



# FRDC STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

## March 2019

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## Funding round update

The November open call round closed on 15 February. There were 45 applications received in the open call which are now being considered by the RACs, IPAs and Subprograms for comments and funding support. The first of these applications are likely to go before the FRDC Board in their April/June meetings.

If there are priority areas of research from stakeholder groups then there will be another open call announced in April/May. If required, the call for applications will be advertised through the usual FRDC channels and posted on the FRDC website (<http://frdc.com.au/Research/Call-for-applications>).

As part of the application evaluation process by the RACs, IPAs and Subprograms, these committees (and FRDC Management) may request that proponents submit revised Full Applications to providing greater detail and/or addressing specific comments as defined in a decision notification letter provided by FRDC. It is highly recommended that all proponents provide itemised response letters to the comments provided with the finalised application to aid the evaluating committees.

All finalised Full Applications for funding to the FRDC must come through the FRDCs funding application portal FishNet ([www.fishnet.gov.au](http://www.fishnet.gov.au)).

## FRDC independent review of RAC and IPAs

The recent independent performance review of the FRDC made a number of recommendations to the FRDC (see section below). Two of these recommendations have initiated the review of the RACs and IPAs:

- Recommendation 3: During the development of the next RD&E plan, FRDC should review the way it organises and manages its RD&E program (its investment and evaluation framework) with the aim of simplifying it so that it is easily understood by the average stakeholder.
- Recommendation 7: FRDC should strengthen its approach to extension, possibly by creating a specific position to oversee or coordinate extension across the organisation.

It has been over a decade that the FRDC has been entering into agreements with different stakeholder groups to help in the prioritisation and funding of research for fishing and aquaculture. To ensure continued relevance of these structures in helping inform the best use of FRDC funds the FRDC is seeking a comprehensive and independent review of the current partnership model with a view to identifying:

- How the various models are managed by the FRDC and how that management might be improved
- The degree to which they meet stakeholder needs
- How well they are meeting the FRDC's extension/adoption/impact goals
- Areas for improvement generally
- How well they are contributing to the FRDC realising its planned outcome

The review will provide recommendations as to how the FRDC might better partner with stakeholders in the future. This might include providing alternate partnership model(s) as informed by better practices used by other Research Development Corporations. The review will also provide recommendations on the capacity and capability needs of the FRDC in developing and maintaining effective partnerships into the future. It will also review the various approaches to extension taken by both the FRDC and its partners, and make recommendations as to where and how extension might be improved.

## Portfolio approach to approving funding of FRDC research

The new FRDC board has shown a keen interest to ensure they are providing input at a more strategic level to the way in which FRDC goes about its business. In order to do this they are looking at ways they can conduct business in a more efficient way. One of the things they are looking at doing is to provide higher level approvals for FRDC research. This would be based on both the FRDC and the various stakeholder group RD&E plans and would require regular updates on progress. Additionally there would be an agreed risk framework which would dictate whether the board would assess a project individually for approval or if the approval would be provided at a higher level.

In effect this would mean that the board would no longer approve most projects on an application by application basis. This should improve the timing that it takes for FRDC to process projects from application through to contracting.

At this stage the process of applying is not going to change although there may be some slight variations to it in the future. The FRDC will continue to update stakeholders with more details on these changes as decisions are made.

## 2018 Status of Australian Stock Status Reports

The Assistant Minister Richard Colbeck will launch the fourth edition of the Status of Australian Fish Stocks Reports on Wednesday 6 March at the ABARES Outlook Conference in Canberra <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook>.

In total 120 species made up of 406 stocks were assessed in this Report, including 37 new species.

The results are that the majority of Australia's fish stocks are well managed and healthy. The Reports cover the majority of the Australian caught fish that Australians will eat and of the stocks assessed almost 80% were sustainable (excluding Undefined and Negligible).

Stock status	Number of stocks			Total stocks	Catch (t)	% of catch species
	Biological stock	Management unit	Jurisdiction			
Sustainable	99	99	56	254	128,893	90.5
Depleting	6	12	5	23	4,199	3.1
Recovering	8	8	2	18	6,547	4.6
Depleted	11	13	5	29	1,115	0.8
Undefined	12	22	20	54	1,573	1
Negligible	3	3	22	28	721	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>142,328</b>	<b>100</b>

**Robust Science:** The strength of the Reports is their foundation in science. The Reports provide all the facts and information on the status of fish stocks based on the best available science.

Over 100 of Australia’s fisheries scientists contributed to the writing of these Reports. A further thirty-five fisheries scientists externally peer reviewed the Reports for accuracy.

**Reducing the number of undefined stocks in SAFS:** There has been a steady decrease in the number stocks of unknown status. Forty-nine stocks were Undefined in 2016. Of these, 30 stocks remained Undefined in 2018.

**Tracking change:** From the outset there has been an aspiration to Report on stock status trends across editions, to illustrate progress against typical performance measures for a stock status. As part of delivering SAFS 2018, work has been completed to map and show trends of species going from being depleted back to sustainable and vice versa.

For example, Southern Bluefin Tuna has moved from depleted in SAFS 2016 to recovering in SAFS 2018. Recent assessments have shown clear progress towards the rebuilding target set by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) to guide the recovery of the biological stock to 20 per cent of unfished biomass by 2035. We are not there yet, but from all accounts, we are well on our way to achieving that target before 2035. Other examples include:

### Improving

Species – Stock assessed	2014	2016	2018
Southern Bluefin Tuna	Depleted	Depleted	Recovering
Big Eye Tuna Pacific Ocean	Depleted	Depleted	Sustainable
Blue Swimmer Crab – Cockburn Sound	Depleted	Depleted	Recovering
Blue Swimmer Crab – Shark Bay	Depleted	Recovering	Recovering
Blue Swimmer Crab – Gulf St Vincent	Recovering	Sustainable	Sustainable
Blacklip Abalone – Victorian Western Zone Fishery	Depleted	Sustainable	Sustainable

### Depleting

Species – Stock assessed	2014	2016	2018
Ballot’s Saucer Scallop - East Coast Trawl Fishery	Sustainable	Depleted	Depleted
Snapper – Shark Bay Oceanic, WA	Sustainable	Recovering	Depleted
Snapper – Northern Spencer Gulf Fishery, SA	Depleting	Depleting	Depleted
Blacklip Abalone – Victorian Central Zone Fishery	Depleted	Depleting	Depleting
Blacklip Abalone – New South Wales	Recovering	Sustainable	Depleting
Blacklip Abalone – Tasmanian Eastern Zone Fishery	Recovering	Sustainable	Depleting

While the current picture is good, we cannot rest on our laurels and past performance. Fish stocks are constantly changing and require constant monitoring. The managers, fishers and even consumers should keep an eye on what is going on.

The results provide a clear road map, highlighting areas that need further work, for management, industry and researchers.

The reports are available to the general public, policy makers, managers, industry, consumers, retailers, and to the international community via the dedicated website ([www.fish.gov.au](http://www.fish.gov.au)) and phone apps for both Android and Apple – just search for SAFS – Sustainable Fish Stocks.

## Shark Report Card

Alongside the launch of the Status of Australian Fish Stocks reports is the release of the Report Card of Australia's Sharks (2013-009 "Shark Futures: A report card for Australia's sharks and rays"). This report undertook an assessment of 194 species of sharks (and rays with shark like bodies) by 23 of Australia's leading shark and ray scientists.

These experts brought together the best available science on these species and applied the IUCN RED List Categories and Criteria and translated this to the categories and criteria of the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports to indicate the sustainability of these species in Australian fisheries. The 194 species were split into 199 stocks. The results of the assessment are as follows:

Status of Australian Fish Stocks category	Number of stocks
Sustainable	124
Recovering	9
Depleting	6
Depleted	18
Undefined	42
Total	199

All 194 species reports will be available on the FRDC website and the final report can be found at <http://www.frdc.com.au/project/2013-009>

## FRDC's 2020-25 RD&E Plan development

Building a vibrant and innovative fishing and aquaculture industry requires careful and deliberate planning. Through the years the FRDC have produced a series of 5-year Research, Development & Extension (RD&E) Plans. Each has taken a contemporary look at the business landscape, and laid down, against that landscape, a series of desired outcomes for fishing and aquaculture over that five-year period, and areas of strategic focus. Each plan also seeks to articulate the optimal framework for investment in RD&E to achieve the vision for fishing and aquaculture in Australia.

The process of delivering the FRDC's 2020-25 RD&E Plan has started and will continue throughout 2019. The plan will be shaped by the priorities of the Australian Government, the Australian Fisheries Management Forum, and the needs and aspirations of the sectors and industries that make up Australia's rich fishing and aquaculture community. To assist, the FRDC will be conducting an extensive consultative process over coming months. The process will be designed to provoke thought and feedback on possible future states of fishing and aquaculture in Australia; activities to respond to key internal and external driving forces; and review systems, investment frameworks and processes to improve efficiency in delivery of outputs through investment in RD&E.

The FRDC 2020-25 RD&E Plan will also be informed by:

- a. a contemporary snapshot of fishing and aquaculture today, updating earlier work conducted in 2014 (FRDC Project 2014/503.20);
- b. a horizon-scanning process looking over a ten-year time horizon (2030) that considers geopolitical, social, economic, environmental and/or technical changes likely to occur over 2020-2030, drivers of those changes, and implications for fisheries and aquaculture production, trade, pricing, fishing participation, expenditure, and the environment;
- c. The Independent review of FRDC's performance, and proposed independent review of RACs and IPAs (see above)
- d. relevant strategic plans and strategies that are extant for the nominated five-year period

## **Ernst and Young Vision for Rural Innovation in Australia**

Ernst and Young is leading a project to create a shared vision for the future of the agricultural innovation system and enable opportunities for a vibrant agricultural sector. The vision will be designed through engagement with stakeholders. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, in conjunction with Ernst & Young (EY), will undertake a comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders across the agricultural innovation system, including research providers, rural research and development corporations, industry representatives, governments, investors, start-ups and accelerators, producers, grower and farm systems groups, processors and retailers.

For Further Information see: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation/vision-for-agricultural-innovation>

## **Independent Performance Review of FRDC Completed**

The FRDC is required under its 2015-19 Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth Government, to engage an independent organisation to undertake a comprehensive review of its performance by 2 December 2018. The FRDC board agreed to the terms of reference with the Department in Sep 2017 and Foresthill Consulting (led by Scott Williams) was selected to undertake the review. As part of the review Foresthill Consulting undertook a number of face-to-face interviews, as well as seeking broader stakeholder feedback. The report was completed and provided to the Department for consideration.

In total, 10 recommendations have been made and the FRDC has agreed to fully implement all 10 recommendations. These are currently being actioned. The Review and the FRDC board response to the review can be found at <http://www.frdc.com.au/About-us/Corporate-documents/Funding-agreement>.

## **Fish 2.0 – Regional hub of seafood entrepreneurs and investors**

A second, larger Australia–Asia-Pacific regional event is scheduled for Brisbane in April 2 and 3 2019. It will include opportunities for Australian ventures that have competed online in FISH 2.0 to pitch to a broad group of investors from Australia, the Pacific Islands and South-East Asia.

Sign up for the online competition or to receive news about the Brisbane event at the FISH 2.0 website ([www.fish20.org/ventures/2018tracks/australia](http://www.fish20.org/ventures/2018tracks/australia)).

All ventures that qualify through the online competition will be invited to join the FISH 2.0 global online connection platform to connect with business partners and investors. Top-scoring finalists will also be invited to pitch at the FISH 2.0 Global Innovation Forum in Silicon Valley in late 2019.

There is no cost to participate in the online competition.

## **FRDC Seafood Industry Safety and Welfare National Strategy – project SeSAFE update**

A key component of the FRDC’s Seafood Industry Safety & Welfare National Strategy is project “SeSAFE – Delivering Industry Safety through Electronic Learning” ([2017-194](#)). SeSAFE was established to develop electronic learning modules to facilitate the uptake of knowledge required for an improved culture of safety awareness, including general workplace safety requirements under workplace health and safety legislation.

For more information, refer to the SeSAFE dedicated website - [www.sesafe.com.au](http://www.sesafe.com.au)

## Sponsor the WFC2020

Australia will host the World Fisheries Congress 2020 ([WFC2020](#)) in Adelaide from 11 to 15 October 2020. The International Program Committee is calling for [expressions of interest](#) to lead sessions, symposia, and education and training workshops.

Held every four years, the 8th World Fisheries Congress 2020 (WFC2020) will be the largest gathering of the research, industry and management sectors to discuss the latest advances in fisheries worldwide.

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](mailto:conference@aomevents.com) and ask about the opportunities at WFC2020.

## Renewal of the membership of the FRDC's Research Advisory Committees

The eight jurisdictional-based Research Advisory Committees will begin the process of seeking expressions of interest for the renewal or new appointment of all Committee members including Chairs, in August 2019. The process will involve an open call for applications that will be advertised through the FRDC's standard communication channels.

All members of the Fisheries and Aquaculture community are invited to apply, with membership based on an individual's expertise in order to establish committees comprised of well-informed experts from across a range of sectors and field, including:

- Commercial wild catch
- Commercial aquaculture
- Recreational fishing
- Resource management
- Processing, Post-harvest and Marketing
- Environmental
- RD&E execution and management
- Indigenous
- People development

All stakeholders are able to access information on the roles and functions of the Research Advisory Committees in the lead up to the Open call for RAC Membership at:

<http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees>.

## Key events 2018-19

Date	Event	More information
5-6 March	ABARES Outlook Conference	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook">http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook</a>
17-19 March	Seafood EXPO North America (Boston)	<a href="https://www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america/">https://www.seafoodexpo.com/north-america/</a>
2-3 April	Fish 2.0 – Brisbane	<a href="https://www.fish20.org/ventures/2018trucks/australia">https://www.fish20.org/ventures/2018trucks/australia</a>
7-9 May	Seafood EXPO Global (Brussels, Belgium)	<a href="https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/">https://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/</a>
10-14 June	Seaweb Seafood Summit	<a href="https://www.seafoodsummit.org/">https://www.seafoodsummit.org/</a>

7-11 July	AMSA Annual Conferences "Marine Science for a Blue Economy" (Fremantle)	<a href="http://amsa19.amsa.asn.au/">http://amsa19.amsa.asn.au/</a>
30-31 July	Trans-Tasman Abalone/Paua Convention (Hobart)	<a href="http://www.abalonecouncil.com.au/national-abalone-convention/2019-hobart-tas/">http://www.abalonecouncil.com.au/national-abalone-convention/2019-hobart-tas/</a>
8-9 August	New Zealand Seafood Conference	<a href="https://www.seafood.co.nz/conference-2019/">https://www.seafood.co.nz/conference-2019/</a>
11-13 August	Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Congress (Queenstown, NZ)	<a href="https://www.lobsterconference2019.co.nz/">https://www.lobsterconference2019.co.nz/</a>
9-11 October	Seafood Directions (Melbourne)	<a href="https://www.sd2019.com.au/">https://www.sd2019.com.au/</a>
14-17 October	ASFB Annual Conference "Communicate to Illuminate & Inspire" (Canberra)	<a href="http://asfbconference.org/">http://asfbconference.org/</a>

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

### FRDC board meeting dates and locations

Date	Location
16-17 April	Port Stephens
11-12 June	Perth
14-15 August	Canberra

### FRDC RAC meeting dates

Date	Research Advisory Committee meetings	More information
6/03/2019	Queensland RAC	See the FRDC website - <a href="http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees">http://frdc.com.au/Partners/Research-Advisory-Committees</a>
12/03/2019	South Australian RAC	
13/03/2019	Western Australian RAC	
21/03/2019	Commonwealth RAC	
27/03/2019	Northern Territory RAC	
28/03/2019	Victorian RAC	
11/04/2019	Tasmanian RAC	
17/04/2019	New South Wales RAC	

### Key new projects approved since last update in December 2018

NOTE: some projects may not yet have been contracted

Project Number	Title	Applicant	PI	Budget \$
2017-135	NCCP: essential studies on cyprinid herpesvirus 3 (CyHV-3) prior to release of the virus in Australian waters	CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory	Ken McColl	273,383
2017-199	A preliminary assessment of the prevalence of marine micro plastics in Australian seafood	University of Adelaide North Terrace Campus	Bronwyn M. Gillanders	145,666
2017-203	Risk from Diarrhetic Shellfish Toxins and Dinophysis to the Australian Shellfish Industry	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)	Penelope A. Ajani	241,125



2018-005	Where should I farm my oysters? Does natural Cadmium distribution restrict oyster farm site selection in the Northern Territory?	Department of Primary Industry and Resources (NT)	Matthew Osborne	123,272
2018-006	FRDC Resource: Development and ongoing maintenance of Australian Fish Names Standard 2019-2020	Alan Snow Consulting	Alan J. Snow	174,685
2018-011	A South Australian gulfs and coastal ecosystem model to optimise multi-species fisheries management in a changing environment	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Simon D. Goldsworthy	218,932
2018-020	Cumulative impacts across fisheries in Australia's marine environment	CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Hobart	Beth Fulton	391,000
2018-021	Development and evaluation of multi-species harvest strategies in the SSSF	CSIRO	Richard Little	464,973
2018-027	Integrated approach to improving stock assessment of Black jewfish	Charles Darwin University (CDU)	David A. Crook	450,000
2018-034	Effects of climate change and habitat degradation on coral trout	James Cook University (JCU)	Morgan S. Pratchett	714,675
2018-035	Fisheries biology of Western Australian Salmon: improving our understanding of population dynamics in South Australia to enable quantitative stock assessments and improved fisheries management.	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Jason Earl	246,454
2018-036	Seal-fisher-ecosystem interactions in the Lower Lakes and Coorong: understanding causes and impacts to develop longer-term solutions	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Jason Earl	335,725
2018-042	Improving Outcomes of Fisher Interactions with Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras	Monash University Clayton Campus	Richard Reina	211,556
2018-050	Where did the snapper go? Determining factors influencing the recovery of snapper stocks on the west coast of Australia	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) WA	Gary Jackson	352,587
2018-053	Enhancing the Understanding of the Value Provided to Fisheries by Man-Made Aquatic Structures	Curtin University	Euan S. Harvey	353,753
2018-055	Developing a positive cultural attitude towards the capture and release of sharks and rays	South Australian Aquatic Sciences Institute	Paul J. Rogers	358,968
2018-056	Understanding the demography and stock structure of Victorian pipis	University of Melbourne	John R. Morrongiello	278,471
2018-070	Opportunities and impacts of range extending scalefish species: understanding population dynamics, ecosystem impacts and management needs	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Taroona	Sean Tracey	249,587
2018-074	Assessing the spawning characteristics and reproductive biology of pearl perch ( <i>Glaucosoma scapulare</i> ) in Queensland	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)	Matthew Campbell	402,659
2018-075	Aquaculture-Community Futures: North West Tasmania	University of Tasmania (UTAS)	Karen A. Alexander	172,996

2018-079	Ecological modeling of the impacts of water development in the Gulf of Carpentaria with particular reference to impacts on the Northern Prawn Fishery	CSIRO	Eva Plagany-Lloyd	411,817
2018-104	Next generation decision support tools to support sustainable aquaculture in Storm Bay	CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere Hobart	Rebecca Gorton	791,324
2018-109	National Abalone Diver Exchange Program	Western Abalone Divers Association (WADA)	Craig Fox	255,800
2018-119	Development of a hydrodynamic model to investigate near field and regional connectivity around Okehampton Bay	Tassal Operations Pty Ltd	Michael Herzfeld	340,178
2018-124	Science to support Australia's Southern Ocean Fisheries 2018-2020	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Taroona	Philippe Ziegler	1,473,000
2018-128	Seafood Trade Advisory Group - developing, implementing and communicating the Australian seafood industry trade agenda 2019-2021	Honey and Fox Pty Ltd	Jayne M. Gallagher	461,000
2018-133	Impact of environmental variability on the Patagonian Toothfish ( <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> ) fishery	University of Tasmania (UTAS)	Stuart Corney	586,621
2018-147	Diagnostic detection of aquatic pathogens using real-time next generation sequencing	CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory	David Cummins	216,000
2018-148	A Stock Assessment Toolbox for Australian Fisheries	Cathy Dichmont Consulting	Cathy M. Dichmont	179,630
2018-154	A market research-driven and co-management approach to developing an industry strategy for the SA Charter Boat Fishery	EconSearch (Divison of BDO Advisory (SA) Pty Ltd)	Julian Morison	32,840
2018-156	Assessment of Pacific oyster family lines for OshV-1 tolerance	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Marty Deveney	67,987
2018-157	Evaluation of Cobia and Giant Groper production and health in multiple growout systems, as an alternative species to farm in WSSV affected areas of South East Queensland	Rocky Point Aquaculture Company Pty Ltd	Brad Cherrie	150,000
2018-159	Spawning biomass of Jack Mackerel ( <i>Trachurus declivis</i> ) in the East sub-area of the Small Pelagic Fishery	South Australian Research and Development Institute	Tim Ward	300,000
2018-161	National Social and Economic Survey of Recreational Fishers	University of Canberra	Anthony Moore	1,072,045
2018-162	On Board Processing and Packaging Innovation in the Australian Wild Harvest Prawn Fishery	Fight Food Waste CRC	Steven Lapidge	353,750
2018-164	Commercial production trial with high POMS tolerant triploid Pacific Oysters in approved NSW estuaries.	Australian Seafood Industries Pty Ltd (ASI)	Matthew Cunningham	70,000
2018-165	Easy Open Oyster Machine Upgrade	Dr Leonard Stephens	Len Stephens	65,000

2018-166	Australian Prawn Farms - Emerging disease investigation	Australian Prawn Farms Pty Ltd	Matt A. Landos	180,960
2018-167	Seafood Industry Engagement and input into the development of the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement	Jim Fitzgerald and Associates	Jim E. Fitzgerald	25,350
2018-170	Development of diagnostic and surveillance techniques to promote modern Southern Bluefin Tuna health management	RMIT University Melbourne City Campus	Nathan Bott	401,793
2018-171	Growing a Digital Future – Development of digital capability frameworks	Cotton Research and Development Corporation	Jane Trindall	75,000
2018-172	Methods to profile and connect the provenance of wild caught prawn fisheries and their values to the community	Australian Council of Prawn Fisheries Ltd (ACPF)	Rachel King	469,400