



Hello Kylie

Welcome to the March edition of FRDC News.

In this edition, learn how FRDC is supporting [careers for stock assessment scientists](#), what [FRDC initiatives](#) have been endorsed by the United Nations, how [Queensland fishers continue to show resilience](#), plus much more!

Also, seize the opportunity to share your own groundbreaking research by submitting an abstract for [Seafood Directions 2024](#) - the premier event for the Australian seafood sector, now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

As always, your story suggestions and feedback are most welcomed. 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



### Great Barrier Reef Closures: A story of determination and unity

After the recent Government decision to phase out gillnets on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by mid-2027, senior FRDC representatives visited the fishers who will be impacted and were struck by their resilience and determination.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 5](#)

[Read More](#) ▶

### International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) Launches Website

Explore [fishcoalition.org](#), the newly launched hub for global seafood industry initiatives. From biodiversity negotiations to UN engagement, ICFA fosters a unified voice for sustainable fishing practices worldwide.



It's here.  
[FishCoalition.org](#).  
Visit the website today.

[Read More](#) ▶



### Supporting careers for stock assessment scientists

Building the skills of the next generation of stock assessment scientists to support informed fisheries management is a priority for FRDC.

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

[Read More](#) ▶

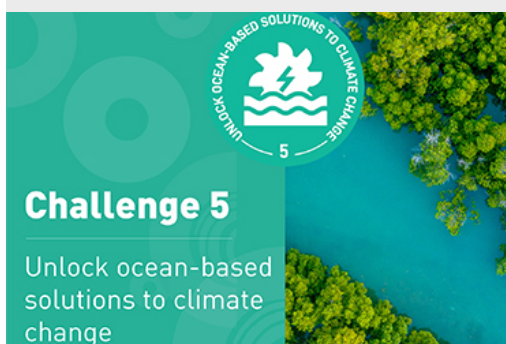
### FRDC's coordination programs and services safeguarding Australia's seafood

When eating fresh Australian seafood, consumers want confidence the fish they are eating is safe, what they paid for and comes from a healthy environment. FRDC supports and delivers a range of services to make this possible.

This reflects [R&D Plan Outcomes 1 to 5](#)



[Read More](#) ▶



### Challenge 5

Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change

[Read More](#) ▶

### FRDC projects garner endorsement by United Nations

Four FRDC initiatives have been officially endorsed by the United Nations Ocean Decade, a bold 10-year campaign to advance and address pressing challenges in world oceans.

## FRDC webinar showcases latest harvest strategy developments

FRDC recently convened a harvest strategy extension webinar, fostering collaboration to advance research in this important field.

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



[Read More ▶](#)



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**SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS 2024**  
**HOBART, TASMANIA**  
**SEPTEMBER 10-12**

## Calling all researchers! Elevate your research: Submit an abstract for Seafood Directions 2024!

Join us in celebrating 25 years of Seafood Directions, the leading event for the Australian seafood sector. Showcase your research and expertise at this milestone event!

[Read More ▶](#)

## IN BRIEF

- Do you have an idea to reduce carbon emissions in Australia's fishing and aquaculture? **Apply for a Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) grant** of up to \$1.1 million. Deadline: 18 April 2024, 5pm AEST. Learn more: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/brii-renewables-and-low-emissions-round>
- Interested in **learning more about the Australian Agricultural Data Exchange (AADX)**? **Sign up for the AADX Newsletter**, hosted and curated by Food Agility CRC.
- Want to know more about the **Seafood Careers** website? **Join FRDC and Seafood Industry Australia for a webinar** on Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 2-3pm.
- **Calling all women in agritech!** Don't miss your chance to be part of the **AgriFutures Catalyst program**, which will support women in agrifood tech and innovation in Australia and New Zealand to strengthen their networks and capability within the ecosystem.
- **Congratulations** to seafood leader and abalone diver **Craig Fox** who has been selected to participate in Course 31 of the **Australian Rural Leadership Program** - sponsored by FRDC.
- The **Marine Stewardship Council recognised excellence** at the **Sustainable Seafood Awards**, with Uncle Derek Walker, Ngarrindjeri Elder and CEO of Kuti Co, a major shareholder in Goolwa PipiCo the Sustainable Fishing Hero Award and former FRDC Director and current Director General of DPIRD WA Heather Brayford.
- **Public consultation** on the renewal of the **Australian Animal Welfare Strategy** is open until 4pm Monday 20 May 2024.

## IN THE NEWS

- Stay informed with **ABARES Essentials**: quarterly updates on research, analysis, and events, plus insights into stakeholder engagement and career opportunities.

## MOVERS

- After 19 years at the helm, **Katherine Winchester** Northern Territory Seafood Council Chief Executive Officer, will step down in May 2024.
- **Ian Dutton**, General Manager - Marine Resources with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) retired in mid-March.
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Secretary, Adam Fennessy PSM has appointed three new Deputy Secretaries - **Matt Lowe**, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Policy Group; **Justine Saunders** Biosecurity and Compliance Group; and **Tess Bishop** Portfolio Strategy and Services Group.
- **Dan Corrie** will lead AFMAs Climate Adaptation Program, taking over from **Alice McDonald** who departs Australia for an international role.
- The Blue Economy CRC team has welcomed new staff to the Futures of Seafood team, including **Dr Shane Roberts** as Project Lead.
- **Clare Winkel** has been appointed new Independent Chair of the Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names Committee.
- Seafood Industry Australia promoted **Julie Petty** to General Manager, Projects and Policy and appointed **Patrycja McLaughlin** as Projects and Policy Officer.
- **Nicola Hutchinson** has left Western Rock Lobster Council.
- **Allan Williams** has been appointed as the new Executive Officer of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.
- After a 10-year tenure at Seafish, **Denise Fraser**, Head of Communications will be leaving the world of seafood and the role of Chair of the Global Seafood Communicators in early April 2024.

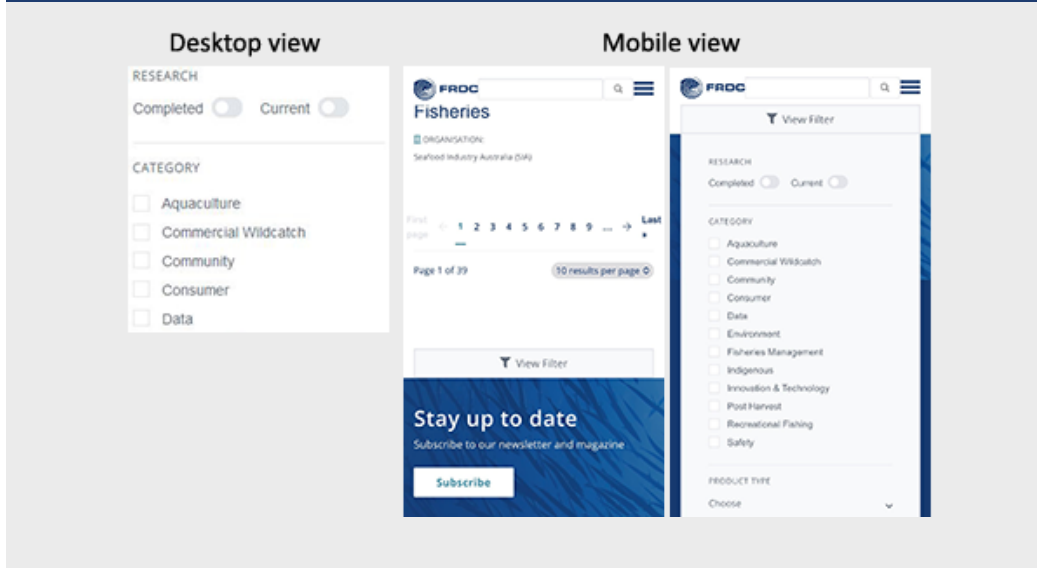


## FRDC PROJECTS

### 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!

[Read More](#) ▶

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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