



FRDC News April 2024

Never ask an Octopus its age

New Octopus ageing step-by-step guide unveiled

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Welcome APRIL 2024

Hello Angela,

Have you ever wondered how old different Octopus species live to?

Wonder no more, as FRDC unravels the [first step-by-step guide to ageing Octopus](#) in this edition of FRDC News.

Other top stories include [new research putting Sydney Cockles in the spotlight](#), the collaborative efforts of [fishers to help collect DNA samples for Spanish Mackerels](#), and researchers asking the question: [Is there a place in Australia for inland saline aquaculture?](#)

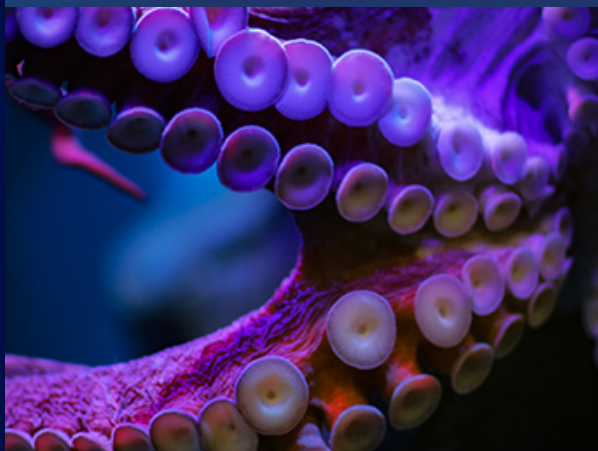
Make sure not to miss out on our [latest bursary opportunity](#), offering the opportunity for [ten individuals to attend a five-day fisheries management course in Wollongong](#), all expenses paid!

As always, your article suggestions and feedback are 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



Never ask an octopus its age: New Octopus ageing step-by-step guide unveiled

The first step-by-step guide to ageing Octopus has been developed as part of collaborative work by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), FRDC, university and industry partners, to investigate the population biology of two octopus species in NSW.

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Pre-emptive research to safeguard Sydney Cockles

New research is putting Sydney Cockles (*Anadara trapezia*) in the spotlight, gathering baseline data about the biology and ecology of this popular edible shellfish commonly found in NSW estuaries.

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Novel research taking stock of the East Coast Spanish mackerel population

Commercial and recreational fishers, as well as seafood processors, have joined forces with researchers to collect DNA samples from Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*).

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Saltwater success inland: Exploring the potential of saline aquaculture

Australian research makes a major contribution to a new compilation of international work focused on the opportunities and challenges of inland saline aquaculture.

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Rock Lobster sector goes data harvesting to manage climate change

The dramatic, hidden, impact of marine heatwaves on Western Rock Lobster (*Panulirus cygnus*) survival has led to an expansion in data collection to better forecast the fishery's levels.

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A new school of fish(eries) professionals: Fisheries Management course bursaries

FRDC is excited to announce a second opportunity for ten individuals to participate in a five-day Fisheries Management course at the University of Wollongong.

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Apply now to be an FRDC Research Advisory Committee Chair!

FRDC is seeking expressions of interest for Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Chairs to work closely with FRDC to guide critical investment for the benefit of Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors.

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In Brief

- Submit your abstract for Australia's premier seafood conference, Seafood Directions 2024 on its 25th Anniversary. The theme is 'Future of Seafood' delving into climate change, sustainability and people as drivers of innovation. Abstract submissions close on 15 May 2024. [Find out more](#)
- FRDC has partnered with the University of Tasmania and Oysters Australia to develop a shellfish safety workers induction course. The course is designed for those working in the sector to gain a clear understanding of the food safety requirements that apply to bivalve shellfish and actions to take to produce safe bivalve shellfish. [Find out more](#)
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has commenced public consultation on the renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), with the objective of providing a framework for a national approach to animal welfare in Australia. [Find out more](#)
- The Agricultural Data Exchange website is now live! Learn more about the program, its ambitions, the service provider, and the program's partners. [Find out more](#)
- Women in Seafood Australasia (WISA) is planning to provide FREE onsite childcare at Seafood Directions in Hobart this year, if enough interest is gained. [Find out more](#)

Movers

- **Fiona MacMillan** of Seafood New Zealand will be serving as the Global Seafood Communicators Interim Chair.
- **Marc Anderson** has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Geraldton Fishermen's Cooperative.
- **Emily Mellor** has commenced as General Manager, Aquaculture for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)
- **Patrycja McLaughlin** has joined Seafood Industry Australia (SIA) as Policy & Projects coordinator
- **Jens Knauer** has joined the Australian Sustainable Seaweed Alliance (ASSA) as the National Aquaculture Research Director



Patrycja McLaughlin - Photo: SIA

In the News

- 'Mushy fish syndrome' has been a topical issue identified as a priority in the New South Wales RAC last year. FRDC-Project 2023-042 has been approved to develop rapid diagnostic test kits to help detect parasites affecting **Yellowtail Kingfish** and **Mahi Mahi**. [Find out more](#)
- FRDC's research into alternative gears for Queensland's gillnet fisheries (FRDC Project 2023-154) was mentioned in the latest episode of ABC's landline. [Find out more](#)

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! [Click here for the latest schedule](#)

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:

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

Desktop view

Mobile view



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