



FRDC STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

December 2019

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from FRDC

From the directors and staff of the FRDC we wish you all the best for the festive season. Looking forward to 2020, sharing our new RD&E Plan and connecting with all our wonderful stakeholders in the new year.

Funding Round Update

Competitive Round Call for Expressions of Interest now open.

Closing 16 February 2020

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation ([FRDC](#)) is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) that address research, development & extension (RD&E) priorities nominated by the FRDC's Advisory Groups: Research Advisory Committees ([RACs](#)), Industry Partnership Agreements ([IPAs](#)) and FRDC [Subprograms](#).

Download and read the RD&E priorities for investment

EOIs that address multiple priorities are encouraged. Applicants may also submit an EOI that does not address a nominated priority; however, it should be noted that preference may be given to applications that address nominated priorities. If you do wish to submit an application that does not address one of these priorities, it is recommended that you first discuss your research concept with the relevant [FRDC Advisory Group](#) contact. As part of the application assessment, value for money is a key consideration – applicants clearly need to justify the benefit versus the cost. In addition, FRDC strongly recommends that all applicants consult with the relevant stakeholder groups and expected end users to ensure that research concepts have the support of beneficiaries. Support can be demonstrated through formal letters of support, in-kind contributions and project cash contributions.

FRDC Annual Report

It is again pleasing to provide a short report on the FRDC's performance against its priorities and performance indicators for 2018–19 (more detail can be found in the full version of the annual report which is available at <http://www.frdc.com.au/about/corporate-documents/annual-reports>).

Over the year, the FRDC met and achieved its performance indicators as outlined in the 2018–19 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS).

- The financial income target was \$34.70 million and \$39.55 million was achieved.
- The financial expenditure target was \$34.68 million and actual expenditure was \$35.22 million.

The directors' review of operations (which can be found in the full report on pages 5–12) provides further detail on events and activities that impacted the FRDC during the year.

The FRDC Board would like to thank all its stakeholders, the Australian Government and the many members from across the Indigenous commercial and recreational fishing sectors for their continued support over the last year. Government and industry engagement play a vital role in ensuring high-quality research priorities are identified and addressed.

Annual Stakeholder Workshop 2019

FRDC's annual planning workshop was held on 25 & 26 September in Adelaide. Participants were involved in a workshopping process to inform the 2020-2025 RD&E Plan on the first day, working in groups to consider four alternative scenarios for the future, and considering implications and insights that will shape the nature and direction of the plan.

The process was generally well received, however some participants were unsure of how scenario planning can be useful in strategic planning and had concerns in relation to the focus and content of some scenarios. Feedback received helped to refine the approach used in regional workshops held later in the year - in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane on 30 Sept, 1 Oct and 14 Oct, respectively.

On the second day, Managing Director Patrick Hone provided an overview of relevant developments including the Council of RDCs discussion on modernising the RDC system, the advisory panel that will be advising the Government on RDC reform, the new Food and Fibre Plan, the National Fishing Plan as part of the Governments election commitment, the senate inquiry into seismic testing and various reviews including the EPBC Act and biosecurity targets and the Code of Conduct for Responsible fishing by the UN. This overview was followed by a presentation on the Forrest Hill review of FRDC's partnership models that was largely well received. There was some side discussion on the potential benefits of making changes to FRDC's advisory bodies such as RACs and subprograms. The day was rounded off with Peter and Annabel outlining FRDCs approach to extension and adoption and progress against previous priorities highlighted at last year's workshop.

Presentations from the Stakeholder Workshop 2019 are available in the 2019 Stakeholder workshop notes on the FRDC website <http://www.frdc.com.au/partners/stakeholder-workshops>

Planning for the future: FRDC's 2020-25 RD&E Plan

Fish Forever – A shared 2030 vision for Australia's fishing and aquaculture community

FRDC and Strategic Journeys have been working with stakeholders from across the fishing and aquaculture sectors to define a shared vision for the future. Titled *Fish Forever – a shared 2030 vision for Australia's fishing and aquaculture community*, the document build on insights gathered through consultation over the last 8 months, to define areas of impact that require focus to help all sectors thrive in a changing world.

Fish Forever has been informed by detailed scenario planning, and once complete, will help FRDC as we consider how we might best assist our stakeholders over the next five years through investment in research, development and extension (RD&E). In this way, *Fish Forever* will directly inform FRDC's strategic RD&E plan for 2020-25, which is currently under development.

FRDC is currently gathering feedback on an early draft from stakeholders who have helped inform its development, before broader circulation for comment early in the New Year.

FRDC RD&E Plan Consultation

FRDC is on track to produce its draft strategic plan for 2020-25 early in 2020. The plan will outline key result areas that FRDC will work towards in collaboration with our stakeholders over the next five years, through investment in research, development and extension (RD&E).

Details for upcoming activities are summarised below:

Drafting complete	30 January 2020
Seek input on draft from Representative Organisations and Department of Agriculture	7-28 February 2020
Design complete	30 March 2020
2020-2025 RD&E Plan launched	1 July 2020

We will continue to provide more information on the FRDC RD&E Plan [web page](#). You can also share your thoughts and ideas to FRDC2025@frdc.com.au.

Review of the FRDCs investment partner process

The draft of the review undertaken by Forrest Hill into the FRDCs partnership structures such as the Research Advisory Committees, Industry Partnership Agreements and Subprograms was circulated

to these partners for comment. The [review](#) found that there was broad support for the partner process with options put forward around improvements to collaboration, changes to assist in linkages, consolidation of some committees and better extension. These comments have been provided back to Forrest Hill for consideration in the finalisation of the report. Once finalised, the review will be used to help inform the FRDC regarding future structures, for the implementation of the 2020-2025 RD&E Plan.

Digital Update

FRDC is continuing on from the trial with Queensland to build a jurisdictional stock status authoring and publishing system that can link back to the National Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports with Western Australia and Northern Territory.

With [fishers being encouraged to collect more and more data](#) it is essential to increase trust and mitigate risks associated with third parties that hold or transmit the data. To address this, FRDC is authoring a paper for Abalone Council Australia (Wild-catch Abalone) in relation to ownership, vendor risk management, future reforms and development in relation to data.

[Accelerating Precision to Decision Agriculture \(P2D\)](#) provided 13 recommendations relating to policy, strategy, leadership, digital literacy and enablers. The RDCs agreed that the best mechanism to take forward these recommendations is another Cotton RDC led RRD4P application, and put forward a subsequent application titled 'Australian Agriculture – Growing a Digital Future' to the Department of Agriculture's fourth round of the Rural R&D for Profit program. However unfortunately the RRD4P application was unsuccessful.

People Development Review

In early 2019 FRDC commissioned a review of its People Development Program to feed in to the RD&E planning process (<http://www.frdc.com.au/project/2018-149>). Under the last RD&E Plan FRDC devolved the leadership of investment in people development to the Research Advisory Committees and Industry Partnership Agreements. It is clear from this review that there is a requirement for the FRDC to provide some high level guidance on people development, including a strategy with structural support. The final report is on the FRDC website at the above link and the FRDC will be working to operationalise some of these aspects under the new FRDC RD&E Plan.

Innovation Update

EvokeAg

In early 2020 the FRDC will be partnering with Agrifutures Australia sponsoring evokeAg.

Over two days in Melbourne, more than 70 thought-provoking experts in their fields will take to the stage and share their ideas on how we can challenge the conventions of what we grow, how we grow it and what we eat.

As part of the program a Blue Economy session will be run. The session aims to showcase how scientists, brands and investors are capitalising on what is on offer in the deep blue.

The event will take place in Melbourne at the iconic Royal Exhibition Building on 18-19 February 2020. Tickets are available online, with discounted group, student and primary producer delegate passes also available. Visit [evokeAG. Food Farm Future 2020](#) for the program and further information.

TekFish

FRDC is trialling a process to increase its activity in the innovation space through the investment in start ups and possible existing technology developers to solve stakeholder 'problems'. During the trial, the FRDC will focus on three areas - aquaculture, traceability and fishing technologies. Stakeholders will be involved in the identification of the issues or problems experienced in each of

these areas. These will then be further developed into challenges that will be shared with other innovation investors and then exposed to the startup and technology innovation system for solution identification. This process will be trialled with an aquaculture workshop that is being organised prior to evokeAG. (outlined above) to discuss issues and bottlenecks associated with aquaculture with the view to exposing these to the start-up community to test the market for innovative ideas.

Fish 2.0

The FRDC partnership culminated at the Global Innovators Forum held at Stanford, California in November 4-5, 2019. The core elements of Fish 2.0 included a series of entrepreneur training workshops and investor exposure, an online readiness assessment program in which investors gave feedback and helped vet ventures, a publication series for investor education and an ongoing communications campaign to raise awareness and engagement in the sustainable seafood sector.

This year's Forum confirmed that the sustainable seafood sector is now on firm footing and is no longer on the fringe. The investor representation at the Forum reflected this mainstreaming, including not just "seafood" investors, but individuals and funds from the broader ag-tech world and agricultural banking. For the first time, the leading U.S. seafood distributors were there too, amazed at the innovation happening in their own sector.

Australian finalists are outlined below. The winner as judged "Fish 2.0 Top Innovator Award – Australia" by the forum was Australian Crayfish Hatchery.

Company Presenter / Location	Snapshot
Aquaculture Supplements Suzanne Catty, Brisbane	The production of a new veterinary medicine for the treatment of internal and external parasites in farmed fish.
Skadia Technologies Geoff Lipsett-Moore, Canberra	Skadia Technologies develops new products to improve efficiency and compliance of longline fishing. First product, Underwater Baitsetter, reduces bycatch of seabirds, particularly albatross.
Climate Foundation Samuel Harrington, Brisbane	Designing, deploying and operating seaweed arrays irrigated with cool nutrient rich water upwelled from the deep ocean to restore mariculture, fisheries and ecosystems.
TomKat Global Solutions Kath Long, Kurrimine Beach	TomKat Kool Pak is an environmentally responsible packaging solution designed to protect product, preserve the environment, save money and help meet environmental targets on sustainable packaging.
Dreamweaver Andy Moullynox, Laverton Nth	Dreamweaver develops sustainable, 100% recyclable packaging. Eliminating hazardous polystyrene(HDEPS), & its low rates of recovery, replacing HDEPS with a high recovery, high value, recyclable resource.
Two Hands Greg McLardie, Melbourne	Two Hands is a digital marketplace connecting Fishers directly with high-end restaurants and their consumers enabling a strong emotional connection and elimination of food fraud.
Australian Crayfish Hatchery Lisa Elliott, Townsville	ACH is a state-of-the-art redclaw crayfish hatchery. Using patent pending, sustainable technologies ACH supplies seed stock to grow-out farms globally, revolutionizing freshwater crayfish production.

Inquiries and Reviews

The FRDC has made submissions to a range of inquiries and reviews over the past few months. It is important to note that in most cases submissions are not publicly available until the inquiry/review is complete, but once they are able to be shared they will be placed on the FRDC (<http://www.frdc.com.au/en/about/corporate-documents/submissions>). Where the FRDC submission is publicly available the links to these documents are provided.

- **Modernisation of the Research and Development Corporations**

Minister McKenzie has released a discussion paper on how to modernise the Research and Development Corporations. The discussion paper can be found at:

<https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/modernising-rdc>

The Minister has said “*We are seeking ways to modernise and improve the Research and Development Corporation (RDC) system.*”

- **\$100 billion Food and Agriculture**

On Thursday, 22 August 2019, the Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, asked the Committee to inquire into and report on growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030.

The FRDC developed a submission that highlighted that the Australian commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors have considerable future growth potential and are well placed to contribute strongly to a target of growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030.

To view the FRDC submission follow this link:

<https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=88d8b0f1-dcd4-425e-8fb2-64074b649d99&subId=671269>

- **Seismic Review**

On 16 September 2019, the Senate referred to the Environment and Communications References Committee an inquiry to look at the impact of seismic testing on fisheries and the marine environment and report by 14 May 2020.

In response to the Senate seeking an inquiry into the ‘Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment’, the FRDC provided a submission to the Senate, building on the FRDC’s RD&E investment in Australia’s fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as the Australia’s marine resource and their interactions with the Australian petroleum industry. For more information refer to the ‘Seismic & Marine Sound’ page on the FRDC website – <http://frdc.com.au/issues/seismic-and-marine-sound-research>.

The FRDC would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the various stakeholders who provided responses to the Senate on this issue. We are acutely aware of the increasing frequency of interactions between the Australian seafood and petroleum industry. The FRDC keenly awaits the outcomes from the review process. The FRDC’s submission will be available following the completion of that process.

- **Tasmanian Finfish Aquaculture**

On 16 September 2019, Legislative Council Government Administration Committee resolved to commence an inquiry into finfish farming in Tasmania. The FRDC submitted a submission that focused on the provision of salmonid research and development. The submission highlighted that the FRDC has been investing in science to ensure the sustainable development of the salmonid aquaculture industry since its inception in 1991. Over this time the FRDC has invested in some 260 projects with an overall investment in excess of \$60m that has benefited finfish farming in Tasmania.

- **EPBC Review**

The second independent review of the EPBC Act commenced on 29 October 2019. The review will be led by Professor Graeme Samuel AC, supported by a panel of experts. A report will be presented to the Minister for the Environment within 12 months of commencement of the review. The review will look at how the EPBC Act has been operating, and any changes needed for Australia to support ecologically sustainable development into the future. More information about the review can be found at <https://epbactreview.environment.gov.au/>.

- **Food and Fibre Plan**

This plan intends to set out the steps required to achieve the Government's commitment to the \$100 billion farm gate GVP by 2030.

- **Drought Resilience Fund Inquiry**

The Federal government has announced a future drought fund with a total budget to 2028-29 of \$5 billion. The fund is primarily for activities that are for community benefit/public good and are not proposed for individual enterprise or commercial benefit.

The plan is nearing completion with the consultative committee meeting with stakeholders around the country. The FRDC met with the committee in Canberra and outlined the drought impacts on freshwater and marine systems and the fishing and aquaculture activities associated with it. They were interested to hear this as previously they had not considered these types of impacts. More information on the fund can be found from the following link <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/future-drought-fund>

National RD&E Seafood Industry Safety Initiative

The National RD&E Seafood Industry Safety Initiative (SISI) held its first Steering Committee meeting in late August. The Seafood Industry Safety Initiative was developed as a cross-stakeholder partnership to address gaps and/or inefficiencies in the workplace health and safety space of the Australian seafood industry. A [Strategic Plan](#) and [Terms of Reference](#) recently developed by the Initiative's steering committee are available on the FRDC's website. The National Safety Initiative is chaired by John Harrison. For more information on SISI contact Chris Izzo (christopher.izzo@frdc.com.au).

The primary roles of the Steering Committee are to:

- identify RD&E priorities, through review and consultation with key fisheries stakeholders and develop projects to address those priorities;
- identify how to address cultural barriers to implementing safety to improve the culture across the commercial harvest and fish farming sectors;
- facilitate effective extension and adoption of R&D outputs relevant to industry safety; and
- promote collaboration and co-investment opportunities in RD&E both nationally and internationally.

In addition, the National RD&E Seafood Industry Safety Initiative will:

- develop and implement a strategic safety direction for the seafood industry;
- oversee progress of current and future FRDC funded projects; and
- ensure future projects are aligned with the strategic safety direction.

It was agreed that the scope of the activities are for the commercial wild harvest and commercial aquaculture sectors. It was also agreed that the goal of the initiative was to work towards *zero* fatalities and reduction in workplace safety incidences. A key supporting activity is Seafood Industry Australia's 'Our Pledge,' that commits to "Value our people, look after them and keep them safe".

'[Sea Rogue](#)' an animated film, which captures the incredible story of Deckhand Michael Williams to attempt to save his crew members recently won the prestigious Jury award at the Port Shorts International Film Festival. The film's first public screening will be held on February 27, 2020 in Yamba. 'Sea Rogue' was produced as part of FRDC's safety awareness and education project *sesafe*, www.sesafe.com.au, as part of a suite of resources aimed at raising awareness and changing behaviour in relation to safety in the seafood sector.

For more information on the range of safety projects and activities that the FRDC is involved in refer to – <https://www.frdc.com.au/issues/workplace-health-and-safety-in-fisheries-and-aquaculture>

Carp Update

The National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) will be delivered to the Australian Government in late December 2019. The Plan brings together results from each of the 18 research projects and numerous planning investigations commissioned as part of the NCCP. The Plan also includes a feasibility assessment based on three main criteria:

- Will the virus be an effective biocontrol agent?
- What are the risks?
- Can the risks associated with the release be managed?

The Plan includes an implementation strategy to provide guidance should the Government decide to release the virus. This is supported by a cost-benefit analysis and a number of case studies outlining how the release might be managed in specific regions.

With the delivery of the Plan to Government, the FRDC's role concludes. The <http://www.carp.gov.au/> website will continue as a central repository of research completed as part of this work.

The Australian Government will then evaluate the Plan and seek the view of state governments to decide whether to proceed with the virus release. If the decision is made to proceed, a phase of legislative approval will follow before reaching the final implementation stage in which the virus would be released.

Thank you

The NCCP has involved multiple Australian jurisdictions, government and research agencies, hundreds of researchers, numerous experts and independent reviewers, and many members of the community who provided their views. The FRDC would like to sincerely thank these individuals for their interest and dedication. In particular, the FRDC would like to thank:

- all NCCP researchers and expert contractors
- members of the Science Advisory Group
- members of the Operations Working Group
- members of the previous Communications Working Group
- members of the previous Policy Working Group
- the NCCP team within the FRDC

Food and Agriculture Organisation's International Fisheries Sustainability Symposium, 18-21 November 2019

The United National Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) held an international symposium on sustainability in November 2019 in Rome. Objectives of the event were to establish the global status of fisheries sustainability, identify challenges to improving sustainability, consider how to ensure an evidence basis for decision-making, and discuss what societies expect of fisheries in the 21st century.

The event was structured into 8 topical sessions, with keynote presentations followed by panel discussions. Links to the presentations by each speaker can be found [here](#), and a short video explaining high level key insights from the event can be found [here](#). Some key themes from discussion during the four-day event are summarised below:

- A need for better knowledge mobilisation across all those involved in decision-making, and to develop information collection systems that are cost effective, community-based, and make best use of new tech.
- A need to be more precautionary management in some contexts to account for present uncertainty
- Importance of developing integrated biodiversity and food security objectives that recognize trade-offs and are nationally and locally relevant.

- Merits of enhancing monitoring and reporting on sustainability to include information on ecosystems rather than just target species, drawing on social, economic and biological sciences, local and traditional knowledge, disaggregated by gender.
- A need to promote and strengthen diverse, inclusive and accountable partnerships among resource users
- A need to develop a positive narrative around fishing in general, highlighting contribution towards food security and resource stewardship.
- Importance of building capacity among those along the value chain, in particular women and small-scale producers and processors, to seize opportunities and reap their fair share of benefits and engage fully in sustainable and equitable food systems.
- Challenges and benefits associated with improving access to credit, finance and insurance for the small-scale sector, and in particular women entrepreneurs and operators from disadvantaged groups.
- A need to reduce waste and increase utilization by developing new products and markets.

It was particularly interesting to note strong consistency between key insights raised during the four-day international symposium, and issues highlighted during consultation with FRDC stakeholder throughout Australia to inform our 2020-25 RD&E Plan. Consequently, we need to work to identify and capitalise upon opportunities for collaboration with international partners as we seek to address our common issues moving forward.

International Coalition Fisheries Association (ICFA) Meeting

The FRDC is a member of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), which is a coalition of the national fish and seafood industry trade associations from the world's major fishing nations. ICFA members are deeply committed to science-based and fully participatory fishery conservation and management processes. The group meet annually to discuss key issues. At the most recent meeting in September this year the following issues were discussed.

- FAO are developing a declaration to go to next year's [Committee on Fisheries \(COFI\)](#) meeting. This will provide a possible framework for enhancing the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. 2020 will be the 25th Anniversary of the Code.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Standing Committee met in Geneva on the [28 August 2019](#). There were several marine and freshwater species nominated for listing that have direct relevance to Australia.
- [Biological Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions \(BBNJ\)](#) changes to the UN law of the sea are not far from getting through the UN General Assembly. BBNJ can have a role for establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) on the high seas.
- The ICFA Communication group undertook an exercise to identify areas of change that are of shared interest for ICFA members. Feedback were sought from member and companies operating in the seafood value chain to capture the major changes that could potentially affect industry stakeholders in the next 5-10 years. The key changes raised across all areas of the network are:
 - Efficiencies of different forms of seafood production.
 - Appropriate resource management – wild.
 - Trade distortion, embargoes, agreements.
 - Available workforce.

In addition, a range of issues were identified that are of interest to parts of the network:

- Spatial management.
- Fish production volume – wild/aquaculture.
- Microplastics.
- Climate change.
- Changing landscape for seafood sustainability.

- Animal welfare.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In November 2018, parties to the CBD agreed to a 2-year process to develop the Post-2020 Framework. The Framework will include a 2050 Vision and targets along the way, such as for 2030. Canada and Uganda are the co-chairs for this process. Decisions on the Post-2020 Framework will be made at the CBD meeting in October 2020.
- Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) is meeting next year in India – there is an Australian concern that school shark will be proposed to be listed.
- Plastics was an issue for all ICFA members. The intractable issue is the consumption of plastic by sea life that is caught as seafood. More and more research is showing that plastic is in seafood – the majority by far of this plastic comes from terrestrial sources – in particular micro and nano plastics. The studies find the plastic in the gut and not the fillet – obviously then only seafood like mussels and oysters where we eat the whole organism is there any issue of human consuming plastic from seafood. Unfortunately, this is a difficult message to communicate to consumers and is the message that this plastic if consumed has no negative health effects. See [SafeFish fact sheets](#) for more information.

CRC Northern Australia Workshop - Aquaculture Opportunities in Northern Australia: Solutions and Strategies

During 2019 a CRC Northern Australia funded project “[Aquaculture opportunities in northern Australia: Solutions and Strategies](#)” was conducted by researchers and aquaculture experts from James Cook University (JCU), CSIRO, Blueshift Consulting, Australian Barramundi Farmers Association (ABFA), Australian Prawn Farmers Association (APFA) and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC). The aquaculture situational analysis project is one of eight industry situational analyses funded by the CRCNA in 2017/18. Other industries being examined by the CRCNA include the rice, forestry, cropping, horticulture, bush foods, beef, health and infrastructure and communication sectors.

To complete this analysis the project team drew upon diverse views, visions and experiences of stakeholders to identify key challenges and opportunities facing the North Australian aquaculture sector and explore potential solutions and/or identify the most strategic research projects for further investment. The situational analysis examined the Northern Australian aquaculture industry’s current infrastructure, biosecurity threats and protocols, animal health management and investment landscape to identify possible gaps and barriers to development and explore what has and has not worked commercially in the past.

To assist completion and extension of findings and recommendations from this project, the FRDC has funded a workshop to be held in Rockhampton on the 5th and 6th of February 2020. The workshop sponsored by the Rockhampton Regional Council will provide the opportunity for project investigators to present findings and recommendations to all stakeholders. This gathering will allow indigenous representatives, aquaculture farmers, industry organisations, government agencies, investors and university researchers to contribute to the summation of key recommendations for future investment and R & D needs; and prepare a vision that captures northern Australia’s natural and strategic advantages.

World Fisheries Congress 2020

Australia will host the World Fisheries Congress 2020 ([WFC2020](#)) in Adelaide from 11 to 15 October 2020. Held every four years, the 8th Congress will be one of the largest gathering of the research, industry and management sectors in 2020.

The Committee are keen to hear from any organisation who are keen to participate or showcase their organisation to 1500+ delegates from around the world and provide an opportunity to be part of and build the largest fisheries event and tradeshow in 2020.

Download the [Sponsorship and Exhibition prospectus](#) or contact the Sponsorship and Exhibition Manager at conference@aomevents.com and ask about the opportunities at WFC2020.

The WFC2020 Program Committee is now welcoming abstract submissions under a list of topics that are organised around four key themes:

- Sustainable Fisheries (Assessment, Regulation, Enforcement)
- Fish and Aquatic Ecosystems (Biodiversity, Conservation, Ecosystem Function, Integrated Management)
- Fisheries and Society (Contributions to Sustainable Development)
- Future of Fish and Fisheries (Innovations in Fisheries)

Abstracts for oral or poster presentations must be submitted online via the WFC2020 [Abstract Submission Portal](#). Abstracts must not exceed 350 words and must follow the [Abstract Submission Guidelines](#).

Abstract submissions are now invited for the World Fisheries Congress 2020 and abstract submissions close 31 January 2020. For more details visit <https://wfc2020.com.au/callforabstracts/>

Little Fish Film Competition

As part of the World Fisheries Congress the FRDC will be running a short film competition, using the World Fisheries Congress to focus a global conversation on fisheries and the role they play in the lives of millions of people. The key objective is to raise awareness of the conference and its themes. A secondary objective is to raise awareness and exposure to fisheries science with a younger generation. The festival will be open to school students from around the world, ages 9-13.

Find out more on the festival at <http://littlefilms.fish/>

Key events 2019-20

Date	Event	More information
28 Dec	Oysters in the Vines Seafood and Wine Festival, Port Macquarie NSW	https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/whats-on/events/oysters-in-the-vines
30-31 Dec	International Conference on Marine Ecology, Biodiversity and Pollution, France	https://waset.org/marine-ecology-biodiversity-and-pollution-conference-in-dec-2019-in-paris#
2020		
11 Jan	Portarlington Mussel Festival, Portarlington Victoria	www.portmusselfestival.com
12 Jan	Cape Jaffa Seafood and Wine Fest, Cape Jaffa SA	www.capejaffafest.com
25-26 Jan	Hooked on Portland, Portland Victoria	www.facebook.com/hookedonportland
26 Jan	Kilcunda Lobster Festival, Kilcunda Victoria	https://kcda.weebly.com/lobster-festival.html
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day 2020	
5-6 Feb	CRC Northern Australia Workshop - Aquaculture Opportunities in Northern Australia: Solutions and Strategies, Rockhampton, Qld	
7-9 Feb	India International Seafood Show 2020, India	www.indianseafoodexpo.com
9-11 Feb	Fish International 2020, Germany	https://fishinternational.de/en
9-12 Feb	Aquaculture America 2020, Hawaii	www.marevent.com/AA2020_HONOLULU.html

11 Feb	International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2020	
14–16 Feb	Apollo Bay Seafood Festival, Apollo Bay Victoria	www.apollobayseafoodfestival.com
18–19 Feb	Evoke Ag	https://evokeag.com/
16–21 Feb	Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020, USA	www.agu.org/ocean-sciences-meeting
19–20 Feb	AquaFarm 2020, Italy	www.aquafarm.show/en
27–28 Feb	International Conference on Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Sydney NSW	https://waset.org/fisheries-and-aquatic-sciences-conference-in-feb-2020-in-sydney
3–4 Mar	ABARES Outlook 2020 conference, Canberra	www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook
9–15 Mar	Sustainable Seafood Week Australia 2020	
14–15 Mar	Mandurah Crab Fest, Mandurah WA	www.crabfest.com.au
15–17 Mar	Seafood Expo North America, USA	www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america
16–17 Mar	International Conference on Aquaculture 2020, Thailand	https://aemconferences.com/aqua
24 March	Aquafeed Horizons Asia 2020, Thailand	http://feedconferences.com
21-23 April	Seafood Expo Global, Brussels, Belgium	https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/
5-9 Jul	Australian Marine Sciences Association/New Zealand Marine Sciences Society 2020 Conference, Sydney	https://amsa2020.amsa.asn.au/
11-15 Oct	World Fisheries Congress 2020, Adelaide	https://wfc2020.com.au/
18-23 Oct	International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management	https://icwl2020.com.au/

Dates for seafood festivals for 2019-2020 can be found on the FRDC FishFiles website <http://www.fishfiles.com.au/Media/Seafood-Festivals>

FRDC board meeting dates and locations

Date	Location
25-26 Feb 2020	Brisbane
22-23 Apr 2020	Canberra
16-17 Jun 2020	Darwin

FRDC RAC meeting dates

Date	Research Advisory Committee meetings	More information
3 March 2020	NSWRAC	See the FRDC website - http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees
5 March 2020	NTRAC	
12 March 2020	TASRAC	
12 March 2020	WARAC	
18 March 2020	QLDRAC	
19 March 2020	VICRAC	
31 March 2020	SARAC	
2 April 2020	COMRAC	

Key new projects approved since last update in June 2019

NOTE: some projects may have not yet been contracted

Project Number	Title	Applicant	Principle Investigator	Budget\$
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2018-178	Species identification of Australia's most significant octopus fishery – the Western Australian Common Octopus	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) WA	Anthony Hart	94,058
2019-011	Optimising Compliance Outcomes in Recreational Fisheries	University of Western Australia	Jade Lindley	37,774
2019-012	Postgraduate funding - Stock structure and connectivity of Black Bream including implications for management	University of Adelaide	Bronwyn M. Gillanders	75,000
2019-013	Modelling environmental changes and effects on wild-caught species in Queensland	University of Queensland (UQ)	Jerzy A. Filar	298,704
2019-020	Development of a user-friendly Management Strategy Evaluation framework for Queensland's rocky reef fishery	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Matthew Campbell	138,225
2019-022	Digital Literacy for Queensland Commercial Fishers Stage 1 - Improving Business Efficiencies	Honey and Fox Pty Ltd	Emily Mantilla	133,990
2019-023	Identifying and mitigating obstacles to uptake and adoption of aquatic animal welfare practices by the Australian Fishing Industry	ENVision Environmental Consulting	Nicki Mazur	100,100
2019-026	Measuring, Interpreting and Monitoring Economic Productivity in Commercial Fisheries	University of Adelaide	Stephanie F. McWhinnie	248,572
2019-027	Improving and promoting fish-trawl selectivity in the SESSF and GABTS	NSW Department Of Primary Industries	Matt K. Broadhurst	776,376
2019-028	Improving Southern Rock Lobster on-vessel handling practices, data collection and industry tools for lobster quality assessment	University of Tasmania (UTAS)	Quinn P. Fitzgibbon	538,604
2019-031	Understanding population structure and dynamics of Victoria's developing Octopus fishery	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)	Jayson Semmens	372,411
2019-032	Seaweed production as a nutrient offset for Moreton Bay	University of the Sunshine Coast (USC)	Nicholas Paul	370,000
2019-038	Abalone diver observation collection, analysis and reporting system for improved management decision making	Abalone Council Victoria Incorporated	John M. Minehan	95,800
2019-044	Quantifying post-release survival and movement of Snapper (<i>Chrysophrys auratus</i>): Informing strategies to engage the fishing community in practices to enhance the sustainability of an important multi-sector fishery	University of Adelaide	Paul J. Rogers	395,517
2019-046	Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper	University of Adelaide	Anthony J. Fowler	541,804
2019-051	Examining the potential impacts of seismic surveys on octopus and larval stages of Southern Rock Lobster	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)	Jayson Semmens	610,070
2019-060	The Detection of Ciguatera Toxins in NSW Spanish Mackerel	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)	Shauna Murray	490,000

2019-063	Assessment of the sustainability of common dolphin interactions with the South Australian Sardine Fishery	University of Adelaide	Simon D. Goldsworthy	380,000
2019-072	A survey to detect change in Danish Seine catch rates of Flathead and School Whiting resulting from CGG seismic exploration	Fishwell Consulting Pty Ltd	Ian Knuckey	647,850
2019-085	National Snapper Workshop - Rebuilding our iconic Snapper stocks	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia	Jonathan McPhail	65,000
2019-091	Non-Market Impact Valuation for Fisheries RD&E (Phase I)	Agtrans Research	Talia Hardaker	42,000
2019-096	Workshop - Aquaculture opportunities in northern Australia: Solutions and Strategies	James Cook University (JCU)	Jennifer Cobcroft	55,007
2019-100	Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Lead Auditor Training Program for Aquaculture Biosecurity Plans	Nautilus Collaboration Pty Ltd	Christine C. Huynh	20,000
2019-103	Strategic Planning Workshop for Yellowtail Kingfish Stock Assessment in South-Eastern Australia	NSW Department of Primary Industries Mosman	John Stewart	12,338
2019-110	Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA	Lachlan Strain	61,802
2019-118	Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies	Cathy Dichmont Consulting	Cathy M. Dichmont	616,001
2019-122	Developing jurisdictional and national SAFS authoring and collaboration platform	SourceCode ANZ Pty Ltd	Rudi van der Walt	380,000
2019-142	Resource Sharing in Australian Fisheries Workshop - Progress to Date, Lessons Learnt and Next Steps towards a harmonised approach	FutureCatch Consulting	Nick D. Rayns	15,000
2019-146	National Recreational Fishing Conference bursary 2019	Enviro Circle Pty Ltd	Owen Li	45,000
2019-153	Minor Use Permit development for use of AQUI-S (isoeugenol 540g/L) by the Australian lobster industry.	Future Fisheries Veterinary Service Pty Ltd	Matt A. Landos	179,800
2019-154	Bursaries to fund three South Australian Recreational Sector members to attend the National Recreational Fishing Conference 2019	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia	Skye Barrett	6,500
2020-003	Understanding the stock structure of rock flathead and the role of movement dynamics in influencing the performance of the Corner Inlet fishery	Deakin University	Justin Rizzari	145,650
2020-004	The impact and implication of <i>Perkinsus olseni</i> on Australian abalone fisheries	SARDI Aquatic Sciences	Ben Stobart	322,174