

COMMUNIQUE

SafeFish held its quarterly meeting virtually on Monday 18th March 2024, chaired by Dr. Marion Healy. The meeting included the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), representatives from Australian seafood industry sectors (wholesale, processing, recreational, import and export fields), Seafood New Zealand and researchers/consultants.

Strategy and Performance Plan

A strategy and performance plan detailing how SafeFish will monitor, evaluate and report SafeFish activities has been developed. The performance measures identified have been set to meet the SafeFish’ strategic objectives and to align with the FRDC strategic vision. The plan will be housed on the SafeFish website alongside the Charter and the progress made will be reported against periodically.



Vibrio Whole Genome Sequencing Project



In 2024-2025 SafeFish are coordinating a project to encourage collaboration across researchers in Australia and to assist with building a better understanding of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* serotypes present in Australian seafood and clinical samples. Partners across Australia will contribute isolates or whole genome sequences that will be compared to identify the serotypes that are causing illness and search for specific marker genes. The research will add to the knowledge base in Australia and build networks and collaborations for future work.

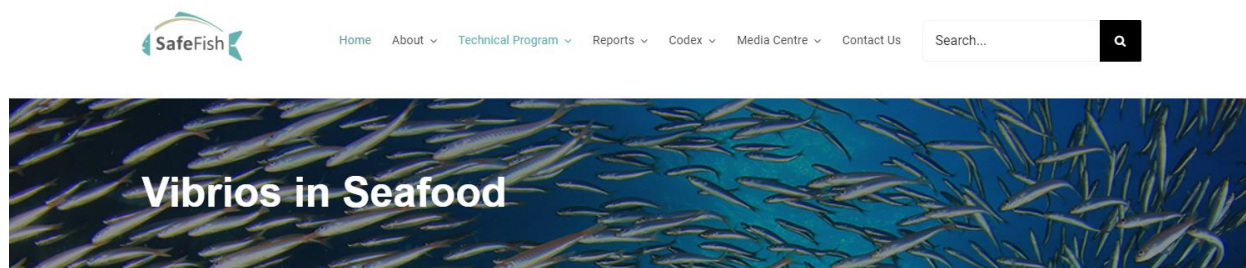
Do you have a good understanding of Food Safety risks relating to shellfish?



A food safety training module aimed at new shellfish industry entrants has been developed by the University of Tasmania with funding from Oysters Australia and the FRDC. The module was developed with the assistance of Safefish and aims to build capacity and understanding about food safety in the Australian shellfish industry. The [Industry Induction Course- Shellfish Safety](#) is freely available until Dec 2025, after which participants will need to pay a nominal fee.

This course provides an introduction to the food safety issues that impact bivalve shellfish and how these issues are managed to ensure the consumer gets safe product to consume. It also describes actions that operational staff can take, to assist businesses to produce safe food. Further courses will be developed for industry supervisors, business owners and government regulators.

A New Look!



The SafeFish website has recently been re-vamped to pull together all of the technical information into a single touch point for [Vibrios](#), [Listeria](#) and [Ciguatera](#) to make finding information and navigating content easier. Valuable information such as food safety fact sheets, webinars, and useful resources are now available in one spot.

Join us For the Upcoming Microplastics Webinar



On the 17th of May, SafeFish will be facilitating a webinar on microplastics in Australian seafood, with three expert guest speakers that will detail the position in Australia and overseas, the FAO perception of risk they pose to human health, and the industry perspective of the problem. [To register your interest to attend, click here.](#)

Too Hot to Handle...

In response to the recent marine heat wave that has been affecting the east coast of Australia this year, a number of webinar series on climate change and the impacts of increasing temperatures in our oceans have been delivered in late 2023/early 2024.

FRDC Climate Change Briefings for the Seafood Industry



A 5-part climate change briefing presented by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO have been developed for the Seafood Industry. These are available to view through the [FRDC YouTube Channel](#).

Centre for Marine Socioecology – The long hot summer: getting ahead of the heatwave.



The Centre for Marine Socioecology and the Institute for Marine Sciences hosted a 5-part webinar series on the current marine heatwave that Australia is experiencing and the prospective impacts to conservation, fishing and aquaculture that it may have. These are available to view here: ['The Long Hot Summer: Getting Ahead of the Heatwave' | Centre for Marine Socioecology](#).

Next Meeting

The next SafeFish meeting will be held virtually on Monday 5th August from 12-4pm (AEST).

For enquiries, please contact:

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