



FRDC acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders past and present. We acknowledge the special relationship that Indigenous Australians have with their traditional lands and waters.



FRDC STAKEHOLDERS BRIEFING NOTES

March 2017

Contents

Commonwealth Government priority focus areas	2
Collaborate Fund.....	2
Research Advisory Committee update	2
Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy Update	3
People development – understanding needs.....	3
Recfishing Research Subprogram	3
New Human Dimensions Subprogram.....	4
Status of Australia Fish Stocks (SAFS) reports update	4
Seafood Sustainability and the Community (Priority 1 Subprogram).....	5
Third round of Rural R&D for Profit Programme	5
Carp biological control.....	5
Marketing update	6
Trade Statistics.....	7
FRDC to manage Non-tariff measures to trade on behalf of DAWR	7
IP and Commercialisation	7
CRC-P Future Oysters.....	8
White Spot Disease update.....	8
Fish Names update.....	10
Atlantic Salmon Farming in Macquarie Harbour	10
Impacts of seismic testing.....	11
Key events 2017	11
FRDC board meeting dates	11
Key new projects approved since last update in December 2016.....	12

Commonwealth Government priority focus areas

The Coalition government's key priority areas for fishing and aquaculture over the next 12 months are most likely to focus on:

- Establishment of a Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Advisory Council
- Supporting the National Seafood Industry Alliance (NSIA) peak body project
<http://unitedseafoodindustries.com.au/>
- Incorporating recreational and Indigenous fishing in the AFMA's Fisheries Management Act
- Government response to the Productivity Commission Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture report – government response (<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/fisheries-aquaculture#draft>)
- Development of a Commonwealth Fisheries Policy Statement
- Development of the National Aquaculture Strategy
- Revision of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines
- Revision of the Commonwealth Bycatch Policy and Guidelines
- Government response to the review of Commonwealth Marine Reserves
- Development of a Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) recreational fishing survey
- Development of a national economic and social survey of recreational fishing
- PIRD Act changes to allow FRDC to collect voluntary marketing contributions
- Senate inquiries into:
 - Climate change in fisheries and aquaculture
 - Shark mitigation and deterrent measures
 - White Spot Disease in prawns
- The review of the Inter-Government Agreement on Biosecurity

Collaborate Fund

As part of its RD&E plan, the FRDC is encouraging collaboration to promote alignment of priorities and investment efficiency by using leverage to provide incentives for cooperation and collaboration. Following the FRDC Annual Planning workshop in October 2016 and as outlined in the December 2016 briefing notes the FRDC has funds available (\$600,000 per annum) to incentivise collaboration.

The following rules outline how the FRDC will manage the collaboration fund:

- There must be two or more partners (RACs, IPAs, subprograms);
- To obtain funds the priority must align with one of the three national priorities or the collaborative priorities identified at the October 2016 annual workshop:
 - Impacts of seismic
 - Resource access/allocation
 - Data and data gaps
 - People development
 - Community support/demonstration of the broader value of fishing and aquaculture.
- For every two dollars brought by the partnership the FRDC will provide one dollar. Therefore if there are two partners they put a dollar in each and the FRDC will provide an additional dollar.

This fund will be managed over multiple years and accumulates if unallocated, the same as RAC, IPA and subprogram budgets. **At present this fund is under subscribed** so we are keen for the RACs, IPAs and Subprograms to take advantage of this fantastic offer especially when considering applications in the current funding round.

Research Advisory Committee update

The FRDC has finalised the appointment of the new members and Chairs for the RACs, with the membership of the Commonwealth and Tasmanian RACs finalised. These were the last two jurisdictions to undergo the process. While the Commonwealth RAC were inducted at their November 2016 meeting, the Tasmanian RAC will undergo the induction process based upon the

FRDC's RAC Management Procedure and Investment in Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) policy at their meeting in March 2017.

The next round of RAC meetings will take place throughout March and April – see FRDC Calendar. Many of the RACs are focusing on improving their stakeholder engagement and developing formal processes to ensure that stakeholder's needs are better identified. In addition, the RACs will be seeking to finalise the drafts of their strategic RD&E Plans.

At the upcoming RAC meetings, the committees will evaluate applications submitted as part of the November 2016 call for applications with a total of 72 applications received against this call.

Under the RAC's flexible approach to RD&E investment, the committees will consider whether there is a need to identify further RD&E priorities to form a second call for applications for 2017. If additional priorities are put forward another call for applications will be made on the 15th April with a closing date of 15th June when all applications must be finalised.

Fishing and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy Update

The Strategy document is now finalised and has been agreed by all partners, including the state and territory Ministers and is now being implemented by all partners. Information on the finalised strategy can be viewed on the FRDC website:

http://frdc.com.au/research/RDEPlanningandPriorities/Pages/nat_framework.aspx.

The governance committee is due to meet in the first half of 2017 to discuss progress against the strategy to date. This will be informed by the next Australian Fisheries Management Forum and Fisheries Ministers meetings which are due in late March.

More information and the Strategy can be found on the FRDC website.

People development – understanding needs

In the second half of 2016, FRDC contracted Food and Agribusiness Services to help understand the people development RD&E priorities of our partners (RACs, IPAs and Subprograms). The project has identified where there are areas for potential co-investment; existing programs to address those priorities; and gaps in services that need to be addressed. FRDC management will continue to work with advisory groups to progress people development priorities. The final report can be downloaded from: <http://frdc.com.au/research/final-reports/Pages/2016-411-DLD.aspx>

Recfishing Research Subprogram

The Recfishing Research subprogram committee membership was renewed in late 2016. Membership has remained similar with the addition of two new members, additionally Peter Neville remains the Chair. Membership is as follows:

- Stefan Sawynok (new)
- Owen Li
- Brett Cleary
- Matt Barwick
- Andy Moore
- Andrew Roland
- Cameron Westaway
- Allan Hansard
- Russell Conway
- Frank Prokop (new)
- Josh Fielding

There are several key pieces of work that the subprogram is hoping to undertake in 2017. The first of these and a piece of work that the subprogram has been planning for several years is the conducting of a national social and economic survey. Additionally this is an election commitment for the Federal Government and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will also be investing in this activity. This project is likely to happen in two parts; 1) a power analysis and methodology scoping study, and 2) conducting the survey.

Another piece of work that the subprogram will be undertaking is to offer travel bursaries to future recreational fishing leaders to the 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference in Vancouver Canada. This follows on from similar projects which saw future leaders travel to the 5th and 7th conferences. These have proved to be very valuable and have seen those who participate move on to prominent roles in recreational fishing. The conference will be held from 16-20 July 2017. It is anticipated that applications will be advertised in the coming month and will be advertised on the FRDC website and Recfishing Research website (<https://www.recfishingresearch.com.au/>).

New Human Dimensions Subprogram

A new subprogram has been established to lead and support FRDC's investment in social and economics RD&E. This subprogram extends and builds up the work and role of the Social Sciences and Economics Research Coordination Program 2010-2015 (SSERCP).

As a coordination program SSERCP was successful in raising awareness of the contribution of human dimensions research to tackling intractable as well as emerging challenges. These challenges include resource sharing and allocation; optimising both social and economic benefits to specific resource users as well as the community-at-large; diminishing social acceptability of commercial fisheries and aquaculture; understanding drivers of industry behaviour and community preferences in relation to marine resources and resource users; and supporting evidence-based and structured decision making processes.

The new subprogram will continue to provide technical advice to the FRDC's advisory groups and industry partners, as well as being able to invest directly and co-invest with other partners, in projects aligned with its goals and priorities. This evolution to a subprogram was supported by stakeholders at the FRDC's RD&E priorities workshop in Adelaide in October 2016 – see http://frdc.com.au/research/advisory_groups/Pages/Stakeholder-Workshop.aspx.

The subprogram committee will develop an RD&E Plan in the first quarter of 2017. Emily Ogier, based at UTAS, is the Subprogram leader.

Status of Australia Fish Stocks (SAFS) reports update

The Status of Australian Fish Stocks (SAFS) reports has become widely recognised as a key source of information on the sustainability of key commercial fish species. Managed by the FRDC and overseen by the SAFS Advisory Group, the reports collate available biological, catch and effort information to determine the status of Australia's key wild catch fish stocks against a nationally agreed reporting framework.

The third edition of the reports was published online in December 2016 (see <http://www.fish.gov.au/>) and includes an additional 15 species from the 2014 edition. In total, 294 stock status assessments were undertaken across the 83 species chapters representing approximately 90 per cent of both the volume and value of Australia's total fisheries production. Assessments were undertaken at the biological stock level wherever possible.

The stock status classifications were as follows:

- 175 stocks or 60 percent were assessed as being sustainable,
- 26 stocks or 9 percent transitional–depleting,
- 9 stocks or 3 percent transitional–recovering,
- 5 stocks or 2 percent environmentally limited,
- 17 stocks or 6 percent overfished,
- 49 stocks or 16 percent undefined, and
- 13 stocks or 4 percent negligible.

To increase the efficiency of the SAFS reports production and publication process, the FRDC has developed a dynamic web-platform. A long-term aim of the web-platform is to allow for ongoing updates of stock status information as it becomes available in different jurisdictions.

The build of this web platform is ongoing, with the key focus on delivering expectations of (i) complete species chapters views (PDF printable), (ii) state based views (PDF printable), and (iii) increased search functionality. The reports are web-enabled and mobile device enabled; and provide users with a short concise summary (snapshot) on first view with the ability to drill down to more detailed information.

The next meeting of the SAFS Advisory Group is 14 March 2017 in Melbourne which will focus primarily on continuing discussion to refine the SAFS classification framework and reduce the number of species/species complexes classified as undefined. Further, the meeting will consider the development of an associated response report that describes the current outlook for those species classified as either yellow (transitional recovering or depleting) or red (overfished), and the current RD&E underway or required to address their status.

For more information visit: <http://www.fish.gov.au/>. Also see the new data tool that enables you to explore and interrogate the data: www.fish.gov.au/summary/data-tools

Seafood Sustainability and the Community (Priority 1 Subprogram)

Sevaly Sen (Subprogram Leader) and Mark Boulter are assisting the FRDC in managing the work plan for Priority 1 – Product of Australia is sustainable and acknowledged to be so. As part of Priority 1, Sevaly and Mark recently convened a workshop to scope Responsible Fishing Assessment & Performance Reporting. The workshop discussed where the FRDC had progressed with regard to the reporting on stocks via the Status of Australian Fish Stocks Report and where this report could be further developed. Examples from overseas were discussed such as the UK Seafish Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS – <http://www.seafish.org/rass/>), the US Fish watch tool (<https://www.fishwatch.gov/>) as well as other independent methodologies such as those developed by MRAG Asia Pacific.

It was agreed that the FRDC will trial some of these tools on up to 20 domestic species that are currently covered by the SAFS report against the additional categories of bycatch, habitat, fisheries management and future outlook. Pending the trial outcomes, the FRDC will then consider the expansion of SAFS to become a broader science reporting tool.

Third round of Rural R&D for Profit Programme

The third round of the Rural R&D for Profit Programme closed in early December 2016. The FRDC submitted several applications for funding. It has been communicated that an assessment has taken place and that results should be announced in April/May 2017.

The Department has stated that the next round of the R&D for Profit Programme will be postponed until early 2018. This is to enable them to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the programme. Further details can be found on the Departments website <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/innovation/rural-research-development-for-profit>.

Carp biological control

The National Carp Control Plan (NCCP – see <http://frdc.com.au/carp/Pages/default.aspx>) team within FRDC is now largely in place, with Matt Barwick as Coordinator, Tom Chesson as Communications Manager, Toby Piddocke as Project Manager and Pamela Milnes commencing as Project Officer in March. An independent NCCP Science Advisory Group (SAG), chaired by Dr Peter O'Brien, has been formed, and has met twice (December 2016 and February 2017). The SAG comprises appropriately-qualified representatives from each state and territory jurisdiction within the Common Carp's Australian distribution, as well as additional experts with relevant skills (e.g. fish veterinarians and

epidemiologists). The SAG's primary role will be to prioritise, guide, and review research conducted under the NCCP.

The SAG is in the final stages of finalising the NCCP's Strategic Research and Technology Plan, which will guide investment in research activities over coming years.

An NCCP Policy Advisory Group (PAG), chaired by Dr Colin Grant has also been formed, and will have its inaugural meeting over the 9th and 10th of March. As with the SAG, the PAG comprises jurisdictional representatives, though in this instance with policy and legislative expertise. The PAG's primary role will be to guide and advise the NCCP through the necessary Commonwealth and State legislative approval processes (for example, approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) through the completion of the research program. The PAG will primarily be coordinated by Sebastian Quinn, who has been seconded to work on the NCCP from the Department and Agriculture and Water Resources.

A draft Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed, and initial community workshops under the Strategy have taken place through January and February, confirming considerable community interest in the NCCP. Communications activities are also underway using social media, with the NCCP Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/clearerwaters/>) generating high levels of engagement.

In the coming months the NCCP will produce a range of communication materials to inform the community, brochures and factsheets, and media and social media updates.

Finally, NCCP staff and CSIRO partners are engaged in responding to a letter recently published in the scientific journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution* raising concerns about the introduction of the carp virus to Australia. The issues discussed in the letter have been recognised as research needs under the NCCP since the program's inception, and an evidence-based response is being prepared for publication in *Nature*. A media release has also been issued in response to the letter, accompanied by numerous media interviews. Increased media attention following the letter's publication represents an opportunity for the NCCP to position itself as a program that welcomes constructive criticism, and is able to respond in a measured, evidence-based manner.

Marketing update

The FRDC continues to work with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to amend the Primary Industry Research and Development Act to allow for voluntary collection of marketing funds. Discussions with the Department indicate that the requisite legislation for the amendment has been drafted and it is hoped it will be introduced into parliament in the autumn 2017 sitting.

Australian Prawn Farmers (APFA) marketing levy progress

The final requisite industry consultation with licensed prawn farmers for the development of a marketing levy for the Australian Prawn Farmers has been completed. The formal vote will be undertaken in March 2017 and dependent on success the submission sent to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources to approve the levy.

Australian Wild Abalone (AWA) Marketing Levy Progression

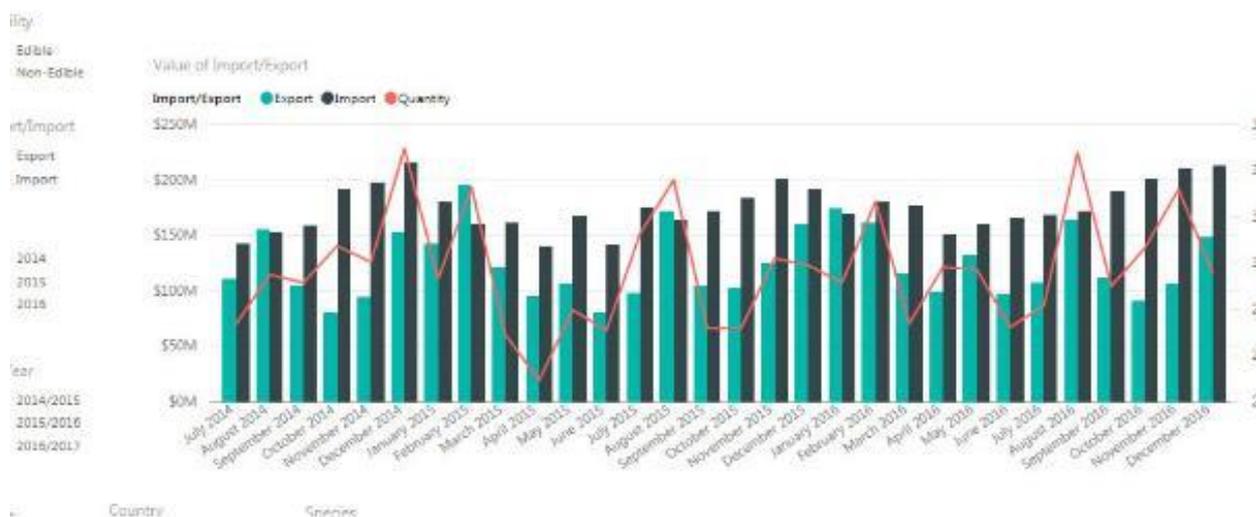
The industry consultation phase for the development of an Australian Wild Abalone Marketing Levy is underway. Information for consultation with industry members such as background, marketing strategy, frequently asked questions, etc is available on request. It is not clear when the ACA are likely to have completed the process, however they are aiming to vote for the levy in mid-2017.

Trade Statistics

International trade and exporting plays an important role for many in the Australian seafood industry. The FRDC is now providing access to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics trade data – that covers imports and exports to and from Australia.

The data is updated monthly and can be filtered and will allow in depth analysis of import and export trends based on key attributes – country, state, product type. Export codes have been grouped together in logical blocks for ease of use.

Check out the trade portal at <http://frdc.com.au/trade/>



The FRDC is also currently looking at launching a similar dashboard for domestic market data. More will be provided on this in the coming months.

FRDC to manage Non-tariff measures to trade on behalf of DAWR

The FRDC is assisting the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to undertake a review of commercially significant non-tariff measures affecting Australia's highly-traded or trade-ambitious agricultural commodities across key markets.

The project will work with other Rural Research and Development Corporations and will focus on a small number of these highly-traded or trade-ambitious primary industry commodities as case studies. The fisheries case studies include Abalone and Rocklobster.

IP and Commercialisation

At its August 2016 meeting the FRDC board discussed the report *Intellectual property and commercialisation review* by Dr Len Stephens. As a result it has agreed to contract TechMAC to help the FRDC review the relevant business processes and to assess commercialisation opportunities. The board is flagging that the FRDC is likely to be taking a more proactive and effective approach to intellectual property matters.

Microhacks workshops from Pollinizer

The FRDC has partnered with a leader in start-up science, Pollinizer, and the Cotton RDC to run two workshops – **Rural.XO* microhacks** – to help our stakeholders take innovative ideas and turn them into a reality.

Anyone in the fishing and aquaculture world – individuals, pairs or small groups of fishers, farmers, researchers, consultants, inventors – who have big ideas are able to apply to participate in this first

step to create change. The microhacks workshop will help turn science into technology, and technology into business. The microhacks workshop will involve:

- A hands-on, two-day workshop in Sydney utilising Pollenizer’s famous Startup Science® methodology
- Bringing an idea and watching it come to life
- Developing ideas with experts from different parts of the cotton industry
- The opportunity for the best ideas to be incubated into real start-up businesses.

At the end of the Microhack, funders will be present to hear your ideas and some ideas will be given the opportunity to take the idea into Pollenizer’s famous Sydney incubator.

There are spaces left for the microhack workshop on **Thurs 4 and Fri 5 May**. If you are interested in applying please email Peter Horvat at peter.horvat@frdc.com.au

CRC-P Future Oysters

In June 2016, the Federal government announced the funding of the Future Oysters CRC Project. CRC Projects (CRC-P) are a new class of ‘mini’ CRC to run for a maximum of three years and with a maximum government contribution of \$1m per annum. The application for the CRC-P was developed by Oysters Australia and Australian Seafood Industries Pty Ltd (ASI), with ASI as the lead party.

The total budget expenditure for the Future Oysters CRC-P is \$5,011,040, which comprises FRDC funds of \$417,040 and partner industry and R&D agency cash contributions of \$4,594,000.

Eight projects have been approved:

Application	Applicant and Budget (ex GST)
2016-800 Future oysters CRC-P: Future Oysters CRC-P Management and Extension	Oysters Australia \$480,040
2016-801 Future oysters CRC-P: Enhancing Pacific Oyster breeding to optimise national benefits	Australian Seafood Industries Pty Ltd \$1,835,200
2016-802 Future Oysters CRC-P: Accelerated Sydney Rock Oyster (SRO) Breeding Research	NSW Dept. of Primary Industries \$507,650
2016-803 Future oysters CRC-P: New Technologies to Improve Sydney Rock Oyster Breeding and Production	NSW Dept. of Primary Industries \$208,300
2016-804 Future oysters CRC-P: Advanced understanding of POMS to guide farm management decisions in Tasmania	University of Tasmania \$694,773
2016-805 Future oysters CRC-P: Polymicrobial involvement in OshV outbreaks (and other diseases)	NSW Dept. of Primary Industries \$342,200
2016-806 Future Oysters CRC-P: Advanced aquatic disease surveillance for known and undefined oyster pathogens	South Australian Research and Development Institute \$714,300
2016-807 Future oysters CRC-P: Species diversification to provide alternatives for commercial production	South Australian Research and Development Institute \$228,426

White Spot Disease update

White Spot Disease (WSD) is caused by White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) – see the [AQUAVETPLAN – WSD control manual for technical information](#). It is a disease that causes massive mortality in prawn farms across the globe. WSD first appeared in Taiwan in 1992 and then spread rapidly throughout Asia and then South America. It is a highly contagious viral disease of a wide range of decapod crustaceans other than prawns including crabs, rock lobsters, slipper lobsters (bugs) and

freshwater crayfish. WSD can also be hosted by other organisms, including marine worms. Due to its severity, WSD is a “Listed” disease in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE - Office International des Epizooties) Aquatic Animal Health Code that requires nations to notify and control OIE listed disease outbreaks when they occur.

Until WSD was officially diagnosed on prawn farms surrounding on 1 December 2016 the Logan River in Queensland, Australia was one of the few prawn farming countries in the world that was free of this disease. This diagnosis set in motion a series of events that have had wide ramifications for Australian businesses and governments, including:

- Destruction of prawns on all seven affected farms and decontamination of those farms
- Suspension of uncooked prawn imports to Australia
- Cessation of commercial fishing around the Logan River
- Restrictions on recreational fishing around the Logan River
- Very significant financial losses incurred by prawn farmers, fishers, importers, and a wide range of companies that supply those industries
- The likelihood of further losses by these businesses if farms cannot return to production by September 2017 with the possibility that some farms may be forced to sell up.
- Loss of the Logan river bait fishery and other fisheries in the effected zone if eradication cannot be achieved
- Loss of the low risk biosecurity status for Australia’s prawn farms, meaning all farms, not just those affected by this incident, will need to implement expensive capital improvements to enhance biosecurity.
- Extensive testing of imported prawn products, bait and the environment to determine the extent and source of the infection
- Massive redirection of effort of human resources in Queensland and Australian government departments.
- Loss of confidence by existing and potential investors in the industry.
- Significant impacts on the personal wellbeing of many of the people involved
- Unknown impacts on other naïve decapod crustaceans in Australia’s fresh and marine aquatic environment
- Unknown impact on Australia’s prawn trade domestically and export

In response to the WSD outbreak, FRDC quickly implemented the following projects to support the prawn farming industry and provide clear direction towards planning for future recovery for affected farms and fisheries; and protecting the biosecurity of areas away from the Logan River control zone.

2016-064 Field observations and assessment of the response to an outbreak of White Spot Disease (WSD) in Black Tiger Prawns (*Penaeus monodon*) farmed on the Logan River in November 2016.

Principal Investigator - Ben Diggles (DigsFish).

Status – Completed.

2016-066 Assessing compliance and efficacy of import conditions for green (raw) prawn in relation to White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV).

Principal Investigator - Matt Landos (Future Fish) Budget \$102,000.

Status – Near completion. Awaiting processing of final samples.

2016-266 Development of a Prawn White Spot Disease Response Plan.

Principal Investigator Len Stephens Budget – Up to \$150,000

Status – Near completion. Draft plan provided to FRDC and APFA. International expert visiting Logan River 13 -18 March to advise farmers and commence development of Code of Practice to minimise WSD risk for prawn farming.

2016-267 Economic Impact of 2016 White Spot Disease Outbreak.

Principal Investigator (Ewan Colquhoun (Ridge Partners) Budget - \$37,457

Status. Near completion. Near final data based upon information provided by affected farmers and fishers provided to Ridge Partners.

It is likely that FRDC will need to support a range of WSD R&D projects in future as immediate, medium and longer term priorities are identified through current project activities and ongoing consultation between industry, national and international aquatic disease experts and government R&D and biosecurity agencies.

Fish Names update

The Fish Names Committee will meet next on 15 March 2017. This meeting will review a round of proposed additions to the Australian Fish Names Standard – for species under review see <http://seafoodstandards.com.au/fish-names/Pages/comment.aspx>.

In December 2016 the FRDC completed the review and refresh of the Fish Names website see - <http://www.fishnames.com.au/>. Any comments on the new design are welcome.

Atlantic Salmon Farming in Macquarie Harbour

Many will have seen the recent media in relation to farming Atlantic Salmon in Macquarie Harbour on the west coast of Tasmania. Part of this media attention is due to data collected through a currently active FRDC research project being conducted by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies; 2015-024: Managing ecosystem interactions across differing environments: building flexibility and risk assurance into environmental management strategies. This project aims to understand whether the approaches currently used for monitoring local scale impacts are “fit for purpose” in all the regions where Salmon farming occurs. As a consequence the research has examined the connection between fish farming and the local sediment conditions in 3 regions, including Macquarie Harbour. Monitoring for this project has shown that there are very low dissolved oxygen levels in parts of Macquarie Harbour and consequentially there are areas which have shown dramatic changes in species composition and abundance. While there appears to be a number of influences or drivers for dissolved oxygen levels in Macquarie Harbour, Salmon farming inputs are likely to have some level of influence on this.

Whilst the IMAS Technical report contains results from a number of different projects, organisations or people, the data related to benthic conditions and the current situation in the harbour is primarily derived from the FRDC funded project. The FRDC funded this project in 2014 and has several components which include the work in Macquarie Harbour and Storm Bay in south east Tasmania. The preliminary results of the project showed an issue which needed immediate attention. As such it was decided that a report should be formally prepared and put to the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Agency to allow them to make a regulatory decision if required. This report is now public see -

<http://epa.tas.gov.au/Documents/IMAS%20Technical%20Report%20on%20Macquarie%20Harbour%20Condition.pdf>, additional information can be found on the EPA website – <http://epa.tas.gov.au/>.

The FRDC continues to monitor and talk to researchers and industry on the situation in Macquarie Harbour. Two new projects have been recently approved to help deal with the issues in Macquarie Harbour and ensure that salmon farming is sustainable in this area; one to understand oxygen dynamics and the importance of benthic recovery and another to further determine the risks to the Maugean Skate from varying environmental conditions.

Impacts of seismic testing

It is clear that the potential impacts of seismic testing remain a key priority area for a number of stakeholder groups. The FRDC is currently working with a group of researchers and peak body representatives to try and devise the best way forward, the oil and gas industry, its peak body and regulators are also involved in these discussions. Part of this process involved the consideration of an application for a CRC-P project.

The FRDC is keen to have the oil and gas industry involved in any future projects. As such it is likely that some work needs to be done to include them. Initially it was planned to conduct a large program of works on seismic across various species and areas. However it seems that this may be a too difficult task and it may be more feasible to work with fishers/aquaculturists in a region together with the company conducting the seismic testing. Examples include the pearl producers and the company looking to conduct seismic testing off 80 mile beach in WA; and Rock Lobster and possibly scallop sectors and companies seismic testing in and around Bass Strait.

Key events 2017

Date	Event	More information
7 to 8 Mar	ABARES 2017 Outlook Conference, Canberra	agriculture.gov.au/abares/outlook
20 to 24 Mar	Giant Prawn 2017, Bangkok, Thailand	giantprawn.org
19 to 21 Mar	North America Seafood Expo, Boston, US	seafoodexpo.com
25 to 27 Apr	Seafood Expo Global, Brussels, Belgium	seafoodexpo.com/global/
4 to 7 Jun	SeaWeb Seafood Summit, Seattle, US	seafoodsummit.org
26 to 30 Jun	World Aquaculture 2017, Cape Town, South Africa	was.org
2 to 6 Jul	Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) Conference 2017, Darwin	amsa.asn.au
21 to 24 Jul	Australian Society For Fish Biology Conference Albany, Western Australia	asfb.org.au
25 to 27 Jul	Asia Pacific Aquaculture 2017, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	was-apc.org/?p22
23 to 25 Sept	Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Congress	rocklobstercongress2017.com
27 to 29 Sept	Seafood Directions Australia	seafooddirectionsconference.com

FRDC board meeting dates

27 to 28 April	FRDC Board Meeting, Hobart/Dover	02 6285 0400
14 to 15 June	FRDC Board Meeting, Darwin	02 6285 0400
16 to 17 August	FRDC Board Meeting, Canberra	02 6285 0400

See <http://frdc.com.au/Pages/Calendar.aspx> for more events.

Key new projects approved since last update in December 2016

http://frdc.com.au/research/current_research_projects/Pages/default.aspx

NOTE: may not yet be contracted

Project Number	Title	Applicant	Principal Investigator	Total Expend Amount
2015-506	Ralph Yorke Symposium & EwE Training Course	CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere Flagship	Beth B. Fulton	\$15,000
2016-009	Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Subprogram: Perkinsus olsenii in abalone - development of fit-for-purpose tools to support its management	Department of Fisheries Western Australia	Cecile J. Dang	\$139,908
2016-011	Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Subprogram: Disinfection measures to support biosecurity for infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV) at aquaculture facilities	University of Sydney (USYD)	Joy A. Becker	\$99,992
2016-023	RAC TAS : sentinel sensors: revolutionising our understanding and management of the estuarine environment	CSIRO	John McCulloch	\$253,737
2016-039	Putting potential environmental risk of Australia's trawl fisheries in landscape perspective: exposure of seabed assemblages to trawling, and inclusion in closures and reserves	CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere Flagship	Roland C. Pitcher	\$281,019
2016-049	IPA APFA: detection of pesticide impacts on larval prawns in hatcheries and presence in estuarine intake water	CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere	Sharon E. Hook	\$95,000
2016-052	Developing and road testing a novel and robust method for trading off ecological interventions for the recovery of native fish communities	Department of Primary Industries (NSW)	Craig C. Copeland	\$32,280
2016-053	Mareframe - Co-creating Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions (EU led project)	CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere Flagship	Beth B. Fulton	\$75,000
2016-057	Workshop to identify research needs and a future project to reduce bycatch and improve fuel efficiency via Low Impact Fuel Efficient (LIFE) prawn trawls	IC Independent Consulting	Steve J. Kennelly	\$35,000
2016-059	Adaptation of Commonwealth fisheries management to climate change	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	Nick N. Rayns	\$205,000
2016-062	Coordination of the National Priority 1 Sub-program: to ensure that Australian fishing and aquaculture products are sustainable and acknowledged to be so	Oceanomics Pty Ltd	Sevaly Sen	\$515,020
2016-063	Expert consultation to develop a common methodology to determine status of undefined species	Oceanomics Pty Ltd	Sevaly Sen	\$40,000
2016-064	Field observations and assessment of the response to an outbreak of White Spot Disease (WSD) in Black Tiger Prawns (Penaeus monodon) farmed on the Logan River in November 2016	DigsFish Services Pty Ltd	Ben B. Diggles	\$51,163

2016-068	TSGA IPA: vulnerability of the endangered Maugean Skate population to degraded environmental conditions in Macquarie Harbour	University of Tasmania (UTAS)	Jeremy J. Lyle	\$358,919
2016-069	FRDC submission to the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB)	Safe Sustainable Seafood Pty Ltd	Mark M. Boulter	\$4,454
2016-237	Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA): Scoping the viability of a commercial net and crab fishery in the northern Torres Strait	Tobin Fish Tales	Andrew Tobin	\$158,462
2016-244	TSRA: Assessing direct export feasibility, marketing and branding opportunities for Torres Strait Fisheries derived products	Honey & Fox Pty Ltd	Emily E. Mantilla	\$219,360
2016-262	RAC QLD: Queensland Seafood Marketing Symposium	Queensland Seafood Marketers Association Inc (QSMA)	Marshall M. Betzel	\$40,000
2016-263	Social and Economic Evaluation of the Victorian Wild-catch Seafood and Aquaculture Industry – STAGE 1	Seafood Industry Victoria Inc	Kirsten Abernethy	\$6,200
2016-306	Innovation in the seafood sector and the development of capacity	Pollenizer Pty Ltd	Allen A. Haroutonian	\$10,000
2016-414	Delivery of focused corporate governance training by the Australian Institute of Company Director's to the newly formed Tuna Australia Ltd board representing stakeholders of the Commonwealth managed Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Tuna Australia Ltd	David D. Ellis	\$12,800
2016-417	National People Development: Membership of PIEFA to support and encourage the teaching and learning in Australian schools of information related to the Australian Fishing Industry	Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia	Ben B. Stockwin	\$150,000
2016-801	Future oysters CRC-P: Enhancing Pacific Oyster breeding to optimise national benefits	Australian Seafood Industries Pty Ltd	Matthew M. Cunningham	\$1,835,200
2016-802	Future Oysters CRC-P: Accelerated Sydney Rock Oyster (SRO) Breeding Research	NSW Department of Primary Industries	Michael M. Dove	\$507,650
2016-803	Future oysters CRC-P: New Technologies to Improve Sydney Rock Oyster Breeding and Production	NSW Department of Primary Industries	Michael M. Dove	\$208,300
2016-805	Future oysters CRC-P: Polymicrobial involvement in OSHV outbreaks (and other diseases)	University of Technology Sydney (UTS)	Justin Seymour	\$342,200
2016-921	National Carp Control Plan (NCCP): Communications and Engagement activities	Volhand Consulting Solutions	Karen K. Vohland	\$67,000