



FRDC

Delivering impact for
fishing & aquaculture

News

June 2025



FRDC acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of land, sea and sky, recognising their deep, enduring connection to these places.

Delivering impact through collaboration

Our new RD&E Plan 2025-30



Read the plan



Welcome

New (Financial) year, new FRDC! This is our first edition showcasing our refreshed brand – we hope you love it!

As always, lots to learn in this edition including [what the latest science says about eating seafood](#), a [showcase of our new Indigenous artwork and the artist's story](#), the journey from [Abalone byproduct to full-fledged commercialisation](#), and read about the new report discussing [marine parks – is the decision-making framework changing?](#)



Top stories

Delivering impact through collaboration: FRDC launches Research, Development & Extension (RD&E) Plan 2025-30

Designed through extensive stakeholder collaboration, FRDC's new RD&E Plan provides a clear pathway to support sustainability, champion innovation and cultivate resilience across Australia's pivotal fishing and aquaculture sectors.

[» Read more](#)



Delivering impact through collaboration

Eat at least two serves of seafood a week - the science says so!

From heart health to brain development, the ocean's goodies prove even more powerful than we thought.

[» Read more](#)



A remarkable legacy of Southern Bluefin Tuna research

Retiring scientist Kirsten Rough reflects on the highlights of her career supporting the pioneering Southern Bluefin Tuna aquaculture sector in South Australia.

[» Read more](#)



Story of culture, art and connection

FRDC recently commissioned an artwork by Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Māori artist Beau Pennefather Motlop, whose connection to saltwater runs deep, having assisted his grandfather, a passionate fisherman, casting nets during his childhood.



[Read more](#)

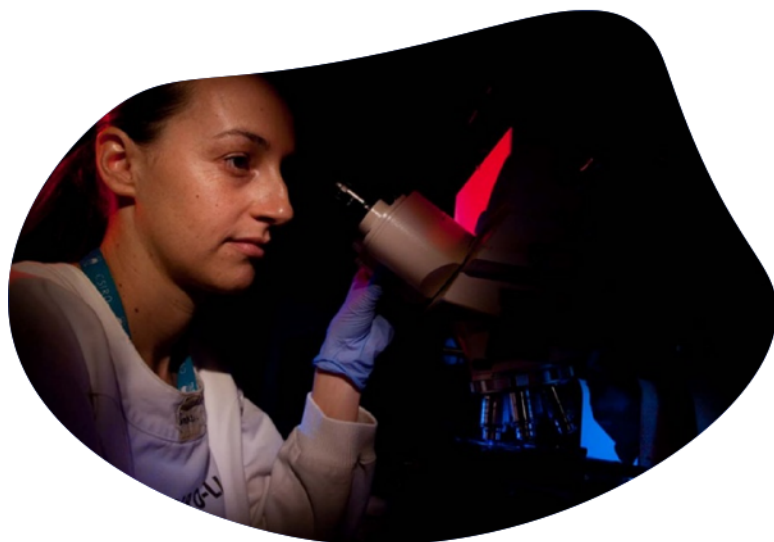


From small idea to commercialisation: finding value in seafood byproducts

FRDC support has proved critical in turning abalone byproduct into a value-added nutraceutical ingredient. It is part of ongoing research investment to reduce waste and increase returns in the fisheries sector.



[Read more](#)



Expanding marine parks – is the decision-making framework changing?

Australia's massive expansion of the Heard and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve aims to boost conservation — but a new research report raises tough questions about its effectiveness for the future management of the region's fisheries and broader ocean governance.



[Read more](#)



Tuna Champions: The initiative that keeps on giving

The second chapter of the trailblazing Tuna Champions initiative has wrapped up, paving the way for recreational fishers with a clear guide to best-practice fishing across all Australian tuna species.



Read more



FRDC is seeking expression of interests for Research Advisory Committee Membership

FRDC is seeking expression of interests for Research Advisory Committee Membership in each State, the Commonwealth, and the Northern Territory. Current, former, and new members are welcome to apply for this opportunity.



Read more



Briefly

- You're invited to the Recreational Fishing Forum 2025 on **Tuesday 22 July at the Sofitel Broadbeach, Gold Coast** — a one-day event uniting leaders, stakeholders, and advocates to shape the future of recreational fishing. With themes including data, economic value, stewardship, and elevating women in fishing, the forum offers a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and drive progress across the sector.
[Find out more](#)
- **Have your say** in the Northern Territory Seafood, Gender and Wellbeing Survey - help build a clear picture of what it's like to work in the Territory's seafood sector. Whether you're on a boat, in a shed, at a desk or working behind the scenes, your voice matters!
[Fill out the survey](#)
- **Abstracts for Seafood Directions 2026** are now open! The conference will explore how we respond to consumer trends, harness technology, build resilience, and secure access for future generations.
[Submit your abstract](#)
- Anticipation for the **upcoming Trans-Tasman Lobster Conference 2025** is building! With the support of the FRDC, Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) are proud to be hosting the most important event on the calendar for our lobster (or as we call it, crayfish!) industry, to be held in Melbourne on August 19 – 21. Take advantage of the Early-bird Registration offer to secure your spot at this exciting forum.
[Register now](#)
- Western Australia Fishing Industry Council Chief Executive Melissa Haslam spoke with **Professor Paul McLeod who wrote a FRDC report on compensation methods**

[Listen to the podcast](#)

- Get ready to immerse yourself in the **Australian Society of Fish Biology Conference 2025**, taking place from 18- 21 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.

[Register Now](#)

- **Daryl Mcphee has released his new book** titled 'Environmental History and Ecology of Noosa and the K'gari Coast. Meticulously researched and engagingly written, this multidisciplinary work is essential reading for environmentalists, historians, and anyone captivated by the beauty and complexity of Australia's coastal heritage.

[Find out more](#)

- In the wake of David Attenborough's new documentary 'Ocean', please **find this posting from Max Mossler, from Dr. Ray Hilborn's staff** at the University of Washington

[Read Max's Article](#)

In the news

- A groundbreaking project to explore the potential of training artificial intelligence (AI) models for detecting sea urchins is about to begin. The project was being led by researchers at QUT, in partnership with Wilderness Wildcatch - a Mallacoota-based seafood company committed to marine stewardship. Supported by funding from FRDC, the initiative targeted the long-spined sea urchin, *Centrostephanus rodgersii*.

[Read more](#)

- ABC Landline had an excellent story on the FRDC alternate gear project called "Fish LIGHT" ([2023-154](#)) - starting at 1:15 until 13:48.

[View the episode](#)

- The Sydney Morning Herald's Caitlin Fitzsimmons published an informative article on 14 June highlighting Australia's 30 certified fisheries and the excellent science that has been adopted to underpin these sustainability claims.

[View the article](#)

- The King's Birthday 2025 Honours List recognised 830 Australians, including awards in the Order of Australia (General and Military Divisions), meritorious awards and recognition for distinguished and conspicuous service. Of relevance to FRDC, are the following recipients:
 - Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division
 - Mr Bruce John Alvey, Indooroopilly QLD. For significant service to the recreational fishing industry.
 - Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division
 - Dr Ray George for services to crustacean science. Ray was responsible for the taxonomy for the Western Rock Lobster. In WA he is affectionately called "Ray the Cray".
- FRDC is funding project 2022-108 to monitor and inform on evolving global and national nature and biodiversity reporting standards, including the work of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), which recently released sector-specific guidelines for aquaculture and wild-catch fishing. These guidelines outline key environmental metrics such as GHG emissions, endangered species records, and waste management, with the project using Austral and Western Rock Lobster (WRL and GFC) as case studies to assess current compliance and reporting gaps.

[Read more about the project](#)

Movers

- Seafood industry safety and wellbeing advocate Jo Marshall has stepped away from her position as Wellbeing Programs Manager at Seafood Industry Australia to continue sharing her passion and commitment to mental health, wellbeing and safety with elite athletes.
- Trade Export Manager for Seafood Industry Australia, Laura Davies, has left the Great Australian Seafood team where she has been advocating seafood consumption globally.
- Neil MacDonald has taken over as Chair of NSW Wild Harvest Fishers Association from inaugural Chair John Wilson.
- Senior public servant, Jo Grainger, is moving roles within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, from the Trade and International Division to lead the sheep Industry Transition Branch implementing the live export policy decision.
- Award-winning researcher and educator Dr Sarah Ugalde has moved from University of Tasmania's Centre for Marine Socioecology to the Marine Bioproducts CRC, starting 1 July 2025.
- Roberta Marcoli has joined Women in Seafood Australasia as Membership & Engagement Coordinator.

Got any movers or shakers? Let us know at comms@frdc.com.au

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)

Desktop view

RESEARCH

Completed ☐ Current ☒

CATEGORY

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

Mobile view

PRDC Fisheries

ORGANISATION: Seafood Industry Australia (SIA)

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RESEARCH

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CATEGORY

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- ☐ Commercial Wildcatch
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Consumer
- ☐ Data
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Fisheries Management
- ☐ Indigenous
- ☐ Innovation & Technology
- ☐ Post Harvest
- ☐ Recreational Fishing
- ☐ Safety

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