



Spring 2023



# Turning THE TIDE

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With Thanks to YOU





## Hammer Time!

Hammerhead sharks are one of our most iconic species. There are four species of hammerhead shark in Australia's waters: **Scalloped, Great, Smooth and Winghead.**

The unique 'hammer' shaped head helps the shark zone in on prey, such as small fish, stingrays and octopus, by detecting the direction of a scent, and enabling it to see prey both above and below at the same time.

Hammerheads live for around 20 to 30 years and can range in length from 50cm at birth to 6m adult great hammerheads – the largest of the species.

Hammerheads often travel in schools, separated by sex and ranging from tens to hundreds of individuals.

Australian hammerhead shark populations are in decline. Scalloped hammerheads are estimated to have lost up to 80% of their original population in our waters and have been scientifically assessed as endangered.

Hammerhead sharks are particularly vulnerable to being caught in gillnets (fishing nets) due to the unique shape of their head.



### Fun Facts

- Hammerheads swim slightly tilted on their side to conserve energy.
- Scalloped hammerheads are the only known fish to 'hold their breath' by closing their gills shut when they dive into deep water. This helps keep their blood warm when they're in cold deep water where temperatures can be 5°C!



**Endangered?** Flip to page 5 to read about the latest hammerhead shark conservation status news.

### Facts & Figures

**COMMON NAME:** Hammerhead shark

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Sphyrnidae*

**FAMILY:** Fish

**BODY SIZE:** Max of 6m (great hammerhead), though rarely encountered over 4.5m

**WEIGHT:** Max of around 500kg (great hammerhead)

**LIFESPAN (IN WILD):** 20 to 30 years

**DIET:** Carnivore – stingrays, octopus and small fish

**HABITAT:** Temperate (smooth) and tropical (scalloped, winghead and great) waters

**LOCATION:** Global

**CONSERVATION STATUS:**

**Great Hammerhead:** Endangered (Australian Red List), Critically Endangered (Global IUCN Red List), not listed (EPBC Act 1999)

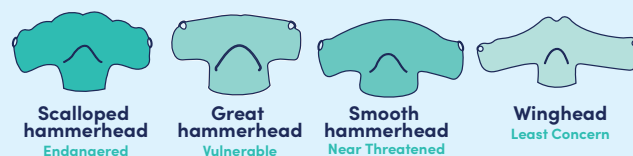
**Scalloped Hammerhead:** Endangered (Australian Red List), Critically Endangered (Global IUCN Red List), Conservation Dependent (EPBC Act 1999)

**Smooth Hammerhead:** Near Threatened (Australian Red List), Vulnerable (Global IUCN Red List); not listed (EPBC Act 1999)

**Winghead:** Vulnerable (Australian Red List; Global IUCN Red List); not listed (EPBC Act 1999)

**POPULATION TREND:** Decline

The distinctive 'hammer-head' part of the shark is called a **cephalofoil**.



## World Oceans Giving Day

On behalf of everyone at AMCS, and our oceans and incredible marine wildlife, thank you!



Watch the World Oceans Day Video

On World Oceans Day, 8 June, we celebrate our life-giving oceans with you, our inspiring ocean-loving supporters.

You have blown us away with your donations and heartfelt words of encouragement! On June 8 your donations were doubled by our incredible matching donors. As a result, we eclipsed our initial target of \$850,000 to raise over \$1 million!

Each generous gift we received on World Oceans Day helps us expand our impact for marine life and ensures we can enact plans to protect our oceans including:

- Growing our GoodFish program and seafood sustainability guide. Increasing demand for sustainable seafood options.
- Boosting our campaign to fight the expansion of offshore oil and gas development.
- Seizing the once in a generation opportunity to affect real, lasting changes to our failing national environmental laws, including launching a new public advertising campaign to build public support for stronger nature laws.

Supercharging our work to make sure the Queensland and federal governments urgently take the action needed to keep our Reef off the 'in Danger' list.



### Thank You

Being able to bring our ocean-loving community together on one special day is inspiring and uplifting. Amazing supporters like you are an inspiration. Thank you!

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

- Blossom (five) donated \$75 from her piggy bank, "I want to give my money to the animals so they can live and be safe".
- The Earthlings and Dolphin Ambassadors of Eastbourne Primary School raised \$80 through their movie fundraising event.
- Team Awesome Oceans Fund rallied their community, raising \$26,285 for the day.
- Blue Water: Valerie Taylor Art Prize donated \$43,400 from proceeds of their art auction.

**Special thanks to our Wavemakers who make the day possible:**

Two Monkeys Foundation

Bruce McMullin Foundation

Charles Warman Foundation

David and Lisa Leckenby

Jane Murphy and Anthony Cooper

JMS Foundation

Keith and Jeannette Ince

Marilyn and Eldon Ball

Morris Family Foundation

Murphy Family Foundation

Myer

Norman Family

Rawson Care Foundation

Renewable Energy Yacht Race

SandCloud

Sarah & Sebastian

Spinifex Trust

The Rocks Push



**Skates On!** AMCS is urging the Federal and Tasmanian Governments to work together to urgently protect the Maugean skate. A Maugean skate Recovery Team has been convened to bring key stakeholders together to help save the Maugean skate from extinction. As the environmental representative on the Recovery Team, we will keep you posted on this important issue.

## If You ❤️ It, Help Save It

The 'if you love it, help save it' campaign has now launched across 70 organisations of the Places You Love (PYL) alliance. In a coordinated effort AMCS, alongside other alliance members, is calling for stronger national environment laws.

Australia's environment laws are being rewritten for the first time in over 20 years. This is a critical opportunity to ensure nature is protected and restored, by replacing the existing outdated laws with stronger laws to improve monitoring and enforcement, and remove loopholes that allow for the ongoing destruction of nature. **We're urgently calling on the Australian government for stronger national environment laws that:**

- Enact strong National Environmental Standards that safeguard nature against further destruction.
- Properly fund habitat restoration and species recovery.
- Create an independent Environment Protection Australia (EPA) that will monitor and enforce these laws.
- Close legal loopholes that favour big businesses over nature.

**This is a once in a generation opportunity to significantly increase protection for our environment and wildlife.**

### Maugean Skate

The Tasmanian endemic Maugean skate is Australia's most endangered ray and is facing extinction within 10 years.

Rarely seen, these skates with their dappled exterior are elusive and well camouflaged in dark estuarine waters.

Described as Australia's 'dinosaur in a bathtub', the Maugean skate has ancient lineage from around the time of Tyrannosaurus Rex and is found only in a small enclosed pocket of water, Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania.

These living dinosaurs are facing imminent extinction because intensive salmon farming, and altered flows from rivers that support hydroelectricity production, are depleting oxygen in the harbour and effectively choking the skate to death.

### Facts & Figures

**COMMON NAME:** Maugean skate, Port Davey skate  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Zearaja maugeana*  
**FAMILY:** Rajidae, Rajiformes, Chondrichthyes, Chordata, Animalia  
**BODY SIZE:** Medium-sized skate 85–86 cm  
**DIET:** Crabs, carid shrimp and mysids  
**LOCATION:** Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania  
**CONSERVATION STATUS:** Endangered  
**POPULATION TREND:** Decline

If you love it, help save it.

Sign the petition



Scalloped hammerhead  
Juvenile Maugean skate wild © Jane Rucker IMA5

## Endangered Hammerheads

For the first time, a 'no-take' rule for hammerheads in Queensland waters will soon be implemented, adding to the existing no-take rules in NSW waters.

In a hard fought campaign, hammerhead sharks have finally had a reprieve. The measures will safeguard at least 37,000 per year from being hunted for their fins and meat in state-managed waters.

Scalloped hammerheads are awaiting a decision in early 2024 by Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek as to whether the species will be listed as 'Endangered'.

Currently, scalloped hammerheads are caught in a loophole and despite being assessed by scientists as Endangered in Australian waters, they're listed under our national nature laws as 'Conservation Dependent', meaning commercial fishing for this endangered species can continue outside of Queensland- and NSW-managed waters. This loophole favours commercial fishing interests at the expense of our environment and wildlife.

### Take Action

You can help save our endangered sharks by signing the petition. [Giveflakeabreak.com](http://Giveflakeabreak.com)



## Working to Recover Sea Lions

Our beloved endemic Australian sea lions are endangered. With fewer than 6,500 mature adults left, our Aussie 'sea puppies' urgently need help.

In May AMCS joined the first meeting of the National Australian Sea Lion Recovery Team. Historically hunted for their fur, Australian sea lion numbers have subsequently fallen by over 60% in four decades and are at such low levels that in 2021 the species was reassessed and listed from 'Vulnerable' to 'Endangered'. The role of the recovery team is to implement the actions identified in the recovery plan – which is currently being updated. As one of two conservation representatives on the team, with your support AMCS will continue to ensure recovery efforts are coordinated and sustained.

The population of sea lions is around 12,000, but it's estimated there are only 6,500 breeding aged individuals, and the population is continuing to decrease. The death of even a single female can have a negative impact on a colony's survival.

### Because of You!

Thanks to your support, AMCS continues to fight to protect the Australian sea lion, and we will keep you updated as the Recovery Team develops plans and actions to save one of our favourite and most iconic marine species.

Australian Sea Lion © Imagine Earth Photography





## Inaugural NT Conference

## Ningaloo Threatened

## Macquarie Island Win!

## Save Our Sanctuaries

**To further protect our amazing biodiversity-rich northern coastlines, AMCS is a major sponsor of the inaugural 2023 Northern Territory State of the Environment Conference.**

The conference provides an opportunity to come together, build community, and collectively reimagine a just future as we confront the biodiversity and climate crises. This event is critically important for raising awareness of the need for marine protection across the Top End. The conference also celebrates the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Environment Centre NT. AMCS works alongside the Centre to campaign for the protection of some of the last remaining intact tropical coastlines anywhere on Earth.

**Giant saltworks proposal threatens Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo.**

Exmouth Gulf is a renowned sanctuary for threatened species such as sawfish, dugongs and turtles, as well as mangroves, seagrasses, corals and sponges.

German industrial company K+S has lodged its plans to build a giant saltworks on the shores of the magnificent Exmouth Gulf, a crucial part of World Heritage-listed Ningaloo ecosystem.

The salt project is proposed to be constructed over a nationally listed wetland, one of the last undisturbed arid-zone wetland ecosystems along the coast. This critical habitat underpins biological productivity in the Gulf, supporting many threatened species. Exmouth Gulf is internationally important, it has previously been formally recommended for World Heritage listing.

The giant salt project's impacts are potentially so serious and far-reaching for threatened species and important habitats – already under pressure from climate change – that it will be assessed by both the WA Environmental Protection Authority and the Australian government at the highest level possible.

### Take Action for Exmouth Gulf

Send an email to support National Heritage listing for Exmouth Gulf, as a key step towards its protection.  
[amcs.org.au/heritage-ningaloo](http://amcs.org.au/heritage-ningaloo)



King Penguins, Macquarie Island © Charles Bergman  
Turtle over Ningaloo Reef © Alex Kydd

**Expansion and upgrade of the marine park around Australia's Macquarie Island is a massive win for our unique Sub-Antarctic ocean wildlife.**

This World Heritage-listed island, halfway between Tasmania and Antarctica, is teeming with wildlife, including albatross, seals, whales and penguins. Some species, such as the royal penguin, are found nowhere else on Earth. By almost tripling the size of the marine park and making around 93% a fully protected marine sanctuary, Australia has given Macquarie's wildlife the best possible chance to survive and thrive into the future. The new park will cover an area more than double the size of Victoria. It is a major contribution towards international efforts to conserve the Southern Ocean.

Across the Southern Ocean, temperatures are rising and the rate of ice loss has tripled. Industrial fisheries are damaging areas of high biodiversity, and the ocean's rich wildlife is struggling to adapt to these rapid changes. Strong sanctuary protection will help build resilience in the face of these growing pressures and will also help to future proof this globally significant wildlife hotspot from threats such as seabed mining.

### Because of You!

Thank you for your support. The expansion and upgrade of the marine park around Australia's Macquarie Island is a massive win for our unique Sub-Antarctic ocean wildlife.

**In June our marine parks team celebrated Sydney Sanctuaries.**

AMCS co-hosted a Celebration for Sanctuaries with Friends of Bongin Bongin at Mona Vale, Sydney, in recognition of the group's work to muster support for a local marine sanctuary proposal.

Bongin Bongin is a much loved area for swimmers and surfers who highly value its rich marine life, including blue groper, dolphins, sharks, octopus, cuttlefish and the occasional sea turtle and penguin.

The event was addressed by ocean legend Valerie Taylor, who shared her story as a former spearfisher and diver who has witnessed the plummeting of fish stocks along the NSW coastline.

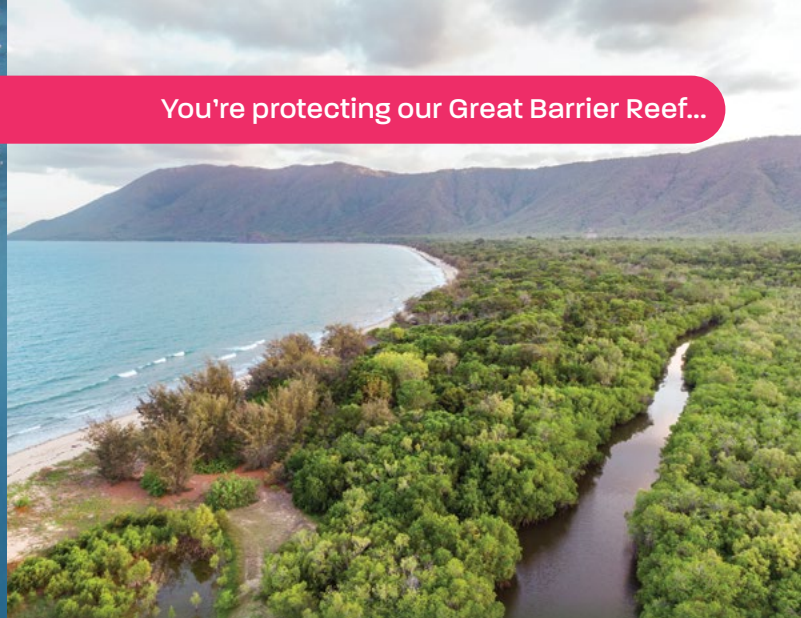
The event celebrated the group's efforts, as it only formed in February, with swimmer groups coming together to protect their precious blue backyard. Extraordinarily, in just 16 weeks, a petition for protecting Bongin Bongin amassed over 6,000 signatures!

The value of small, well protected marine sanctuaries is critical, as seen from recent scientific research on the long established Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic reserve just down the coast. Bongin Bongin is an excellent candidate for sanctuary protection and would form part of an essential connected string of sanctuaries along the region's coastline.



Valerie Taylor at Save Our Sanctuaries event © Neil Thompson Rees





Reef Community

Our north Queensland Fight For Our Reef volunteer community has been making waves with a series of events over the past few months building support for our Reef.

More than 80 people attended our World Heritage Campaign Launch Party in April. They heard from Reef tour operator Mark Fraenkel, and Ema Parker, an inspiring high school student and passionate advocate for Reef conservation.

In May, we co-hosted a community action with the Cairns and Far North Environment Centre, calling for "climate action now" from state politicians as they attended the first Queensland Government regional parliamentary sitting in Cairns in 15 years. Our action helped to spread the message that we need stronger emissions reduction targets to help protect the Great Barrier Reef and the 64,000 jobs it supports.

Our vollies have also been holding market stalls including at Cairns EcoFiesta, where the brilliant team got hundreds of petition signatures calling for Reef protection. It was an incredible and inspiring day!

★ Reef Volunteers

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and backgrounds. You can get involved in a variety of different ways - there's something for everyone. Email volunteer@amcs.org for more information.

Heritage Listing At Risk

Our Reef is still under threat despite UNESCO's recommendation to delay an 'In Danger' decision until Feb 2024.

This decision reflects progress made by governments, especially in addressing fisheries concerns, but more action is needed to address climate change and water quality.

UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and scientific advisor IUCN made 22 recommendations to the Australian and Queensland governments to help protect the Reef in their Reactive Mission Report last year, after visiting the Reef during the fourth mass bleaching event since 2016.

Climate change is the biggest threat to our Reef. With increasing ocean temperatures and a likely El Niño around the corner, governments must act now to reduce emissions and keep warming to 1.5°

Australia must report to UNESCO in February 2024 on progress to protect the Reef or risk an 'In Danger' listing. We will be attending the next World Heritage Meeting in September 2023 to keep the pressure up.

🌿 Take Action

Help us reach 25,000 signatures. Visit amcs.org.au/reef-wh-petition to sign our petition, urging the government to implement UNESCO's roadmap to save our Reef!



A Net-Free Reef Win!

In a huge win for our Reef's iconic wildlife, the Queensland and Australian governments have committed to phasing out gillnets on the Great Barrier Reef. An incredible result that will protect dolphins, dugongs, turtles and sharks.

Gillnets are indiscriminate killers, which are responsible for the deaths of dugongs, turtles, sharks and sawfish. Banning them from the Great Barrier Reef is a huge boost for threatened species, the health of the Reef and the multi-billion-dollar Reef tourism industry.

The majority of gillnets will be removed by the end of 2023, with a limited number of licences operating through to 2027 under strict conditions.

Removing gillnets from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area by June 2027, removes a key threat to Reef species like dugongs, turtles and sawfish and will help their populations to recover and thrive.

**What Are Gillnets?** Gillnets are large, vertically hanging fishing nets, sometimes over one-kilometre long. They are used to catch large amounts of fish such as barramundi and mackerel but they can kill any creature that swims into them.

🐬 Thank you

Over the years tens of thousands of AMCS supporters have sent submissions and signed petitions urging the Queensland government to reduce the impact of gillnets on our Reef - these have made the difference. This huge win is thanks to Ocean Lovers like you, standing up for our incredible reef wildlife.

Wonderful Wetlands

Coastal wetlands are nature's water filters - acting like the kidneys of our oceans, they help to reduce nutrient pollution from runoff before it enters our Great Barrier Reef.

They are biodiverse ecosystems that support an incredible abundance of marine and freshwater life. Coastal wetlands link our land to the sea by connecting landscapes by waterways such as rivers, creeks and estuaries. They consist of areas of saltmarsh, mangrove, seagrass and shallow inshore waters.

Along Queensland's tropical coastline, wetlands' hidden and unique superpower is their ability to help tackle the biggest threats to the Reef:

- 🐟 species loss by providing important fish habitats and nurseries
- 🌊 climate change through their ability to capture and store carbon, and protect our coastline from extreme weather events,
- 🌊 water pollution through their ability to treat and filter agricultural runoff, such as nitrogen from fertilisers.

But coastal wetlands are under threat from water pollution and climate change. They are also at great risk from clearing for agricultural, industrial and urban development.

🌿 Water Quality Action

Take action to help establish a coastal wetland restoration program to rapidly improve the water quality in our Reef. amcs.org.au/water-pollution







Plastic emissions stock

## Unwrapped: Australia's Plastic Emissions

**The hidden climate cost of Australia's plastic emissions have been revealed in a new report.**

Did you know that Australia's plastic addiction is not just directly harming wildlife, but also fuelling global warming?

Groundbreaking new research released by AMCS and WWF Australia shows that the plastics Australians consume in one year produce as much greenhouse gas as 5.7 million cars on our roads annually.

Alarming, projections show that Australia's plastic emissions will more than double by 2050 if we continue on our current path. Virgin fossil fuel based plastics are by far the worst, generating more than twice the emissions of recycled or plant based plastics. Unfortunately, recycling alone only reduces emissions a little. The research shows that the most effective way to reduce plastic emissions is to cut plastic use and to stop using virgin plastic made from fossil fuels.

**This research was made possible by hundreds of AMCS supporters who chipped in to World Oceans Day last year - thank you!**

 **Read The Report**

Read Australia's plastic emissions report:  
[www.plasticemissions.org.au](http://www.plasticemissions.org.au)



## Plastic Packaging Regulations

**Australia to regulate plastic packaging.**

With companies failing to act on the ocean plastics crisis, in June it was announced that Australia will introduce new regulations on the use of plastic packaging. Governments have said they will set mandatory rules by 2025, and make industry responsible for the packaging they release onto the market.

New rules will be established to ensure ALL packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable, and to prevent the use of harmful chemicals in packaging.

Australia's governments will also look at potential laws to hold plastic producers responsible for their plastic waste. AMCS is urging the government to consider a tax on plastic packaging like those in the UK and Europe, which make companies responsible for the cost of cleaning up and managing the plastic waste from their products.

This is a huge opportunity to stop plastic at the source. We must keep up the fight over the next year to ensure these new laws deliver real reductions in plastic packaging use.

### Ocean Plastic Pollution

With eleven million tons of plastic dumped into our oceans every year, our marine life is swallowing more plastic than ever – and it's killing them. Together, we can turn the tide on plastic pollution and save our precious oceans.

Plastic supermarket stock

INSET: Shane Cucow, AMCS Plastics Campaign Manager, at INC-2 Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations

## Global Plastics Treaty

**Thanks to your support, we were able to send AMCS plastics expert Shane Cucow to the negotiations, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris last June.**

The second round of negotiations on a global plastics treaty have closed, with agreement to develop draft treaty text despite efforts to obstruct negotiations by some oil-producing nations.

With your help, we were able to be a voice for our oceans in these negotiations, pushing back against lobbyists from plastic corporations and reminding the world's nations that the future of our oceans is at stake.

In good news, Australia fought for ambition in the negotiations, supporting the inclusion of measures to limit the production of plastic and funding for small island developing nations.

With science showing that plastic production is set to double in the next 20 years, this treaty must require nations to set limits on the use of plastic.

 **Watch**

Watch the live video report from Paris  
[amcs.org.au/Paris](http://amcs.org.au/Paris)



## Sustainable Aquaculture

**Farmed seafood makes up almost half of the seafood produced in Australia.**

There is a range of world leading approaches to aquaculture being practised in Australia, whether highly innovative or low-tech, hands-off farming practices are producing some of the most sustainable seafood choices we can make.

We visited some of these aquaculture operators across Australia to showcase brilliant things they are each doing to ensure they leave the smallest footprints.

Thank you to the farms that took part, Aquana Sustainable Murray Cod (NSW), Mainstream Aquaculture (VIC), Flinders Mussels (VIC), Leeuwin Coast Akoya Mussels (WA) and Blue Ridge Marron (WA), keep up the great work!

**Watch:** The businesses profiled in our aquaculture film showcase great examples of farms that treat their resources efficiently, innovatively or in a way that increases their sustainability and minimises their impact on the surrounding environment. Visit [@Goodfishproject](https://www.instagram.com/Goodfishproject) on Instagram and Facebook

### Good Fish

Use the GoodFish guide to help you choose green-listed seafood and support responsible fishers and farmers. Visit [goodfish.org.au](http://goodfish.org.au)



AMCS Sustainable seafood manager Adrian Meder (centre) with Peter McGinly (left) and Stephen Vlodavich (right), Blue Ridge Marron @ Adrian Meder



## Climate Change v Reef

**Pollution from burning fossil fuels is heating our planet at unprecedented rates, causing mass coral bleaching events, endangering sea turtle populations, and risking 64,000 jobs the Reef supports.**

Corals are animals that are sensitive to temperature. When the water stays too hot for too long corals get stressed and bleach. Corals can die from a bleaching event but they can also recover, if given enough time and the right conditions.

The World Meteorological Organization officially declared an El Niño this year, which is deeply concerning for our Reef as it means hotter drier conditions, which will increase the likelihood of heat waves and coral bleaching.

We need to cool down the Reef's waters by acting on climate change and slashing our fossil fuel emissions. We must limit global warming to 1.5°C to save coral reefs.

Both the Australian and Queensland governments must urgently slash emissions to protect the Reef and the 64,000 livelihoods that depend on a healthy Reef.



### Save our Reef

Sign a letter telling them to make emissions reductions targets stronger! Scan the QR code or visit [amcs.org.au/reduce-emissions-23](https://amcs.org.au/reduce-emissions-23)



## Offshore Oil & Gas

**Offshore oil and gas development harms our oceans, our wildlife and our coastal communities.**

Right now, the offshore fossil fuel industry is expanding with massive seismic blasting and test drilling proposals in the whale-rich waters between Victoria and Tasmania.

The vast area where these fossil fuel companies want to hunt for gas includes a huge section of Zeehan Marine Park. This special area, which was made a marine protected area in 2007, includes critical habitat for southern right and blue whales.

Seismic blasts are used by the oil and gas industry to survey the ocean floor. This disastrous process involves air cannons firing loud explosions underwater every 10-15 seconds, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These blasts are some of the loudest human-made sounds in the ocean and are deadly for marine life. The blasting can kill zooplankton more than a kilometre away, and deafen whales.

Taking on big oil and gas is a challenge we are ready for and we've already begun working with communities across Victoria and Tasmania to stop three oil and gas exploration proposals.



### Turn the Tide

Help us stand up to the fossil fuel industry's damaging plans to expand in our oceans. Visit [amcs.org.au/oilgas](https://amcs.org.au/oilgas)



## Remembering Des

**Vale Des Connell, one of AMCS's original and most influential Great Barrier Reef campaigners.**

In May, we lost one of the 'parents' of AMCS. Through his involvement in our early years, alongside our other founders, Des was a catalyst for one of the great conservation campaigns - the campaign to save the Reef.

Des joined the then Queensland Littoral Society (now AMCS) in 1965, one of the small band of members who came together with an interest in understanding and protecting our coral reefs, wetlands and waterways.

He was our Vice President and regular spokesperson about threats to the Great Barrier Reef including drilling for oil. Des was key in the Society securing the ban on mining from the Reef and in pioneering the 1975 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, establishing the world's largest marine park.

As well as leaving a huge legacy of protection for our Reef, throughout his distinguished academic career, Des inspired and mentored many young scientists. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues.



### 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](https://amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy)



## Order of Australia

**AMCS Patron and literary great Tim Winton has been awarded the Order of Australia (AO) for "distinguished service to literature and to environmental advocacy".**

The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

Not only does our magnificent Patron Tim Winton shine a light on our oceans through his writing, he actively campaigns for their protection. This is perhaps no better shown than in the recent spectacular ABC documentary Ningaloo Nyinggulu, which Tim wrote, narrated and was executive producer.

Tim has been our Patron since 2006 - almost two decades of service - but he is far more than a figurehead; he has actively worked alongside us on many of our campaigns.

Tim Winton is one of Australia's greatest writers and a dedicated conservationist. His appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia is so utterly deserved.



### Read & Protect

We have a range of Tim Winton classic novels in our AMCS Shop. Blueback, Island Home, The Shepherd's Hut and The Boy Behind The Curtain are all available to purchase with all proceeds go directly to our critical work to protect Australia's precious ocean wildlife. Visit [amcs.org.au/shop](https://amcs.org.au/shop)





## Meet John

John Turnbull is a marine ecologist and underwater photographer and has been a Sea Guardian since 2012.

John feels extremely fortunate that his passion is his 'day job'. *"I'm working on marine communities from Antarctica to the Great Barrier Reef. I'm interested in the relationship between humans and the marine environment, particularly the positive actions we can take including stewardship, protected areas and sustainability."*

His love for our oceans is broad *"I find cuttlefish fascinating, sharks spectacular, and kelp forests and coral reefs incredible. Whenever I dive, I find something new to explore and learn about. Just this month, on 2 dives in Botany Bay, I photographed 3 different eastern blue devil fish - a protected species. How good is that?!"* (You can see one of John's images on our back page)

John says he is a Sea Guardian because *"I support a number of not-for-profit organisations as they speak for our marine life, which lacks a voice of its own. AMCS is a leader in this, acting to conserve our ocean wildlife for over half a century."*



**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](https://amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians)



## Big Swim With Heart

**Congratulations to Bronagh Marley on your 36km marathon swim!**

On 27 June Bronagh undertook a marathon swim from Capri to Naples. A staggering total of 36 kilometres. In the process, Bronagh raised \$3,755 (at time of writing), far surpassing an original fundraising target. Bronagh has generously donated these proceeds to AMCS, wanting to ensure our oceans can be enjoyed for many years to come.

*"This was an excellent time to raise a bit of money to support the place I love the most,"* says Bronagh, speaking to a love of our oceans.

*"Poseidon must have known what I was swimming for as he really pulled it out of the bag with the conditions! Bright blue water, Mount Vesuvius as my point of reference, and a cheeky little current assist for 7kms... being able to raise some money for a cause super close to my heart was just the icing on the cake!"*

Our sincere thanks to Bronagh for this tremendous support and congratulations on your incredible achievement.



**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](https://amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas) or email [supporter@amcs.org.au](mailto:supporter@amcs.org.au)



Bronagh Marley

Frieda Roberts, Soliwater Dughiuti artist from South West Rocks

## Celebrating Sea Country

**First Nations people's wisdom, knowledge and experience in managing Sea Country is important for the protection of our oceans.**

AMCS acknowledges that First Nations people have cared for land and sea Country since time immemorial.

As an organisation dedicated to protecting our coasts, oceans and wildlife, we have much to learn from First Nations people's intimate knowledge of ecosystems.

We support a First Nations Voice to Parliament because if First Nations people are represented in shaping policies, including the protection and management of our shared natural heritage, we will get better outcomes.

Supporting the Voice to Parliament and constitutional recognition is a way to say that we want to hear the wisdom from the oldest living culture on earth and is a step towards listening and respecting First Nations people.



**AMCS Supports 'Yes'**

Read our position on the Voice Referendum and our open letter, visit [amcs.org.au/AMCSYes](https://amcs.org.au/AMCSYes)

## K'Gari Sandy Whale Experience

**Ocean lovers unite for K'gari adventure!**

Ten participants undertook the epic five-day adventure of K'gari (Fraser Island) - Australia's number one destination for whale watching. Colleen and Anna share with us some of their motivation and enthusiasm for embarking on the AMCS K'gari Sandy Whale Experience 2023.

*"I wanted to meet some great like-minded people."*

*"I wanted to do something worthwhile to help these beautiful creatures."*

Participants raised vital funds with every step to protect our big blue backyard. At time of writing, they have raised near to \$18,000 for marine conservation!

Ocean lovers can still support our participants' fundraising targets by visiting [amcs-kgari-2023.raisely.com/donate](https://amcs-kgari-2023.raisely.com/donate)

We extend our sincere thanks to our explorers and their communities for their passion, enthusiasm and support.



Humpback whale, Hervey Bay, Queensland © Uwe Bergwitz

Participants of the K'gari Sandy Whale Experience



# 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 thriving for future generations.

Eastern blue devil (*Paraplesiops bleekeri*) © John Turnbull [www.marineexplorer.org](http://www.marineexplorer.org)

## Stay in touch

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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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