



JANUARY 2024

Hello Angela

Welcome to the first FRDC News edition of 2024.

In this edition, FRDC shares the results of a world first, global review of the **effects of microplastics on seafood**, hear **what five Australian trap fishers learnt at the Ropeless Consortium**, held in Halifax Nova Scotia, and **look at how Traditional fishers between Cape Yorke and Papua New Guinea are using a new data collection** app to help them manage their fisheries.

As always, your story suggestions and feedback are most welcome. Please submit them in this [form](#) and the [Communications Team](#) will be in touch.

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



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Reducing the impacts of microplastics on marine species

The world's first global review of microplastics and seafood confirms negative impacts on marine species while identifying the sources of contaminant and suggesting ways to minimise its impact.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 2 and 3](#)

Celebrating Gynburra builds species stewardship

Bringing together Indigenous and scientific knowledge about Gynburra, or the Dusky Morwong (*Dactylophora nigricans*), is helping to build a better understanding of the species and changes in local fish populations.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 2 and 5](#)



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Australian trap fishers cross countries seeking whale-friendly options

A delegation of five Australian fishers, led by OceanWatch Australia's Project Manager for Entanglement Mitigation, Kristin Hoel, recently returned from an enlightening trip to the Ropeless Consortium in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 2 and 3](#)

Nuffield Scholars spearhead innovation in fishing and aquaculture

FRDC-sponsored Nuffield Scholars Joana Mendes (2023 Scholar) and Tom Cosentino (2024 Scholar), have been awarded a 14-week global learning experience, diving deeper into their respective fishing and aquaculture study areas.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1, 3 and 5](#)



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Closing the data gaps for Torres Strait traditional fishing

Gathering data about traditional fishing in the Torres Strait will help local communities improve their stewardship of fisheries resources for food security, cultural purposes and balanced management of traditional, recreational and commercial fishing.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcome 1, 2, 4 and 5](#)

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IN BRIEF

- **Do you know a local hero generating game-changing innovations or ideas? Or a PhD student making pioneering strides in research?** This is YOUR chance to amplify their voices and let the world know. Nominate a high achiever in your state or territory, for a Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Award, sponsored by FRDC:
 - [Sydney Fish Market's 'Seafood Excellence Awards' \(NSW\)](#)
 - [Queensland Seafood Marketers Association Awards](#)
 - [Western Australian Fishing Industry Council's 'State Seafood Awards'](#)
 - [Seafood Industry Victoria's 'Seafood Industry Awards'](#)
 - [Northern Territory Seafood Industry Councils 'NT Seafood Industry Awards'](#)
- **Calling all passionate seafood trailblazers, sustainability champions, and future industry captains!**
Ready to steer your career towards greatness whilst making excellent connections and meeting new friends along the way? Chart your course for the [National Seafood Industry Leadership Program \(NSILP\) 2024](#) – **applications close on the 25 January 2024**. Don't miss out!
- **Women in Seafood Australasia (WISA) are offering numerous growth and development opportunities** for women within the Australian seafood sector, including working with a mentor, joining their 2024 entrepreneur and leadership program, and bursaries to be part of the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program 2024 cohort.
- **FRDC has partnered with world-leading fisheries science, governments and the recreational fishing sector** in Tasmania to fill the scientific knowledge gaps about Sand Flathead's biology, movement and growth, to recover this much-loved species for future generations to enjoy.
- **Food Agility is pleased to announce Victorian company, Eratos, as the core data exchange provider** for the Australian Agricultural Data Exchange (AADX), with pilot studies set to commence in January 2024.

IN THE NEWS

- IMAS have released a story and a feature-length video showcasing the new [environmental monitoring program in Storm Bay](#).
- ABC has highlighted the work that FRDC and the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) are doing to address the [underutilisation of mud crab fisheries](#) in the Kimberley region.

MOVERS

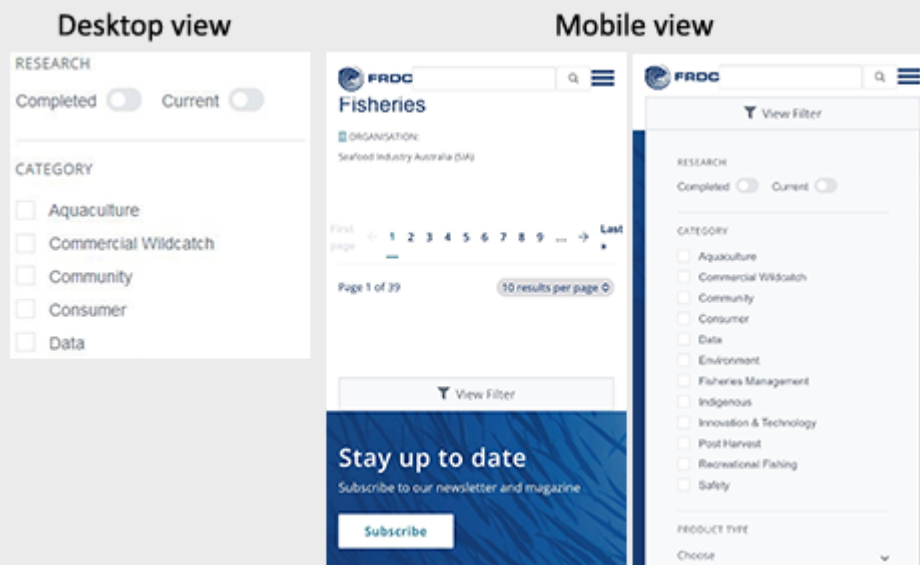
- The Australian Institute of Marine Science welcomes the appointment of **Professor Selina Stead**, a highly accomplished marine biologist from the United Kingdom as their new Chief Executive Officer.
- **Dr Ingrid Van Putten** is now the Acting Research Program Manager for Fisheries at the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.
- **Josh Thomas** has been reappointed for a second five-year term at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

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:

1. using the filter list on the right side of the search results page when searching from the desktop (see Desktop view image below) or
2. 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)



Reporting Guidelines

For our researchers, information on **reporting guidelines** is available from <https://www.frdc.com.au/reporting-guidelines>

UPCOMING 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!

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As always, we love your feedback and story suggestions, which you can submit on our website <https://www.frdc.com.au/contact-us>

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frdc.com.au
Locked Bag 222, Deakin West ACT 2600
+61 2 6122 2100
ABN 74 311 094 913

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