



FRDC NEWS
December 2024

What a year!

Take a look back on 2024, before
we welcome

2025

Welcome

DECEMBER 2024

What a year!

2024 has been a remarkable year, marked by collaboration and innovation. We've partnered with hundreds of organisations on over 400 projects, driving significant change in the fishing and aquaculture sectors. [Relive the highlights.](#)

In this final edition for the year, we explore a [groundbreaking energy source for aquaculture](#), [uncover the research underpinning the potential of a new Tasmanian fishery](#) and delve into the [recreational fisher tool providing incredibly valuable data](#).

Best wishes and safe travels for the holiday season.



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



2024 at FRDC

61 new projects, 20+ sponsored events - plus so much more. Take a quick look back at some of the highlights from a remarkable year of investment at FRDC.

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Ocean energy microgrids to potentially power the future of aquaculture

Positive findings from an FRDC-funded 'AquaGrid' feasibility study have identified ocean energy microgrids as an option to power coastal aquaculture production and help decarbonise the sector.

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Recreational fishers dialling in on sustainability

Smartphone apps provide a novel tool allowing recreational fishers to be environmental stewards by contributing data to improve the sustainability of fish stocks.

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Discovering the flathead that don't leave home

Research into the dynamics of Rock Flathead (*Platycephalus laevigatus*) in Victoria's Corner Inlet fishery has provided surprising new insights into the species which will better inform future fisheries management.

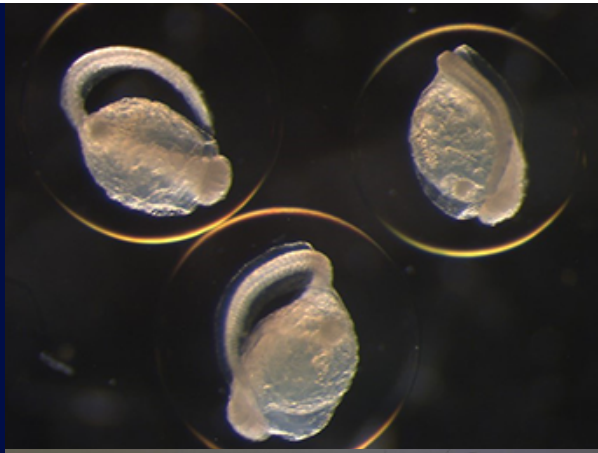
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Lead the future of our sector: Apply now for the 2025 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program

Ready to make waves in the seafood sector? FRDC's 2025 National Seafood Industry Leadership Program is now accepting applications, offering a transformative opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills and connect with up-and-coming seafood visionaries.

[Read More](#)



Tasmania considers new sardine fishery

The discovery of a large stock of Australian Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), confirmed by the latest scientific research funded by FRDC, sets the stage for the development of a new commercial fishery.

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Making space for new marine uses

The input of First Nations people will be an integral part of decisions about future access to marine spaces and resources under a new marine spatial planning framework being developed.

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In Brief

FRDC has released its December 2024 Open Call for R&D Investment Priorities - closing on the 2 March 2025.

[Read more](#)

As part of the Business Research Innovation Initiative (BRII) renewables and low emissions round, four companies received grants, in partnership with FRDC, to increase the energy efficiency of commercial fishing operations.

[Read more](#)

Marine Bioproducts Cooperative Research Centre (MBCRC) has released their new strategic plan, which outlines the CRC's direction for 2025-28.

[Read more](#)

Allara Global is proud to announce that its 13-part online course on Australian Wild Prawns, created in collaboration with Fishtales and backed by the ACPF and FRDC, has three prestigious 2024 LearnX awards.

[Read more](#)

Movers

- Craig Fox has taken over from Jonas Woolford as the new Abalone Council of Australia Chair.
- MBCRC has appointed a Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Anthony Dyer, who will commence on 3rd February 2025. MBCRC also said farewell to Board Director Hon Niall Blair; Education and Training Manager Dr Kirsten Heimann; Research Director Dr Mike Patane and General Manager Belinda Wade.
- Karen Evans has started a new position as Head of the Ocean Science Section at UNESCO.
- Former Agriculture secretary Daryl Quinlivan will take over from Angus Houston as Murray-Darling Basin Authority Chair.



Craig Fox

In the News

The Tasmanian Government welcomed the latest scientific data which demonstrates the potential for an exciting new sustainable fishery which would support jobs, provide new opportunities and maintain the right balance for recreational fishers.

Through independent research supported by FRDC and the Tasmanian Government, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) has confirmed there is a sizeable population of Australian sardine in Tasmanian and Bass Strait waters.

[Read more](#)

There's no question of naughty or nice when it comes to Australian Seafood - it's always a winner. Seafood Industry Australia Chief Executive Officer states that choosing Australian seafood is supporting one of the world's most highly regulated and best-performing fishing and aquaculture management systems.

[Read more](#)

To support the future prosperity of Australian agriculture and rural communities, the 2025 AgriFutures Horizon Scholarship, which aims to support the next generation of industry leaders, is now open for applications.

Sally Roberts, Capability & Capacity Manager at FRDC, showcased our support for the Horizon Scholarship program because it helps to build the next generation of agricultural, fishery and forestry leaders and showcases career pathways.

[Read more](#)

An Adelaide-based aquaculture company plans to establish an inland fish farm using saline groundwater, according to an ABC report.

The report mentioned the work FRDC did last year on inland saline aquaculture, creating a publicly accessible collection of national and international research on the subject.

[Read more](#)

The latest results from the Community Trust in Rural Industries program shows community support for Australia's rural industries and the value they bring to our society is at its highest level since the program began in 2019.

This program is a collaboration between FRDC, Hort Innovation, Australian Eggs, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Grains Research and Development Corporation and AgriFutures Australia.

[Read 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)

Desktop view

RESEARCH
Completed ☐ Current ☐

CATEGORY

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

FRDC Fisheries

ORGANISATION
Seafood Industry Australia (SIA)

First page 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... Last

Page 1 of 39 10 results per page

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- ☐ Data
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Fisheries Management
- ☐ Indigenous
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- ☐ Recreational Fishing
- ☐ Safety

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