



FRDC News March 2025

BASEMENT JACKS

Where's your stock at?

Welcome MARCH 2025

Hello !

Known for its fierce fighting spirit and celebrated as one of Australia's top eating fish, Mangrove Jack holds a prized spot in the nation's fishing and dining culture.

Our top story saw us dive into how citizen science and research organisations around Australia are ensuring its sustainability by tackling the crucial question: '[Mangrove Jack – where's your stock at?](#)'

This month also saw us [exploring a new tool for Tasmania's waters](#), [dissecting the truth of Marlin diets](#), [unlocking the potential of invasive species waste](#), and [global perspectives on salmon aquaculture](#) by a Nuffield Scholar.



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



Basement Jacks - where's your stock at?

Genetics, micro-chemistry and even parasites are being used to learn more about Mangrove Jack (*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*), including stock structure and migration patterns.

[Read More](#)



Tasmania's Marine Atlas open for exploration

The launch of groundbreaking new initiative provides public access to up-to-date data about Tasmania's marine environment and activities.

[Read More](#)



Dissecting the truth of marlin diets

Understanding the diets of apex predators like marlin is essential for their management - new research is helping to clarify their feeding habits by distinguishing primary prey from those consumed earlier in the food chain.

[Read More](#)



Fertiliser potential of Invasive Species unlocked

An innovative approach to managing the invasive Longspined Sea Urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) is showing great promise - transforming marine waste into a valuable, sustainable soil fertiliser.

[Read More](#)



Nuffield Scholar brings global perspective back to Tasmanian salmon aquaculture

Joana Mendes, driven to make a meaningful impact on Tasmania's farmed salmon sector, has completed her Nuffield Scholarship, bringing back global insights to help shape the future of Tasmanian salmon aquaculture.

[Read More](#)

Become FRDC's next Managing Director.

FRDC is seeking an experienced and strategic leader to maximise Australia's benefits from its aquatic resources and foster the long-term prosperity of fishing and aquaculture.

[Apply Now](#)

Futures of Seafood Workshops - Register Now!

Seafood Industry Australia, the Blue Economy CRC and CSIRO, invite commercial seafood industry operators across aquaculture, post-harvest and wild-caught sectors to attend exclusive state-based workshops, where comprehensive modelling based on the Futures of Seafood scenarios will be presented.

- **NSW** - Sydney, 2 April @ 12pm
- **NT** - Darwin, 8 April @ 9:30am
- **VIC** - Melbourne, 10 April @ 9:30am
- **QLD** - Brisbane, 14 April @ 12pm
- **WA** - Fremantle, 16 April @ 12pm
- **SA** - Adelaide, 23 April @ 9:30am
- **TAS** - Launceston, 29 April @ 12pm

Get ready to immerse yourself in the Australian Society of Fish Biology Conference 2025, taking place from **18th to 21st August** in the vibrant city of Darwin, NT!

Under the theme, "**Connecting Waters: Science, Policy and People for a Stronger Fish Future**," the program will unite leading voices in research, management, and policy. Expect inspiring keynotes, engaging breakout sessions designed to tackle today's aquatic ecosystem challenges.

[Read More](#)

Save the date! The Seventh FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity will be held at the Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns, from Tuesday 8 July and closing at midday on Friday 11 July 2025.

[Read More](#)

Seafood Industry Victoria is proud to host the 2025 Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference 19-21 August in Melbourne. This year's theme is Harvesting Opportunities and Grappling with Change.

[Read More](#)

SIA and the Blue Economy CRC are pleased to invite you to a short webinar where we'll hear from the Project AquaGrid team and their industry partner Southern Ocean Mariculture on their recently completed project.

[Find out More](#)

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science is looking for a senior scientist – apply now!

[Read More](#)

In the News

The [Australia Orange Roughy \(Eastern zone\) fishery](#) is set to be certified to the MSC Fisheries Standard by auditor MRAG Americas following the decision of an independent adjudicator. The certificate will be valid for five years until February 2030 and will be subject to annual surveillance audits.

[Read More](#)

The Australian Government is undertaking a strategic examination of our research and development (R&D) system.

An independent expert panel will lead the strategic examination.

[Read More](#)

Looking for a different spin on Centro's fertiliser potential? Check out the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies piece on Centro going from 'Sea to Soil'!

[View the story here](#)

CSIRO has developed a platform to help verify Australia's food product claims and green credentials, with a view to bolstering the nation's reputation for high-quality, safe and sustainably produced food.

Kyaw Kyaw Soe Hlaing, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation General Manager for ICT and Digitalisation, said data is key to maintaining sustainable practices, reducing carbon emissions and responding to increasing competition for marine space.

[Read More](#)

Western Australia is set to host one of the most exciting and forward-thinking events in the life sciences sector - the inaugural BioInnovation Festival!

FRDC is proud to be sponsoring the Aquaculture Research, Development and Extension Workshop, serving as important forum to tackle the future of aquaculture in Western Australia.

[Read More](#)

A new article has been released in Nature titled '**When overfishing is the sustainable option**', which incorporates FRDC-funded research and findings around Sea Urchins.

[View the paper here](#)

A new article has been published in Fisheries Research titled 'Identifying capacity limitations and training needs using a stock assessment game', incorporating research from FRDC-Project 2021-002.

[View the paper here](#)

Movers

- WA Premier Roger Cook has announced his new cabinet, with **Jackie Jarvis MLC** being named Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry and Small Business.
- **Bryan McDonald** has started a new position as Executive Director of Fisheries, within the Fisheries and Forestry division in the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries.
- **Wetjens Dimmlich** has resigned as Wild Fish Brand Manager at NRE Tasmania, with **Matt Bradshaw** acting in the role.



Jackie Jarvis MLC

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](#)

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)

Desktop view

RESEARCH
Completed ☐ Current ☐

CATEGORY

- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Commercial Wildcatch
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Consumer
- ☐ Data



FRDC Fisheries

ORGANISATION
Seafood Industry Australia (SIA)

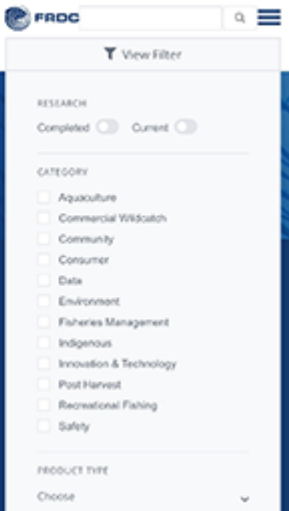
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FRDC Fisheries

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- ☐ Data
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Fisheries Management
- ☐ Indigenous
- ☐ Innovation & Technology
- ☐ Post Harvest
- ☐ Recreational Fishing
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