

Fish Forever

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

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WORD-PROCESSED TEXT VERSION

NOTE: This document version has been formatted with word processing software and lacks images and graphics, so does not reflect the appearance of the final document.

Fish Forever - A shared 2030 vision for Australia's fishing and aquaculture community has been developed as a collaboration across Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors, including Indigenous, wild harvest, recreational, and aquaculture sectors, and representatives of the fisheries management and research industries that support them.

This document sets a shared vision for fishing and aquaculture, and how we can work together to continue providing benefit to the Australian people in perpetuity, delivering *Fish Forever*. The result is an agreed view of what we – the fishing and aquaculture community - want fishing and aquaculture to look like by 2030, and how we can work together to make it happen.

Fish Forever is predicated elements considered important by all sectors of the fishing and aquaculture community. Our members, coordinated through our Representative Organisations, will play a critical role in implementing *Fish Forever*, supported by investment bodies including the FRDC, research agencies, and management organisations.

Fish forever is consistent with and seeks to promote action against the United Nations [Global Sustainability Goals](#) adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The sustainable development goals mandate economic growth, while also seeking to protect environmental and social values.



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Text imposed over blended image comprising all sectors, including managers and researchers.

Australia's fishing and aquaculture community, working together to deliver

Fish Forever: *A collaborative, vibrant fishing and aquaculture community*, creating diverse benefits from aquatic resources, and celebrated by society.*

* Includes commercial wild catch, aquaculture, recreational, Indigenous and sectors, and representatives of the fisheries management and research industries that support them.

What does success look like in 2030? – Challenge-led thinking about the future.

Aspirational challenges provide a way to focus effort and investment through innovation¹. The following challenges, grouped under five outcomes, will help fishing and aquaculture maintain a course towards prosperity and sustainability in 2030, and are consistent with Australia's commitment to the United Nations Global Sustainability Goals. These challenges are not exhaustive, nor are they mandatory. Rather, they provide potential 'light on the hill', to unify and harness collective efforts across fishing and aquaculture over years to come.

Outcome 1: Growth for enduring prosperity

- Challenge 1: By 2030 commercial seafood production is highly profitable, and Australia is recognised as a market leader in the production of sustainable, nutritious and responsibly produced seafood.
- Challenge 2: By 2030 expenditure on recreational fishing exceeds \$3B, and average satisfaction with experience is rated as 'high'.
- Challenge 3: By 2030 cultural fishing is more widely practiced and celebrated among First Nations people, who are also enjoying more economic opportunities in fishing and aquaculture, and occupying more decision-making roles.
- Challenge 4: By 2030 investment in biosecurity control nationally is risk-based, and improved effectiveness is reducing risks.
- Challenge 5: By 2030 ALL assessed Australian fish stocks are classified as sustainable or recovering.
- Challenge 6: By 2030 investment in regenerative activities has tripled, with the 2026 Statement of Environment Report describing 30% improvement in condition of waterways and marine environments.
- Challenge 7: By 2030 cost of effective fisheries and aquaculture regulation as a proportion of GVP has halved.
- Challenge 8: By 2030 all management decisions are evidence based

Outcome 2: Best-practice and production systems

- Challenge 9: By 2030 Australian fishers and aquaculturists are caring for aquatic systems, including moving towards achieving zero nett waste and carbon neutrality, maintaining best practice in animal welfare, and optimising operations for improved environmental benefit
- Challenge 10: By 2030 Australian fisheries and aquaculture is recognised for providing healthy and safe workplaces, with the health and wellbeing of our people as our priority

Outcome 3: Build a culture that is inclusive, forward thinking and capable

- Challenge 11: By 2030 all decision making in fishing and aquaculture is as diverse, inclusive and equitable just like our community
- Challenge 12: By 2030 we have halved the frequency of inter-sectoral conflict.
- Challenge 13: In 2030, the primacy of Australia's First Nations people as custodians of sea country is recognised, and all sectors are valued as equal stakeholders.

Outcome 4: Ensure equitable and secure access to aquatic resources

- Challenge 14: By 2030 three Australian regions are being managed under an integrated, rights-based multi-use framework.
- Challenge 15: By 2030 80% of Australian fisheries are being managed on a spectrum of participative management

Outcome 5: Society and consumers trust, respect and value

- Challenge 16: In 2030 75% of Australians are positive about the future of fishing and aquaculture.
- Challenge 17: By 2030 traceability technology is deployed throughout the Australian Seafood value chain, demonstrating provenance, sustainability and safety.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/mazzucato_report_2018.pdf

***Fish Forever*. A touchstone for the future**

Human societies are facing rapid environmental, political, and economic change. Fishing and aquaculture, as a crucial contributor to food security and human well-being, will both experience these changes and form part of a global response to them. Within this response will lie opportunities for fishing and aquaculture to grow and prosper as part of an increasingly vital Blue Economy. Predicting the exact nature and timing of the challenges and opportunities we face is not always possible, but building the capacity and wisdom to meet them is. *Fish Forever* has been developed to set a shared, aspirational vision of the future for Australian fishing and aquaculture, and to establish some guiding principles for its attainment. All sectors within Australian fishing and aquaculture have collaborated to develop *Fish Forever*, ensuring that the vision it captures is shared and inclusive.

The vision articulated in *Fish Forever* is

A collaborative, vibrant fishing and aquaculture community*, creating benefits from bountiful resources, and celebrated by society.

This vision describes five clear, ambitious missions, shared by all sectors of Australia's fishing and aquaculture community:

- 1. Growth for enduring prosperity**
A sustainable, enduring and balanced ecological, social, economic and cultural growth, for community benefit.
- 2. Best practices and production systems**
Continued community benefit from aquatic resources in a manner consistent our shared principles
- 3. A culture that is inclusive and forward thinking**
A fishing and aquaculture community that is cooperative, diverse, and well equipped to enable growth and adaptability in a complex and uncertain world.
- 4. Equitable and secure resource access**
Clear, recognisable and secure access to Australia's aquatic and marine resources, providing certainty and promoting growth.
- 5. Society and consumers trust, respect and value**
People feel good about using the products, services and experiences that we provide

Fish Forever is consistent with Australia's obligations under key international policy instruments. *Fish Forever* is also evidence-based, with desired outcomes derived from research defining what it means to 'fish well'. These traits mean *Fish Forever* will provide a trusted and defensible reference point for fishing and aquaculture in the years to come.