMSS 2024 committee is calling on marine scientists to present their wonderful artwork (such as sculptures, painting, drawing) at the upcoming Australian Marine Sciences Association 2024 conference. [Find out more](#)
- Women in Seafood Australasia is thrilled to be providing bursary opportunities for women to attend Seafood Directions 2024. [Find out more](#)
- The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council is searching for a new Chief Executive Officer. [Find out more](#)
- Nominations for the Australian Biosecurity Awards are now open! If you know an individual, group or organisation that deserves to be recognised for their contributions to Australia's biosecurity, [nominate them today](#).
- Tickets are now available for the South Australian Seafood Industry Awards, being held in Stamford Grand Adelaide, 28 June, 2024. [Find out more](#)

## Movers

- Alice McDonald** has started a new position as a Senior Fishery Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Justin Coombs has stepped down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre (MBCRC), with **Daniel Abrahams** taking up his position.
- Michael Patane** has commenced as a Research Director at MBCRC.
- Dr Jeremy Holson** is stepping down from his role as Seafood New Zealand's Chief Executive Officer.



Alice McDonald, FAO

## In the News

Hatchery-reared juvenile scallops (as part of FRDC Project 2019-068) have been successfully deployed for the first time off the coast of Rottnest in a crucial step towards developing a more productive and sustainable saucer scallop fishery for Western Australia. [Find out more](#)

## Events

Stay up-to-date with our schedule of exciting and informative gatherings, from conferences to workshops and more. Whether you're looking to network with like-minded individuals, learn from industry experts, or simply have a good time, you'll find it all here. Browse our events calendar, find one that interests you, and join us for a memorable experience! [Click here for the latest schedule](#)

## FRDC Projects

### Interested in our research projects?

A dynamic list of our **current** and **completed** projects are available on our website. Not only can you search for a project number on our search facility at the top of our website, you can also filter our projects by topics, species, organisation and more on the search page by:

- using the filter list on the right side of the search results page when searching from the desktop (see Desktop view image below) or
- navigating to the bottom of any web page and click on *View filter* section to expand the filter options when viewing on mobile devices (see Mobile view image below)

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the FRDC Projects website. On the left, labeled 'Desktop view', the interface includes a 'RESEARCH' section with 'Completed' and 'Current' filter buttons, a 'CATEGORY' section with checkboxes for Aquaculture, Commercial Wildcatch, Community, Consumer, and Data, and a 'View Filter' button. Below these are search and filter tools, followed by a list of 39 results. A 'Stay up to date' newsletter sign-up box is visible at the bottom. On the right, labeled 'Mobile view', the same sections are present, but the 'View Filter' button is expanded into a full sidebar. This sidebar contains the 'RESEARCH' filters, a detailed 'CATEGORY' list with checkboxes for various research areas, and a 'PRODUCT TYPE' dropdown menu. The overall layout is designed for better readability and navigation on smaller screens.