



Summer 2024



Turning THE TIDE

Supporter Newsletter

CREATURE FEATURE

Curious Cuttlefish

Page 2



**Glorious
Great
South-East**

Page 7

**Win! Killer
Gillnets
Banned**

Page 8

**Free
GoodFish
Cookbook**

Page 13

With Thanks to YOU 



Curious Cuttlefish!

“Chameleons of the sea” cuttlefish are renowned for their colour-changing body camouflage and morphing abilities. They can control the 10 million colour cells within their skin to quickly change colour, pattern and texture.

Cuttlefish, despite the name, are not fish but invertebrates related to the octopus, squid and nautilus. They have eight arms and two long tentacles attached to their heads.

There are more than 120 different species of cuttlefish and they can be found in oceans all around the world.

Giant Australian cuttlefish are the largest of all the cuttlefish found only in Australia’s southern coastal waters, from Ningaloo Reef in WA around to Moreton Bay in Queensland .

They are reportedly curious and friendly with divers. Cuttlefish have a large brain-to-body size ratio—among the biggest of all invertebrates—which makes them incredibly intelligent.

The giant Australian cuttlefish has a short life span of just two to four years.

Giant Australian cuttlefish start to congregate to breed in mid-May at Point Lowly in South Australia’s northern Spencer Gulf. This is the world’s only mass gathering of mating cuttlefish. When mating does occur, the couple ‘cuddle’ in a head to head embrace.

Did You Know?

Like octopus, cuttlefish have three hearts and blue blood.



Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Giant Australian Cuttlefish

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sepia apama*

TYPE: Invertebrate

BODY SIZE: 50 to 100 cm

WEIGHT: 5 to 10.5 kg

LIFESPAN (IN WILD): Approx. 2 to 4 years

DIET: Carnivore (fish, crabs, prawns, smaller cuttlefish, and shrimp)

HABITAT: Shallow reefs and marine channels

LOCATION: Endemic to southern coastal waters of Australia, and is found as far north as Moreton Bay (QLD) on the east-coast and on the west-coast up to Ningaloo Reef (WA).

CONSERVATION STATUS: Near Threatened (IUCN)

POPULATION TREND: Decreasing (last assessed in 2009). Fluctuating but relatively stable.

Assessments since IUCN listing show population recovery, fluctuating to a peak in 2020.



Boom or Bust

The population was estimated to be around 180,000 individuals in the late 1990s. However, from 2005 onwards scientists recorded a concerning decrease to just 13,000 animals in 2013.

Sanctuaries and no-take zones were implemented to protect the species and recovery was fast. While the annual population estimate fluctuates a lot, there have been over 100,000 cuttlefish counted each year since 2015 with a record 247,146 in 2022 and 137,999 in 2022.

No-take protections remain in place during breeding season to protect the species.



Australia’s environment laws are failing our marine life

If You ❤️ It, Help Save It

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

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.

The ‘if you love it, help save it’ campaign launched late last year 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.

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.

Demand Stronger Laws

We’re urgently calling on the Government for stronger national environment laws. If you love our oceans, sign our petition for stronger nature laws to help save it. amcs.org.au/EPBCAct

Endangered Blue Whales

Blue whales are the largest animals to have ever existed.

They are migratory, ranging from polar to tropical waters. There are no reliable estimates of blue whale population numbers as they range over such large areas making surveys difficult.

There are four subspecies of blue whale – two of which, the Antarctic blue whale and pygmy blue whale, are found in Australia.

Aggressively hunted to the brink of extinction for their blubber and oil, they finally came under protection in 1966 globally, but they’ve only seen a minor recovery.

Blue whales remain Endangered, many are injured or die each year from impacts with large ships.

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Blue Whale

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Balaenoptera musculus*

TYPE: Mammal

SIZE: 24 to 30+ metres and up to 150,000kg

LIFESPAN (IN WILD): 80 to 90 years

DIET: Mostly krill, also fish and squid

CONSERVATION STATUS: Endangered (EPBC)

Blue Whale



NT Enviro Conference

AMCS was a sponsor of the inaugural State of the Environment Conference hosted by the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory (ECNT) held on Larrakia country, Darwin.

It was a huge success thanks to the great work of the Environment Centre NT, the many visitors from across Australia and the locals who attended. Conference attendees included people who are passionate about the Northern Territory's environment, such as people who work in the environmental field, land managers, community sector employees, government employees, peak bodies, researchers and Traditional Owners.

It was a truly extraordinary event, providing an opportunity for our community to come together, build power and collectively reimagine an environmentally just future for the Territory.

The Conference boasted a packed program around four major themes, Extractivism (mining threats and legacies) and Resistance; Northern Australia at the Crossroads; Valuing the Territory's Nature; Freshwater Futures and Climate, and Just Economic Futures.

AMCS's Adele Pedder participated in the Conference closing panel titled 'What next for the NT's environment?'

Protect Ningaloo

Our Protect Ningaloo campaign has received strong support to stop the massive K+S saltworks.

Over 15,000 ocean-lovers have sent an email to WA's environment minister asking them to say no to the project, and to protect the Gulf.

International industrial corporation K+S wants to build a giant saltworks on the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo, over an undeveloped, nationally listed wetland.

An industrial development of this massive scale poses unacceptable risks to the sensitive environment here, which supports many threatened species including critically endangered sawfish and shovelnose rays, as well as turtles, dugongs and migratory shorebirds.

In September AMCS made a comprehensive submission to WA's Environmental Protection Authority outlining our scientifically-based concerns with the project.

Leading marine scientists, Ningaloo locals and business owners also made submissions expressing their serious concerns about the detrimental effects the saltworks would have on the largely unspoilt Gulf environment.

Say NO To saltworks

K+S wants to build a giant saltworks – the size of nearly 12,000 MCG footy ovals – on the eastern side of Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo, over an undeveloped, nationally listed wetland. Email the WA environment minister saying NO to the K+S saltworks at Exmouth Gulf. amcs.org.au/NoSaltworks

World Class MPAs

In October we released a NSW Marine Protected Area report detailing evidence that sanctuary zones provide key biodiversity safeguards and additional benefits.

The report sets out a strong scientific case for the importance and value of the NSW Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network and makes recommendations for the future.

The report authored by Professor David J. Booth and Giglia Beretta, was launched in parliament by AMCS with Professor Booth, alongside Independent MP Alex Greenwich, Luminary Ocean Preservationist Valerie Taylor and Senior Gamay Ranger Robert Cooley.

In November, the 2nd NSW Marine Parks Forum was co-hosted with the NSW Sanctuary Alliance and University Technology Sydney, which brought together scientists, government and the community to discuss the report's findings and the pathway forward for NSW Marine Protection.

Read The Report

NSW enjoys a biodiverse coastal marine environment which supports a unique mix of tropical and temperate species. The report begins by setting out a strong scientific case for the importance and value of the NSW MPA network, then discusses flaws in NSW's MPA planning process and makes recommendations for the future. amcs.org.au/MPARepor23

High Seas Treaty

Australia became a founding signatory of the High Seas Biodiversity Treaty last September.

The Treaty will enable the establishment of marine protected areas in the high seas, which are critically important to protect our global marine life and build resilience in the face of climate change.

This paves the way for meaningful protection of the high seas which make up nearly two-thirds of the global oceans, yet less than one percent of this enormous area is currently highly protected.

These vast areas of our blue planet that lie beyond the maritime boundaries of any country support abundant fisheries, serve as migratory routes for species such as whales and sharks, and support remarkable ecosystems such as deep-water corals and other marine life.

A network of marine protected areas in the high seas is critical to meeting global commitments to protect at least 30 percent of the world's oceans by 2030.

What is 30 by 30?

'30 by 30' is a global goal to protect 30 percent of both land and sea areas by 2030. It is an international agreement aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss while reorienting nature on a path to recovery.

MAIN: State of the Environment Conference - INSEFT; Twi Island Dancers © Elliott Hughes, Environment Centre NT

Humpback whale breaching near the coast in Eastern Australia during annual whale migration



Reef Still Facing 'In Danger'

At the World Heritage Committee meeting in September 2023, Australia was given until February this year to show progress on taking 22 actions to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

AMCS Reef experts attended the World Heritage meeting in Saudi Arabia to build connections with committee members and brief them about threats to the Reef. We helped ensure a strong decision passed to keep the Reef on the watchlist.

Late last year UNESCO released its latest State of Conservation Report on the Great Barrier Reef noting the progress the Australian and Queensland governments had made on protecting the Reef especially after the election of the Albanese Government. However, UNESCO expressed serious concern about the lack of progress made to tackle poor water quality and the threat of climate change to the Reef.

The Reef could still face an 'In Danger' listing if the Queensland and Australian governments do not show further progress on improving its health and resilience.

The Great Barrier Reef faces the fight of its life, a fight that is set to get harder with climate change and a El Niño weather event increasing the likelihood of marine heatwaves and coral bleaching.

Warning

See page 10 for more information about the likelihood of coral bleaching this Summer.

Reef Report Card

Our report card scores government progress and actions to address the top threats to the Great Barrier Reef.

Last year, World Heritage advisors urged the Australian and Queensland governments to implement 22 critical actions to protect the Reef. The Reef may be placed on the World Heritage in Danger list if the World Heritage Committee decides that the government's progress on taking 22 actions is not enough.

Our Great Barrier Reef Report Card was produced after assessing the latest science and consulting with experts in Reef management and protection. We've scored the government's commitments and progress on taking 12 of the 22 actions.

The 12 actions we've focused on seek to address the biggest threats to the Reef: climate change, water pollution, tree clearing in Reef catchments, unsustainable fishing and plastic pollution.

Our governments are making progress but it's not yet enough to protect the future of our national icon.

 **Read the report card at amcs.org.au/ReefAssess**

Reef Action

Our Reef is under immense pressure. The Reef report provides the Australian and Queensland governments with a roadmap to protect our Reef and its World Heritage Status. Demand action now for the future of our Reef. amcs.org.au/reef-wh-petition

“Much of the marine life here is found nowhere else”

Great South-East

Some of the richest yet least protected waters in Australia are sitting right off Australia's south-eastern coast.

Migratory whales journey to and from Antarctica along this coast twice a year, providing one of the best opportunities to spot these popular marine mammals.

Iconic species such as cuttlefish (featured on page 2), leafy seadragons and southern bluefin tuna roam here.

Mysterious deep ocean canyons are found here, providing habitat for a diverse range of species, from ancient deep water corals, sea urchins and sponges, to fish and crabs with fascinating adaptations for survival in the deep.

The south-east marine region is globally recognised for species found nowhere else on Earth. In fact around 85% of the known fish and 62% of the seafloor flora are considered endemic

Yet this stunning region, bursting with life, has the poorest marine park protection in the country with only 8% fully protected in marine sanctuaries.

Global Warming Hotspot

Rapidly warming waters, combined with heavy commercial fishing pressure and impacts from oil and gas industry activities, have created a perfect storm of decline.

The waters in the south-east are heating at a rate 3-4 times the global average making it a global warming hotspot.

Giant Kelp Forests

Giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) plants are the foundation species of the Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia. A range of marine algae, reef associated fish and numerous invertebrates shelter, feed and reproduce within Giant Kelp Marine Forests.

Sadly the Giant Kelp Marine Forests of South East Australia have been progressively lost, especially on the east coast of Tasmania, due to changing oceanographic conditions and climate change.

Take Action: South-East Network

14 Australian Marine Parks off the coast of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, covering 702,033 square kilometres make up the South-east Network.

The South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan expired on 30 June 2023. The new draft will be subject to public consultation in February 2024.

The South-east marine park region currently has the poorest marine park protection in the country, with 92% of the region currently without marine sanctuary protection.

To protect its outstanding marine life, experts advise we must more than double the area protected in marine sanctuaries.

We need your support to ensure that strong protections for our special south-east. Please visit amcs.org.au/ProtectSE to take action.

Dugong



Du-gone Dugongs

Dugongs play an important role in our coastal marine ecosystems.

These enormous vegetarian marine mammals live in warm tropical coastal waters from East Africa to Australia, grazing on seagrass beds which they need to survive.

Sadly, our global dugong populations are in trouble. Threats to dugongs include climate change and seagrass loss, entanglement and drowning in fishing nets, boat strike and habitat degradation due to coastal development and declining water quality. Australia is the largest and most important refuge for dugongs on our blue planet. This means that what we do here matters at a global level.

Alarming Decline

Latest research shows the Southern Great Barrier Reef dugong population, from Hinchinbrook to Bundaberg, has been declining at 2.3% a year since 2005, with estimates of approximately 2,100 individuals left. Alarmingly, very few calves were seen in the southern Reef, which doesn't bode well for the future of the population.

The study also found an alarming decline in the Hervey Bay dugong population to 1,533 individuals. Back-to-back flooding events in 2022 decimated seagrass, the primary food source for the species.

Facts & Figures

- COMMON NAME: Dugong
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Dugong dugon*
- TYPE: Mammal
- GROUP NAME: Herd
- DIET: Herbivore
- LIFESPAN: 70 years
- SIZE (ADULT): 2.5 to 3 metres
- WEIGHT: 230 to 500 kg
- CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable
- POPULATION TREND: Decreasing



Huge Win: Killer Gillnets banned on the GBR

Commercial gillnets are indiscriminate killers and one of the biggest threats to dugongs on the Great Barrier Reef. These large fishing nets can be over 1km long and can entangle dugongs and other threatened species, which quickly drown.

But late last year the Queensland government announced their plans to phase out gillnets from our Reef.

This incredible outcome has seen the majority of licences removed and new Net-Free Zones created in the most critical habitats for dugongs. These vital safe havens not only protect the highest densities of dugongs, but also provide a welcome sanctuary for other threatened species like turtles, dolphins and sawfish.

Most importantly, our **Reef will be entirely gillnet free in June 2027.**

We couldn't have done this without the support of ocean lovers like you. Thank you.



Maugean skate/Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania © Cynthia Avruch

Skates On!

The Maugean skate is facing imminent extinction.

Macquarie Harbour is the last remaining home for the Maugean skate but Intensive salmon farming and manipulated river flows to support hydroelectricity production are depleting oxygen, slowly choking the skates to death.

The Maugean Skate Recovery Team has been convened to help save the skate from extinction. AMCS is the environmental representative member of the Maugean Skate Recovery Team, working urgently with other key stakeholders for a solution.

We are urging the Federal and Tasmanian governments to work together to urgently take actions to protect the Maugean skate.

The Australian government has published the "Maugean Skate Road Map" to save the skate from extinction. The captive breeding program started in December 2023, and Environment Minister Plibersek is currently reviewing the future of salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour under Australia's nature laws.

Save The Maugean Skate

We need your help to urgently ensure the skate's protection and recovery, so that we can avoid losing this amazing Australian species forever. Take action - add your voice today amcs.org.au/SaveSkate



Uniquely Australian sharks are facing extinction

Eastern angelshark © Peter

Endemic Sharks Report

Many of Australia's endemic sharks and rays are facing extinction with population declines of up to 90%, because of fishing pressures. These species are as unique as the koala and in just as much trouble.

Australia's largest fishery, the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF), is driving 10 of Australia's 13 threatened endemic species to extinction - the whitefin swellshark, longnose skate, greeneye spurdog, eastern angelshark, grey skate, coastal stingaree, yellowback stingaree, greenback stingaree, Melbourne skate and Sydney skate.

A new report commissioned by the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and Humane Society International (HSI) Australia has identified critical habitats for protection that could ensure their survival. The report will inform the Australian government how its largest fishery can fish sustainably and save our uniquely Aussie sharks and rays.

Quick fact: The bright-yellow-and-white-speckled eastern angelshark easily conceals itself buried in the sand for days before it ambushes prey that swims above.

Stop The Silent Extinction

Without drastic action, uniquely Australian species could disappear before we even get a chance to know them. We must act now. Sign the petition at amcs.org.au/SaveSharks and urge the Australian government to overhaul our most destructive fisheries.



Fighting Fossil Fuel Giants

The tide is turning against offshore oil and gas projects.

The oil and gas industry threatens our oceans and marine life through seismic blasting, drilling, harm from spills and accidents, the building and decommissioning of infrastructure, and from the climate impacts of burning fossil fuels.

In August, ocean-lovers like you, had their say and made over 19,500 submissions opposing the seismic blasting plan proposed for the oceans between Victoria and Tasmania. If approved, this would be the world's largest 3D seismic blasting project on record.

We're ramping up the Summer Against Seismic. We are expanding outreach in communities across Victoria and Tasmania, with film screenings, briefings, submission writing workshops, trivia nights, festival stalls and more. In November, AMCS hit the road to visit frontline communities to equip them to take action and stop new fossil fuel projects in their tracks.

Abolish SPA Permits

Seismic blasting companies are using a cheap and reckless permit called a Special Prospecting Authority (SPA) to conduct some of the world's largest seismic blasting projects in Australia.

Let our Federal Resources Minister know that we need an end to SPA permits to protect endangered species and threatened marine habitats. amcs.org.au/StopSPA

Scientists Warn Mass Bleaching

Climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef.

The ocean is becoming more acidic and absorbing excessive amounts of heat due to burning coal, oil and gas.

Climate change is causing more frequent and severe marine heatwaves. Marine heatwaves are deadly for temperature-sensitive animals like corals. When corals get stressed they bleach.

Scientists have warned that more coral bleaching is likely on the Great Barrier Reef this summer due to the combination of human-caused ocean heating and an El Niño event.

About Coral Bleaching: When corals are stressed by heat, or excessive nutrients, they expel the colourful algae and turn white. Coral bleaching can lead to coral disease and mortality. Corals can recover but they need time and for conditions to return to normal.

Raise Climate Targets

Win! Queensland Premier Steven Miles announced the state will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2035 – a significantly stronger target than the previous 30% reduction by 2030.

Cutting pollution will help tackle climate change. We must see more action to limit warming to 1.5°C, to protect the people and places we love, like the Great Barrier Reef.



Unwrapped: Supermarket Plastics

How much are supermarkets really doing to reduce plastic packaging on their shelves?

In a landmark report 'Unwrapped: Plastic Use in Australian Supermarkets', we revealed the results of a six month investigation by AMCS and the Boomerang Alliance.

Aldi came first in the race to cut plastic, reporting clear progress in cutting plastic including on fresh produce, and replacing some hard to recycle plastics with recycled cardboard, or offcuts destined for landfill. Coles came second, providing some customers with reuse and refill options. Woolworths came third; unwilling or unable to show genuine reductions in plastic packaging. Metcash, owners of independent IGA and Foodland stores, came last. It's time for supermarkets to be more transparent by telling their customers (that's you!) what they're really doing to reduce plastic packaging. Supporters like you told us you want to see less plastic in our supermarkets, and we heard you loud and clear! With your help, we'll be auditing supermarkets annually to hold them to account.

Read

Read the report at amcs.org.au/supermarketplastics

Peli-cans: Turn Your Trash Into Treasure

AMCS is inviting South East Queensland businesses to join our Peli-cans recycling appeal as recognised fundraising partners!

Double your impact for our oceans by returning used beverage containers through your local

Stalemate Plastics Treaty

Last November, AMCS plastics expert Shane Cucow took your voice to the United Nations, travelling to Nairobi for the third session of negotiations on the Global Plastics Treaty to end plastic pollution.

With scientists from across the world, we fought for targets to reduce plastic, plus a global ban on dangerous single-use plastics and harmful chemicals.

In good news, we secured support for including fishing gear in the treaty, including rules to ensure gear is designed and managed to stop it being lost in the ocean.

Despite this, negotiations ended in deadlock with large plastic producing nations refusing to agree to any measures to cut plastic.

As we head to the final rounds of negotiations in April and November, we must ensure Australia stands strong. With your support, we will keep fighting for legally binding global rules and save our oceans from drowning in plastic.

Watch

Find out more in our video update recorded live in Nairobi: amcs.org.au/PlasticsTreaty23

container deposit scheme and donating the refunds to our work fighting ocean plastic pollution. Join a community of ocean lovers in the fight against plastic pollution.

You too can recycle with AMCS. Visit amcs.org.au/QLDTarget to find out how.





GoodFish is 20!

GoodFish is updated for our 20th birthday!

In our 20th year, the GoodFish Sustainable Seafood Guide is brimming with fresh updates on all your favourite seafood.

With the latest figures showing that Australian seafood consumption is on the rise, with the average Aussie eating some 21.8 kg in 2021. Happily, we've expanded the Guide's assessments to cover 242 seafood options from both Australian and imported fisheries, equivalent to 92% of the fresh and frozen seafood consumed by Australians.

There's still far too much overfishing going on in Australian fisheries, and climate change is already kicking in faster than fishery managers are able to manage. Species that were once mainstays of our industry are now stuck on our threatened species lists with no signs of recovery.

We're always looking to improve the Guide, so moving forward we'll be continuously updating our GoodFish Guide assessments, to make sure you always have the most up-to-date, independent, and trustworthy information.

GoodFish App!

Check up on your favourite fish on our newly updated app full of fresh features! Available for Apple and Android now.
GoodFish.org.au



Stopping Unsustainable Imports

Australia's seafood imports have a big problem, with no national system to identify and prevent illegal, unethical, or unsustainable seafood from entering our market.

We need imported seafood to meet Aussie demand. The trouble is we have little idea what we import or where it's from.

We also have poor labelling laws, so it's challenging to know what we are buying. Anything could be on our plates, from endangered species to seafood caught through modern slavery.

The EU, USA and Japan are already taking action to stop seafood imports from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. With our current open border policy, Australia risks being a dumping ground for dodgy seafood.

Our government has heard our concerns and released its own plans for stopping IUU seafood. They're a good start, but need to be more ambitious.

We want strong import rules and better traceability and labelling for all seafood sold in Australia.

Need A Bigger Bite?

With more than 65% of our seafood being imported, this is a large and complex issue, so head to our website for the full scoop.
amcs.org.au/SupportFairCatch

Ben Shewry's Home Fish

Time: < 30 min

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 4 rock flathead tails, boned and skinned from Corner Inlet, Victoria | 2 tablespoons of good quality butter |
| 1 cup of plain flour | 1 tablespoon of olive oil |
| 2 free-range eggs | Salt and white pepper to taste |
| 2 tablespoons of finely sliced chives | Fresh lemon to taste |

Method:

- In a bowl, season the flour with salt and freshly ground white pepper.
- In a separate bowl, whisk egg, and add sliced chives.
- Meanwhile, heat a heavy based fry pan to medium heat.
- Dip flathead pieces in flour, coating evenly and being sure to shake off the excess flour. Place the floured fish in egg mixture, coat evenly and well.
- Add butter and olive oil to the pan (the oil stops the butter from browning too quickly), remove fish from egg mix and briefly drain excess egg. Add fish to pan and cook gently turning only once.
- Do not allow the fish to brown too much, it should be a yellow golden colour when cooked. Serve on warm plates with lemon and a little extra sea salt.

To finish: Serve with a great green salad. Mashed potatoes are equally delicious. Or a ripe tomato salad in summer is hard to beat.

Ben Shewry, head chef and owner of Attica, and our ambassador for the GoodFish Program. His upbringing on the west coast of New Zealand instilled a profound appreciation for the sea's offerings. He understands the need to preserve this delicate relationship.

GoodFish Cookbook : GoodFish now has a cookbook! We've collated some recipes from our partner chefs from restaurants all over the country for you to cook at home. Some are simple, some are scaly, but all of them are sustainable, so download your free copy now!
amcs.org.au/goodfishcookbook



Kane Pollard's Mussel Tamara

Time: Serves: 8

Ingredients:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 200g de-bearded mussel meat (usually from 2kg whole mussels, season dependant) | ½ shallot chopped |
| 350g bread and ends soaked in milk overnight | 2 cloves raw, minced garlic |
| 50g lemon juice | 100ml olive oil |
| 1 teaspoon of dijon mustard | 100ml vegetable oil |
| | 50ml cream |
| | Salt and pepper to season |

Method:

- Steam the mussels open*, pick the meat from the shell and de-beard.
- In a food processor, blitz all ingredients except the oils and cream until smooth
- Slowly add the oils while the food processor is running, allowing to emulsify
- Once oils are incorporated, check for seasoning and texture
- Add a little cream to loosen the dip and assist with mouth feel, season to taste

To finish: Serve with crust bread or crackers, pickles and fresh herbs. Dill, chives and fennel tops work beautifully

Specialised equipment needed: Food processor; Steaming Setup. *Variation: Smoke the mussels open if a smoker or BBQ is available.

Kane Pollard is co-owner and chef of Topiary in Adelaide. He takes pride in sourcing locally, making everything from scratch, moving with the seasons and wasting nothing.

John Turnbull, Norfolk Island RLS @ John Turnbull

Voice Of The Sea



AMCS' Voice of the Sea won an ARIA!

With our creative agency partner, Innocean, and national treasure, John Williamson, we were thrilled to win a prestigious ARIA Award for our Voice of the Sea video!

Australian music icon John Williamson, wrote the Voice of the Sea song for us in 2022 to help us highlight the plight of our oceans and marine life. With the incredible talents of Innocean, artist Andrea Innocent, animator and filmmaker, Jono Chong (Photoplay Dropbear), **the video won the "Best use of an Australian recording in an advertisement" category at the 2023 ARIA Awards.**

Winning this huge accolade was a great boost to the campaign and our work to spotlight our oceans and wildlife in the media – the more people know of us and our work, the more we can achieve for our oceans!

Australian music icon and conservationist John Williamson said *"My affinity with the ocean is as strong as my connection to and love for the bush. When I sat down to write about our love for the oceans, I couldn't help but think about all the problems we've caused our seas and their wildlife, even though we say we love them."*

"My lyrics reference global warming, overfishing and the risk of losing some of our incredible marine wildlife. It's not too late but we need more people to sing out and be the voices of our seas."

LOCAL OPY Make Waves



LOCAL OPY and their community raised thousands of dollars to support marine conservation!

LOCAL OPY, a Brisbane Meanjin-based op shop, donates 100% of profits raised each quarter to a selected charity. Last autumn LOCAL OPY along with their clients generously donated \$15,441 to AMCS – the highest funds they have raised for a charity. Speaking about their support of AMCS, Brigid Gordon, Founder of SWOP and LOCAL OPY says, *"We are so grateful to the Australian Marine Conservation Society for all the important work they do to safeguard our beautiful oceans and precious marine life. We hope to support their mission again in the future."*

Op shops aren't just a great way to grab a bargain – they're also great for our planet, by giving clothes a second life (reducing the footprint over their life) and keeping them out of landfill. This also eliminates the intensive processes of creating new clothing.

AMCS sincerely thanks LOCAL OPY for this wonderful contribution to support important ocean conservation work.

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

LOCAL OPY @ Anwyn Howarth

Great Ocean Challenge

Take on the Great Ocean Walk alongside like-minded ocean lovers and tackle 100 kms to help raise \$100K for Australia's oceans and marine life.

The Great Ocean Walk is a one-way, long-distance walk traversing 105km. This once-in-a-lifetime hike will take you seven days. Starting at Apollo Bay, passing through Great Otway National Park and Port Campbell National Park on the way. You'll conclude your journey at the world-famous Twelve Apostles. Every day is different, as the stunning coastal landscapes pass beneath your feet. Weave your way through tall forests, coastal heathlands and beside rocky shore platforms. Cross creeks and rivers and pass above wild-rocky shores and deserted beaches with panoramic views from windswept cliff-tops.

The Great Ocean 100KM Challenge isn't just an epic adventure, it's a powerful way to protect Australia's oceans and marine life.

Highlights

- ★ Challenge yourself as you trek 105 kms over seven exhilarating days
- ★ Witness some of the most dramatic and iconic scenery in Australia, from sheer limestone cliffs to deserted beaches, and mountain ash forests
- ★ Raise vital funds for AMCS's ocean protection work and make friends with like-minded people when you travel for good

Fast Facts

- TRIP DURATION: 7 days
- DATE: 13-19 October 2024
- CHALLENGE GRADE: 3/5
- TREKKING DISTANCE: 105 kms
- FUNDRAISING TARGET: \$3,500
- TRAVEL COST: \$3,499
- ACCOMMODATION: 3-Star Twin-share

Register Now

Spaces are limited, register now to secure your spot on the team!

By taking part in the Great Ocean 100KM Challenge and pledging to raise \$3,500, you will do your part to raise an incredible \$100,000 – all of which goes directly to AMCS to support ocean conservation.

More Details: amcs.org.au/GreatOceanWalk



MAIN IMAGE: 12 Apostles Observatory Point, Victoria, Australia. INSETS: Great Ocean Walk, Victoria, Australia.



Meet Trevor

Sea Guardian Trevor has a strong connection to our oceans.

Trevor's work connects strongly with the natural environment. *"I help people and organisations to arrange their investments in line with their ethical concerns."*

Trevor is never happier than when he has pruney fingers! Trevor says he loves spending time in our oceans *"whether it is body surfing the beaches south of Sydney, snorkelling in coral gardens or with the grey nurses in Bushrangers Bay, swimming laps in ocean pools or clambering back onto my Stand Up Paddle board after another tumble."*

Trevor is also a trustee of the John T Reid Charitable Trusts who are focused on a strategic campaign to raise funds for the Great Southern Reef - gathering researchers, agencies and government departments to coordinate efforts to address some of the key risks that endanger this 8,000km long ecosystem. (See page 7 to read more about this special region).

Trevor and his family say they choose *"to support AMCS in the area of marine conservation as it is the standout agency across multiple areas of concern threatening our oceans."*

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



Free Lega-sea

We're excited to announce we have recently teamed up with Gathered Here, Australia's most trusted free online will platform!

If you'd like to include a gift to Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) in your will, you can now do so completely for free, and it only takes a matter of minutes.

Writing a will can save your loved ones emotional and financial stress during an already difficult time. It's also an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for yourself.

By pledging a gift to Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) in your will, you are helping to ensure that Australia's incredible coasts and oceans remain healthy and free for tomorrow's generations, the oceans you want them to know, and the marine life you want them to love.

Be it for the trees in whose shade you never expect to sit, or the seas in whose depths you never expect to swim, leaving a bequest will help us plan for the long term and give us the resources to keep the future alive.

Write Your Will For Free

A Will is an important and telling document and provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your life and your values. Create your legacy today with a free online will at amcs.org.au/GatheredHere

Humpback whale mum and calf



Honouring Jack

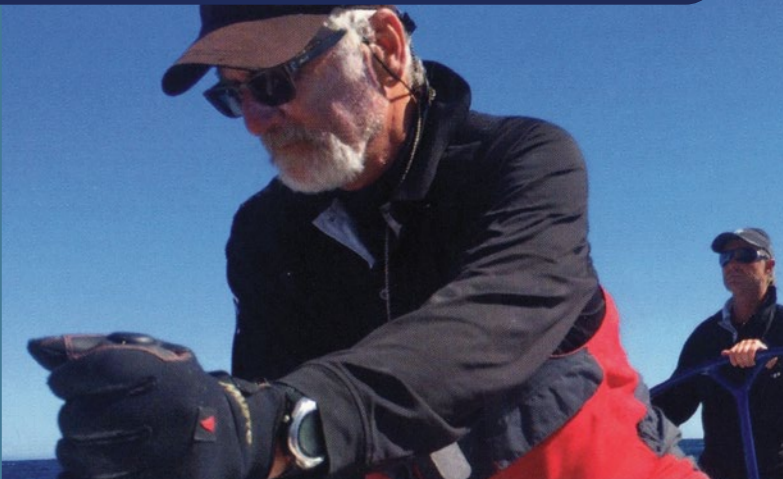
We pay tribute to Dennis Jack Beros who made a profound contribution to marine conservation through AMCS.

Dennis (aka Jack) coordinated the successful Save Ningaloo campaign of the early 2000s. This iconic campaign saw Ningaloo Reef protected from overdevelopment and ultimately achieve World Heritage status.

Jack served as secretary of the AMCS WA branch, was a member of the AMCS National Management Committee, and was made an Honorary Life Member of AMCS for his services to marine conservation.

Jack was creative, philosophical, warm and generous of spirit, with an impish grin; he was one-of-a-kind and a good friend. Jack always spoke of his children with deep affection and our thoughts are with them and his many family and friends.

The moment in 2003 when Jack, Tim Winton and the Save Ningaloo campaigners heard that Premier Geoff Gallop had rejected the giant marina resort proposed for Ningaloo.



Remembering Sid

Dr Sidney French spent a lifetime in service to the oceans and environment, supporting a raft of organisations fighting to preserve our ecological and cultural heritage.

The impact of Sid's support reached far beyond the level of his philanthropic contributions and executive involvement in these organisations - he was both advocate and activist, a thinker and a doer.

His innovative engineering solutions directly impacted ocean and terrestrial environments globally. Here in Australia, one of the most iconic and dramatic examples of Sid's work was the almost instantaneous transformation of the water quality at Sydney beaches following the completion of deep ocean sewage outfalls at Bondi, North Head and Malabar.

His lifelong passion for the high seas saw him participate in numerous yachting events, as well as a memorable trip aboard the Greenpeace icebreaker Arctic Sunrise.

Here at AMCS, we always knew we could count on his support, come hell or high water, and we are so very proud that we were amongst the many fine organisations he chose to represent his passion for the oceans upon which we know he loved to sail. We will miss him.

Ocean Legacy

To learn more about AMCS Ocean Legacy club visit amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy

Dr Sidney French



Connected By The Sea

“Our ocean and wondrous planet deserve our best efforts to preserve and look after it for future generations,” states Phil Stammers, owner and founder of Headsox Flexible Headwear.

A surfer and snorkeler himself, based on west coast Victoria, Phil lives and breathes our oceans, and is animated when he speaks to connections built around the sea. Phil tells us of his childhood snorkelling trips with his father and two brothers at Table Rock on Mentone Beach, Victoria. Right through to adventures exploring the ocean with his wife and scuba diver Chalisa.

“At Headsox we are passionate about marine conservation and are very excited to be in partnership with the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS).”

In 2024 we will be launching a beautiful collection of undersea Headsox AMCS designs to celebrate our oceans and their diverse ecology.

Headsox tube headwear is made from 100% recycled yarn with a minimum of 10% being sourced from plastic bottles.

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



Good Fish, Great Support!

Cerberus chef Lachlan Williams and owners Erica and Jaimi Helliwell are at the forefront of GoodFish practice.

In November, they generously hosted events for local Melbourne supporters and sustainable seafood providers.

As a dedicated scuba diver with increasing awareness of marine threats – Lachlan has decided to only serve sustainably caught and farmed seafood produce.

In supporting this decision, Erica and Jaimi faced serious financial and logistical considerations. Former surf lifesaver Erica says,

“It was quite the leap of faith, but with such a talented and committed chef on board, it was impossible not to shift to sustainable produce. It’s exciting, we have a lot of young people working for us, who at times have to explain to customers why such items as ‘flake’, aka shark, amongst other unsustainable species, are not being served. These young workers are becoming educated about what is happening under the water and in turn, educating the customers.”

AMCS is lucky to have the support of Cerberus, and all of the businesses involved in our GoodFish program, proving that it is possible – and indeed profitable – to make the better choice.

Supporting A GoodFish Venue?

Put your money (and some fine food!) where your mouth is, and support the wonderful businesses that support our oceans. Visit amcs.org.au/Restaurants

Lachlan Williams @ Cerberus



Emma & Elisha

Hello Emma & Tish

Emma and Elisha “Tish” have both volunteered with AMCS for more than a year, generously finding time in their busy schedules to support marine conservation.

Emma is studying a dual degree in Biomedical Science and Science, majoring in Marine Biology, and Tish is studying a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Marine Biology and minoring in Zoology. Credentials attesting to a deep love of our oceans and making a difference.

From a young age Emma visited Ningaloo Reef on family roadtrips, and highlights snorkelling Coral Bay as pivotal in her decision to study marine science.

“I love that there is this crazy alien world that we could never survive in, right there on our coastlines,” Tish explains. “There is so much unique and incredible life down there in an environment that is completely inhospitable to us, and I find that fascinating.”

We sincerely thank Emma and Tish, and volunteers everywhere, for their generosity, commitment and support – you are absolutely critical to change-making work.

Why volunteer?

A few reasons why you may like to volunteer:

- Meet interesting and like minded people who love our oceans
- Get experience working in a not-for-profit organisation
- Donate your skills to help save our oceans

Visit amcs.org.au/volunteer to find out more.



Welcome Penelope Figgis

We are delighted that internationally renowned Australian conservationist Penelope Figgis AO has been appointed as the new AMCS President.

Ms Figgis has been a leading advocate for conservation for more than 40 years, working in the charity, academic and government sectors, including serving on many statutory bodies and environmental organisations.

She brings her wealth of experience and her passion for cause at a critical juncture for the future of our oceans.

“Our oceans are overused and underprotected,” Penelope said. “Pollution, industrialisation, overfishing and global warming are threatening the future of our amazing oceans and the marine wildlife that call them home.”

“There has never been a more important time to protect the ocean that sustains us and I’m excited about the challenge of joining our peak ocean conservation organisation, the Australian Marine Conservation Society.”

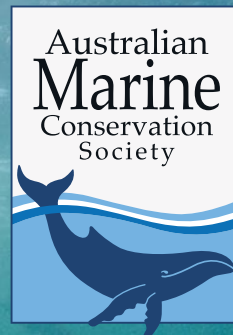
The AMCS Board, including our President, is voluntary and we are fortunate to have ten passionate ocean conservation representatives from business, science, industry, government and the education sector.

Our ocean loving board members are a part of a community working to save the ocean and all those who call it home.

Penelope Figgis AO

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.



Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Heron Reef, Southern Great Barrier Reef, QLD. © Lise de Boer, 'Sunset Serenity', 2023.

Stay in touch @australianmarine @AustMarConsSoc @marineconservation.au
Contact Us 07 3846 6777 marineconservation.org.au
 amcs@amcs.org.au PO Box 5815 West End QLD 4101

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.



RECYCLED
Paper made from recycled material
FSC® C102086

Printed on Ecostar 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Donate today

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