



Australian Government

# National Fisheries Plan 2022–2030



April 2022



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present. We are committed to working respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and give particular acknowledgement to their use, knowledge and custodianship of Australia's sea country over countless generations. We support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their aspirations to maintain, protect and manage their culture, language, land and sea country and heritage.



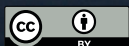
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### Cataloguing data

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: Australian Government 2022, *National Fisheries Plan*, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

ISBN 978-1-76003-452-8

This publication is available at [awe.gov.au/national-fisheries-plan](http://awe.gov.au/national-fisheries-plan)

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# Foreword



In 2020–21 Australian fishery and aquaculture sectors grew to \$3 billion and employed up to 17,000 people. Australian governments recognise the social and economic benefits provided by the fishing and seafood industries, and are committed to supporting the various fishing sectors to grow and prosper into the future.

The National Fisheries Plan provides a shared vision and strategic framework to prioritise actions and enhance collaboration among Australian governments to drive sustainable growth of the Australian fishing, aquaculture and seafood community.

This plan has been informed by months of stakeholder consultation, including with the National Fishing Advisory Council, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the general public. I am pleased to have been able to develop it in close consultation with my state and territory counterparts, who are equally committed to supporting this industry into the future. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to the consultation process and played a role in putting the plan together.

The impacts of COVID-19 have been wide reaching, with exporting sectors of the Australian seafood industry halted almost overnight and domestic border closures producing significant impacts on trade and the distribution of product around Australia. There is no doubt that these circumstances will fundamentally change Australia's seafood sector forever.

Now more than ever it is important for Australian governments and those in the fishing and seafood sector to work together to overcome one of the most difficult times in recent global history for Australian fishers and fishing-related businesses. I am absolutely committed to working with the industry through delivery of initiatives in the National Fisheries Plan to ensure that this change is for the better.

I am therefore pleased to release the National Fisheries Plan. I am confident that this plan will continue the sustainable growth of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community for all Australians.

**Senator the Hon Jonno Duniam**

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries  
Assistant Minister for Industry Development



# Introduction

The National Fisheries Plan delivers a shared vision and strategic framework for Australian governments to drive sustainable growth of the Australian fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors. The National Fisheries Plan has been drawn from existing national strategies and initiatives, including:

- ▶ [Australian Fisheries Management Forum Statement of Intent](#) (2017)
- ▶ [National Aquaculture Strategy](#) (2017)
- ▶ [National Fisheries Advisory Council priorities document](#) (2019)
- ▶ [Productivity Commission \*Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture\* report](#) (2016)
- ▶ collaborative initiative to develop the [Fisheries Research and Development Corporation \(FRDC\) Research and Development Plan](#) (2020).

Sustainable growth in our fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors must be accompanied by improvements in social and environmental performance to ensure that all sectors thrive in the long term. This includes valuing and improving the health of the fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems that these sectors rely on for their long-term success.

The National Fisheries Plan also seeks to raise awareness of national priorities for fisheries, aquaculture and seafood management in Australia, noting that each regulating agency operates within its own legislative and policy framework, government priorities and resourcing constraints.

The sustainable growth of the Australian fishing, aquaculture and seafood community will require a persistent, collaborative effort across government, industry and communities. To pursue this shared vision, jurisdictions will work closely with the Australian fishing, aquaculture and seafood community to address some of the key challenges facing the sectors. Achieving the outcomes of the National Fisheries Plan will be the shared responsibility of the jurisdictions, relevant sectors, and research and development corporations.



## Vision

The primary purpose of the National Fisheries Plan is to create a shared vision for the future of fishing, aquaculture and seafood in Australia that will align the strategic planning, prioritisation and investment of Commonwealth, state and territory governments (hereafter referred to collectively as jurisdictions) and sectors. This vision is:

***Sustainable growth and development of Australia's fishing, aquaculture and seafood community for the benefit of all Australians and our aquatic ecosystems now and into the future.***

Achieving this vision over the next decade will require commitment and action from governments and sectors.

## Scope

The National Fisheries Plan aims to support and empower all sectors of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community. These sectors are commercial, Indigenous and recreational fishing (marine, lakes and rivers), aquaculture and post-harvest. The broader fishing, aquaculture and seafood community also extends to those involved in fisheries research and members of the general public who consume seafood or otherwise have an interest in fisheries.

The National Fisheries Plan:

- ▶ addresses priority areas related to the growth and development of fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors
- ▶ identifies initiatives for government and sectors to implement.

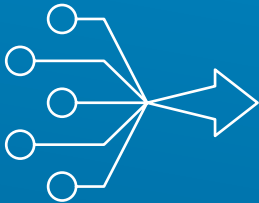
The plan does not address broader oceans policy issues such as marine spatial planning and interactions with other marine users (ports, transport and offshore energy). However, the plan is consistent with and seeks to promote action against broader strategic initiatives, including those of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.





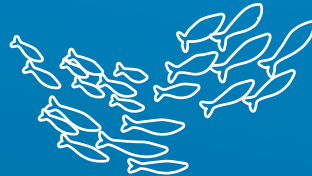
# Priority areas

The National Fisheries Plan focuses on 9 priority areas to support delivery of its shared vision:



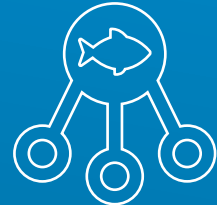
## 1. Governance

Streamlining and harmonising governance and regulation across jurisdictions and sectors



## 2. Sustainability

Managing the sustainable use of fisheries, aquaculture and seafood resources, while maximising benefits and ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems



## 3. Resource sharing and access security

Implementing clear and secure access to fisheries, aquaculture and seafood resources



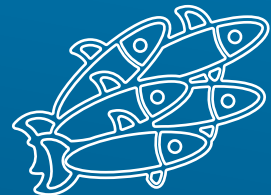
## 4. Indigenous opportunity

Nurturing cultural and customary values and supporting and enabling participation of the Indigenous fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors in fisheries management and fisheries-related business



## 5. Recreational recognition

Recognising the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing



## 6. Adaptation

Supporting sectors to adapt to, and harness opportunities from, a changing environment



## 7. Employment, participation and health

Improving the health and wellbeing of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community



## 8. Community connection

Promoting trust and understanding between the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community and the public



## 9. International engagement

Engaging internationally to promote sustainable fisheries management and market access





Priority 1

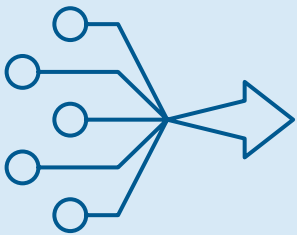
# Governance

**Priority**

Streamlining and harmonising governance and regulation across jurisdictions and sectors

**Outcome**

A collaborative, secure, efficient and effective regulatory environment



Harmonising fisheries, aquaculture and seafood management across Australia’s jurisdictions and sectors provides an opportunity to simplify regulation, reduce red tape and ensure efficient, consistent delivery of management outcomes. The 2017 Productivity Commission inquiry into Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture highlighted the need for the Commonwealth, states and territories to implement fisheries management and regulatory frameworks that promote innovation and improve efficiency to derive maximum benefits.

Creating a more consistent and efficient management and regulatory environment is expected to improve sustainability outcomes, while increasing the profitability of industry, opportunities for co-management of fisheries resources, market competitiveness and productivity.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Cross-jurisdictional fish stocks are managed consistently across their range.
- ▶ Data-sharing agreements are implemented across jurisdictions and with sectors (as appropriate).

**Key initiatives to streamline and harmonise governance and regulation**

No.	Key initiatives
1.1	Streamlining and harmonising arrangements for the management of cross-jurisdictional fish stocks, including reviewing Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements, to provide a consistent operating environment.
1.2	Collaborating between jurisdictions to collect and share appropriate data, including a national approach to electronic data, from all sectors to enable accurate and timely fisheries management decisions (including on socio-economic measures).
1.3	Supporting and facilitating opportunities to move to co-management of fisheries and aquaculture resources where appropriate.





Priority 2

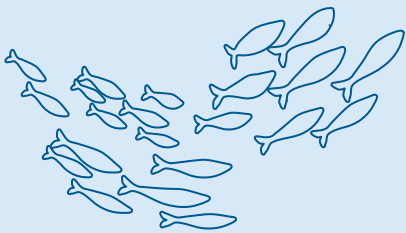
# Sustainability

**Priority**

Managing the sustainable use of fisheries and aquaculture resources, while maximising benefits and ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems

**Outcome**

Sustainable and healthy fisheries and aquaculture resources



Australia is a world leader in fisheries management, with ecologically sustainable development at the centre of decision-making. To maintain our sustainability credentials, Australia must continue to address changes in technology, community expectations and environmental conditions.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ All jurisdictions manage key target stocks under a harvest strategy (as appropriate).
- ▶ All fish stocks are managed sustainably using best practice, evidence-based management frameworks.
- ▶ Australia’s marine and freshwater fisheries and habitats are healthy and productive.

**Key initiatives to achieve sustainable and healthy fisheries resources**

No.	Key initiatives
2.1	Managing key fish stocks under a harvest strategy (where appropriate) and promoting the application of harvest strategies consistent with the <a href="#">National guidelines to develop fisheries harvest strategies</a> .
2.2	Ensuring that all fisheries are managed consistently with the principles of ecologically sustainable development – including, where relevant, the <i>Guidelines for the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries (2nd edition)</i> – and adopt arrangements consistent with the <a href="#">Best practice guidelines for Australian fisheries management agencies</a> , including focusing on recovery of overfished stocks and no overfishing.
2.3	Supporting initiatives that protect, enhance and sustain healthy aquatic ecosystems, including through restoration projects, adaptive stocking strategies and artificial reef programs.
2.4	Implementing systems and building capacity to ensure that biosecurity threats are prevented, detected and managed effectively consistent with the <a href="#">National Biosecurity Statement</a> , including by supporting Agricultural Innovation Australia’s key biosecurity-related initiatives.
2.5	Promoting the development and deployment of more environmentally friendly and ethical fishing methods and practices to minimise impacts on the aquatic ecosystem, including reducing bycatch and minimising interactions with threatened species and ecological communities.
2.6	Supporting the growth and development of aquaculture in accordance with the <a href="#">National Aquaculture Strategy</a> to achieve sustainable seafood production while providing economic returns and meeting growing demand for seafood.



## Sustainability

### **Tuna Champions – Supporting increased stewardship by the recreational sector**

Tuna Champions has been a highly successful program to promote increased stewardship and responsible fishing for southern bluefin tuna. Delivered by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies, in partnership with the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation, Tuna Champions has developed a suite of resources including a Code of Practice and a series of videos to provide recreational fishers with the tools and techniques they need to ensure that the fish they release survive, and to make the most of their catch in the kitchen.

Recognising its success, the Australian Government has recently extended the Tuna Champions program for another 3 years and to include all tuna species of interest to the recreational sector, albacore, yellowfin tuna, longtail tuna.



### Priority 3

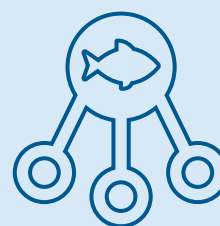
## Resource sharing and access security

### Priority

Implementing clear and secure access to fisheries, aquaculture and seafood resources

### Outcome

A transparent, consultative approach to resource sharing and increased security of access for all sectors



With multiple user groups accessing Australia's aquatic resources, sectors are seeking greater certainty and increased transparency about their ongoing resource access and rights.

The Australian Government recognises that security of access promotes increased business certainty, innovation, investment and resource stewardship in all sectors.

Coupled with cross-jurisdictional management, a more consistent approach to resource sharing and access security provides an opportunity to improve outcomes for sectors and the Australian community, noting that each regulating agency operates within its own legislative and policy framework, government priorities and resourcing constraints.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Sectors have increased certainty, security and transparency about access to aquatic resources.
- ▶ Rights-based management frameworks are implemented across jurisdictions.

### Key initiatives to implement clear and secure access and allocation

No.	Key initiatives
3.1	Developing national resource-sharing guidelines to provide clear allocations across commercial wild-catch, aquaculture, recreational and Indigenous fishing interests as well as Traditional Owner rights and community values, to ensure that all sectors have clear and secure access to fisheries resources to underpin development. Noting that involvement would be up to each jurisdiction, operating within their own legislative and policy framework, government priorities and resourcing constraints.
3.2	Establishing guidance on data requirements and collecting this data to support evidence-based decision-making on resource-sharing issues, including social and economic information.
3.3	Identifying options to improve access security for all sectors, including consideration of developing a national resource access rights framework and principles that consider existing and historical rights and access to fisheries resources.



## Priority 4

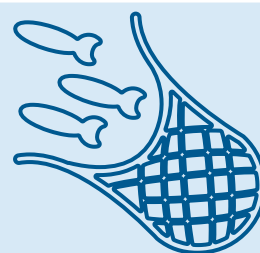
# Indigenous opportunity

### Priority

Nurturing cultural and customary values and supporting and enabling participation of the Indigenous fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors in fisheries management and fisheries-related business

### Outcome

An empowered Indigenous fishing sector, actively involved in fisheries management and fisheries-related business



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first custodians of Australia's marine and freshwater environments. They are the original fishers, traders and managers of Australia's fisheries resources. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a deep and enduring cultural connection with country and understand the relationship between their communities and the wellbeing of the land and sea.

Governments recognise the cultural value of Indigenous traditional fishing practices and seek to support the participation of these communities in fisheries management and related businesses. Economic development opportunities, greater self-determination, partnerships and participation in decision-making will help support thriving Indigenous fishing communities and contribute to priorities and goals under the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#).

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Cultural fishing is more widely practised by Indigenous people and celebrated by the broader community.
- ▶ The fishing, aquaculture and seafood community recognises the customary rights, obligations and values of Traditional Owners.
- ▶ Participation of Indigenous people of all ages and genders in commercial and recreational fishing and in fisheries management and monitoring is enhanced, acknowledged and supported.
- ▶ Business and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the fishing, aquaculture and seafood industry have increased.

## Key initiatives to nurture cultural values and enable Indigenous participation

No.	Key initiatives
4.1	Building and strengthening structures that empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate in decision-making in fisheries management, including increasing Indigenous participation and roles with a range of boards, committees and groups and considering the establishment of a representational Indigenous fishing body.
4.2	Developing and embedding pathways for greater involvement of Indigenous communities in fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors, fishery monitoring and habitat restoration projects that protect fishing assets.
4.3	Integrating Indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge and practices into fisheries management approaches and harvest strategies, biosecurity and habitat restoration projects.
4.4	Implementing systemic and structural transformation, as appropriate, to ensure fisheries management agencies, compliance authorities and industry workforces are inclusive and promote cultural awareness and safety, including recognition of Indigenous rights under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> .
4.5	Developing more effective communication models to better enable 2-way engagement with the Indigenous fishing sector, including capacity building to ensure equal participation.
4.6	Supporting Indigenous people to protect and manage all sea country through Indigenous ranger programs, including river ranger programs.
4.7	Reviewing and updating the <i>National Native Title Tribunal Fishing principles to guide Indigenous involvement in marine management</i> to ensure they are contemporary and provide a strategic pathway for improved protection of customary use and values and improved engagement and economic opportunities.

### Indigenous opportunity

## Kuti Co in partnership with Goolwa PiPiCo – Supporting a secure future for the Ngarrindjeri people

For over 10,000 years, the Ngarrindjeri people of the Lower River Murray region of South Australia have been harvesting pipis ('kuti' in Ngarrindjeri). Now Kuti Co, a partnership of Indigenous corporations and employing Ngarrindjeri harvesters, is showcasing the iconic shellfish on the menu at Goolwa Beach's Kuti Shack café. Kuti are gathered using sustainable hand-harvesting techniques, before starring in a variety of dishes prepared by chefs trained at some of South Australia's best restaurants. Working closely with their commercial partners Goolwa PiPiCo, Kuti Co is the Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation's first venture into a sea country enterprise and provides economic benefits to the Ngarrindjeri people as well as an opportunity to educate the broader community on the long history of Ngarrindjeri culture in the region.







Priority 5

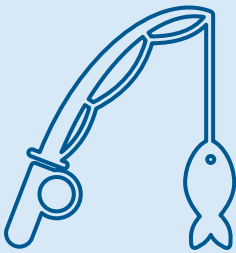
# Recreational recognition

**Priority**

Recognising the economic and social benefits of recreational fishing

**Outcome**

A celebrated and vibrant recreational fishing sector



Recreational fishing is an important leisure activity for over 3.4 million Australians of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds, providing significant economic and social benefits to the Australian community. It is important that the recreational sector continues to be supported to further realise these benefits.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Recreational fishing is widely accessible and enjoyed by a diverse range of Australians.
- ▶ Australia is internationally renowned as a great recreational fishing destination.

**Key initiatives to recognise the benefits of recreational fishing**

No.	Key initiatives
5.1	Supporting pathways to increase the number of direct and indirect jobs associated with the recreational fishing sector.
5.2	Defining and developing key recreational fishing destinations in Australia and promoting these nationally and internationally.
5.3	Coordinating regular recreational fishing surveys to improve knowledge of national recreational catch and effort levels.
5.4	Supporting recreational fishing access to inland fisheries, including through the recovery of natural populations, providing suitable habitats, addressing threats, and adaptive fish stocking.



Recreational recognition

## Creating new habitat to support sustainable recreational fishing

The Northern Territory Government completed the largest custom-built artificial reef system in the Southern Hemisphere in 2019. The project was a part of a \$50 million investment in recreational fisheries development in the NT and the reefs are designed to enhance fishing experience and fishery production. The 4 new reefs built during the project are significant structures that provide visiting and local recreational anglers with new and diversified opportunities in easy reach of Darwin. The reefs are also valuable to science, with research programs to monitor fish populations, population change over time and investigate patterns of use to ensure the designs are working as planned and the reefs are contributing to long term sustainability. The reefs already feature healthy growth, are home to a wide number of species, and have been well adopted by anglers who are the local stewards of a multigenerational legacy project.







## Priority 6

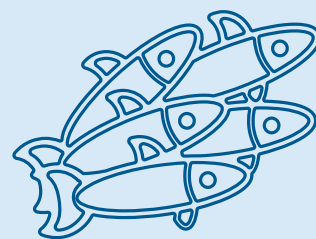
# Adaptation

### Priority

Supporting sectors to adapt to, and harness opportunities from, a changing environment

### Outcome

A thriving fisheries, aquaculture and seafood community in a changing environment



The authors of the [Stocktake of megatrends shaping Australian agriculture](#) predict that the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community will face multiple interacting changes over the next decade. These include:

- ▶ changing markets, complex international trade and new trading partner requirements
- ▶ environmental and climatic variation
- ▶ changing consumer demand and public expectations.

Anticipating and preparing for these changes will help ensure that the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community thrives over the next decade.

The impacts of climate change in particular are likely to be felt throughout Australia's fishing, aquaculture and seafood community. Australia's marine environment is changing rapidly and Australian fisheries are likely to become more variable, affecting when, where and how much fish can be caught or grown.

Freshwater environments are also changing and governments, communities, industries and the environment will need to adapt to a hotter and drier climate future. It is important that all jurisdictions and sectors cooperate to implement initiatives to ensure the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community is ready and able to adapt to these changes.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Fisheries and aquaculture resources and their supporting environments are resilient to the effects of future environmental changes and variability.
- ▶ Sectors anticipate and harness opportunities to increase their growth and viability while maintaining the health of the aquatic ecosystem.
- ▶ The fishing, aquaculture and seafood community has the people, skills, systems, technology and connectivity to deliver an increase in productivity.

## Key initiatives to adapt to a changing environment

No.	Key initiatives
6.1	Encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in all sectors, including investing in research and development and fostering the adoption of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and electronic monitoring, to improve efficiency, profitability, data collection, traceability, flexibility, abundance and habitat condition.
6.2	Developing and implementing adaptive management frameworks that can respond to changing environmental conditions.
6.3	Implementing climate resilience initiatives, including those aligned with the National Agricultural Innovation Agenda and relating to freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats, and engaging with agricultural innovation hubs to access innovative technologies and practices to enable the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community to be more prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change.
6.4	Collecting and reporting information on changing risk profiles associated with climate change to enable the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community to anticipate and adapt to such risks.
6.5	Researching and developing new high-value products, value-adding initiatives and marketing opportunities.
6.6	Supporting sectors to anticipate and respond to emerging consumer demands and trading partner requirements, such as changing expectations regarding provenance, traceability, animal welfare, carbon footprint and sustainability.
6.7	Considering ways in which Indigenous cultural knowledge and practices of Indigenous communities could be used to aid adaptation to Australia's changing fisheries and relieve some of the pressures on fisheries.

### Adaptation

## Industry innovations to increase productivity and reduce emissions

Austral Fisheries is one of Australia's largest integrated commercial fishing companies, operating 15 vessels from subantarctic to tropical waters. Austral was the first fishing company in the world to be certified as carbon neutral back in 2016, by offsetting its emissions through revegetating degraded farmland in Western Australia. Recognising that around 80% of the company's carbon emissions come from the burning of diesel in its fishing vessels, Austral invested \$50 million in a hybrid electric boat. The FV *Cape Arkona* is one of the first of its kind to have the propulsion system and power train connected to a battery system. The vessel is also unique in carrying gear for 3 different fishing methods (trawl, longline and pots), allowing it to alternate fishing methods on the same trip without needing to return to ports. These innovations allow the ship to maximise productivity while reducing carbon emissions.





## Priority 7

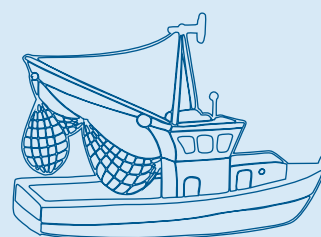
# Employment, participation and health

### Priority

Improving the health and wellbeing of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community

### Outcome

A prosperous workforce and a healthy fishing, aquaculture and seafood community



Workforce security and planning for future labour needs will support ongoing growth of the commercial, aquaculture, recreational and post-harvest sectors. An inclusive, safe, adaptable culture will help ensure the wellbeing of the broader fishing and aquaculture community.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ The fishing, aquaculture and seafood community has ready access to a skilled and engaged workforce, and people in these sectors are highly satisfied in their role.

### Key initiatives to improve health and wellbeing

No.	Key initiatives
7.1	Identifying barriers to participation and opportunities for young Australians, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, to be engaged in the fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors.
7.2	Promoting diversity in career opportunities and investing in education and training to ensure career succession and participation in fishing, aquaculture and seafood fields, as well as career opportunities in research, habitat protection and restoration.
7.3	Developing and embedding effective pathways for people to be engaged and employed in the fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors, including job creation and growing the industry.
7.4	Pursuing a culture promoting safety, diversity and wellbeing, including initiatives to improve mental health.



Employment, participation and health

## Improving mental health in the fishing sector

Australia's commercial fishers suffer from twice the level of psychological stress than the general population. To help address poor mental health amongst commercial fishers, the first fishing industry specific mental health support pilot program (stay afloat) was launched in 2020 in Lakes Entrance, Newcastle and Darwin. Three trusted mental health advocates were selected in each focus community and provided industry, primary health networks and trusted industry advocates with training and resources to assist in better identify and respond to the mental health issues affecting the local fishing community.







Priority 8

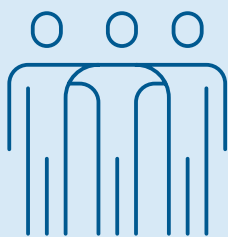
# Community connection

**Priority**

Promoting trust and understanding between the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community and the public

**Outcome**

A celebrated fishing, aquaculture and seafood community



Australia’s fishing, aquaculture and seafood community is the lifeblood of many regional areas. A focus on connecting with the Australian community and highlighting successes and sustainable fishing practices will help foster public support for the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community.

## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ Australia’s fishing, aquaculture and seafood community is trusted, respected and celebrated both domestically and internationally for its economic, social and environmental benefits and high-quality and sustainable products.
- ▶ Domestic consumption of sustainably produced and local Australian seafood has increased

**Key initiatives to promote public trust and understanding**

No.	Key initiatives
8.1	Promoting community awareness and understanding of fisheries and aquaculture management and the ecological status of Australia’s fisheries resources, including recreational fisheries, and promoting Australian seafood (both domestic and export) as high quality, sustainable, safe and healthy.
8.2	Supporting initiatives to increase the efficiency of supply chains or establish new supply chains within Australia that create stronger linkages between the producer and the consumer to foster greater community support for fisheries and aquaculture, including through greater use of traceability technology.
8.3	Ensuring that all sectors have effective and fit-for-purpose representative groups with capacity to engage with government, members, other sectors and the public.
8.4	Building and strengthening structures that empower fishers to share decision-making in fisheries management and management of fish habitats, including co-management arrangements.
8.5	Increasing transparency and building community trust by sharing and publishing fisheries data, as appropriate.
8.6	Building a consistent approach to understanding and communicating the social, cultural and economic contribution of all sectors of the fishing, aquaculture and seafood community.

## Priority 9

# International engagement

### Priority

Engaging internationally to promote sustainable fisheries management and market access

### Outcome

World-leading international engagement, diverse trade opportunities and greater market access



Australia engages regionally and internationally to support our fishing, aquaculture and seafood sectors and promote world's best practice fisheries management of shared fish stocks. Australia seeks to ensure sustainable fishing practices are adopted by other countries and regional fisheries management organisations, especially for stocks important to our own domestic fishing industry.

Trade in international markets gives Australian seafood businesses access to larger markets, bringing significant benefits not only to the producers but also to the Australian community through a stronger economy. There is potential to expand Australia's fisheries exports into new and growing markets to create a more diversified market base.


## Targets to achieve by 2030

- ▶ The export value of seafood products has increased by 2.5%.
- ▶ Australia is a trusted and preferred exporter of high-quality and sustainable seafood, enabling greater access to key international markets.

### Key initiatives to promote sustainable fisheries and market access internationally

No.	Key initiatives
9.1	Engaging in international fisheries management through cooperation to protect Australia's access to shared stocks, promotion of sustainable fisheries management and ensuring a level regulatory playing field for Australian operators.
9.2	Maintaining strong monitoring, control and surveillance regimes and preserving close working relationships with internal and external stakeholders to protect our commercial interests, establish regional goodwill, and fulfil international obligations regarding illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
9.3	Identifying and establishing new export markets and maintaining and expanding existing markets by driving demand for Australian seafood.
9.4	Enhancing traceability systems for seafood products in line with the National Traceability Framework to maintain and improve our competitive advantage and respond to international drivers for more detailed product information.





International engagement

## **Diversifying Australia's seafood exports**

The Australian Government is investing \$72.7 million in expanding export markets for Australian agricultural, fisheries and forest products. As part of this initiative, the seafood industry is building and promoting an Australian seafood brand to help inform global seafood sources and consumers of the safety, sustainability and traceability of Australia's seafood. To ensure exporters see tangible benefits from this initiative, Austrade and the seafood industry have developed a promotion schedule for Australian seafood exports, with a focus on diversifying into markets such as Europe and the Middle East.



# Review

The National Fisheries Plan will be reviewed by the relevant forum 5 years after it has commenced, and again after 2030 to evaluate progress in achieving its objectives.







# Glossary

Term	Definition/description
Australian Fisheries Management Forum	An informal network for sharing information between Australian, state and territory government agencies involved in managing fisheries and aquaculture. It comprises the heads of Commonwealth and state/territory fishery management agencies, and observers from relevant bodies, including the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.
aquatic ecosystem	A water-based environment in which a community of organisms that are dependent on each other and on their environment live. The 2 main types of aquatic ecosystems are marine and freshwater.
ecologically sustainable development	Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.
fishing, aquaculture and seafood community	This includes people who participate in commercial, Indigenous and recreational fishing (marine, lakes and rivers), aquaculture and post-harvest industries. It also extends to researchers and the general public who consume seafood or otherwise have an interest in fisheries.
jurisdictions	For the purpose of the National Fisheries Plan, 'jurisdictions' refers to Australian, state and territory government agencies involved in managing fisheries and aquaculture in Australia.
seafood	Edible aquatic animals, excluding mammals but including both freshwater and ocean creatures.
sectors	For the purpose of the National Fisheries Plan, 'sectors' refers to individuals operating within the aquaculture, commercial, Indigenous, recreational and post-harvest areas.



