

FRDC captures a new perspective on Australia's commercial wild catch sector

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Australians are being challenged to leave behind their preconceived notions on commercial wild catch fishing with the release of a new suite of videos, 'Take a deep dive: Commercial wild catch fishing' by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

The campaign has focused on a group of Western Australian, Queensland, and South Australian commercial wild catch fishers. The theme of the 17-video series includes the diverse employment opportunities within the sector, their continuous improvement and adoption of sustainability practices and equipment, and the crucial role commercial wild catch fishing plays in providing economic value and fresh seafood to local communities.

Commercial wild catch fishing plays an important role providing fresh, local, nutritious seafood and employment opportunities throughout regional and remote Australia, said FRDC General Manager Stakeholder Engagement, Kylie Dunstan.

"Seafood contributes around \$3.2 billion annually to the national economy and Australian Seafood consists of over 6,300 businesses employing over 17,000 people from commercial fishing to aquaculture, seafood processing, technical support, transport, retail and food service sectors."

"FRDC's Board acknowledged the need to increase awareness of the important contribution commercial wild catch fishers play throughout Australia – to demonstrate the stewardship of the marine estate and to capture the innovation in fishing techniques, technology and practices being used – many developed through FRDC funding," said Kylie.

"A national video series is the perfect way to showcase these stories – you can go commercial fishing without getting your feet wet or being seasick," Kylie added.

The campaign features stories of new employment opportunities such as, Stewart Kempton, a young fisherman based in Western Australia, who fell in love with working on the ocean after just two weeks of working on a charter boat during a holiday in Exmouth.

"I actually never thought I would be a commercial fisherman," Stewart said. "My dad was a shearer then a miner, I thought I would follow in his footsteps."

Stewart now works for Tonkin Fisheries as a commercial shark fisherman, with his favourite part of the job centering around his love for supplying fresh, local seafood to the community. He hopes to start his own business and become a skipper.

Bryn Westerberg from Albany Seafoods knows that as a fisher, you are always thinking about the next innovation.

"I think the sky's the limit really with innovation. I mean, every week there seems to be some new technology coming out that can help things," Bryn said.

To take a deep dive on commercial wild catch fishing, visit:

www.frdc.com.au/take-deep-dive-wildcatch-fishing

Videos produced as part of the campaign will also be featured on the SeafoodCareers website, showcasing the oceans of opportunities within the seafood sector. SeafoodCareers is a partnership between Seafood Industry Australia, FRDC and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Visit www.seafoodcareers.com.au for more information.

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Footage and Imagery

FRDC is able to supply raw footage and high-resolution photography for broadcast and print. Please contact comms@frdc.com.au for these assets.

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.

