

Spring 2025



# Turning THE TIDE

Supporter Newsletter

CREATURE FEATURE

## Scribbled Angelfish

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With Thanks to YOU







## Scribbled Angelfish

**Named for their intricate, maze-like blue scribble patterns - the Scribbled Angelfish is a fish with a flair.**

Native to the tropical reefs of northern Australia, New Guinea, and parts of Indonesia, these angelfish love hanging out in coastal and inshore reefs where there are areas of rubble, soft bottoms or open rocky areas.

**All kinds of striking,** Scribbled Angelfish are sexually dimorphic, meaning different sexes of the same species have unique physical characteristics. Males are marked with wavy blue lines along their flanks while the females have yellow or blue spots.

But Scribbled Angelfish are more than just a pretty face, they are an important indicator of reef health. Their presence suggests a stable, biodiverse sponge population and a relatively undisturbed reef structure. As coral reefs face increasing pressure from climate change and pollution, monitoring species like this can provide insight into the overall ecosystem balance.

Most specimens in the aquarium trade are wild-caught, although some facilities in Asia and Australia are experimenting with captive breeding and larval rearing. Responsible sourcing is essential to avoid overharvesting from sensitive reef systems. While not currently endangered, their future depends on healthy reefs, sustainable collection practices and broader marine conservation efforts.

### Facts & Figures

**COMMON NAME:** Scribbled Angelfish  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Chaetodontoplus duboulayi*  
**FAMILY:** Pomacanthidae  
**BODY SIZE:** 28 cm  
**DIET:** Sponges, algae and tunicates  
**LOCATION:** Northern Australian coasts  
**CONSERVATION STATUS:** Least concern  
**POPULATION TREND:** Stable

### Did you know?

These colourful and peculiar angelfish can grow quite large - up to 28cm long!



“I’m eternally inspired by the ocean”

## Stepping Up: There is no time to lose

**I am honoured to lead AMCS at such a pivotal time for Australia’s marine and coastal environments.**

I grew up in the suburbs of Perth and being in and on the ocean was core to life, as it is for so many in Australia. As part of an adventurous family that spent so much time outdoors, I was very fortunate to experience the magic of Ningaloo when it was further off the beaten track than it is now. The place got under my skin, so when I was old enough, I became a volunteer there, tracking the seasonal nesting cycles of giant sea turtles. I was absolutely captivated by the place. I thought about those experiences a lot when I was living overseas in my 20s, and how fortunate we are in Australia to have such magnificent and relatively healthy coastal and marine environments. I returned to Perth, only to learn that a stretch of local coast was under threat from inappropriate development, and I knew it was time for me to step up and play my part. And then the unthinkable happened: Ningaloo came under threat too.

I became the spokesperson for the original campaign for Ningaloo Reef which stopped a huge marina resort being built in a beautiful, highly biodiverse bay in the reef’s lagoon. We also campaigned to expand the marine park, resulting in the full protection of a third of the reef, and achieved World Heritage listing. I worked with WWF in Australia and globally

for 15 years, mainly on ocean conservation and increasingly on climate change. More recently, prior to stepping into the CEO role, I was the AMCS WA Director, leading the Protect Ningaloo campaign to protect Exmouth Gulf, ‘Ningaloo’s Nursery’ from industrialisation and to ensure it receives long overdue protection.

My admiration for the courage, determination, expertise and collaborative spirit of AMCS staff grows every day. In this edition, you can access reflections from previous leaders of the organisation, including Darren Kindleysides who stepped down earlier this year after 16 industrious years at the helm.

**AMCS has made real progress over the years, taking on some of the most daunting threats to Australia’s magnificent marine environment. What’s ahead will require us to set our sights much higher still, and to steel ourselves. Our work won’t be easy but I look forward to leading AMCS to tackle the challenges head-on. It’s clear that there is no time to lose.**

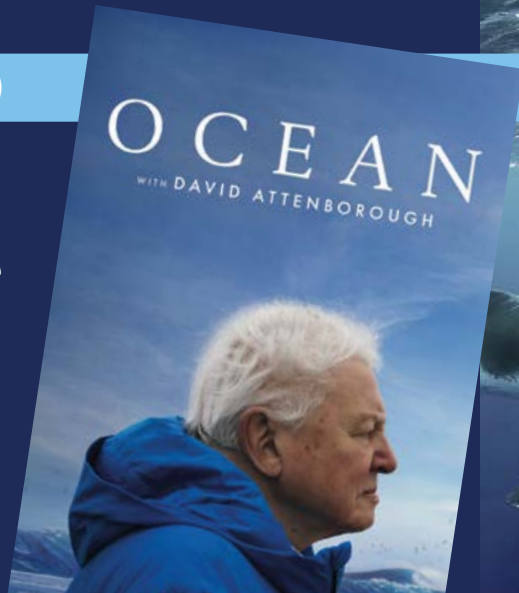
Thank you for standing with us.

### AMCS’ New CEO

AMCS is proud to announce the appointment of Paul Gamblin as its new Chief Executive Officer. Read more at [amcs.org.au/newCEO](https://amcs.org.au/newCEO)



“If we save the sea, we save our world”



You're protecting our oceans...



## Ocean with David Attenborough

***“If we save the sea, we save our world... I'm sure that nothing is more important” says Sir David Attenborough.***

Thank you to the hundreds of ocean lovers across Australia who joined us for screenings of Ocean with David Attenborough.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society and the Save Our Marine Life alliance hosted screenings of the legendary broadcaster's latest film in Brisbane, Fremantle, Melbourne, Cairns and Darwin.

After seven decades filming every aspect of the natural world, Sir David Attenborough delivers his greatest message of hope in this powerful documentary.

He says *“After living for nearly a hundred years on this planet, I now understand the most important place on Earth is not on land, but at sea”.*

It shows us that the ocean is under more threat than ever before, but can recover remarkably if protected in strong marine sanctuaries.

*“What prevents me from falling into despair is what I call the most remarkable discovery of all: the fact that the oceans can recover faster than we ever imagined...It can bounce back to life.”*



### Protect our Marine Parks

The Australian Government is about to review our national network of marine parks. Send a message to your local politicians in support of marine sanctuaries to help keep our oceans healthy. Visit [amcs.org.au/marineparksreview](https://amcs.org.au/marineparksreview)

## Ensuring International Protections

**With your support, AMCS championed the community's concerns for our oceans on the international stage.**

We are so grateful to our ocean-loving community, whose support enabled key AMCS staff to attend and support the critical United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC).

The conference focused on the protection and restoration of ocean ecosystems, reduction of marine pollution, sustainable fisheries and support for coastal and island communities.

David Attenborough's Ocean documentary has heightened public attention on the conference, highlighting the critical need for the High Seas Treaty to be ratified.

60 states are required to sign and ratify the Treaty in order to bring it into force, with hopes this condition will be met by the end of 2025.

It is through your ongoing support that AMCS is able to advocate for our oceans on the global stage, and ensure the Australian government commits to greater protections for our marine environments – thank you so much.

Australian Environment Minister Murray Watt, representatives including AMCS Campaign Director Tooni Mahto, at the UN Oceans Conference in Nice, France.



A pod of humpback whales © Tomas Kotouc



Celebrating our precious oceans and wildlife...



## World Oceans Day

**This World Oceans Day, June 8, you have once again blown us away with your generosity, kindness and commitment to marine conservation.**

For one week only, donations unlocked a matched amount – tripling your impact to protect our oceans.

Thank you to the more than 2,500 ocean lovers across Australia who joined AMCS in celebrating World Oceans Day in 2025.

This is a special year, as we celebrate 60 years of defending our oceans together. Thanks to a generous group of Wavemaker matched givers, all donations have been tripled!

**You've helped raise a record \$1,575,220 to safeguard our precious marine environments for future generations.**

We are Australia's only national charity dedicated solely to protecting our precious ocean wildlife – we are incredibly grateful for our community of ocean lovers across the nation working for healthy seas.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful and encouraging messages, wonderful celebrations for the occasion, and critical funding for our big blue backyard.

**Happy World Oceans Day!**



### Thank you

From the bottom of our big blue heart – thank you so much for supporting our oceans with AMCS this World Oceans Day. See how grateful we are at [amcs.org.au/WOD-TY](https://amcs.org.au/WOD-TY)

## Wavemakers for our oceans!

We send our deepest thanks to the Wavemakers who make World Oceans Day possible.

Your generous philanthropic gift continues to inspire fellow ocean-lovers right across the country. This year, positive impacts for our ocean have tripled thanks to you.

### The 2025 World Oceans Day Wavemakers include:

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alexandra Seddon          | Lord Family Foundation          |
| Auxilium Foundation       | Marilyn Ball                    |
| Caroline Jumpertz         | Norman Family Foundation        |
| Charles Warman Foundation | Rawson Care Foundation          |
| Claws For Change          | Renewable Energy Yacht Race     |
| Dan Mathews               | Sarah & Sebastian               |
| Eldon Ball                | Scott Hipkins and Lisa Cochrane |
| Ethinvest                 | Spiniflex Trust                 |
| Graeme Wood Foundation    | Sunnyside Foundation            |
| Greenstone Drinks         | The Robites Fund                |
| Jaramas Foundation        | Two Monkeys Foundation          |
| JMS Foundation            | ...and Anonymous Donors         |
| Joy Dodd                  |                                 |
| Letcombe Foundation       |                                 |





## 60 Years of Impact

Thank you to ocean lovers across Australia who have stood beside us, believed in our mission, and made this 60 year milestone possible.

On Monday 19th May, we marked our 60th anniversary with a powerful discussion with people who've shaped our organisation from the very beginning through to today. Founders Eddie Hegerl and Di Tarte shared stories from AMCS' early days and the major victories and challenges that they faced, while past CEOs Darren Kindleysides and Kate Davey reflected on defining moments in AMCS' evolution. We welcomed new CEO Paul Gamblin, who spoke about the future direction and vision for marine conservation.

The live Q&A was a rare opportunity for supporters to ask questions about AMCS' history, future challenges and the stories behind our successes.

We're deeply honoured to work together to protect our precious marine environments, and inspired by your commitment and passion – thank you so much.

### The Octopus Arms: 60 Years of Impact

Thank you for celebrating 60 years of ocean conservation with us at this very special edition of The Octopus Arms on Monday 19th May 2025.

Visit [amcs.org.au/octopus-arms-60years](https://amcs.org.au/octopus-arms-60years) to watch the special 60th Anniversary webinar.

## Celebrating 6 Decades

To celebrate six decades of marine conservation, we designed a limited edition range of shirts. Visit [amcs.org.au/eras](https://amcs.org.au/eras)



### 1960-1969: The Original (OG) Logo

Emblazoned with the Queensland Littoral Society (later, AMCS) logo.



### 1970-1979: Nostalgic Dugong Vibes

During these years, AMCS conducted field work studying wetlands, home of the dugong.



### 1980-1989: Save the Barrier Reef

This shirt celebrates Australia's largest sea-based campaign.



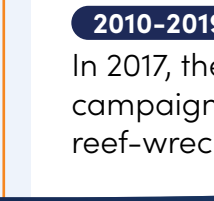
### 1990-1999: Save Our Seas

This print was created by artist Susi Blackwell in 1990 to save our seas.



### 2000-2009: I'd save that!

In 2002, we celebrated that all seahorses and their relatives (33 species) became protected in NSW.



### 2010-2019: Coral Not Coal

In 2017, the Fight For Our Reef campaign alliance stopped a reef-wrecking coal mine.

## Amazing Steve Parish

Steve Parish, OAM, is a renowned photographer, naturalist, author, publisher, speaker, and artist and long time friend of AMCS.



We are honoured and privileged to name Steve amongst our AMCS Honorary Life Members for his contribution to marine conservation.

Steve, has dedicated more than five decades of his life to his career to capture and share his passion for the science of natural history and artistic flair making him one of the world's most respected nature photographers.

A long time ocean-lover, his journey began in the early 1960s, with his innovative work in underwater nature photography leading to his first book in 1974, 'Australia's Ocean of Life'. Steve even created the AMCS logo in the mid 1990s.

**We are immensely grateful that Steve has donated images for our 2026 Amazing Oceans calendar, to share his love for our oceans with our ocean-loving community.**

### Amazing Oceans

Bring the incredible array of colour and diversity in our oceans into your home and office.

Pre-order your AMCS 2026 Amazing Oceans calendar and shell-ebrate our oceans all year. Visit [amcs.org.au/calendar](https://amcs.org.au/calendar)



## Honorary Life Members

Thank you to all AMCS members for their ongoing support of AMCS.

Our members are a vital part of our community, with many having been involved with AMCS since our earliest days. Their dedication and commitment have helped shape our organisation and mission to protect Australia's oceans.

In this milestone year, as AMCS celebrates its 60th anniversary, we are honoured to appoint three new Honorary Life Members in recognition of their exceptional contributions.



**Darren Kindleysides** in recognition of his 16 years as CEO of AMCS. Under Darren's leadership, AMCS grew into a nationally recognised and respected organisation.



**Tina Dalby** has been AMCS' longest-serving staff member, dedicating almost 25 years to the protection of our oceans.



**Penelope Figgis AO**, former AMCS President whose significant contributions to the marine conservation sector have helped shape ocean protection.

**On behalf of AMCS and our members, we proudly acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Darren, Tina and Penelope, and warmly welcome them as Honorary Life Members.**





# OF MARINE CONSERVATION IMPACT

1965

## Great Barrier Reef Marine Park secured

**1965-TODAY:** One of the defining moments in Australian environmental history. AMCS co-led a national campaign to protect the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling and coral mining. It was the first of many victories AMCS has helped secure for the Reef, including securing its Marine Park status in 1979. Today the marine park is over 344,400 km2 and a listed World Heritage Area. But the fight to protect our iconic reef continues, tackling the threats of climate change, water pollution and unsustainable fishing.

1980

## Global ban on commercial whaling

**1980-TODAY:** In 1979, Australia's Fraser government banned whaling, and in 1986, the global whaling ban took effect. From 2006 to 2018, AMCS played a leading role in a campaign for legal action against the government of Japan over their so-called "scientific whaling" program in the Southern Ocean. In 2013, Australia took Japan to the International Court of Justice, culminating in a 2014 ruling that Japan's Antarctic whaling program violated international law, ending whaling in the Southern Ocean.

2003

## Ningaloo Reef protected from marina development

In **2003**, AMCS and allies protected Ningaloo, Australia's largest fringing reef, from a major marina development, then secured 34% of the Ningaloo Marine Park as green zones, and World heritage listing in **2011**. The fight continues to safeguard Exmouth Gulf - Ningaloo's Nursery, from a destructive industrial port.

2004

## Live shark finning banned

In **2004** live shark finning at sea was declared illegal in all Australian states and the Northern Territory. While live shark finning at sea was banned in Australia, fishers could still process sharks at sea, leaving a wide open loophole for live shark finning to happen under the radar. In 2023 the final piece of the puzzle fell into place, and processing at sea was banned.

2012

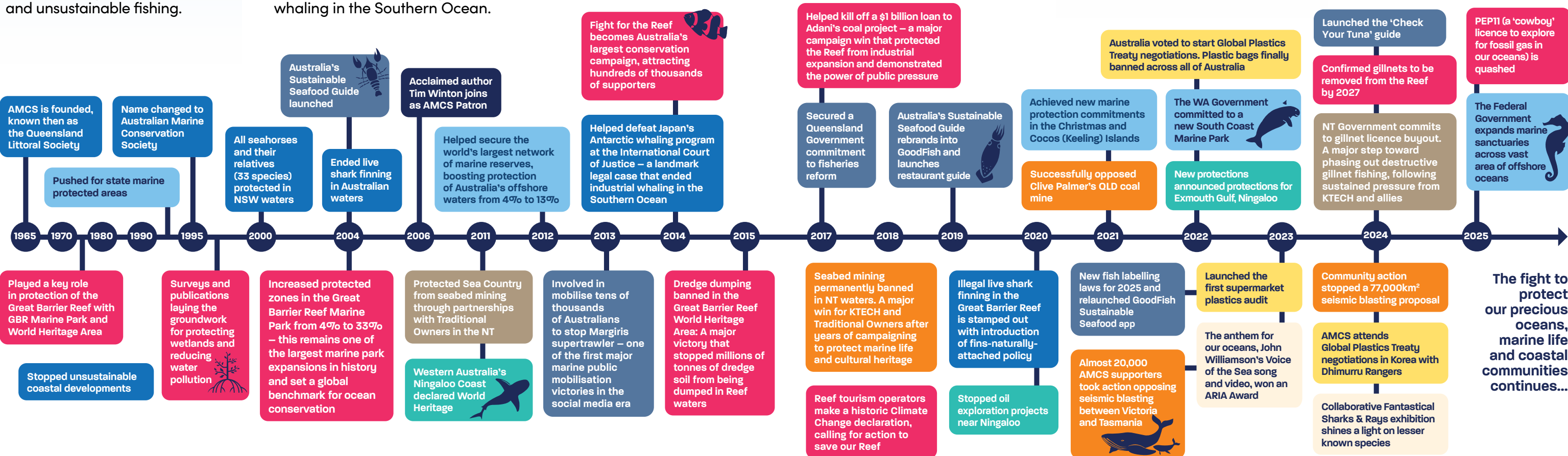
## Creating the largest marine park network on Earth

In **2012** the Australian Government set in law the largest network of marine reserves on Earth and showed the world that Australia means business when it comes to protecting our oceans. Over 10 years later, AMCS and partners continue to drive expansion of this network, securing additional marine park protection in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone, including Macquarie Island, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and the South East Marine Park network.

2023

## Stopped the largest offshore oil and gas seismic exploration proposal globally

In **2023**, AMCS launched a new campaign against the continued exploration and drilling for offshore gas in Australia's oceans. In 2024, working with local communities, we stopped the largest seismic blasting proposal on record from going ahead off the Victorian and Tasmanian coastline, protecting marine wildlife and ecosystems.





“A year of  
defending our  
oceans”

## Annual Impact Report

From the entire AMCS team, thank you for your unwavering support in protecting Australia's oceans.

Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and we look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.

In 2024, AMCS successfully campaign for:

### Read Our Annual Impact Report 2024:

In 2024, alongside ally organisations and supporters, AMCS delivered remarkable progress for our oceans across a range of campaigns and initiatives.

Visit [amcs.org.au/annualreport](https://amcs.org.au/annualreport) to read our annual report and audited accounts.

## 2024: AMCS IN ACTION



TOTAL NUMBER OF  
ACTIONS TAKEN  
**132,374**

EVERY **\$1** SPENT  
ON FUNDRAISING  
RAISES A FURTHER  
**\$9** FOR CONSERVATION  
WORK



QUADRUPLED  
THE SIZE OF THE  
**HEARD AND  
MCDONALD  
ISLANDS  
MARINE PARK**

**5**

NEW NET-FREE  
ZONES ESTABLISHED,  
CREATING SAFER  
HABITAT FOR  
SAWFISH



**1,000km**  
STRETCH GREAT  
SOUTHERN REEF  
SANCTUARY  
ESTABLISHED

**77,000km<sup>2</sup>**

ENDANGERED WHALE  
FEEDING GROUNDS  
PROTECTED FROM  
SEISMIC BLASTING  
PROPOSAL



REMOVING GILLNETS  
FROM THE GREAT  
BARRIER REEF BY  
JUNE 2027

A HUGE WIN  
FOR DUGONGS,  
TURTLES AND  
SAWFISH



**75%**  
EMISSIONS  
REDUCTION  
COMMITMENT  
SET BY THE  
QUEENSLAND  
GOVERNMENT

**80,000km<sup>2</sup>**

OF NEW MARINE  
SANCTUARIES  
ADDED TO  
AUSTRALIA'S  
SOUTH-EAST  
MARINE REGION



## Seismic Proposal Thrown Out

Endangered southern right whales and pygmy blue whales have won reprieve. The world's largest 3D seismic blasting project has been scrapped.

Fossil fuel companies had planned to blast 77,000 square kilometres of ocean between Victoria's Otway coast and Tasmania's north-west, including inside a Commonwealth marine park.

Seismic blasting, loud airgun blasts every few seconds for months, can deafen whales, kill scallops and lobsters, and wipe out plankton more than a kilometre away.

Tens of thousands of Australians spoke out, coastal communities rallied, and repeated regulator knock-backs forced the project to shrink before it was finally cancelled in September 2024.

**Thank you to our ocean community. Together, we stopped the world's largest seismic blasting plan, a huge win for our whales and marine life.**



Take action

Stand up for Australia's unique marine life. Reckless seismic blasting that expands fossil fuels in our ocean is not a price Australians are willing to pay. Demand an urgent moratorium on seismic blasting in Australian waters. Visit [amcs.org.au/StopSeismic](https://amcs.org.au/StopSeismic)

## Seismic Action

Thank you to ocean lovers who attended community actions in March at Koontapool Yakeen/Logans Beach, Warrnambool.

Together, we sent a powerful message, calling for a seismic shift away from offshore fossil fuels, and an urgent moratorium on seismic blasting.

The community action is part of an ongoing and growing campaign to protect our oceans and marine life from harmful seismic blasting for fossil fuels across Australia, from the iconic surf coast to fragile Scott Reef.

As a united front, we have demonstrated our power to make waves, stopping the TGS seismic proposal in 2024. But the fight continues with repeated resubmissions of the CGG seismic blasting plans off Warrnambool and other proposals across Australia.

Seismic blasting to expand the fossil fuel industry, at the cost of deafening whales and destroying the marine food web, isn't a price Australians are willing to pay.



## In-depth: Bottom Trawling

**Bottom trawling is among the highest impact fishing methods employed in Australian fisheries.**

It involves dragging weighted nets across the seafloor to catch species like prawns, flathead, blue grenadier, and orange roughy. It's used in various Australian fisheries.

Bottom trawling can damage sensitive seabed habitats such as sponge gardens, deepwater reefs, seagrass meadows and seamounts when carried out in inappropriate areas.

Careful management can reduce the risks associated with bottom trawling.

However, challenges remain, particularly concerning the protection of sensitive habitats, threatened and protected species, and the need for more comprehensive marine park protections. These challenges must be addressed and AMCS engages with the fishing industry and governments to lift the bar.

### Bycatch CAN be confronting

Bycatch refers to the unintended capture of non-target species during fishing operations, which are thrown back dead or alive.

Bycatch is a key threat to many threatened and protected species, including several small sharks and rays that are found only in Australia.

## Olive Sea Snake

**Elegant and shy, the olive sea snake has a paddle-like tail and compressed body that give it an eel-like appearance.**

Unlike fish, they do not have gills and must surface regularly to breathe. While venomous, bite instances are rare due to their shy nature and short fangs.

Prawn trawling poses a significant threat to olive sea snakes, with up to 50% of those caught in trawls dying from drowning or injuries. The snakes are caught as bycatch in the nets, and their physiology makes them vulnerable to drowning and crushing when trapped.

### Facts & Figures

**COMMON NAME:** Olive Sea Snake

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Aipysurus laevis*

**FAMILY:** Elapidae

**BODY SIZE:** Typically 1 metre

**DIET:** Crustaceans, fish and fish eggs

**LOCATION:** Northern coasts of Australia

**CONSERVATION STATUS:** Least concern

**POPULATION TREND:** Some localised populations experiencing decline



Olive Sea Snake (*Aipysurus laevis*)

## Country of Origin Labelling

**Long-overdue improvements to seafood labelling will bring more clarity about what's on our plates – and there's more work to do.**

From July 2025, hospitality venues across Australia are transitioning to better labels on seafood. Restaurants and cafes will soon mark seafood on their menus with an A for Australian, I for Imported, or M for Mixed. Country of origin labelling will be mandatory from July 2026.

While these improvements to country of origin labelling are welcome, there is still a long way to go. Australians still can't be sure what species they're eating, where it was caught or farmed, or how it was produced. For truly informed choices, we need stronger seafood labelling – in both hospitality and retail.

### End fishy labelling in Australia

Australians love seafood, but our seafood labelling is outdated and unfit for purpose.

Australians can't be sure what seafood they're eating, where it came from or how it was caught. Changes need to be made to seafood labelling so that Aussie consumers get the information they want and deserve.

Join us as we call on the Australian Government to fix our fishy labelling laws – add your name.

Visit [www.amcs.org.au/FishyLabelling](http://www.amcs.org.au/FishyLabelling)




## Check Your Tuna

**We've launched the GoodFish Check Your Tuna guide!**

The question we are asked most at GoodFish is, 'Which canned tuna should I buy?' and we wanted to make sure we could provide a solid answer to that.

The Check Your Tuna guide is Australia's canned tuna sustainability guide, helping Aussies understand the environmental impact of their tuna choices.

The guide rates 18 of Australia's most popular canned tuna products with an easy traffic light classification:

-  Green is a better choice
-  Amber means eat less, and
-  Red means say no.

Tuna products were assessed on population health by species and location, bycatch impacts of the fishing method, and the accessibility of information.

**See how canned tuna stacks up at [amcs.org.au/checkyourtuna](http://amcs.org.au/checkyourtuna)**



### GoodFish

Check the newly updated GoodFish Guide before you shop for the most sustainable options. Visit [GoodFish.org.au](http://GoodFish.org.au) today.



## Plastics Treaty Negotiations Continue

**Because of you, AMCS Plastics Campaign Manager Cip Hamilton and Dhimurru Rangers continue to defend our oceans on the international stage.**

It's with immense thanks to our supporters that AMCS proudly continues to be the voice for Australia's oceans at Global Plastics Treaty negotiations.

With the ambition of delivering a legally-binding Global Plastics Treaty to cut plastic production, Australia's continued engagement and commitment is vital for the future of our oceans.

The Global Plastics Treaty negotiations took place in Geneva, Switzerland in August. During the 10-day event, a Global Plastics Treaty was not delivered despite strong ambition from over 100 countries, including Australia. Negotiations will continue at a yet to be determined date.

AMCS is calling on all countries who showed high ambition to continue their commitment to deliver a strong and effective Global Plastics Treaty. We must work together to enact the solutions needed.

### Take Action

Sign your name to call on the Australian Government to remain strong and negotiate a Global Plastics Treaty that the oceans and people of the world desperately need. Visit [amcs.org.au/PlasticsTreaty](https://amcs.org.au/PlasticsTreaty)

## Citizen Science Making Waves

**Thank you so much to our citizen-science plastics investigators who gathered data for our Supermarket Plastics Investigation Unit in 2025.**

Over 500 surveys have been completed by ocean-lovers across the country, carefully documenting the excessive use of plastic packaging in our supermarkets.

These incredible contributions are invaluable in shaping the 2025 Supermarket Plastics Audit Report.

Last year, your submissions helped shine a light on the excessive use of plastic packaging on our fresh produce, and the financial penalties shoppers face for going plastic-free at the checkout.

Keep your eye out for the audit findings, case studies and key information later this year, along with the release of the 2025 Audit Report.

**This project is possible because of your generous support. Thank you so much for standing with us and holding supermarkets accountable for their use of packaging, and its damaging effects on our precious marine environments.**

### Stay Afloat

Key information will be made available ahead of the release of the 2025 report. Visit [amcs.org.au/unwrapped](https://amcs.org.au/unwrapped)

Display of fresh plastic wrapped tomatoes © Dutch Scenery

## Coral Harvesting

**Tonnes of our Great Barrier Reef are being shipped overseas.**

Right now, coral is being chipped off the Reef piece by piece.

Some of the healthiest corals are being taken from the wild and exported overseas into the global aquarium trade.

This is happening as the Reef faces mounting threats. Climate change is driving mass bleaching, while more frequent cyclones and floods batter already fragile ecosystems.

**Yet this harvesting continues inside a World Heritage Area, with little public scrutiny - on a Reef that has suffered six mass bleaching events in just nine years.**

**We've launched a new campaign to stop wild coral harvesting.** We're calling on the Australian Government to phase out the Queensland Coral Fishery's wild harvest and transition to aquaculture - where corals are grown in tanks, not taken from the wild.

**Together, we can protect the Reef and its incredible corals for generations to come.**

### Help Stop Wild Coral Harvesting

Take action to protect our Reef's precious corals. We're calling on the Federal Government to transition the Queensland Coral Fishery away from wild harvest and into aquaculture, where corals are grown in tanks, not taken from the wild. Visit [amcs.org.au/endcoralharvesting](https://amcs.org.au/endcoralharvesting)

### Did you know?

Corals are animals not plants! They are colonies of tiny animals called polyps. Polyps divide into clones, and these clones stay connected, forming a colony that functions as a single living organism. As they grow side by side, they build a reef.

### Coral Harvesting Quick Facts

- Live corals are being chipped off the Great Barrier Reef with hammers and chisels - even in areas already devastated by mass bleaching.
- Most of these wild corals aren't sold in Australia; they're exported to aquarium markets in North America, Europe and Asia.
- Up to 190 tonnes of coral can be taken from the Reef each year, including rare, brightly coloured species found nowhere else on Earth.
- Harvest limits in the Queensland Coral Fishery are largely based on historical catch records - not on current scientific assessments of reef health or sustainability.
- The very corals struggling to survive the impacts of climate change are still being removed from the wild, further weakening the Reef's ability to recover.
- Alarming, coral removals have increased in recent years.










## Water Pollution Report

A new report from AMCS highlights the urgent need for increased government action and funding to tackle water pollution – one of the greatest threats to the Great Barrier Reef.

Despite more than \$2.25 billion invested over the past two decades, progress has fallen well short. Australia is still not on track to meet key water quality targets set to safeguard the health of the Reef.

### Key Findings:

-  **Missed targets:** Australia is set to miss its 2025 water quality targets – with some not expected to be met until as late as 2114.
-  **No clear plan:** AMCS is calling on the Australian and Queensland governments to assess current programs and commit to a fully costed, coordinated plan to meet revised 2030 targets.
-  **UNESCO concern:** UNESCO has flagged water pollution as a major threat to the Reef's World Heritage status, urging governments to fund and deliver ambitious action to avoid an "in Danger" listing.

The Australian and Queensland governments have a duty to protect the Great Barrier Reef. Reducing water pollution – the second biggest threat after climate change – must be a national priority.

### Join the Fight For our Reef






Together, we can ensure the Reef gets the protection it deserves. Take action at [amcs.org.au/WaterQuality](https://amcs.org.au/WaterQuality)

## Cairns Reef Heroes

Thanks to powerful community efforts, reef protection is high on the agenda for newly elected politicians in Far North Queensland.

Thank you to the incredible volunteers who came out in force across Cairns during the Federal Election. Together, you made sure every candidate knew that protecting the Great Barrier Reef is a top priority for the community – and your message was heard loud and clear.

Together, volunteers achieved incredible results:

-  Nearly 2,000 homes, businesses and cars now proudly display 'Protect Our Reef' yard signs and bumper stickers
-  More than 1,750 doors were knocked and hundreds of conversations had with Cairns locals
-  More than 40 new community leaders were trained at Four Reef Leadership Workshops
-  Over 100 people attended our 'Reef, Climate and Energy' Forum with local candidates
-  More than 700 letters were sent to local candidates.

### But we can't stop now.

The Reef is incredibly resilient and it's not too late to save it – but we must take urgent action to protect it from threats like climate change, water pollution and unsustainable fishing practices.



## Save Scott Reef

Thank you so much for your continued support of Scott Reef.

It was so inspiring to see so many attendees in July for the national online film screening of Corals' Last Stand. From 22 August, AMCS are hosting face-to-face screenings of the film all over the country – and we're so excited to see you there!

We're fighting to save the extraordinary Scott Reef from Woodside's dangerous gas plans.

Off Western Australia's Kimberley coast lies Scott Reef, one of Australia's most important and biodiverse coral reefs.

It supports more than a thousand species, including reef-building corals and fish, endangered turtles and sea snakes, and migratory whales, including the endangered pygmy blue whale.

Fossil fuel giant Woodside wants to drill up to 50 gas wells around Australia's magnificent Scott Reef.

### Take Action

We need your help to save Scott Reef. Add your name to email the Australian Government and WA Government Ministers, calling for them to reject Woodside's plans. Visit [amcs.org.au/SaveScott](https://amcs.org.au/SaveScott)



## We Won! Saltworks Cancelled

Because of you, the developers of a massive industrial saltworks at Exmouth Gulf-Ningaloo have withdrawn their project!

German corporation K+S has scrapped plans for the saltworks, which would have damaged an offshore area the size of 12,000 footy ovals.

More than 17,000 ocean lovers raised their voices, sending letters to WA's environment minister in a powerful show of community opposition.

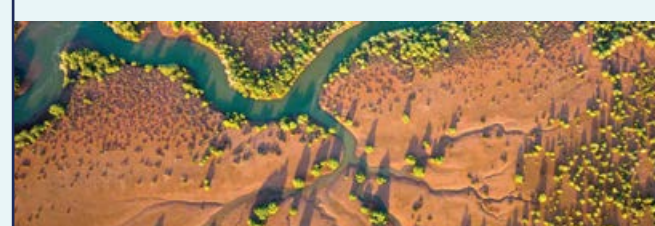
Supporters also helped fund our Protect Ningaloo billboard and social media campaigns in Germany, directly calling on K+S to withdraw the project.

This has been a hard-fought, years-long campaign. We're deeply grateful, and overjoyed.

This is a major win for Exmouth Gulf – one of Australia's natural wonders and a place of international importance.

### Protect Exmouth Gulf

State and federal governments must act to ensure Exmouth Gulf is protected from industrial projects. Join Protect Ningaloo and together we can stop a proposed industrial port in Exmouth Gulf. Take action at [amcs.org.au/NoPort](https://amcs.org.au/NoPort)







## Ink, Ale and Ocean Love

**Ale aboard! The Port Jackson Pale Ale from the legends at Jervis Bay Brewing Co. marked something pretty special this June.**

To celebrate AMCS' 60th birthday, Jervis Bay Brewing Co. teamed up with Melbourne tattoo artist Guy Shoval to create the limited-edition brew – with 100% of profits going to support our vital work protecting Australia's ocean, coasts and wildlife.

True to their long-standing tradition of ocean advocacy, the JBB Co. crew brewed something that tastes like victory and sunshine.

Guy generously donated his talent to design a bold, beautiful can that captures the deep connection between art, nature and community.

This collaboration not only highlights the importance of marine conservation but also shows the power of creative partnerships to inspire environmental action.

Our deepest thanks to Guy Shoval and Jervis Bay Brewing Co. We hope you'll raise a glass with us – to the crew, the cause and 60 years of protecting our ocean!

Read More: [www.amcs.org.au/jervisbaylocals](http://www.amcs.org.au/jervisbaylocals)

### Business That Cares

Our business supporters lead by example by constantly striving to operate 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. To find out more visit [amcs.org.au/business-supporters](http://amcs.org.au/business-supporters).



## Pelican Café Fundraiser

**AMCS sincerely thanks Pelican Café for their support of our oceans.**

In March 2025, Pelican Café hosted a dinner event with all bookings including a contribution to AMCS!

Situated in Redland Bay, just metres from Moreton Bay waters, the Pelican Café is a hub of inspiration and conservation principles – the site for the café and Pelican Slipways – a traditionally operated boat slipways, and Blue Peter Australia – a sail training school.

Café Manager Yonna Powell speaks to the deep connection the community has to our oceans.

*"The marine environment is an integral part of our day to day lives. We love living and working alongside the ocean. The bond we share with the ocean is reinforced every working day!"*

*"Fundraising for AMCS will always be one of our priorities. It's a brilliant organisation that works in an intelligent and effective way to help protect our oceans."*

We are so grateful to Pelican Café for their support, and commitment to protecting our oceans – thank you.

### Join Our Blue Crew

For our ocean – sea what you can do! If you would like to raise funds to protect our oceans visit [amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas](http://amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas) or email [community@amcs.org.au](mailto:community@amcs.org.au)

Friendly faces of staff @ Pelican Café.



## Flic's Enduring Legacy

**July marked ten years since the passing of Felicity 'Flic' Wishart.**

Flic was one of Australia's most respected and impactful conservationists – an extraordinary force for nature who dedicated three decades fighting to protect the places and wildlife we hold dear.

Flic passed away during her time as our AMCS Great Barrier Reef Campaign Director.

As campaign director of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's Fight for our Reef campaign, Flic spearheaded work that has led to a massive increase in protection for our Great Barrier Reef.

None worked harder, with as much grace and achieved as much to protect our heritage.

As a leader, she combined great warmth and humility, with an ability to understand and fearlessly challenge powerful forces that threatened our heritage.

As well as being a tireless advocate and inspiration to many, Flic was a beloved friend, guide, confidant and mother. Her warmth, intelligence, wisdom and energy is irreplaceable and sorely missed.

### What is your ocean legacy?

How would you like to be remembered?

By giving a gift in your Will, you will hand on a wilder, safer, more diverse and beautiful ocean planet for future generations. Visit [amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy](http://amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy)



## Tracey's Twenty Years

**For Tracey, the ocean has always felt like home.**

Growing up on Victoria's wild southern coast near Cape Otway, her childhood was spent exploring rock pools and learning the names of the creatures she found. *"The sound of the waves is a feeling of home," she says. "If I'm ever overwhelmed, I go to the sea to feel calm."*

Today, Tracey is a marine algae researcher and a proud Sea Guardian of nearly 20 years.

Back when she first joined AMCS, it was just a small group of dedicated ocean lovers meeting in the back room of the Manly Pub in Brisbane. Now, she reflects on how far AMCS has come. *"AMCS has grown so much since then and has demonstrated what can be done when concerned people come together, volunteer, donate and lobby to protect our oceans."*

Thanks to Sea Guardians like Tracey, our movement continues to grow. Together, we are standing up for our oceans, and protecting the places and wildlife we all love.

### Become a Sea Guardian

Take a stand and become a guardian for our oceans as an AMCS Sea Guardian with an affordable monthly gift. Visit [amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians](http://amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians)







# 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.

Red-tailed tropicbird (*Phaethon rubricauda*) © Steve Parish

## Stay in touch

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*The Australian Marine Conservation Society acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and Sea Country, and we 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.*

© Freeda Roberts, Saltwater Dunghutti artist from South West Rocks



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