

Spring 2022 Control of the second sec

CREATURE FEATURE

Blooming Jellyfish



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Celebrating amazing sea life thanks to you...

Breaking News

Blooming Jellyfish

Jellyfish have no brain, blood, lungs or heart and consist of 98% water.

With more than 2,000 different species, jellyfish are found in every ocean in the world. Scientists believe there could be as many as 300,000 different undiscovered species. Jellyfish are believed to be the oldest multi-organ animal species in the world dating back at least 500 million years.

5 Amazing Aussie Jellyfish

Here are five of our guirky Aussie locals:

- Found in the tropical coastal waters of northern Australia, the Australian box jellyfish is considered the most venomous marine animal globally.
- Bluebottle 'jellyfish' are common in Australia. They're not single jellyfish but siphonophores, or colonial jellyfish, made up of four kinds of polyps, all dependent on one another for survival.
- **3** Some species of jellyfish, such as the moon jelly, can regenerate lost body parts. They are

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Jellyfish SCIENTIFIC NAME: Cnidaria BODY SIZE: 2cm to 2m WEIGHT: Up to 2kg LIFESPAN (IN WILD): One year TOP SPEED: 8km/h DIET: Microscopic plankton, fish, shrimp, crabs, seaweed, algae and even other species of jellyfish **PREDATORS:** Turtles, large fish and humans Collectively known as cnidarians, including over 10,000 known species of jellyfish, anemones, corals and hydroids.

capable of 'ageing backwards' by reverting to their earlier polyp stage, then regrowing into an adult over and over again.

- 4 The largest of all jellyfishes is the lion's mane jellyfish. Its disc-shaped bell can be over 1m across and its trailing tentacles can reach more than 10m in length.
- **5** At only 1-2cm yet extremely venomous, the Irukandji is found in deeper offshore waters of northern Australia.

Blooming Beautiful But Out Of Balance

lellyfish blooms are a natural phenomenon. A temporary and short-lived explosion in local jellyfish numbers that occurs when the conditions are right for reproduction and as a result of ocean and wind patterns. Yet, scientists are concerned that blooms are on the increase worldwide.

Human disruption exacerbates the extent and frequency of blooms. Climate change, rising ocean temperatures and nutrient shifts are favourable for jellyfish. Overfishing and habitat destruction can also remove competition and predators for jellyfish.

Blooms can be bad news for the ocean. Too many jellyfish may reduce fish populations, competing for food and eating the fish eggs, larvae and juveniles.

GTime to turn the tide on ocean health 9

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State of Environment

The new State of the Environment report paints a deeply concerning picture of the health of our oceans and lands.

Released in July 2022, 7 months after it was completed due to delays by the previous government, the landmark Report issued every 5 years shows we must urgently turn the tide to protect Australia's priceless marine environments and wildlife.

The devastating new assessment has found much of Australia's environment is in a poor condition and the health of our coasts and oceans is deteriorating.

It highlights a number of threats to marine health that must be addressed, including global warming, industrialisation, plastic and water pollution.

It flags that more species are listed as threatened than five years ago, including marine wildlife, highlighting that Australia's weak environment laws are failing to protect and recover our unique flora and fauna. The report's conclusions are inescapable - our

Summer Bleaching Update

Fuelled by climate change, record-breaking marine heatwaves are causing heat stress and coral bleaching. The Great Barrier Reef endured its fourth mass bleaching event in seven years. The first time in a La Nina summer. A worrying event as La Nina normally brings cool weather to the east coast.

Alarmingly, coral bleaching was simultaneously detected on Ningaloo Reef and on other reefs in Western Australia on the other side of the country.



Turning The Tide

oceans are suffering from overheating, over use and under-protection.

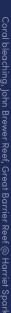
It is a call to arms, a challenge that when it comes to protecting our environment ambition is the only option.

The new government has the opportunity and mandate to ensure the state of our oceans improves across the next five years. We are asking that they:

- take urgent action to address climate change
- strengthen our national environment laws
- form an independent Environment **Protection Agency**
- fund the recovery of Australia's threatened wildlife
- increase protections in our oceans by expanding marine sanctuaries
- introduce policies that will build our oceans' resilience by reducing stress from industrialisation, poor fisheries management and water and plastic pollution.

We look forward to working with the Albanese government to improve ocean health.





Climate Action for Our Oceans

GAustralians want more ambitious climate action and better protection for nature



Australians want and expect our new government to do more to protect our oceans and wildlife. The May federal election result has sent a clear signal. Australians want more ambitious climate action and better protection for nature. At a point where our oceans and wildlife face more threats than ever there is critical and urgent work to be done by the Australian Government.

We look forward to working with the new government and politicians from across the political spectrum to tackle the threats to Australia's oceans.

Our oceans face greater threats than ever before from the climate, extinction and pollution crises. Unsustainable fishing and industrial development threaten wildlife and habitats. We've written to the new Prime Minister and the Ministers for Climate Change and the Environment urging them to:

1. Address the impacts of global warming on our oceans.

• Our coasts and oceans are feeling the heat. From coral bleaching at Ningaloo in the west to the Great Barrier Reef in the east and the loss of the Tasmanian kelp forests in the south and mangrove forests in the north global warming is the single greatest threat to the health of our oceans. We must reduce fossil fuel emissions and shift to clean energy to help cool the oceans.

2. Creating enduring protections for our oceans

• Create strong laws for nature. The government must set up an independent Environmental Protection Agency to ensure environmental decisions are accountable and independent.

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- Strengthen the marine parks network to fill critical gaps. This provides our best option for ensuring good management of our oceans and long-term ecosystem protection.
- Improve commercial fisheries' sustainability by reducing the accidental catch of marine wildlife. Unsustainable fishing is the most immediate risk to many threatened marine species.

3. End the threat of industrialisation in Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo.

- 4. Protect the Great Barrier Reef.
 - Improve the resilience of the Reef. Take action on climate change, water pollution and species protection.
 - Reject the Central Queensland Coal mine, which is 10km from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

5. Tackle plastic pollution.

• Whilst Australians are making progress, voluntary national plastic reduction targets and action plans have failed. This government can reduce waste by transitioning to mandatory targets.

Floods Coastal Impact

Following devastating back-to-back floods. There is almost no seagrass remaining across Hervey Bay and the Great Sandy Strait.

Iconic species like dugongs and green turtles are reliant on seagrass. The loss is likely to lead to an increase in sick or dead animals stranding in the coming months. The seagrass decline means the Queensland Government must urgently increase fully protected areas in the Great Sandy Marine Park in the region. Learn more about two of the marine species impacted by 2022's flooding events:

Super Seagrasses

Seagrass meadows help protect our coasts from storm damage. Store large amounts of carbon and provide habitat for a great diversity of wildlife. A vital part of the marine



ecosystem. Seagrasses provide food, habitat and nursery areas for many vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Over 30 species can be found within Australian waters. Loss of seagrass habitats means a marine ecosystem breakdown. As well as the extinction of species that depend on seagrass for survival.

New Discovery

World's Largest Plant: Scientists have discovered a 4,500-year-old seagrass in Western Australia's Shark Bay. Genetic testing has determined it has spread over a stretch of 180 km of the seafloor about 20,000 football fields. Making it the largest known plant on Earth.

Increasing the resilience of our oceans with your support...

The 2022 floods have significantly impacted many Australians across Queensland and New South Wales. These events continue to devastate communities and people - our thoughts and wishes are with the communities impacted by climate change fuelled disasters.

Adorable Dugongs

The Great Sandy Marine Park is home to the largest dugong population in the region. These shy marine mammals live



in warm tropical coastal waters. These enormous vegetarians are often fondly called 'sea cows', as they graze on the seagrass.

They play an important ecological role in our coastal marine ecosystems. Their constant grazing encourages regrowth which maintains vital habitats.

Worldwide, the dugong is listed as being vulnerable to extinction. Australia is the largest, and most important refuge for dugongs on our blue planet.

Dugongs Under Threat

Dugongs are under threat from gillnet fishing see page 15 for more information.



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6Celebrating a community of ocean lovers across the nation working for healthy seas. \Im

World Oceans Giving Day

On World Oceans Day, 8 June 2022, we celebrated our life-giving oceans by holding a Giving Day.

You, our inspiring ocean-loving supporters, have blown us away with your donations and heartfelt words of encouragement!

More than 2,000 of you wonderful, generous people gave to protect our oceans. Your donations were doubled by our incredible matching donors. As a result, we eclipsed our initial target to raise over \$750,000!

On behalf of everyone at AMCS, and especially from our oceans and incredible marine wildlife, Thank you! We are grateful for your support on World Oceans Day. Watch amcs.org.au/WOD-TY

Ocean Messages

Wonderful ocean-lovers like you left us heartfelt messages of support on World Oceans Day.

- "Happy World Oceans Day! By saving the ocean, we can save the world" AMANDA
- "Our oceans give us so much, we must do everything to protect them" JOHN
- "Thank you to all who stand up for our oceans and our planet" SUSAN
- "Our oceans sustain us. Let's sustain them" **CYNTHIA**

"Great to have AMCS to save our precious oceans, ecosystems and marine life!" MARGARET

Thank you to our kind supporters who filled our hearts with inspiration. It's because of our shared vision for our beautiful blue oceans that we all connect together on World Oceans Day.

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You're Protecting Our Oceans

Each generous gift we received on World Oceans Day is growing our impact for our oceans and marine life.

World Oceans Day 2022 gifts have ensured we can enact plans to protect our oceans including:

- Gillnet Buy Backs. Target the removal of the most lethal gillnets harming our precious threatened marine life.
- Sawfish Missions. Support Indigenous rangers to carry out further sawfish missions across northern Australia. Pull these remarkable creatures back from the brink.
- GoodFish. Grow our GoodFish program and sustainability guide. Increase demand for sustainable seafood options.
- Marine Sanctuary Awareness. Use sciencebased education to counter misinformation affecting Marine Sanctuary proposals.
- Plastic Pollution. Launch a campaign to recruit supermarkets to become part of the plastics solution, not the problem.



Wavemakers

Our philanthropic Wavemakers pledged a gift to inspire fellow ocean-lovers to give knowing their donation and impact will be doubled. This year our Wavemakers included: Letcombe Foundation, Alanah Jeffries, Tony Turner, Pottery for the Planet, Charles Warman Foundation, Let's Go Surfing, Jervis Bay Brewing Co, Sarah & Sebastian, Climate Challenge Events, James Kirby Foundation, Stand Desk, Two Monkeys Foundation, Sunnyside Foundation, Auguste the Label, Richard Tapscott, Earthyard, Living Edge Furniture, David Leckenbey, Graeme Wood Foundation.

Sarah & Sebastian

Sarah & Sebastian independent jewellery artisans have a passion for marine life.

Designer, Sarah Munro, one half of Sarah and Sebastian, is an avid diver. It's why Sarah & Sebastian have, together with their clients, donated over \$115,000 supporting AMCS.

Sarah with filmmaker Alice Wesley-Smith recently swam with the Baird Bay, SA, sea lion colony to film a short documentary series, "Now You See Me". She said:

"Australian sea lions are one of our rarest marine animals. Their playfulness, curiosity and sociable nature is wholly relatable to humankind. Their protection is paramount." Thank you Sarah & Sebastian, you are

incredible Wavemakers protecting our oceans.





Celebrating our precious oceans and wildlife...

Jervis Bay Brewing Co.

Jervis Bay Brewing Co. craft beers bring people and communities closer together.

Surrounded by some of Australia's most majestic national parks, and the many beaches on glorious Jervis Bay. Oisín Sweeney, one of the brewery's four founding directors, is passionate about the place, and says. ...helping keep this place beautiful is a huge part of what we do...'

We are inspired not only by the crew, but the whole community who raised money in support of JBB's role as one of our Wavemakers on World Oceans Giving Day.

Thank you Jervis Bay Brewing Co. for being such an incredible team of ocean protectors!



Swell Support

World Oceans Day is a chance to celebrate Australia's unique marine life.

And celebrate we did. Ethan and Imogen donated their pocket money. Charlotte and Annabel cleaned their local beach. Jason created a fundraising team to encourage friends and family to donate. Auguste The Label donated proceeds of a limited edition t-shirt.

Our ocean-loving community rallied together to make this World Oceans Day a celebration for our big blue backyard.

Fish Fund

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lason Fischman is a keen scuba diver and citizen scientist marine biologist.

As someone who's spent virtually every summer over the last 45 years by the sea. Jason said he has a deep connection to Ocean. "Its ways of enchanting, capturing our imagination and intriguing us with mysteries of the unexplored."

His love for our marine life and concern for the future of the Ocean inspired lason to set up a World Oceans Day Team, which he called the Fish Fund.

Jason reached out to family and friends and raised an incredible \$7,764 on World Oceans Day to protect our oceans.

Amazing supporters like Jason are an inspiration. Thank you, Jason and the Fish Fund Team!



Auguste The Label

Byron Bay based clothes company Auguste The Label celebrated World Oceans Day with a limited edition "Keep Our Oceans Cool" charity t-shirt supporting AMCS.

Their passionate influencers, ambassadors and customers shared the message across social media. Taking our marine conservation work to new audiences. Conservationists, families, and influential individuals threw their support behind AMCS on this special day.

Ebony Eagles, founder of Auguste, said her business would "strive to operate in a way that was both harmonious with the environment and an inspiration to others to do the same".

Auguste has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to humanitarian and conservation organisations.

Thank you to the Auguste The Label crew for their sustained support of the planet and oceans we love.

Visit augustethelabel.com



Ethan & Imogen

Since 2018, Ethan (9 years) and Imogen (7 years) have been donating their pocket money to support marine conservation.

The pair donated their \$35 pocket money on World Oceans Giving Day, doubling it, to have a \$70 impact for our oceans. They said:

"We love donating our pocket money to AMCS as they are working hard to help protect our oceans.

The future of our oceans is so important and want to make sure the marine life is looked after".

Ethan and Imogen's ongoing support warms our hearts. They remind us of the important vision to not only protect our oceans and marine life today, but to ensure our future generations have healthy oceans to call their own tomorrow.

Let's Go Surfing

The team at Let's Go Surfing have been a long-time supporter of AMCS campaigns, and fantastic advocates for the ocean, both in and out of the water.

They are Ecotourism Certified, and practice what they preach; using eco-friendly wetsuit washing products, recycling wetsuits, avoiding plastic use wherever possible, and enforcing strict water saving protocols across their entire operation.

Just like last year, the team at Let's Go Surfing decided that World Oceans Day would be the perfect day on which to reaffirm their support. Thank you!



Charlotte & Annabel

Charlotte (7 years) and Annabel (5 years) celebrated World Oceans Day by tidying up their local beach.

The sisters do regular beach clean-ups. They managed to rope in some like-minded school friends to join them in the spirit of World Oceans Day!

Their mother, Hazel, said, *"the girls were really* enthusiastic about doing our own beach clean up for World Oceans Day."

"I just wanted to say thanks for creating such an accessible avenue for young people to learn and be more involved."

The girls said, "Any day can be Oceans Day!"

Charlotte and Annabel are our next generation and why we are protecting our oceans - their passion and commitment are an inspiration to us!







Clean, thriving oceans

You're tackling plastic pollution to protect our oceans...



We Banned The Bag!

Our historic win in NSW means that single-use plastic bags are finally banned across ALL of Australia!

Thanks to historic laws won by AMCS

Supporters, on 1 June 2022 NSW joined the rest of the country in banning lightweight plastic shopping bags.

Plastic bags are one of the most lethal plastic killers of ocean animals. They escape and float easily in air and water, travelling long distances to reach the ocean. They last for generations, taking up to 1,000 years to fully break down.

Turtles mistake them for their favourite food, jellyfish. Once eaten, these soft plastics block their stomachs and they starve.

This is an incredible victory for wildlife.

We couldn't have done it without you! Our oceans are a little safer thanks to all the ocean lovers and organisations who fought with us to ban the bag.

\sim Take Action: Ban thick plastic bags

Some retailers have been handing out thick plastic bags as if they were singleuse, circumventing bans on lightweight plastic bags.

Just like other soft plastics, heavyweight plastic bags are lethal for wildlife.

Add your name to the petition for a ban on thick plastic bags at www.amcs.org.au/heavyweight

Ghost Gear Collab

AMCS has joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI).

Ghost nets and other fishing gear are one of the most lethal types of marine debris in our oceans.

Gillnets, trawl nets and crab pots are designed to catch and kill fish. So it is no surprise that when they are lost at sea, they continue doing exactly what they were designed for. Catching and killing unsuspecting animals.

We must tackle the threat of lost fishing gear in our oceans.

AMCS has joined forces in a collaboration between conservationists, governments and industry bodies. The initiative seeks to scale up solutions, drive fisheries reform and change policies. Together we will work to ensure lost or damaged fishing gear is recovered and brought back to shore, before it can hurt wildlife.

🜐 Read: Learn More About Ghost Nets

Ghost nets are a deadly trap for ocean animals, including endangered turtles and sea lions. Abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear is a lethal entanglement risk, floating in the ocean for many decades without breaking down.

But how much of a problem is ghost gear, and what can we do about it? Visit amcs.org.au/ghostgear

Defending ocean habitats



Christmas & Cocos Win

Two huge new marine parks around Australia's Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands declared!

These were co-designed by the local island communities that rely on healthy oceans for their culture, lifestyles and livelihoods.

Incredibly, 99% of the parks are highly protected sanctuary areas. Together they form one of the largest marine sanctuary areas in the world – 739,000 square km.

They provide an important safe haven for marine life that is under increasing pressure from industrial fishing, climate change and pollution.

These Indian Ocean Territories are uniquely Australian and globally significant.

- Christmas Island's famous annual red crab migration was described as one of the 10 natural wonders of the world by Sir David Attenborough. Its thriving rainforests, deserted beaches and fringing reef provide a haven for unique and rare seabirds, land crabs and marine life.
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands' azure waters are home to an incredible array of marine life including tropical fishes, corals, turtles, manta rays and dolphins.

These new marine parks are a major contribution to international efforts to conserve our oceans with a network of highly protected areas.

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You're protecting marine areas...

Exmouth Gulf

Where the desert meets the sea, the turquoise waters of Ningaloo Reef are known the world over.

The World Heritage Listed Ningaloo Coast contains a high diversity of habitats. Including fringing coral reefs, lagoons, sandy beaches, estuaries and mangroves.

Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo's nursery, is a mega-diverse environment. It's a critical resting and nursing area for one of the world's largest humpback whale populations and a place of global importance.

However, Exmouth Gulf is under ongoing threat from industrialisation. A newly announced Exmouth Gulf Taskforce confirms the urgent need for environmental protection.

The announcement comes as a response to the Environmental Protection Authority report on Exmouth Gulf in 2021. This confirmed the Gulf is of global importance. It's fragile, under pressure and needs conservation attention. New protected areas are a high priority.

These first steps to create reserves, a Taskforce and a marine park in Exmouth Gulf are most welcome. But there is a long way to go.

Learn More

Sign up to get updates from the Protect Ningaloo campaign at www.protectningaloo.org.au



Defending ocean habitats and species



Monitoring Mission

The past few months have seen our Reef under the international spotlight for many reasons.

In March, the UNESCO and IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission visited the Reef to assess firsthand the Australian governments' management of the Reef for the World Heritage Committee.

Thanks to your support, AMCS and WWF briefed the Mission officials on climate change, fisheries, threatened species and water quality. We provided them with recommendations and solutions for addressing these threats to the Reef.

The World Heritage Committee Meeting and the Reef 'In Danger' decision has been postponed indefinitely. We will continue to grow our movement and build support for protecting the Reef, tosecure a strong decision from the World Heritage Committee at the next meeting.

Reef Tourism Community

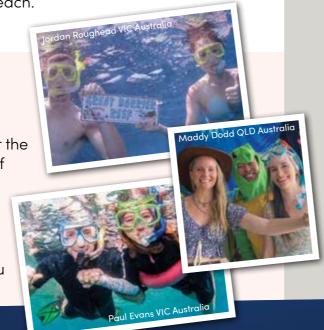
Our Reef campaigners visited the Whitsundays in June to reconnect with our Reef community.



Reef tourism operators are vital to building support for protecting the Reef.

Our team was so inspired and uplifted by how adaptive and resilient the tourism industry is. Despite enduring a global pandemic and bleaching - tourism is powering along and operators are keen to advocate for protecting the Reef.

A highlight of the trip was spotting over 30 turtles whilst exploring Pioneer Bay with Whisper Cruises - the only electric boat in Airlie Beach.





Trouble in Paradise

Volunteer, Natasha Tomlin, created an amazing community art project in Cairns. Titled 'Trouble in Paradise'. The art installation shines a spotlight on plastic pollution.



Natasha (pictured)

collaborated with talented artists from Fat Frog Studios and local community groups.

Together they created a plastic reef sculpture made from debris collected on Far North Queensland's shorelines.

Reef Bleaching Update

Our Reef is in hot water. Sadly, our Great Barrier Reef endured its fourth mass bleaching event in seven years. This summer, following the hottest December sea temperatures on record. bleaching impacted 91% of all Reefs surveyed.

Corals can recover from these marine heatwaves. But they need time and the right conditions. As the water starts to cool, corals may regain colour and health. The full extent of the bleaching impact will not be known for months.

This is the first time the Reef has suffered a mass bleaching event in a La Nina summer. A worrying event as La Nina normally brings cool weather due to increased cloud cover, wind and rain. This summer should have brought a cool reprieve. And a chance for Reef recovery. But recordbreaking marine heatwaves are causing heat stress and coral bleaching.

Our Reef Photo Project

It's been inspirational to see the wide array of photos and messages submitted to the Our Reef photo album. This photo album is collecting pictures and stories from all over the globe. To remind decision-makers how incredible our Reef is and why it is still worth fighting for.

We'll present this visual petition to the new Australian government and World Heritage Committee in the coming months. Urging them to protect our beloved Reef. Please share your photo and story, it's easy! ourreef.org.au



Clive Palmer Mine Update

Thanks to you, the proposed Central Queensland Coal (CQC) mine was knocked back by the Queensland government. Deemed an unacceptable environmental impact. It was the first time the Qld government has ever rejected a coal mine.

The proposal has since sat on the previous Federal environment minister's desk for 12 months. The final decision on the mine is now with the new federal environment minister, Tanya Plibersek. Following the consultation period, we hope Minister Plibersek rejects this mine once and for all. Thank you for your actions and support to ensure it never sees the light of day.





Defending ocean habitats and species



Sea Lion Success

Thanks to you, 98% fewer Australian sea lions are being killed in SA fishery nets.

Australian sea lions are unique to our shores. These beautiful animals are only found along the coastline of South Australia and Western Australia. Their numbers have fallen by over 60% in four decades, and they are now endangered.

With an estimated 6,500 adults left, they are facing an extinction crisis.

10 years ago, we helped a Commonwealth fishery off SA put in place a strategy to protect Australian sea lions. This has resulted in an estimated 98% reduction in fatalities. Meaning we have saved the lives of over 2,000 endangered Australian sea lions in the past decade.

This success is thanks to the support of passionate people like you.

📕 Expand Our Strategy To WA

With the success demonstrated in South Australia, we are now turning our attention to Australian sea lion populations in Western Australia, where much less is known about sea lion populations and we suspect sea lions continue to be killed in the gillnet fishery.

Colonies are smaller and at even more risk from bycatch death. This is made worse by the fact that appropriate regulation and monitoring in Western Australia is dangerously lacking.

amcs.org.au/rescue-plan



Sawfish Rescue Launch

Thanks to you we've funded the Malak Malak rangers' rescue mission with scientists from Charles Darwin University to help critically endangered sawfish.

With overwhelming support from ocean lovers like you. We have funded a unique, globally significant rescue mission. This project will save young sawfish from a horrific fate.

Largetooth sawfish pups are born at river mouths. They spend their first few years of life in freshwater floodplains, then head out into our big blue ocean.

Because of global warming, seasonal floodplain waters will recede too fast leaving sawfish literally out to dry.

Young sawfish become trapped in isolated billabongs. Blistering heat and reduced water flow causes their underwater homes to dry up and vanish.

Without rescue, they won't survive to see the ocean.

Because of you, the Sawfish Rescue Mission is ready to launch in spring. We're on a mission to find sawfish trapped in drying billabongs and release them into the Daly River.



Species Hotspots

Thanks to your support, we've created a first-of-its-kind map. The map shows protected species hotspots subject to high levels of commercial gillnet fishing. Our new map has identified important regions for endangered and protected marine wildlife in our Great Barrier Reef. It shows how dangerous gillnet fishing overlaps with these areas.

Gillnet fishing is a big threat to iconic marine wildlife like dugongs, sawfish and turtles. They can become entangled and drown in the large, almost invisible nets.

For example, the map shows the Bowen-Whitsunday region is important for dugongs, four species of turtle, two types of dolphin and three species of sawfish. Yet has some of the highest gillnet fishing effort on the Great Barrier Reef. www.amcs.org.au/SpeciesHotspots

Australian Snubfin Dolphin

Australian snubfin dolphins are found only in Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. They live in small isolated populations along the top of Australia's coastline, from the Kimberley WA to Gladstone QLD.

Numbers are so low that the species is considered vulnerable to extinction. The loss of just one adult can have devastating impacts on populations. One of their main threats is incidental capture in gillnets set to catch fish such as barramundi in QLD.

What is a gillnet?

Gillnets are long, virtually invisible nets used in commercial fishing. But these nets are indiscriminate killers. They catch, trap and drown threatened species like dugongs, dolphins and turtles.

Take Action



You're protecting threatened species...

Green Turtle

The Great Barrier Reef is home to the world's largest green turtle nesting event. Up to 100,000 turtles return to Raine Island to lay their eggs!

Sadly, this population of green turtles is in decline. Global warming is causing 99% of all hatchlings to be born as females. Each year, returning turtles run the gauntlet of gillnets through their main feeding grounds. While also suffering the consequences of plastic pollution and nest predation by feral pigs.

Our Reef should be a refuge for these species. We need to be providing protection against a cruel death in gillnets in these hotspots.

These areas identified in our map, should be prioritised for a network of Net-Free Zones. Help threatened species populations, sign petition at amcs.org.au/action-hotspots





Seafood Assessed

Every three years we update our GoodFish Guide assessments.

We recently assessed 38 Queensland and 29 New South Wales wild caught seafood options.

Much of Queensland's iconic seafood remains unsustainable. Many have been red listed in our GoodFish sustainable seafood guide.

New South Wales has seen a dramatic drop in green-listed seafood options from 11 in 2018 to just three.

NSW waters are heating at some of the fastest rates in the world, at up to 4x the global average. Having up to 80% of a fish stock taken out of the water is not a safe or sustainable way to manage a fish stock in a global ocean heating hotspot.

Our latest update recommends popular seafood items in Queensland should be avoided. Due to either overfished stocks, dangers to marine wildlife posed by the fishing methods or a history of under-reporting.

Large number of amber listings mean NSW sustainable seafood lovers are recommended to eat less of some NSW seafood options.

There are, however, some success stories. Our GoodFish assessors green listing most of the QLD Reef Line Fishery's target catch. The Guide also adds several new sustainable seafood options caught from Great Barrier Reef waters to the green list.

Meet: Reef Fisher, Chris Bolton

Local handline Reef Line fisher, Chris Bolton shares his incredible journey to sustainability.

"When my daughter was born, that really got me thinking about the future.

I was catching a lot of fish back then. I sat back and looked at it and I thought if I keep catching this sort of volume of fish - basically it is not sustainable. I really thought about the next generation, and the one after that and the one after that."

The Reef Line fishery has done the hard work. Fishers work within a world class marine park that uses satellite tracking under a harvest strategy ensuring fish stocks are kept at healthy and resilient.

"I catch one at a time and take really good care of every single fish.

My grandfather fished exactly the same way - hand lines. All by hand. One line, one hook, one sinker and catch the fish one by one. If fisheries aren't sustainable, we have no future."

- 🕩 Watch

Spend some time with local Reef Line fisher, Chris Bolton. As he shares his incredible journey to sustainability. And highlights the power he has as a fisher in creating a healthy ocean for future generations. Watch amcs.org.au/ReefLineFisher



Art For GoodFish

Renowned Bondi artist, Easty Beasty paints new mural for sustainable seafood.

We recently worked with local Sydney artist Easty Beasty to produce an artwork on



world renowned Bondi Beach. This is part of a broader plan to bring the GoodFish campaign into public spaces around Australia.

The mural includes sustainable fish species painted in blue facing healthy oceans juxtaposed with unsustainable species painted in red.

The sustainable seafood inspired mural titled 'Make a Swap for the Sea' is painted on the seawall at iconic Bondi Beach. The mural seeks to encourage people to use our GoodFish sustainable seafood guide.





Beasty Ella Thrupp is renowned Bondi artist Easty Beasty

She said: "Art's always had a place in driving change for good.



I'm proud to be able to take part in an important cause with my art. Especially when it's something I wholeheartedly believe in.

Conscious seafood choices are paramount to helping our oceans stay healthy. I hope the mural can prompt people to make those good choices."

🛾 GoodFish

GoodFish is a sustainability initiative designed to help Australians to know more about their seafood choices.

The complexity of ocean ecosystems means knowing what's best to buy can be confusing. GoodFish does the hard work by providing an independent guide to truly sustainable seafood.

We are bringing together all seafood lovers, chefs, fishers, food businesses and the public, to protect this precious resource into the future

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Visit goodfish.org.au

Ocean Communitu



What You Love

Protect What You Love recently held "Bill's Talks" in Coral Bay, WA, featuring a number of incredible marine scientists.

From technological approaches, to tiger sharks and the Great Southern Reef, it was a night filled with plenty of fun, and facts!

On the night, over \$1,000 was raised towards marine conservation. We are so grateful to see such a wonderful community of likeminded ocean lovers!

Protect What You Love founder, Tom Cannon, said "it was a really great evening and everyone involved was really generous with their efforts and time for us!".



Renewable Energy Charity Yacht Club Race raised an incredible \$50,000 for ocean conservation.

AMCS crew were invited as guests and beneficiaries to take part in the Renewable Energy Cup. Sailing Sydney Harbour, with corporate challengers competing in the charity race.

Organiser Hamish Wall from Climate Challenge Events, says, 'We're delighted with the response - so much so that we are challenging corporations who hold sustainability as core pillars to join us in support of AMCS, at the next event in March 2023." Visit www.renewcup.org and find out more!



Happy Birthday to our community!

James celebrated his 11th birthday, and instead of aifts asked his friends and family to donate to AMCS. Happy Birthday James!

"I chose AMCS because

right now the sea is under threat from climate change and pollution. Much of the marine life is affected by this and are under threat of extinction.

"Thank you to all my friends who donated to help raise money for the sea and marine life."

Stacey recently celebrated her 60th birthday with her fabulous friends.

As she is a self-described thalassophile, she said "this was a no gift event and instead, it was a fundraiser for AMCS, my favourite charity".

Stacey and her fabulous friends raised over \$8,800 for marine conservation.

Happy diamond jubilee Stacey!

Community Fundraisers: Thank you to our ocean-loving community. If you would like to raise funds to protect our oceans visit amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas or email supporter@amcs.org.au



Jessica's Decennial

Jessica Stafford-Ewing recently celebrated 10 years as a Sea Guardian.

"I can't believe I am celebrating ten years as a Sea Guardian!"

She spends a lot of time on and in the water, Jessica says:

"I was fascinated by the deep blue as a child. After moving from Melbourne to The Whitsundays as an adult, I naturally became even more drawn to the ocean and its wildlife.

Living at the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef for six years, I felt both blessed and disheartened by my own 'backyard'. Such a magnificent beauty but rapidly becoming more damaged and polluted, threatening ocean wildlife and their homes."

Jessica says she is proud to support since 2012: "AMCS is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. An independent charity, they depend on donations & support from the public."

Thanks to the support of our amazing Sea Guardians like Jessica, we can continue to defend our iconic reefs, beautiful oceans and the precious marine life that depend on them.

Become a Sea Guardian today!

You too can become an advocate and guardian for our oceans as an AMCS Sea Guardian with an affordable monthly gift. Visit amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians



Celebrating our ocean loving community...



Remembering Kate

Dr Kay Adelaide (Kate) Perkins was an amazing woman, vivacious, enthusiastic and always ready to help.

She had an affinity with the natural world. Kate championed being respectful and supportive of the environment, conservation and animal welfare.

Kate fostered positive change in all those around her. She was tenacious. Kate achieved a high standing in her chosen career. A specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist, no mean feat, particularly for a woman.

She had a bright and curious mind that investigated a broad range of subjects in depth. She believed in Good Health and Wellbeing, Gender Equality, Life Below Water, and Life on Land.

Kate left a heartfelt Ocean Legacy to protect our blue oceans to continue her legacy of championing the natural world. It brings us joy to ensure her legacy gift accelerates the positive changes being made to support her strong vision for a better world.

🛫 Leave An Ocean Legacy

By giving a gift in your Will, you will hand on a wilder, more diverse and beautiful ocean planet to future generations. Visit amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy





Thank you for your support

The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. We have defended Australia's oceans for over 50 years.

Thank you for your help to ensure Australia's coasts and oceans remain healthy and free for future generations.



Contact Us

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The Australian Marine Conservation Society acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and sea country, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that this land and sea was and always will be Aboriginal land and sea.





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Donate today L 1800 066 299 (freecall) marineconservation.org.au/ttt