

Summer 2023



Turning THE TIDE

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With Thanks to YOU 

Creature Feature



Did You Know?

Scientists believe the separation of the two species can be traced back to the Ice Age, when temperate waters became colder and the blue groper population probably split and moved up the west and east coasts.

Friendliest Fish

Blue gropers are large, long-lived, slow-growing fish that are well known by snorkelers and divers for their friendly and inquisitive natures.

Despite the name, blue gropers are not a groper, but a wrasse. Females and juveniles are brown to green/reddish brown. Adult males range from deep navy to cobalt blue.

Endemic to Australia, there are two closely related species of blue groper – the western blue groper and the eastern blue groper.

They are important for maintaining the balance in their ecosystem by controlling the numbers of other animals such as crabs and sea urchins.

Threats to blue gropers are mostly from fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.

Until a spearfishing ban in New South Wales in 1969, eastern blue gropers were taken in large numbers by spearfishers. Their western cousins have struggled with similar issues.

Facts & Figures

- COMMON NAME: Eastern Blue Groper
Western Blue Groper
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Achoerodus viridis*
Achoerodus gouldii
- FAMILY: *Labridae*. Blue gropers are not actually a groper (*Serranidae*) but of the wrasse family (*Labridae*).
- BODY SIZE: Males >1m, females <70cm
- WEIGHT: Up to 40-50kgs
- LIFESPAN (IN WILD): Up to 70 years
- DIET: Invertebrates such as various molluscs, crabs, sea urchins, shrimps, molluscs and echinoderms
- HABITAT: Coastal Reefs
- CONSERVATION STATUS (IUCN): Eastern Near Threatened; Western Vulnerable



Fun Fact

Blue gropers begin life as females and some, but not all, change sex to males later in life.

Meet Bluey & Monty

Blue gropers like 'Bluey from Clovelly' or 'Monty from Julian Rocks' are much loved by locals.

Bluey from Clovelly

Legendary Clovelly Bay groper, named Bluey, was thrust into the political spotlight in 2002, when he was killed by an unknown spear fisherman. The then NSW premier Bob Carr reacted emotionally to the news and said "I have swum with him... He was a friend of

mine.", before announcing five new aquatic reserves to protect marine life. Many sightings of "Bluey" have continued to be reported over the decades.

Monty from Julian Rocks

Friendly Monty features in this video (scan the QR code), and is well recognised by his missing fin and raggy tail. Divers have reported swimming with Monty for over 20 years.



Blueback © Roadshow

Blueback Big Screen

Adapted from Tim Winton's acclaimed novella, *Blueback* is a heart-warming tale of family, friendship, and the power of one person to make a difference.



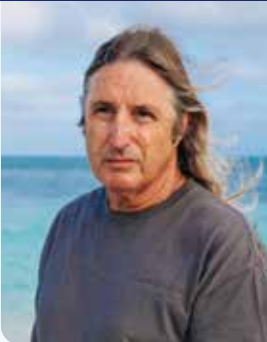
With a star-studded cast including Mia Wasikowska and Eric Bana, the story is retold with the protagonist changed to a young girl, Abby, as she grows up, befriends a blue groper, and works with her mother to protect their local waters from coastal development and commercial fishers and poachers.

Film star Mia Wasikowska says "I hope the film will remind people of their love of the ocean. And everything that it gives us – all the joy and the inspiration and wonder that we feel from the ocean."

Blueback is a touching tale about the power we all have to make a difference.

Tim Winton's Blueback

Tim Winton, one of Australia's best-loved authors and AMCS Patron, penned *Blueback* in 1997 – an inspiring environmental fable for all ages.



As Tim Winton explains, '*Blueback* has been around long enough its first generation of readers are now reading it to their kids and grandkids. **Its themes of courage, authenticity and defence of the natural world are as urgent and relevant as ever.**'

Tim reminisces that *Blueback* was the precursor to his activism and the momentous campaign fighting for Ningaloo, "[When] I published *Blueback* ... I was wondering what it took to save a precious place. ... [I] wonder if perhaps I hadn't unconsciously been rehearsing ... it was shortly after publication that I found myself in a battle for just such a place."

Inspire Ocean Action

Through *Blueback* and the film adaptation, Tim Winton brings ocean conservation to a wide audience and the next generation. Learn more and take action today.

Join our Blue Crew Club:

Sign up for more information and fun blue groper activities and ocean conservation actions at amcs.org.au/blueback

Win!

Enter the draw for free Family Pass of four tickets to *Blueback*, one winner from each state will be selected. Enter the draw at amcs.org.au/blueback-win

Buy Blueback:

Read and keep with you to inspire. All proceeds go to ocean conservation. Buy amcs.org.au/shop/blueback

I'm the keeper of the whales
And all the creatures of the sea.
Of all the coral mansions
down deep in history

Voice of the Sea

"Voice of the Sea" is an unrequited love song to the ocean and a rallying cry to all to protect our oceans. We are honoured and proud that Australian music icon John Williamson has written a wonderful and poignant song for us. "Voice of the Sea" is a beautiful tale aiming to bring all Australians together to be voices for our oceans. And what better way to galvanise the nation than engaging the country's most compelling voices of the future – our children.

Voice Becomes A Choir

We invited schools to be the first to sing "Voice of the Sea" this past December.

At their year-end concerts, students from schools around Australia formed a nationwide choir singing voice for our oceans.

Glenmore Road Public School (pictured) helped launch the song on TV with none other than John Williamson himself joining them to perform.

The greatest conservation victories in history have resulted from people power. We are so proud of this next generation joining the chorus for ocean conservation.



Innocean For Good

Innocean brought the "Voice of the Sea" to life.

We partnered with leading creative agency, Innocean Australia, who brought the song to life through the school program and animated music video. Jasmin Bedir, Innocean CEO, said: *"Together with AMCS we want to make a difference to ensure our oceans remain healthy for tomorrow's generations."*

We are grateful to Innocean for their generosity and special thanks also to Photoplay/Playtime director, Dropbear and illustrator Andrea Innocent.

Aussie Icon: John Williamson

Aussie icon, singer-songwriter, ARIA Hall of Fame member, John Williamson is also an ocean conservationist.

Famous for his environmental ballads, John Williamson's latest release, "Voice of the Sea", calls for all Australians to protect our big blue backyard. John said *"We need more people to sing out and be the voices of our seas. That's why I wanted to support the AMCS with this song because they provide Australians with a way to speak out for our seas through their important conservation work."*



Watch the Music
Video Clip



Voice of the Sea @ @andrea_innocent and animator/director @dropbear from @photoplayfilms



Punching for Healthy Oceans

Chantelle (Chon) Doyle is an ocean advocate and fought for healthy oceans in the boxing ring, raising \$7,855 in donations for marine conservation.

Two years after a shark encounter that left her with severe nerve damage requiring multiple surgeries and ongoing intense rehabilitation, not only has she taken up boxing to further her strength and movement but she's also fighting for ocean and shark conservation.

"I think sharks get a pretty bad rap," she said. "I have this crazy vision that Australia could be a global role model for biodiversity and living with nature and I really think we can be."

Passionate ocean advocate and recovery warrior, Chon took the next step in her recovery and competed in the Sydney Contender Fight Night after months of training. She used the opportunity to raise awareness and funds for AMCS.



 **Read more**

Read more about Chon's story of conservation and recovery: amcs.org.au/chonsmessage



Xanthe Project

Design label, SARAH & SEBASTIAN, recently celebrated their 10th anniversary by announcing the ground breaking, or should we say, wave making, Xanthe Project.

Building on their partnership with AMCS, via their ambitious Xanthe Project, SARAH & SEBASTIAN, has committed one million dollars to ocean conservation over the next decade.

Founders, Sarah Munro and Robert Sebastian Grynko, have selected four ocean related charity partners – Australian Marine Conservation Society, Ocean Impact, Take 3 for the Sea and The Coral Sea Foundation's 'Sea Women for the Great Barrier Reef' program, to be recipients of the funds.

Co-founder Robert Sebastian Grynko said: *"We have purposefully chosen to work with these incredible charities as their mission closely aligns with ours."*

Each partner aligns with our passions across education, activism, political change and commercial impact for our oceans."

Sarah and Robert's love for the ocean is the dominant inspiration for their designs and a driving force for the social and environmental responsibility of the design label.

In Sarah's words: *"I've seen first-hand the fragility of our marine life and am honoured that our brand is on this mission to help turn around some of the devastating impacts on our world below."*



Coral reef, Houtman Abrolhos, Western Australia © Matt Cunneen / Ocean Image Bank

Recycling © AMCS

“We are the guardians and voice for marine life.”

2022 Ocean Wins



Thanks to your generous support, in 2022 AMCS achieved some amazing wins for our oceans. 2022 began with our oceans under more pressure than ever before, and our government failing to take the action needed, instead winding back environmental protections and dismissing climate science to forge ahead with fossil fuel expansion plans. By mid-year we had a sense of optimism, an election where action to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis was front and centre brought a change in government and with it new hope and promises of greater environmental protections and a reduction in carbon emissions. From the bottom of our deep blue hearts, all of us at AMCS thank you for your commitment and support during 2022. Let's stand up together and build on these achievements in 2023.

Ocean Conservation Key Highlights in 2022:

- The huge 744,000 km² Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Parks were announced.
- Australia commits to recycle 100% of virgin plastics by 2040, ahead of negotiations on a global plastics treaty.
- Six states and territories have passed laws banning single-use plastics commonly found in the ocean.
- The 'Fair Catch' campaign launched to strengthen seafood import controls to improve sustainability of seafood sold in Australia.
- The World Heritage's scientific advisory bodies released their report recommending 22 strong actions to tackle climate impacts, poor water quality and unsustainable fisheries to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
- The International Whaling Commission rejected an attempt to overturn the global whaling moratorium and committed to vital conservation programs, including on the bycatch of cetaceans worldwide.
- The Australian government committed \$1.2 billion towards Reef protection and \$24 million to reduce fishing around south-eastern Australia where endemic sharks, skates and rays are caught.
- The Protect Ningaloo campaign secured commitments to protect key areas in Exmouth Gulf from industrial development.
- Historic and overdue announcement to overhaul of Australia's environment laws, including the creation of an independent National Environment Protection Agency.

Annual Report

You can read more about AMCS' 2022 Year in our Annual Report: amcs.org.au/annualreport2022

Ocean Plastic Pollution

Busting Balloons Launch

Did you know that balloons are the biggest plastic killer of seabirds, 32 times more lethal when ingested than hard plastics? Unrecyclable and long lasting, these single-use party decorations lurk for years in the ocean, entangling and killing unsuspecting wildlife. This year we are launching a new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of balloons.

Global Plastics Ambition

Following pressure from ocean lovers to act on plastic pollution, the Australian Government has joined leading nations working to end plastic pollution by 2040. This "High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution" is fighting for a global agreement that is legally binding for signatory countries, with rules on plastics use and targets for eliminating plastic pollution. Together with environmental organisations and ocean scientists across the country, we will be working to ensure Australia leads by example, by regulating the use of plastic packaging in Australia and preventing plastic from leaking into the natural environment.

Single-Use Plastics Momentum

Because of you, a legislation landslide is happening across Australia, as our movement to ban single-use plastics gains momentum. With Victoria's ban commencing this month, and New South Wales banning single-use plastics last November, six of Australia's eight states and territories have now implemented laws to end the use of unrecyclable and highly littered plastics such as straws, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton bud sticks. But wait, there's more! Jurisdictions such as South Australia, Queensland and the ACT are now racing ahead to ban more single-use plastics over the next two years, with plastics such as styrofoam packaging, thick plastic bags and coffee cups containing plastic in their sights. None of this would have been possible without your help! Nearly 20,000 people have signed our petition to ban single-use plastics, and thousands of ocean lovers made submissions to state and territory governments supporting these bans and calling for action. Keep up to date with the latest progress on our plastics scorecard amcs.org.au/plasticsscorecard



Fight Plastic Pollution: Show your support for eliminating plastic pollution with our brand new "Fight Plastic" tee shirt, which includes a beautiful turtle on the back with the slogan "Clean oceans, healthy planet." amcs.org.au/fightplasticshirt



Blue Carbon

South-east Queensland cattle farmer Lindsay Titmarsh first noticed the tree when he was walking through the area 20 years ago. *"When I saw this tree I knew it was old, it was the oldest one I have ever seen."*

Carbon dating confirmed the mangrove tree was more than 700 years old.

"When I found out how old it was, I named it the Magna Carta tree because if you go back that far you get to the year 1215, which was Magna Carta days," Mr Titmarsh said "It's still alive and it's even still got fruit on it."

The tree is currently the oldest mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) on record in Australia and most likely the world, but there could be older mangroves yet to be found.

Blue Carbon Hero: Mangroves

Coastal wetlands are also known as 'blue carbon' ecosystems. Small but mighty – they are crucial for carbon storage. Coastal wetlands cover less than 1% of the ocean and yet they store over 50% of the seabed carbon reserves¹.

In fact, blue carbon ecosystems sequester 2 to 4 times more carbon than terrestrial forests on an area basis.

Mangroves are an example of a marine ecosystem that stores carbon. Mangrove habitats are also critical fish nurseries.

Saving Our Reef From Water Pollution

In September last year the Queensland government agreed to reduce pollution from damaging our Reef by enforcing water pollution laws.

Water pollution is a huge issue for inshore areas of our Reef and the marine life found there. Reef habitats including seagrass – essential for protected species like dugongs and turtles – are increasingly threatened by the pollution flowing from some properties.

Together, we submitted over 4,400 signatures from ocean lovers like yourself, calling on the Queensland Government to save the Reef from water pollution!

You spoke, and the government listened – they have now:

- increased funding to support farmers to do the right thing by adopting cleaner, more profitable practices,
- and enforce pollution laws.

Thank you for being a voice for our Reef, and the marine life that depends on it.

Thank you for supporting the #Fightforourreef!

Take action

Dugongs rely on clean water and healthy seagrass meadows to survive and reproduce. The Australian and Queensland Governments are failing to meet their own water quality targets, allowing pollution to continue to damage the Great Barrier Reef. Sign our petition to tell the government to get serious about Reef Water Quality targets. amcs.org.au/waterquality

Dugong Feeding On Seagrass © AMCS

World Heritage Report

In November, the World Heritage Committee's scientific advisors released their Reactive Monitoring Mission (RMM) report containing 22 actions and a recommendation for the Great Barrier Reef be listed as 'in Danger'.

The expert mission assessed the condition of the Reef in March 2022, while the sixth mass coral bleaching event was unfolding. AMCS provided technical expertise and briefings. The RMM report highlights the urgent need for the Australian governments to enact policies that limit global warming to 1.5 degrees – a critical threshold for the survival of coral reefs.

What's the significance?

The Report shows our Reef is in trouble and spells out the critical steps needed to protect it. The Report provides a clear road map for the Australian and Queensland governments to protect our Reef from global warming, water pollution and damaging fishing but we must act quickly.

All 22 actions must be implemented if the Australian government is serious about saving our Reef. The World Heritage Committee will consider the report and make a decision about the 'in Danger' listing in 2023 when they next meet.

Take Action

The UNESCO and IUCN's Reactive Monitoring Mission report outlines 22 actions the Australian and Queensland governments must implement if they are serious about saving our Reef. Urge the government to take these key steps now: amcs.org.au/RMMaction

Recent Reef News

Thanks to your support, we have great Reef news to share with you.

Coral Over Coal

Clive Palmer-owned Central Queensland Coal mine, proposed within 10 km of the Reef's World Heritage Area, is the first an Environment Minister has proposed be rejected under Federal Law. With a final decision due at the time of going to press, together we have shown people power can influence decisions for our magnificent Reef.

Cameras On Boats

Commercial gillnets and trawling harm threatened species in the Great Barrier Reef. The Australian government has announced funding for 'e-monitoring' technology on reef fishing boats including video cameras that will provide data on the numbers of endangered species caught as bycatch. AMCS wants to see cameras on all boats in the high risk gillnet and trawl fisheries.

\$1.2bn Reef Funding

The October 2022 federal budget committed \$204 million to the Great Barrier Reef – part of the election promise to invest \$1.2 billion before 2030. The funds will be invested in tackling local threats to build our Reef's resilience to global warming, including water quality and commercial fisheries bycatch reduction.

Summer 2023 Reef Bleaching Warning

Recent reports show record heat over northern parts of the Great Barrier Reef, raising fears of another summer of coral bleaching.

International Marine Congress

This February AMCS and Traditional Owners of sea country will attend the International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), a global forum to inform, inspire and act on marine protected areas.

The forum brings together ocean conservation professionals and high-level officials with Indigenous peoples and cultures from around the world to collaborate and learn about ocean conservation from Indigenous leadership.

We are honoured to sponsor a delegation of Rangers and Traditional Owners whose sea country includes some of the Northern Territory's most special places.

Their sea country is home to significant natural and cultural values, with extensive mangrove forests, seagrass meadows, islands and reefs, and home to Australia's second largest dugong population and six species of turtle.

Fund Our Congress Trip

We have a window of opportunity right now. AMCS needs to act quickly to speak for our special places and the marine species that call them home.

Please chip in to send our CEO and Campaign Manager to the conference to ensure Australia is leading the way and demonstrating global best practice.
amcs.org.au/MarineCongress

Great Sandy Progress

The Great Sandy Marine Park is an area of exceptionally high natural and cultural value.

Established in 2006, it covers approximately 6,000 km² and includes Hervey Bay, the Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Inlet and Queensland coastal waters and surrounds the K'gari (Fraser Island) World Heritage Area.

The long awaited draft zoning plan has finally arrived.

Thanks to your submissions, the Queensland government has made significant steps in restoring the health of the Great Sandy Marine Park.

Threatened species such as turtles and dugongs will receive a lifeline with harmful commercial gillnetting in conservation zones set to be prohibited.

The government has also proposed increasing sanctuary zones from 3.9% to 12.8%, that's more than a threefold increase with better representative protection of all habitat types with additional protection proposed for the critically endangered grey nurse shark.

The draft is a good start, but the fight to protect these important species and environments is not over. The final zoning plan is due to be released soon.

Visit Great Sandy With Us!

Skip to page 19 and join us on a trip of a lifetime with us exploring the region.

Take Action

We are looking for community champions to help grow a positive network of ocean champions and drive attendance at events. Register your interest via email volunteer@amcs.org.au

Rescue NSW Marine Parks

We're fostering a sense of love and passion for marine sanctuaries, creating a paradigm shift for the future of the magnificent NSW coastline and seas.

The NSW marine parks and sanctuaries are currently awaiting release of draft zoning plans for all five marine parks. NSW's ocean estate is under threat from loss of habitat, pollution, overfishing and unsustainable development; devastating marine biodiversity and putting the NSW coastal way of life and economy at risk.

The threats are further compounded by the impact of climate change, with NSW waters experiencing heating at some of the fastest rates in the world - up to four times the global average.

Community Action

Marine sanctuaries are backed by Australian communities. In November, the community came together at Parsley Bay, Sydney to call on the NSW government to restore lost sanctuary areas and expand on the existing network in NSW, including creating a marine park for Sydney. Locals would love to see Parsley Bay, home to the endangered White's seahorse, included as a highly protected marine sanctuary in a marine park.









Read in depth about NSW Marine Parks and threats



Meet The Marine Parks

NSW Marine Parks are home to majestic humpback whales, critically endangered grey nurse sharks, threatened black cod, weedy sea-dragons, little penguins, fur seals and unique subtropical corals. There are 6 spectacular marine parks.

-  **Cape Byron Marine Park:** A mecca for megafauna, including leopard sharks, grey nurse sharks, turtles and manta rays.
-  **Solitary Islands Marine Park:** Anemone Bay is home to the highest density of anemone fish anywhere in the world. Also, the park is home to 90 species of corals.
-  **Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park:** Home to a colony of little penguins, the critically endangered grey nurse shark, endangered cauliflower corals and the white's seahorse.
-  **Jervis Bay Marine Park:** Treasured for its seagrass meadows, dolphins, little penguins, turtles, seal colonies, weedy sea-dragons, port jackson sharks and undersea caves.
-  **Batemans Marine Park:** Home to little penguins, a vulnerable seal colony and the critically endangered grey nurse shark.
-  **Lord Howe Island Marine Park:** Home of the world's most southern tropical coral reef and the only fringing coral reef lagoon in NSW.

There is a gap in the Sydney region where there is less than 1% marine protection. There are national parks on land, but none in the sea.



Humpback Whales, Pacific Ocean © Imagine Earth Photography

Mother dolphin and calf, Koombana Inlet, Banbury, Western Australia © Lewis Burnett / Ocean Image Bank



Green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) feeding on seagrass © Laura Dits

New AMCS Doco

Our new Give Flake A Break documentary reveals the dark side of fish 'n' chips.

The film shows that endangered sharks are caught in Australian waters and being unwittingly consumed by Aussies.

Featuring insights from scientists who have DNA tested fish on sale and proved the presence of endangered shark meat, interviews with retailers and chefs who won't sell shark meat, and a commercial fisher who's leading the way in environmentally sustainable fishing.

The documentary proposes real-world and effective solutions to prevent endangered species from being caught, and every-day tools people can use to choose environmentally sustainable seafood that help save sharks and keep our oceans healthy.

Filmed by the crew who brought you Envoy: Shark Cull - a documentary film exposing the Queensland and NSW shark control programs - Give Flake A Break will expose the horror of endangered sharks ending up on Aussie plates.

 **Will you #GiveFlakeABreak?**

Watch the Give Flake A Break documentary at amcs.org.au/GFAB



Whale Agenda

Thanks to you, AMCS Threatened Species Campaign Manager, Alexia Wellbelove had a seat at the table for the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in October last year.

The global whaling moratorium was successfully maintained. An agreement of a critical resolution to tackle the threat of ocean plastic pollution was a momentous step forward.

The most disappointing moment was when pro-whaling countries walked out to block a vote regarding the proposal to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. A desperate tactic to delay the proposal that has majority support, and has been before the Commission for more than a decade.

"The tactics used by pro-whaling countries at the meeting to block a vital whale conservation measure were shameful," said Alexia. "With the world's whales and dolphins facing a wider range of threats today than ever before, we need nations to work together to ensure their future."

Thanks to you, AMCS was in the room and able to provide advice and support the amazing leadership that Australia continues to show. It was a privilege to be the NGO representative on the Australian delegation - a dedicated group of experts who work to deliver strong conservation outcomes for whales and dolphins.

In The Field

Thanks to your generous support, AMCS has been able to fund vital research and on-the-ground conservation work.

Exmouth Gulf Dolphin Research

Protect Ningaloo and AMCS supported early career female marine scientist to conduct important research about the distribution and behaviour of coastal dolphins such as the Australian humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahulensis*) and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*) on the western coast of Exmouth Gulf.



Fraser Turtle Hospital

Thanks to your support we are funding a University of Sunshine Coast proposal to build a Fraser Coast Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Research Centre in Hervey Bay.

The global turtle hotspot, has seen back to back flooding events devastating seagrasses, leaving turtles starving. The turtle rehabilitation facility will open its doors this year.



Environmental Law Reform

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the federal legislation meant to protect our wildlife and their habitats, but a 2020 report found it is out-dated and requires fundamental reform.

Australia is facing substantial environmental decline driven by urbanisation, inappropriate development, land clearing and climate change. The EPBC Act is failing and requires significant reform if we are to protect and restore Australia's wild places and the animals that live there.

In December 2022 the Government released its long overdue response to the 2020 report. In their response, the Government commits to:

- Delivering stronger laws to protect precious places, animals and plants, together with legally binding national environmental standards
- The establishment of an independent National Environment Protection Agency.

There are many important high level commitments in this ambitious set of reforms, and we will be working in the coming months to make sure the ambition is sufficient to tackle the extinction crisis facing our marine wildlife. These ambitious environmental law reform included zero extinction goal. We welcome their commitment.

This is a once-in-a generation opportunity to fix Australia's environment laws and protect our special places and species.

Fair Catch Launch

It's time for Australia to make all seafood 'fair'.

As a leading member of the Fair Catch Alliance, we've launched a ground-breaking campaign to address a big problem with Australia's imported seafood. Despite being a nation girt by sea, 65% of our seafood is imported, and it doesn't have to meet the same standards as local seafood.

There are no laws to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), unethical, or unsustainable seafood from hitting your plate.

Most of us want to know what seafood we're eating. We don't want seafood from fisheries or farms that damage the marine environment, threaten wildlife or which have terrible working conditions or seafood slavery. And we want our Aussie seafood industry to be healthy, not competing with cheap dodgy imports.

So we're campaigning for stricter importing and labelling laws to make sure Aussies can trust their Friday night fish.

Take Action




We need your help! Join our investigations team and help survey fish counters and seafood menus across the country. Sign up here: amcs.org.au/FairCatch



Did You Know?

About one fifth of global fisheries catches are thought to be IUU.

What is 'IUU'?

-  **Illegal:** when any national, regional, or international regulations are broken. This refers to unlicensed 'pirate' fishing vessels operating outside the laws of any country. It also includes legitimate vessels breaking the rules, like using banned fishing methods, fishing at times or in areas where they shouldn't (like marine sanctuaries), taking more than the allowed catch, or taking banned species.
-  **Unreported:** when fishing activities and catches are not reported when it is required by law, or they are misreported or under-reported. Unfortunately, there are often no laws or weak laws, such as a lack of requirements to report unwanted and discarded catch, or to record details of all species landed. Poor reporting makes it very hard to manage fisheries sustainably, but is not always illegal!
-  **Unregulated:** when fishing vessels operate in areas and/or target species with no or few relevant regulations.

IUU fishing is linked to poor labour standards and human right abuses.

Watch

amcs.org.au/FairCatch or scan the QR Code to learn about the Fair Catch Alliance.



GoodFish & Chips

On 2nd December AMCS hosted a GoodFish and Chip Truck at Bondi Beach, with renowned chef Ben Shewry serving sustainable fish and chips to the public.

The event drew attention to mislabelling of flake, commonly used in fish and chips, by pretending to have a number of endangered shark and ray species on the menu.

Endangered sharks and rays are being sold as 'Flake' and you could be eating them without knowing because there is no legal obligation in Australia to label shark meat as its correct species or where it was fished from. Incredibly, it's perfectly legal in Australia to fish for several threatened species.

Ben Shewry, renowned chef and owner of Attica and our shark scientist, Dr Leonardo Guida, actually served rock flathead from a sustainable fishery in Corner Inlet, but many visitors on the day were shocked to learn they could be eating endangered species in their fish and chips!

It's a reminder that what's under the batter matters!

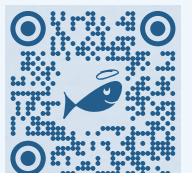
Watch

Check out highlights from the activation on the day, and share the video with your community to spread the word about Giving Flake A Break. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOgGjqkQzNA>



Give Flake A Break

Give flake a break and use GoodFish to find sustainable alternatives when eating fish and chips. goodfish.org.au





James & Wanda's Legacy

United States citizens James and Wanda Park fell deeply in love with Australia's natural wonders in the late 1970's, and especially, the Great Barrier Reef.

What is remarkable, is how much of that love Wanda retained upon her return to the States. She was so taken with the uniqueness of the Australian seascape that half a century later Wanda left a significant portion of her sizable estate to support her beloved Australian oceans.

An accomplished academic, Wanda very much enjoyed attending lectures and engaging in lively discussions on various subjects encompassing the planet she so dearly loved.

Even in her late seventies, Wanda lived a life of exploring by hiking and visiting nature around the world.

Her wish to have her and husband Jim's ashes cast together into the halcyon waters of the Great Barrier Reef, will soon be realised.

Wanda Park lived to the age of 88 years old and leaves a lasting imprint on nature and on those who were fortunate to have known Wanda. May her memory and legacy be lasting.

Ocean Legacy

Your ocean legacy is a gift that reflects your values and passion for our ocean.

As Australians, the ocean brings us so much pleasure — from childhood memories of sandy toes dipped in the waves, to adult adventures of whale watching, sailing or SCUBA diving, to quiet times strolling the shore, contemplating the world around us.

A bequest to Australia's oceans is a gift you write into your Will after your loved ones have been provided for. Your gift will leave a legacy reflecting your life's passion and the world you want to leave for future generations.

Some people believe that leaving a legacy to a charity is only for the wealthy but this is not the case. Bequests are a way for everyday Australians to leave a lasting impression on the things that really mattered in their lifetime.

Your gift will leave a legacy that contributes to the world you want to give your grandchildren and future generations, the oceans you want them to know, and the marine life you want them to love.

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



Sansom Sea Guardians

Septuagenarians Ian and Margaret Sansom have been Sea Guardians for over 5 years.

Awesome best-friends and partners of 52 years Ian and Margaret say their love of oceans is just part of their *"total love and connection with our landscapes, waterways, and importantly, the wonderful creatures (huge and tiny!) which inhabit them."*

Retired registered nurse, Margaret, and semi-retired conservation architect and astronomy educator, Ian, have been ardent conservationists all their lives, committed to ensuring as healthy a planet as possible for all children.

Although the Sansoms are living largely on their pensions they say, *"we feel privileged to donate equal monthly amounts to a few important charities, as well as the wonderful AMCS. We also speak up for and support all programs and organisations committed to the conservation of this wondrous planet"*.

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



Killer shorts

THE ROCKS PUSH, Australian leaders in men's and boys' recycled swim shorts and sustainable leisurewear, have launched a Summer 2023 limited edition Balmoral Orcas X AMCS.

The swim shorts are made from recycled plastic bottles. There are five bottles in every pair of recycled swim shorts.

THE ROCKS PUSH specifically designs and produces a limited-edition pair of recyclable swim shorts each year for AMCS. Where 100% of the profits are donated to the Australian Marine Conservation Society.

Kirsten Ainsworth, the founder says "THE ROCKS PUSH is committed to building a sustainable future, not just with what we do, but by also supporting others who have the same dream of making tomorrow better."

Balmoral Orcas X AMCS shorts are a limited-edition and a limited supply visit www.therockspush.com

Business Allies

Our business supporters lead by example by operating in the most ethical and sustainable ways possible. They do more than donate money, they demonstrate that businesses can simultaneously flourish and nourish healthy oceans.

Want to become an AMCS business ally? Visit amcs.org.au/CorporatePartner



Protect Our Planet

Recycling giant TOMRA have launched a 6 month campaign to encourage people to recycle and donate their refunds to save wildlife!

In collaboration with Return and Earn NSW and Containers for Change in QLD and WA, TOMRA are working with AMCS and Bush Heritage Australia to help ensure the survival of Australia's native species for generations.

Rémi Duracher, TOMRA's Charity Partnerships Manager says, "TOMRA is very proud to be partnering with AMCS on our 'Protect our Planet' recycling appeal. We share a commitment to protect our oceans and fight plastic pollution in order to help preserve our unique wildlife."

The ambitious new campaign by TOMRA Collections aims to recycle 1.5 million bottles and cans and raise \$150,000 for conservation programs.

How you can help

Join the Protect Our Planet recycling campaign and use your 10c drink container refunds to save wildlife! Simply donate some or all of your containers to AMCS when recycling at a TOMRA reverse vending machine in NSW (Return and Earn), or a container refund point in QLD, WA, or the NT. When you donate your container refund, you are doubling your impact by keeping bottles and cans out of the ocean AND directly supporting our work protecting the homes of whales, turtles and seabirds.

Donate your drink containers today:
amcs.org.au/cash-for-containers

Sailing Adventure

This February, Vasco and Annalise, are embarking on a sailing adventure to bring attention to Western Australia's spectacular coastline through exploration and visual documentation.

They will sail from Perth around Cape Leeuwin then east to Esperance, in a 14 ft sailing dinghy that they have refitted themselves.

Vasco said "I do not want to go just for the sake of having freedom to do it, but to do something greater than oneself. Inspiring, documenting and raising awareness about pressing issues."

He says his greatest concerns are "plastic pollution, rising sea levels, coastal erosion and loss or destruction of maritime habitat. I have seen it myself when out surfing and on the water. The most remote pristine locations have plastic pollution now."

From Australian sea lions to seadragons, the spectacular waters of WA's south coast are home to a wealth of marine life – the proposed South Coast Marine Park will help protect this beautiful coastal and ocean stretch of Western Australia. Join us in wishing Vasco and Annalise a safe journey.

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



Vasco & Annalise



Lake McKenzie, K'Gari (Fraser Island) © zstock

Sandy Whale Experience

Trek the world's largest sand island to drive action and protect the unique and magnificent Great Sandy Biosphere.

Over five days, you'll experience the incredible beauty of World Heritage-listed K'gari (Fraser Island) – an enigmatic melange of tropical rainforest and white sandy beaches, wild wetlands and sand dunes. The trip finishes with a stunning whale watching experience – witness adults and their calves rest and play before heading back to Antarctic waters to feed over the summer.

Best of all, with every step you take, you'll be helping preserve the waters and wildlife of the Great Sandy Marine Park, and protecting Australia's oceans and sea life!

Lean About K'Gari & Great Sandy Biosphere

K'gari is the world's largest sand island. It was listed as a World Heritage Area in 1992 to recognise the island's internationally significant natural features, including the world's tallest and most complete rainforests growing on sand.

K'gari (Fraser Island) has ancient sand dunes. There are 8 overlapping dune systems of different ages, some are more than 700,000 years old – the world's oldest recorded dune-building sequence. The Great Sandy Biosphere is an important site for conservation at a state and global scale.

Join The Adventure

Find out more about this amazing experience and register your interest for more information at inspiredadventures.com.au/event/amcs-kgari-2023

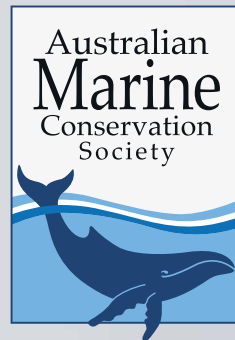


Trip Highlights

- Experience the unique, untamed beauty of World Heritage K'gari (Fraser Island) and the surrounding seas of the Great Sandy Marine Park.
- Explore the world's largest sand island, home to the only rainforests in the world to grow on sand.
- Trek pristine beaches teeming with wildlife and learn about the marine life that call the region home.
- Experience a once-in-a-lifetime event at this whale nursery where mothers bring their calves to be nurtured before making the 5,000 km trek to the Antarctic.



Thank you for your support



The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. We have defended Australia's oceans since 1965.

Thank you for helping to make Australia's coasts and oceans healthy and free for future generations.



Pair of wandering albatrosses, Antarctica © MZPHOTO.CZ

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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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