

TURNING THE TIDE

Summer 2017, Volume 18 #1



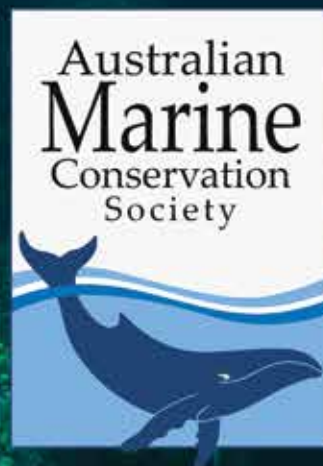
#StopAdani

Taking the Fight to India

Saving our Sanctuaries

Dolphin deaths from trawlers

Vale Shark Defender Rob Stewart



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From the **DIRECTOR**
Darren Kindleysides

BROKEN RECORDS
and stuck records

We're breaking records. We're even breaking records for breaking records.

As we emerge from Australia's angry summer, research by the Climate Council has found that Australia's recent extreme weather set more than 200 records in just 90 days. We were hotter for longer. In some places we were a lot wetter too.

Angry summers seem to be becoming the norm. What we need is some anger management. But while we know what that entails, few politicians seem prepared to do what it takes as fast as it will take to curtail our contribution to global climate change.

As has been said a lot over the past year, the abnormal is becoming the new normal. And so it seems to be the case with our climate, with our environment. Climate change is driving hotter, longer and more frequent heatwaves above and below the waves.

Last year's unprecedented mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef was jaw dropping. But this year, once again, our Reef is in the grip of a bleaching event. Back to back years of mass coral bleaching was something scientists predicted wouldn't happen for at least 30 years. It was something we hoped would never happen. We can't let this become the new normal.

We know what is needed to save our Reef. A twin track approach where we urgently cut emissions to limit warming of the Reef's waters and reduce the pressures on the Reef like poor water quality that limits its resilience to warmer waters. And we're working on it.

We also know what isn't needed. Establishing one of the world's largest coal mines inland of the Reef would dramatically accelerate global warming and the death of yet more corals. At a time when many nations are rapidly transitioning away from fossil fuels towards renewables, at a time when the Reef is in the midst of another bleaching crisis, state and federal governments continue to live as if on another planet, aggressively supporting the project. The proposed Carmichael coal mine must be the line in the sand.

I was asked recently what the greatest threat to our oceans is. It isn't climate change. Nor is it plastic pollution or overfishing for that matter. The greatest threat is inaction.

The debate around Australia's energy future has become a stuck record. But words aren't action and circular arguments aren't progress. Until our politicians change tack our weather will keep on breaking records. And that's no good for the Reef or you and I.

Public concern is the antidote to political inaction and that is why I have hope. Over my eight years with AMCS I've seen the power of people, the power of you – whose love of our oceans and natural world will change the track our decision makers are on. Thank you for all that you do.



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Introducing our new PRESIDENT, Nick Heath

Hello wonderful people. Every person who has arrived at this page has something shared.

I believe it's a passion for salt water, and for the treasures living around it and below. A concern that without our collective advocacy, our marine environment will be diminished. A belief that we can and must make a difference to ensure this doesn't happen on our watch.

And yes, you deserve a shared feeling of hard-won pride about the difference AMCS has already made – the gifts we have collectively given to Australia.

Thank you for standing up for our oceans.

Somehow, we must find ways to keep standing up, coming together, renewing our passion, enriching our shared insights about brokering change and then advocating compelling solutions to our communities, our media, our industries and ultimately, our political leaders.

It's a big ask, but we are so much better, so much stronger, together.

I'm new here. This is my first column as President after being on the edges of AMCS for two decades, as a Sea Guardian, an advocacy partner inside and outside of government, a friend of the founders and of past and current staff. I've known for a long time how good AMCS is. How important it is. And so, it is an incredible honour to be part of this.

I want to acknowledge my predecessor, Craig McGovern, whose Presidency these past seven years has steered the ship magnificently, growing the organisation's capacity in all facets. Thank you Craig. What a gift you have given.

I grew up on the Great Barrier Reef. My dad was a fisher, and then a dive boat captain. A survivor of the Great Depression, hard-core National Party voter, and despite his many gifts, not a 'greenie'.

And yet on the back of our Holden station wagon in 1974 was the sticker 'SAVE THE BARRIER REEF'.

We need to do that now, more than ever.

Devastating reef bleaching and mangrove dieback, continued risk to fish stocks and impaired coastal productivity represents greater cumulative marine pressure than ever before. While all these problems have solutions - viable, affordable and compelling solutions - the political environment is so currently distorted by post-truth agendas that it is too feeble to make these solutions a reality without our voices.

Which is why we need you and AMCS, standing up again, sharing your passion and ideas online, in letters to our leaders, in your vote and with your communities of influence.

Thank you,
Nick

OUT OF THE

News from around our shores

Rob Stewart and Imogen Zethoven during 2015 Shark Weekend in the Caribbean.



Vale Shark Defender ROB STEWART

In April 2015, I had the great privilege of spending a few days on the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean with Rob Stewart. At the time, I was the director of a global shark conservation campaign at The Pew Charitable Trusts, we were working in T&C, it was Shark Weekend on the islands and there was no one better to invite than Rob Stewart. Rob's passion for sharks ran deep and he had a gift for being able to express his love for sharks. It touched all who met him.

Seeing his film 'Sharkwater' several years earlier had deeply affected me. Here was a fearless warrior for the ocean who exposed a story that we all needed to hear. In his own words: "You're underwater, and you see the thing that you've been taught your whole life to fear, and it doesn't want to hurt you, and it's the most beautiful thing you've ever seen, and your whole world changes".

Rob was a beautiful person, humble and spiritual. He thought a lot about how to communicate his passion for sharks and the perils they faced and he did it brilliantly. He reached a wide audience through film and thousands of public talks. He would speak to his audience in a unique way that could help them connect to the majesty of the animals he loved so much. Our time on Turks and Caicos, with local shark lovers such as Tina Randall, a youth ambassador for Shark Defenders, led to the government of the Turks and Caicos introducing a shark export ban to prevent the startup of an export industry in these magnificent animals. This one was of the many legacies that Rob has left the world.

Sharks have lost their best advocate. But Rob has gifted us his legacy in films and videos that will keep inspiring new generations. Thank you Rob. I'm so glad I had the chance to meet you.

Imogen Zethoven



STOP ADANI:

A history changing movement begins

"This is the environmental issue of our times. The Adani corporation's dirty coal mine is an impending disaster with effects which will reach far beyond Australia," said Bob Brown recently.

The biggest movement in Australia's environmental history has begun, with the official launch of Stop Adani. Multi-platform and multi-organisational, Stop Adani aims to end the Reef-wrecking Carmichael Coal Mine Project for good. From the brains behind Canada's Tar Sands campaign and Australia's finest campaigners, Stop Adani is creating a hyper-engaged, nationwide force – with a digital-first blend of content, community building, lobbying and grassroots activism.

In March the Stop Adani Alliance went public – a collective of 13 organisations (and counting) including AMCS – with a high profile Canberra launch fronted by former Greens leader, Brown.

The Stop Adani Roadshow, led by 350.org, then took our message around Australia, with sold out stops at Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Townsville. To keep the momentum going, screenings of new documentary Guarding the Galilee, will take place from April.

Join us, follow #StopAdani and find out more at www.stopadani.com

BLUE



Check us out on twitter for live updates & news: @AustMarConsSoc

Oceans of PLASTIC

Plastic pollution - it's the silent killer lurking in our oceans. You'd be hard pressed to find a beach, bay or ocean anywhere around the country that has escaped it.

AMCS supporters are championing the turning of the tide for plastic pollution, including thousands of Queensland supporters recently contacting the Queensland Government with submissions to ensure a strong ban on plastic bags and the introduction of a cash for containers scheme. Public pressure continues to rise for all state and territory governments still yet to follow the positive, pollution reducing steps being taken around the country.

Massive thanks to all of our supporters that made a submission, and who continue to make the commitment to a future free from plastic pollution.



Plastic has a long legacy once in the ocean, entangling sea life and breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces that are mistaken as food and eaten by sea birds, fish and other wildlife.
© James Cordwell



Australians want solar NOT COAL

National Poll shows Australians want Adani to invest in solar, not coal.

In the middle of the second year of severe bleaching on our Great Barrier Reef, the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and eight regional mayors travelled to India to petition the Adani leadership to press go on the Reef-wrecking Carmichael mine.

During their trip, AMCS commissioned some national polling on Australians' views on investment in solar versus coal. The results are not that surprising.

Nearly two thirds (63%) of Australians polled agree or strongly agree that the best thing for Australia would be for Adani to invest in large-scale solar, rather than a new coal mine, compared to just 16.1% who disagree or strongly disagree with that statement.

That's nearly four times more people who think the best thing for Australia is solar investment compared to those who want a new coal mine.

We also asked Australians about whether they wanted the Queensland Premier and regional mayors seeking investment in clean energy or coal. More than 7 out of



10 (72.1%) people polled wanted to see the Premier and regional Mayors pursue investment in solar, compared to just 14.6% who preferred coal.

That's nearly three quarters of people polled (72.1%) who want to see the Premier and regional Mayors pursue investment in solar, compared to just 14.6% who prefer coal.

Time and again studies show that the public wants our oceans and reef protected, and our climate safe. Why then, are the majority of our politicians so invested in industries that will deliver us a dangerous dirty future?

The results come from polling commissioned through ReachTEL in March 2017.

Local villagers told us how fish habitats have been destroyed and fish stocks decimated from Adani's projects in India.



Imogen Zethoven and Geoff Cousins leaving Adani HQ after delivering the Open Letter.



Imogen, Queensland grazier Bruce Currie and Whitsundays Tourism Operator Lindsay Simpson. Bruce's groundwater and Lindsay's sailing business are both at risk if Adani's rail line opens the floodgates to the Galilee Basin.

STOP ADANI for the Reef

Tour to India by
Imogen Zethoven, AO,
Great Barrier Reef
Campaign Director



In March I went to India, to the heart of Adani country in the state of Gujarat. A week or two earlier, I'd heard that the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk was flying to India to petition Mr Gautam Adani, chair of the Adani Group, to build Australia's largest coal mine – the Carmichael coal mine.

At the time, the Great Barrier Reef was suffering yet another severe mass bleaching event. Professor Terry Hughes who heads up the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies was undertaking another aerial survey over the entire Reef system. And here was Queensland's Premier taking off to India to make matters far, far worse for the Reef. I was outraged.

When history books are written, this could stand out as the trip that spelled the death of our Reef. But we're not going to let that happen.

I rang a colleague and said: I have a crazy idea. I think I should go to India. Within a few days, a small group emerged: Geoff Cousins, the former CEO of Optus and currently President of the Australian Conservation Foundation; Lindsay Simpson, a marine park tourism operator from the Whitsundays, and Bruce Currie, a grazier from central Queensland whose water would be affected by the mine.

About two weeks later, the four of us flew to India.

First up was a visit to meet local villagers whose lives have been upended by Adani's Hazira Port in Gujarat. We sat with dozens of villagers who told us they had been fighting Adani for years, that the company had undertaken works without approvals, and failed to comply with conditions set by the government.

The coastline had been re-engineered: mangroves destroyed, fish habitat destroyed, creeks blocked, sand dunes levelled, coal dust everywhere, water resources polluted and fish stocks decimated due to habitat destruction.

The Chief of the village looked inconsolable and held his grandson who was young enough to be unaware of what was in store for him – a future that involved more fighting with Adani over a port extension and the of the last remaining large tract of mangroves in the area.

We then visited Ahmedabad, the corporate headquarters of Adani. We hand delivered a letter from 90 prominent Australians, including former cricket captains, Ian and Greg Chappell and AMCS Patron and author Tim Winton. Significantly, the letter was also signed by former Chair of the Australian Coal Association, Ian Dunlop.

At first we were told no one was there. But we waited and waited. Eventually a senior executive emerged and took the letter from us. An Adani spokesperson responded soon after in the media with the usual PR. But we got our message across to the India media who were waiting in a large throng outside the building: Australians don't want this coal mine. Coal kills coral. We want our Great Barrier Reef to survive and thrive.

We then decided to see the Premier. Early the next morning she, along with eight Mayors from the Reef coastline,

landed at a small airport near Adani's massive Special Economic Zone at Mundra. The Adani SEZ contains the second largest coal fired power station in India and a massive port. We arrived at the airport unannounced and told her that the Adani coal mine puts the Reef at risk. Her response? *"There is no greater supporter of the Great Barrier Reef than me and my government."* Our response: *"Absolute rubbish".*

The following day we toured two more villages and heard the same stories about Adani. We heard these over and over again, from local villagers to lawyers, from politicians to civil society groups. In New Delhi, we met with the former Indian Environment Minister, Jairam Ramesh who told us: *"Mr Adani who has not complied with regulations in his own country cannot be expected to comply with regulations in another country."*

We came home with an even greater determination to stop this mine, rail and port extension ever going ahead. We cannot trust Adani with our Great Barrier Reef.

To read the open letter to the Chair of the Adani group, and learn more visit our website at www.fightforourreef.org.au



AMCS took this billboard to the streets of Queensland.



Our Reef life is in peril from climate change caused by burning fossil fuels.



© Steve Parish

Saving Australia's SANCTUARIES

The first three months of the year have flown by in the marine parks space! It's been a whirlwind of a time with so much happening all around the country, and we're so close to restoring our suspended National Network of Marine Sanctuaries (the world's largest!).

By James Cordwell,
Marine Campaigner



Ocean legend Val Taylor AM
addresses the crowd in Kooyong.



North Kimberley Coast Buchaneer
© Daisy Barham



Pew Environment Trust's Director of Oceans, Michelle Grady,
meeting with Jason Falinski MP at Parliament House

Protecting Our Last Sea Treasure

Following ten packed-out screenings around Australia, we just held the Melbourne premiere of The Last Sea Treasure, starring ocean legend Valerie Taylor, AM, in Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg's local neighbourhood.

Our Coral Sea – the cradle to our Great Barrier Reef and one of the last wild places on Earth where ocean giants still thrive – is the most at risk from the Abbott-era review of our suspended National Network of Sanctuaries.

The Coral Sea also holds great historical significance for Australia – an ocean monument to those who fought to protect Australia's borders and the region. This year 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea – one of the most critical naval battles that reversed the tide of World War II in the Pacific.

Support for Sanctuaries is Snowballing

Meanwhile, around the country, communities continue to take a stand for our national network of sanctuaries – thousands of you have been writing to, emailing and visiting local MPs, and coming up with creative ways to keep the pressure on.

We've just returned from Parliament House, meeting with MPs and decision makers to make sure your voice is heard... AND WE'VE GOT GOOD NEWS - IT'S WORKING! In back to back meetings, MPs have told us they've been hearing the level of concern among their constituents, and finding out how they can help restore our suspended National Network of Sanctuaries.

The timing could not be better! Thanks to your support, we've built huge momentum since former

Prime Minister Tony Abbott suspended our sanctuaries – including a whopping 50,000 submissions towards the end of last year – and the Turnbull Government has committed to get the network in place by July 2017!

But right now, Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg is making big decisions about whether to accept or reject Abbott-era plans that have been released proposing massive cutbacks to marine sanctuaries in crucial hotspots around Australia. In order to get him to make a good decision, we need as many federal MPs to tell him this is what Australian voters – that's you – want.

We will not stop until our sanctuaries – in the Coral Sea, Lord Howe, Perth Canyon, Bremer Bay, the Great Australian Bight, the Kimberley and more – are saved. Thank you for all that you do!

Great Kimberley Marine Park

Late last year, your support led to the creation of three new marine parks along the iconic Kimberley coast in north-west Australia: the extraordinary Horizontal Falls (described by Sir David Attenborough as 'one of the greatest natural wonders of the world'), the North Kimberley Marine Park – the biggest in WA, and Roebuck Bay – home to our charismatic snubfin dolphin (known as 'snubbies').

That's more than 500km of pristine coastline protected – one of the most significant achievements in conservation in Australia.

Now, thanks to the thousands who emailed, phoned, attended events and met with their MPs ahead of the Western Australian election, asking candidates to finish the job of protecting our Kimberley coast, we saw Kimberley election commitments from all sides of politics.

The outgoing Premier and Environment Minister described their

work on protecting the Kimberley as one of their proudest achievements in Government. And the incoming Labor Government has committed to extending the Great Kimberley Marine Park into the Buccaneer Archipelago and reviewing the Roebuck Bay Marine Park plan which still contains no marine sanctuary.

You have so much to be proud of. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this happen. It's been an incredible show of continued community support for our marine sanctuaries. You helped to make these achievements a reality. We hope we can count on your continued support in the months ahead, helping us build this unstoppable momentum to Save Our Sanctuaries.



All around Australia people are taking action to save our sanctuaries and keep our climate safe. Images from top; Sanctuaries defenders in Manly, Sydney; safe climate supporters at #ClimateFizza rally in Malcom Turnbull's electorate; Fiona McCuaig and Sydney Marine Park supporters at Manly Ocean Paddler.



CLIMATE CHANGE

in our oceans

(Final of our three part series)

by John Turnbull,
marine science educator
marineexplorer.org



Tropical species like this clown triggerfish are moving south as sea temperatures rise.



Our weather is intensifying, just as scientists have predicted.

We must strive to understand marine ecosystems and their interactions quickly.

In previous articles, I have discussed the impacts of climate change on marine life, and the natural responses which marine organisms have to cope with warming, acidifying, rising oceans. We're already seeing in both tropical and temperate waters around Australia that many marine organisms simply can't cope with the changes that are taking place.

In this article, I will look at what humans can do to tackle this evolving tragedy of our own making. At a high level, we have three strategic responses:

- **Mitigation:** limit the damage by reducing greenhouse gases
- **Adaptation:** lessen the impacts of climate change, and
- **Monitoring:** observe and learn in order to respond more effectively.

Much has been written and said about mitigation – and rightly so. Ultimately, we must break our dependence on unsustainable human activities, particularly the consumption of fossil fuels, to avoid runaway global temperatures. Mitigation is, however, beyond the scope of this article – instead, I will address adaptation and monitoring.

Adaptation is about coping and resilience. We know climate change is happening – so what can we do to help our marine life survive? Without

adaptation strategies, we leave our marine life to fend for itself. With adaptation, we do what we can to help marine life cope with severe climate events. We build resilience in the system, aiming to improve survival rates.

Nature has adapted to change successfully since life began. But nature is no longer able to cope with the rate of change that humans have foisted upon it - oceans are warming and acidifying at a rate far greater than today's marine life has ever experienced. Given Australia's high rate of endemism – the majority of species in southern Australian waters live no-where else in the world – the loss of a local species often means a loss of global biodiversity.

We already use a range of conservation tools to reduce human impacts – regulation of extractive activities such as mining and fishing, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and species-specific plans such as protection of nesting sites. These tools are often developed by different government departments, with varying objectives, and may eventually prove to be ineffective in adapting to climate change if they are poorly designed or coordinated.

For example, if we place MPAs in areas that minimise disruption to human and commercial activities, we may fail to build the resilience we seek. MPAs should be large and connected in order to cover the distribution of key species and encompass important locations such as spawning grounds. Some reefs may be more naturally resilient to climate impacts, providing a source of replenishment to surrounding areas after a severe event. If we're serious about building resilience to climate change, such sites should be protected as a priority.

Science has a critical role to play here, in helping us to understand marine ecosystems in order to devise the most effective strategies. We have much to learn about the interactions between marine organisms and their environment, and so ongoing investment in monitoring, experiments and piloting solutions is essential if we are to act in time.

Proactive conservation efforts, such as re-growing corals and re-planting kelp forests are in their early stages and results to date have been mixed. We need to invest in developing the knowledge and skills to adapt to climate change as quickly and effectively as possible.

Given the wide-ranging impacts of warming and acidifying oceans, we must take a broad, brave, ecosystem-scale approach. We no longer have the luxury of half measures. MPAs which are compromised by ongoing extractive



Oxygen bubbles, coralline algae and molluscs © John Turnbull



Sea lettuce © John Turnbull

activities or poor design and management are of limited value – we know that the most effective protected areas are no-take, large, well-enforced and in place for a long time.

Restoring kelp or corals may prove to be fruitless if the processes which affect their survival, such as herbivory, predation and competition, are not understood or managed. Protecting nesting sites, spawning or calving areas may do little if the target animals have little to eat or are unsustainably fished in another part of their range.

We must strive to understand marine ecosystems and their interactions quickly, yet we cannot allow our lack of full knowledge to paralyse us. The principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) can help here, in particular the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity and conservation of ecological integrity. Under the precautionary principle, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse to do nothing.

We should act conservatively to prevent damage to the environment, while continuing to build knowledge.

It is incumbent on the present generation to at least maintain, and preferably enhance, the condition of the environment for future generations.

The conservation of biological diversity and the integrity of ecosystems is our ultimate objective. We are, after all, talking about our home planet – and at least for the foreseeable future we have no alternative.



Crayweed, *phyllospora comosa*
© John Turnbull



Dolphins and seals in danger from **PAIR TRAWLING**

In our last edition we celebrated the departure of the super trawler ‘Geelong Star’ from Australian waters. But there’s a new threat on the horizon.

by Josh Coates,
Fisheries Campaigner



REPORT FROM THE OCEAN

Dr Cat Dorey, an Australian Marine Conservation Society Sea Guardian (and Science Advisor for Greenpeace International) witnessed the horrors of pair trawling personally in January 2004, as part of an investigation team in UK waters. This is what she has to say about this fishing method.

“For the first few weeks the experience was magical. It was my first time at sea and I never tired of seeing pods of common dolphins, often with their young, appear from nowhere and swim towards us, racing alongside the ship and leaping in the bow waves, but that magic soon turned to horror.

The team found the main fishing ground – and with it dead dolphins floating belly up, still warm, and with horrific injuries. Torn and bloody beaks and fins, hundreds of scratches from nets and spikey seabass fins were the awful evidence of a painful death by drowning in pair-trawl nets.

It was horrific, and the public were outraged - these much-love dolphins were supposed to be protected. I never want to see pair-trawlers in Aussie waters, not when I’ve seen first-hand what they can do to dolphins, or any other sea life that gets in the way. We cannot afford the increased risk to our marine life that pair trawling represents.”

Dr Cat Dorey and colleague
examining dead dolphins
© Greenpeace



A new type of mass fish trawling is coming, and it looks set to repeat the dolphin-killing disasters that super trawlers recently inflicted on Australian waters. This destructive fishing practice involves towing colossal nets between two boats, at higher speeds than possible with one boat – which makes it even harder for marine mammals like dolphins and seals to escape. It can lead to over-fishing of target species, affecting the food chain, recreational fishing and tourism. This form of fishing has been banned in the UK. Allowing this form of fishing to take hold in Australian waters would set a damaging precedent and be a step backwards for Australian fisheries management.

AMCS has not let the application for pair trawling in the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) go unnoticed. Public comment opened on the 22nd of December last year, but they couldn’t hide behind the holidays. Your response was amazing; over 8000 of you heard our call and made formal submissions to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

The AFMA commission is due to meet in April to decide on whether to allow pair trawling. Whether AFMA approves the trial of pair trawling or not we will remain vigilant as your independent voice, eyes and ears. We will fight to stop any destructive practice that puts our oceans at risk. Thank you for your support.



This type of fishing is
not welcome in Australia
© Greenpeace

FAST FACTS

Taxonomy: Belongs to the family Labridae (wrasses) among the Perciform fishes. Common names include giant humphead wrasse, Maori humphead wrasse, Napoleon humphead wrasse, blue-tooth groper, and giant Maori wrasse.

Average size: Approximately 229cm. The maximum weight published is 191 kg.

Lifespan: The maximum reported age is 32 years.

Food: Primarily feed on mollusks, fishes, sea urchins, crustaceans, and other invertebrates. They are one of the few predators of toxic animals such as sea hares, boxfishes, and crown-of-thorns starfish.

Habitat: Inhabits steep outer reef slopes, channel slopes, and lagoon reefs throughout the Indo-Pacific. Found at depths ranging from 1 to 100m. Adults roam the reef by day and rest in reef caves and under coral ledges at night. Juveniles are found in coral-rich areas of lagoon reefs, particularly in regions rich in staghorn Acropora corals, as well as algae reefs or seagrasses.

Predators: With the exception of some large sharks, there are few predators that would take on such a large meal, so adult humphead wrasses have few predators. Humans are the greatest threat to this species. Most vulnerable to predation in larval and juvenile stages.

Growth: Reach sexual maturity at 5-7 years of age.

Life history: Pairs spawn together and planktonic eggs are released into the water. When the larvae hatch they settle onto the substrate. Females can turn into males, but the triggers for this change are poorly understood.



MAORI HUMPHEAD WRASSE

A GENTLE GIANT

On the steep outer slopes of our coral reefs roams a gentle giant. Over two meters long, with a large hump on its head, and big fleshy lips that rival Angelina Jolie, the Maori humphead wrasse is easily recognised. Adults roam the reef by day and rest in reef caves and under coral ledges at night, feeding on toxic animals such as sea hares, boxfishes, and crown-of-thorns starfish.

Divers get a thrill when they encounter this curious creature, which will often rub its head against an outstretched hand or even giving a gentle nudge, like a puppy begging to be petted. Their willingness to interact with people is partly a reflection of the individual personality of each fish, and in part a result of previous contact with humans. Sadly, these fish have been prized for their flesh rather than their personality, earning them a place on the IUCN endangered list.

This is the largest species of the wrasse family and it is found throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including around reefs in the Coral Sea. It's scientific name, *Cheilinus undulatus*, is derived from the Latin word undulatus meaning 'waved', referring to the wavy lines on the body and the two lines behind both eyes.

These are magnificent, long lived, endangered creatures that deserve better protection. As Australians we have the opportunity to create safe places for them to come back from the brink of extinction. We have the public will but do we have the political leadership to establish large marine reserves around Australia and reclaim our place on the international stage?

AMCS AND YOU
Protecting our oceans



“Seventy per cent of the earth’s surface is ocean. What better way to leave a legacy than through ensuring clean, healthy seas for future generations.”

Darren Kindleysides, Director



Australia’s oceans are some of the richest and most diverse on our blue planet. Over 80% of species found in our southern oceans occur nowhere else on Earth. This means that if we lose them from our own backyard, they are lost from our world forever.

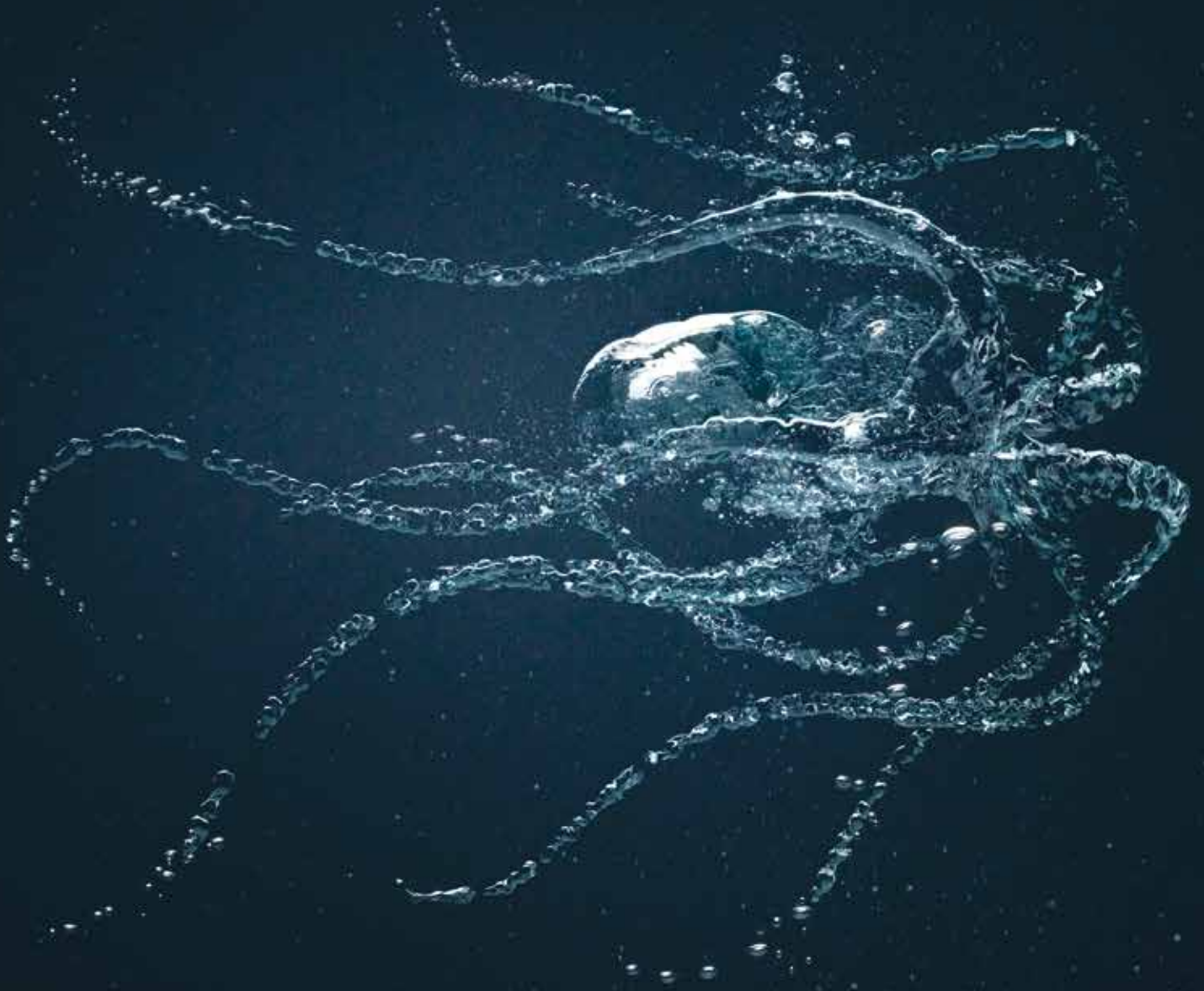
Australians love our whales, sea lions and turtles, but much of our unique marine wildlife is threatened with extinction. On a daily basis, our ocean wildlife combats fishing pressure, pollution and impacts from a warming planet. But the good news is that AMCS is working each day in their defence.

AMCS is the only Australian charity dedicated solely to marine conservation. We strive to turn the tide through science based research, advocacy and education. We are a group of passionate professionals who work every day to protect our threatened species, make our fisheries sustainable and create marine national parks where our ocean wildlife is safe from harm.

A bequest to Australia’s oceans is a gift you write into your Will after your loved ones have been provided for. Bequests are a way for everyday Australians to plan for a major gift to a charity. Your gift enables you to leave a legacy that contributes to the type of world in which you want your children and grandchildren to live.

AMCS supporter, Eva, who lives on the Central Coast of New South Wales has left a legacy to our oceans and said, *“Why wouldn’t I want this for my children and their children? If each Australian bequeathed just a small amount to AMCS what a large difference that would make to the oceans for our children.”*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEAVING A BEQUEST TO OUR OCEANS, CONTACT AMCS ON 1800 066 299 OR AMCS@AMCS.ORG.AU TO LEARN MORE. ALL INQUIRIES WILL BE TREATED WITH THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.



Our seas are fragile. So please help us
protect them while there's still time,
before all our treasures are just memories.

TIM WINTON, Author, Patron of the Australian Marine Conservation Society

Love our oceans? Join us today
seaguards.org.au