



FRDC News May 2025

Squid Game: Beating the Clock on Calamari

Can we manage a one-year species with two-year-old data?

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Welcome

MAY 2025

Hello !

Can we manage a one-year species with two-year-old data?

This seemingly impossible task is being tackled by researchers at SARDI, in the race to develop a cost-efficient stock assessment program for Southern Calamari (*Sepioeuthis australis*).

Other stories include a **tuna fishery becoming a sustainability icon**, how the **Northern Territory will fall in love with Barramundi**, a **blue-tiful vision for live crab trade**, and how **fishing and aquaculture can ensure resilience** in the sight of any future pandemics.



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



Tuna fishery becomes sustainability icon

The Southern Bluefin Tuna sector is celebrating a historic milestone – Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability certification for its purse seine fishery.

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Beating the clock on Southern Calamari

Researchers are investigating new ways to assess the highly dynamic and short-lived stocks of Southern Calamari (*Sepioteuthis australis*) to ensure they remain sustainable.

[Read More](#)



Barramundi love - a management model

Recreational fisher support for fisheries management strategies may be strengthened if the social value of fishing forms a greater part of the narrative.

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Fisheries lessons from pandemic to improve business resilience

Reviewing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the seafood sector shows there were some innovative responses by our seafood community, and lessons to improve preparedness for future disruptions.

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A blue-tiful vision for live crab trading

New research into the handling practices of Blue Swimmer Crabs (*Portunus armatus*) will help fishers pursue higher-value, live markets for their catch.

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In Brief

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.

The conference will be exploring the theme “Harvesting Opportunities and Grappling with Change”. Presentation topics and insightful keynote speeches have been carefully selected to ensure relevance to stakeholders across Australia and New Zealand’s diverse industry.

Take advantage of the [Early-bird Registration](#) offer to secure your spot at this exciting forum.

[Read more](#)

Australian Marine Sciences Association 2025 13-17 July 2025, Sofitel Melbourne Get ready for five dynamic streams of cutting-edge marine science, from July 13-17 at the Sofitel Melbourne!

Topics include ocean literacy, marine biology, partnerships in a time of rapid change, and more! Whether you're a student, early-career researcher, or seasoned professional, there's something tailored just for you.

[Register Now](#)

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](#)

In the News

Agrifutures recently announced the 2025 Horizon Scholar cohort of 21 ambitious students across Australia. FRDC is proud to be sponsoring Lily Delves and Taylah Mahony – we can’t wait to follow their journeys!

[Read more](#)

Tom Cosentino, Executive Officer of Southern Rock Lobster Limited recently shared his overseas findings on first generation farmers, which were discovered through his FRDC-sponsored Nuffield Scholarship.

[Read more](#)

The Hive Awards 2025 recently announced its winner for the Best Packaging Award, going to Chobani Australia. FRDC was proud to see Silver Seas Seafood’s Close the Loop mono-material pouch become a finalist.

[Read more](#)

Spanish mackerel stocks in Queensland are no longer at historically low levels according to the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. The latest stock assessment indicates this iconic and much-loved fish have a stock biomass at a median of 34 percent of unfished levels in Queensland waters.

[Read more](#)

Movers

- FRDC welcomes the re-appointment of Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry The Hon Julie Collins and the Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry The Hon Anthony Chisholm – the Directors and staff look forward to working with you.
- Secretaries of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Glyn Davis and the Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water David Fredericks have both announced their retirements.
- Commonwealth Fisheries Association has farewelled Executive Officer Christine Kershaw with Chair Daniel Casement temporarily in the role while recruitment progresses.
- Women in Seafood Australasia are excited to introduce the organisations newly appointed Executive Officer – Jane Cowan.
- Ben Van Delden has left Deloitte to start his own venture at Delco Agrifood.
- Alacia Cockbain has stepped down from her role as Project Officer at OzFish, with Zoe White stepping into the role.



Jane Cowan

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

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