

## FRDC Priority Template

Research Advisory Committees (RACs) will be integral to identifying priorities and linking subsequent proposed activities to end users and beneficiaries, ensuring investment delivers impact. RACs will consider the suite of priorities developed through the meeting process as well as those identified submitted through strategic workshops and via the FRDC.

Developing

Priorities will be drafted using the FRDC Priority Template:

<b>Title</b>	Measuring the total recreational catch for priority species– developing smarter targeted options
<b>Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for regular statistically robust estimates of total recreational catch is crucial to the sustainable management of fisheries.</li> <li>• Victorian commercial fishers are licensed and are required to report daily catch weights and fishing effort. It is not practical to require similar reporting from recreational anglers, which means that reliable estimates of total recreational catch are difficult and expensive to obtain.</li> <li>• The last state-wide scientific assessment of Victorian recreational catches was undertaken more than two decades ago and while recreational catch rate monitoring programs are in place and are used to inform management decisions, their coverage of key species caught in recreational fisheries requires broadening with a more comprehensive approach. This project is targeted at priority recreational and commercially important marine and estuarine fish stocks like Victorian Western and Eastern Snapper, gummy shark and Western King George whiting and will use enhanced cost-effective scientific methods developed by the VFA and other state fisheries management agencies.</li> <li>• Information about the level of recreational catch for key stocks will help to ensure that robust and evidence-based fishery harvest strategies and assessment decision making processes can be implemented and maintained.</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and implement a total catch estimate method using a longitudinal fishing diary method (with RF licence recruited fishers) coupled with broadscale recreational fishing effort monitoring using activity sensing cameras at boat ramps and onsite creel survey catch and fisher demographic monitoring.</li> <li>2. Link the one year catch measure with the ongoing catch (creel survey) and effort (activity sensing cameras) monitoring program to estimate total recreational catches going forward.</li> <li>3. Develop recommendations to optimise existing and undertaken new recreational monitoring and assessment approaches to</li> </ol>

	provide more robust evidence-based fishery information for management decision making.
<b>Timing</b>	3 year project starting in Jul 2023
<b>End user</b>	State fisheries scientists and managers VRFish Seafood Industry Victoria Victorian Recreational fishers Victorian commercial fishers
<b>Jurisdictions</b>	Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia
<b>FRDC Outcome(s)</b>	The project aligns with the outcomes from the FRDC R&D Plan 2020-2025 including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Growth for enduring prosperity through- providing foundation recreational catch information to support the formulation of harvest strategies and management decisions that ensure sustainable fisheries.</li> <li>2. Best practices and production systems through- driving advance analytics and capacity building that provides high quality recreational catch information to support best practices fisheries management approaches.</li> <li>3. A culture that is inclusive and forward thinking by- including both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors in this project development phase and drawing on and continuing supportive relationships and expertise of recreational fishery scientists in other States.</li> <li>4. Fair and secure access to aquatic resources -through capacity building to develop a recreational catch monitoring over the longer term that can support harvest strategies and transparent management decision making.</li> </ol>
<b>Other</b>	This project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be supported with co-investment from the VFA.</li> <li>• Incorporate an application to the Victorian RFL trust to continue funding for the creel survey monitoring program (currently \$140 k per year) over the project period.</li> <li>• Be supported by existing movement sensing cameras and support IT infrastructure that is in place at most Victorian boat ramps .</li> <li>• Has been given preliminary support given by the end users and expert scientist in the jurisdictions list above</li> </ul>