

ARFF Policy	Labor	Liberal Nationals
No further Marine Park lock outs and support the 2018 Commonwealth Marine Park Plans	<p>Supporting Recreational Fishing https://www.alp.org.au/policies/supporting-recreational-fishing/</p> <p><i>Labor has committed to reversing the largest removal of area from conservation in Australian history and restoring the original 2012 Marine Park Network in full. This includes an adjustment package for commercial fishers, and will still allow recreational fishing in 96 per cent of Commonwealth waters within one hundred kilometres of the shore. It does not affect the coastline or state waters. Labor’s commitment to return the marine parks will also involve retaining some very minor improvements in the zoning in the current plans, including small oil and gas exclusion zones off the South Australian coast and the Kimberley Marine Park.</i></p>	<p>The Coalition overturned Labor’s 2012 Marine Parks plans following substantial consultation. As a result, a better balance between protecting the environment and protecting fishing rights has been achieved.</p> <p>Under our plans recreational fishers can access 97 per cent of waters within 100 kms of the coast.</p> <p>Eighty per cent of the Coalition’s network of parks is open to recreational fishing, compared with 64 per cent under Labor’s plans.</p> <p>Within the Coral Sea Marine Park specifically, recreational fishers can access 76 per cent of the park, compared with 49 per cent under Labor’s plans.</p> <p>The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring stability and predictability for recreational fishers by not going back to Labor’s 2012 plans.</p>
Establish a National Boating and Fishing Infrastructure Fund	<p><i>To improve recreational fishing infrastructure across the country, Labor will expand the \$10 million Supporting Recreational Fishing Fund, to \$45 million. The Supporting Recreational Fishing Fund will primarily focus on upgrading existing and building new boat ramps will help improve safety for people launching their vessels. Projects to be</i></p>	<p>A re-elected Morrison Government will deliver \$20 million for recreational fishing and camping facilities for local councils to apply to improve, maintain or build new boating, marine rescue, fishing and camping facilities (such as boat ramps).</p>

	<p><i>considered for funding will be identified in consultation with representatives from the recreational fishing community, peak bodies, local government and other elected officials.</i></p>	<p>Through the new Fishing and Camping Program, locals and visitors will get more opportunities to go fishing in our rivers and around our vast coastline.</p>
<p>Fund grassroots action to improve marine and riverine habitat</p>	<p><i>A \$500,000 grant will be provided to the Give Back to Habitat campaign to support on the ground efforts to protect and restore fish habitats. Recreational fishers are some of Australia’s most committed conservationists</i></p>	<p>Australia’s fishers understand better than anyone the need to keep our waterways healthy.</p> <p>A re-elected Morrison Government will invest \$8 million in fisheries habitat restoration and work with fishing clubs to restore marine and estuarine habitats.</p> <p>The health of many fisheries and fish stocks depends on the healthy and proper function of our rivers and estuaries, which provide critical nursery habitats.</p>
<p>Continue the National Recreational Fishing Council to ensure recreational fishers have direct engagement with the Commonwealth Government and Minister</p>	<p><i>Labor will continue to support the National Recreational Fishing Council and give our recreational fishers a seat at the decision-making table. Chaired by the minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the council will include representatives of both recreational fishers and relevant government departments.</i></p> <p><i>A Shorten Labor Government will establish the first Prime Minister’s Recreational Fishing Roundtable. The roundtable will meet once a year – industry leaders and recreational fishing groups will be invited to discuss pressing issues with both the prime minister and the minister responsible for fisheries. The annual roundtable will be held in regional Australia – for example North West Tasmania, the North Coast of New South Wales, or Central or North Queensland: areas in Australia where recreational fishing is a major pastime.</i></p>	<p>The Coalition established the National Recreational Fishing Council in 2017 to improve the dialogue between recreational fishers and the Australian Government.</p> <p>The council has a mandate to provide feedback to government on policy issues, development and implementation.</p> <p>The Morrison Government is committed to continuing to support this Council.</p> <p>In addition, in 2018 the Coalition formed Australia’s first National Fisheries Advisory Council (NFAC) with a mandate to provide the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources with information and advice on fisheries issues, proposed legislation and policies.</p>

	<p><i>The roundtable will be tasked with discussing guaranteed access for recreational anglers to fish, to ensure recreational fishing is supported.</i></p>	<p>Through NFAC the Government gains timely information and advice from across the industry's sectors.</p> <p>Under the Liberal and Nationals Government NFAC has specifically committed to progressing work under the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relationship building between commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishing sectors; • access to resources and resource sharing; • future proofing the industry, including through attracting workers to fishing; • social licence to operate; • developing a national approach to fisheries policy and management; • ensuring a consistent approach to valuation of each sector; and • availability and transparency of information for use in management decisions. <p>The Morrison Government is committed to continuing to harness NFAC to progress work under each of these priority areas.</p> <p>As part of this work NFAC will assist government in the development of develop a <i>National Fishing Plan</i> and a <i>Commonwealth Resource Sharing Framework</i>.</p>
<p>No industrial scale fishing of the small pelagic fishery including super trawlers</p>	<p><i>Labor will ensure that Australia's waters are adequately protected from the risks associated with the use of large-capacity factory freezer trawlers, by banning super trawlers in the Commonwealth's Small Pelagic Fishery.</i></p>	<p>The Morrison Government is committed to managing fisheries and making fisheries decisions based on the best available science. That includes decisions on which boats can fish in Commonwealth fisheries and what restrictions are applied to those boats (e.g. quotas, bycatch mitigation measures, observers etc.).</p>

		<p>The Coalition banned super trawlers in 2015 using the definition of these vessels established by Labor and ENGOs (i.e. trawlers 130 m and over). It stands behind the appropriateness of this ban.</p>
<p>Support the National Carp Control Plan</p>	<p><i>Labor notes that the delivery date for National Carp Control Plan has been extended until December 2019 to allow important new research to address knowledge gaps that have emerged as a result of current work. Before making any decision, Labor will await the final report and control plan and consider the technical feasibility of releasing the carp virus, the associated costs, benefits and risks, and the views of stakeholders and the wider community, including the recreational fishing community.</i></p>	<p>The Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to delivering the National Carp Control Plan by the end of 2019. The plan will provide the robust scientific evidence and advice needed to inform the decision of whether or not to release the carp virus, and if so how.</p> <p>The research being undertaken under the plan is critical for determining the likely effectiveness of the measures being proposed, and for properly considering the potentially adverse effects of releasing the proposed carp virus.</p> <p>The Morrison Government will only make a final decision after this research is complete.</p>
<p>Help recreational fishers gather scientific data and support a national study into the economic benefits of recreational fishing</p>	<p><i>Labor supports investment into research on the role and impact of recreational fishing including the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation's (FRDC) ongoing investment in recreational fishing R&D and, in particular, the current national socio-economic study of recreational fishing.</i></p>	<p>The Morrison Government has launched a national recreational fishing survey with government funding provided through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.</p> <p>The information collected during the survey will support a better understanding of the economic and social impact, demographics, attitudes and behaviours of the recreational fishing sector.</p> <p>This will provide useful information for considering the recreational fishing sector in setting fisheries management policy settings.</p>

		<p>The Morrison Government remains committed to supporting recreational and commercial fisheries research, development and extension work commissioned by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.</p>
<p>Support National Gone Fishing Day</p>	<p><i>Labor will continue to support National Gone Fishing Day.</i></p>	<p>A re-elected Morrison Government will deliver \$20 million for recreational fishing and camping facilities for local councils to apply to improve, maintain or build new boating, marine rescue, fishing and camping facilities (such as boat ramps).</p>
<p>National Recreational Fishing Development Program</p>		<p>\$400,000 for capacity building for fishing representatives: delivering capacity-building tools to ensure that all relevant fishing sectors are included in decision-making and to maximise their contribution.</p> <p>All participants will gain a well-developed understanding of the regulatory, scientific and economic drivers of fisheries management, which builds on the work of the National Fishing Advisory Council (NFAC) and Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).</p>
<p>Murray-Darling Basin</p>	<p><i>Labor is committed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introducing legislation to repeal the 1,500GL cap on water buybacks.</i> • <i>Restoring the integrity of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority by moving its compliance functions to the new Federal EPA, and ordering a formal review of claims that public servants acted unlawfully.</i> • <i>Urgently reviewing the impact of climate change on the Murray-Darling Basin now and into the</i> 	<p>The Coalition is on track to deliver the Basin Plan – in full without needing to adjust the buyback cap.</p> <p>The Morrison Government is investing more than \$136.2 million to enhance the Murray Darling Basin Authority’s compliance and enforcement capability, implement measures to protect low flows in the Barwon-Darling, improve connectivity between rivers and support fish recovery.</p>

	<p><i>future to determine any change in inflows and evaporation rates.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Urgently renegotiating the Menindee Lakes agreement, which determines how the lakes are managed and is now decades out of date.</i> 	<p>The Morrison Government is investing \$40 million to support cultural and economic water for the Basin’s Indigenous communities – creating opportunities for them to secure real economic benefits. The Coalition have also introduced legislation to ensure an Indigenous member on the Murray Darling Basin Authority.</p> <p>We are investing \$25 million to strengthen the economic and social resilience of 15 Basin communities through the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program. We have introduced legislation to ensure an Indigenous member on the Murray Darling Basin Authority.</p> <p>We have delivered key amendments to the Basin Plan that will deliver environmental benefits at a much lower social and economic cost for Basin communities.</p> <p>The Coalition’s \$20 million for scientific research on water and environmental management, builds on \$3 million being provided to the CSIRO for ecosystem research.</p> <p>We are investing \$5 million in a Basin-wide Native Fish Management and Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>The Morrison Government announced an independent panel to undertake a broad-ranging assessment of the social and economic conditions in irrigation communities across the Murray-Darling Basin.</p>
Native Fish Recovery	<p><i>Labor will invest \$10 million into native fish breeding and stocking around Australia to stock 10 million native fish a year into rivers such as the Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon, Darling, Murrumbidgee, Edwards, Wakool, Peel,</i></p>	<p>The Morrison Government understands our inland waterways are highly valued and enjoyed by recreational anglers. Recreational fishing groups play an active role in restocking and rehabilitating inland rivers, streams and lakes.</p>

Macquarie, Barwon, McIntyre, Culgoa – but this list is not finite and we will work with recreational fishing groups to determine where to make investments.

Labor will consult with recreational fishing groups on the best way to replenish native fish stocks, such as which species and breeds should be priorities. Options for funding will include funding support for dedicated fish hatcheries and co-investing in existing state government native fish breeding programs.

Labor will ensure the federal program works closely with closely with similar state programs, such as that run by Fisheries Victoria.

The tragic fish deaths that occurred at Menindee and the lower Darling in December 2018 and January 2019 have been widely felt – from recreational fishers to communities along the Murray-Darling Basin river system.

We've responded with a range of measures addressing the findings of the independent panel report into the deaths, including:

- \$10 million to support native fish restocking and establish new fish hatcheries in Menindee and St George;
- \$20 million for scientific research on water and environmental management;
- \$26 million to improve water measurement and satellite monitoring in the northern Basin;
- accelerating investment and delivery of works to improve fish movement from the Barwon-Darling right through to the Murray River;
- creating an early warning system to help all Basin governments and the Murray Darling Basin Authority respond quickly when river and weather conditions threaten native fish stocks;
- \$5 million for the development of a Basin-wide Native Fish Management and Recovery Strategy;
- extending the Native Fish Demonstration Reach program to the lower Darling; and
- committing an extra \$3 million into Basin-wide monitoring and evaluation to maintain vigilance on the health of native fish stocks and the system as a whole.

Southern Bluefin Tuna
resource access

The Morrison Government is committed to ensuring ongoing access to this stock by both recreational and commercial fishes. A number of priorities to progress the resource sharing of SBT between sectors have been agreed. These priorities include:

- implementation of a program to work with recreational fishers on SBT and fish handling practices (Tuna Champions);
- an interim set aside of 250 tonnes to begin to account for recreational catch, noting that the annual decision on allocation for the commercial sector is a matter for the Australian Fisheries Management Authority;
- undertaking a national survey of recreational catch commencing in 2018; and
- development of an agreement with relevant state governments on resource sharing and management.

Tuna Champions is already underway and the interim set aside has been implemented. The Coalition has committed \$2.3 million for the national survey to update our knowledge of the recreational SBT catch and contracted the University of Tasmania to undertake the survey.

Data collection began in December 2018 and will conclude late in 2019. Results of the survey are expected to be available mid-2020. These survey results will be used to inform future discussions on the resource sharing of SBT.

Ensuring fair and equitable access to SBT resources by each fishing sector (including the recreational sector) is a central aim in all of the work outlined above.