



OCEANWATCH
AUSTRALIA



OceanWatch Australia Marine Natural Resource Management Plan Survey

2023 Report

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Executive Summary	3
Background	5
<i>National Marine NRM Plan</i>	5
<i>Survey</i>	6
Survey results	7
<i>Summary</i>	7
<i>Implications: looking ahead</i>	9
<i>Overview of results</i>	11
<i>Appendix A – survey methodology</i>	19
<i>Appendix B – survey questionnaire</i>	20

Executive summary

OceanWatch Australia is an organisation that delivers projects focused on adopting best practices for fishing and aquaculture, encouraging stewardship actions amongst coastal and marine users, and taking action to protect, restore, and enhance key marine and coastal habitats around Australia.

To ensure project activities are aligned with this focus, OceanWatch Australia has identified key objectives and actions within its National Marine Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2028 (Marine NRM Plan). These objectives and actions were developed in collaboration with key marine stakeholders.

Diverse stakeholder and community views were also considered important to help shape the National Marine NRM Plan. As such, OceanWatch sought input from the wider Australian community (i.e. beyond 'expert' or 'key' stakeholders) on the Marine NRM Plan objectives and actions. OceanWatch enlisted support and expertise from the Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS), an interdisciplinary research organisation based at the University of Tasmania, to conduct this exploratory (i.e. non-research) project. CMS works to provide and develop, and integrate research to i) support better understanding and management of Australia's marine environments, and ii) build necessary capacity to provide skills and solutions for industry, government, and the community

CMS provided expertise to support the development of an open online survey questionnaire that aimed to obtain Australian community views and understanding of the Marine NRM Plan. This survey was conducted in April/May 2023. 730 survey responses were collected. This report presents the results of the community survey.

Key outcomes

- Half of the survey respondents were aware of OceanWatch Australia as an organisation.
- Two-thirds were not aware that OceanWatch Australia runs the National Marine NRM Plan and Program, which **highlights community and stakeholder engagement as a future focus to retain the relevance and impact** of the Plan and Program.
- The survey responses showed at least some understanding of the NRM Plan objectives, and **good endorsement for the objectives and actions** overall.
- **Pollution reduction was best understood and endorsed** – likely reflecting the current focus and effort of several OceanWatch Australia programs.
- **First Nations involvement was most poorly understood and endorsed.** 15.9% of respondents did not understand or were unsure about this objective, and 8% considered the objective 'not at all important'.
- Almost **three-quarters of respondents were interested in the idea of collaborating or volunteering in OceanWatch Australia** Marine NRM projects.
- **The value of Ocean literacy was recognised.** This objective and its corresponding action – *Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean* - were perceived as very important or critical by respondents (70.1% and 78.8%, respectively).

Background

National Marine NRM Plan

OceanWatch Australia has worked to develop the National Marine Natural Resource Management Plan 2023-2027 (Marine NRM Plan) in collaboration with marine stakeholders. The Plan will guide the OceanWatch Australia National Marine Natural Resource Management Program over the next five years. The Plan is a call to action - it identifies key objectives that aim to help secure a prosperous future for Australia by maintaining and improving current quality of life and ensuring marine environmental health in the long-term.

OceanWatch Australia aims to invest in projects that achieve these key objectives:

1. **Better coastal and marine environmental monitoring** of threats and species recovery, with nationally standardised data collection systems.
2. **Better collaboration on NRM interventions** via (1) regional stewardship and Marine NRM coordination roles; and (2) supporting collaborative multi-stakeholder plan-making on a regional basis, including building the capacity of First Nations groups to participate.
3. **Ecological restoration** including the re-establishment of seagrass beds, kelp forests, shellfish reefs, mangroves, saltmarsh, and where necessary building artificial reefs. Additionally, it will support opportunities for Blue Carbon investments and the protection of existing habitats and wildlife.
4. **First Nations involvement, connection, and capacity building** in Sea Country management.
5. **Marine stewardship** with a focus on building the capacity of stakeholder groups and citizen science projects.
6. **Ocean literacy** improving marine stakeholders' awareness of key coastal and marine issues related to all objectives.
7. **Pollution reduction** including reducing run-off from agriculture and marine debris source reduction.
8. **Saltwater community and seafood industry best practices** including supporting industry extension efforts and circular economy, biosecurity, and works towards a target for industry of a 30% greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

The objectives were identified through a series of national workshops held in 2022, attended by almost 100 marine experts and independent

stakeholders from all coastal states and the Northern Territory. The workshops also identified a series of actions to take in order to achieve the key objectives of the NRM Plan.

OceanWatch Australia aims to deliver on these action themes set out in the

- Plan:
- *Capacity building and/or training, bottom-up engagement, and funding*
 - *Marine NRM planning and coordination.*
 - *Coastal and marine research and monitoring.*
 - *Assist the recovery of coastal and marine ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.*
 - *Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean.*
 - *Conservation and protection of coastal and marine habitats and wildlife, including work on biosecurity.*
 - *Work with the commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors to reduce their environmental footprint and/or improve their social licence.*
 - *Reducing or eliminating marine and coastal pollution, from both land and marine sources.*
 - *Climate change prevention, mitigation, and adaptation, including blue carbon and educational initiatives.*
 - *Increasing indigenous representation, employment, and recognition in marine natural resource management.*

Survey

This Marine NRM survey aimed to ground-truth the workshop outputs (i.e. objectives and actions) and thus enable OceanWatch Australia to better serve Australian marine environments and those who live and work in coastal areas.

The wider Australian community (beyond 'experts' and 'key' stakeholders) was invited to consider the objectives and key actions identified in the Plan. The survey sought key information about community understanding and endorsement of the Plan, their awareness of and engagement with the Plan, and their engagement with OceanWatch Australia more generally.

Survey results

Summary

A. Awareness of and engagement with OceanWatch Australia

Almost two-thirds of survey respondents (64.1%) were aware of OceanWatch Australia as an organisation. However, three-quarters of respondents (75.6%) were not aware that OceanWatch runs the National Marine NRM Program. This is likely because the previous Marine NRM Plan was not funded in full (in contrast to many other NRM organisations), and therefore likely had reduced capacity to engage and achieve a footprint within the community. This is further illustrated by the outcome that half of respondents (49.9%) do not engage with OceanWatch. Of the half that did, they cited the OceanWatch newsletter and seafood industry stakeholder connections as their primary routes to engagement.

B. Understanding of Marine Natural Resource Management Plan

Overall, respondents indicated they had at least some understanding of the Marine NRM Plan objectives. They best understood the objective *Pollution reduction*, followed closely by *Ecological restoration* and *Coastal and marine environmental monitoring*. These objectives reflect the current focus of other OceanWatch Australia programs (i.e. up to 2023) and might be better understood by those who engage with OceanWatch as a result.

Still, one-fifth of respondents indicated they did not properly understand the objective *Collaborations on NRM interventions*, a result that was further reflected in the relatively poor understanding of other related objectives, including *First Nations involvement* (15.9%), *Marine stewardship* (12.5%), and *Ocean literacy* (12.2%). These results highlight marine issues and topics that OceanWatch Australia can seek to engage their stakeholders on in the implementation of the new Marine NRM Plan.

C. Endorsement of Marine NRM Plan

Consistent with respondents' understanding of the objectives reported above, 82.8% of respondents thought that the action focused on pollution (*Reducing or eliminating marine and coastal pollution, both from land and marine sources*) was very important or critical.

Whilst most respondents did support *First Nations involvement*, this objective was less prioritised than all others: 8% of respondents considered the objective *First Nations involvement* as not at all important. 9.4% thought that the action associated with this objective (*Increasing Indigenous representation, employment, and recognition in marine national resource management*) was not at all important. It is unclear why this objective and action were less prioritised. Respondents' poorer understanding of the objective (and thus topic and context) may partly offer an explanation.

Ocean literacy was reasonably prioritised: 70.1% thought this objective was very important or critical. 78.7% of respondents indicated their view that its corresponding action - *Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean* was also very important or critical.

Almost three-quarters of respondents (70.7%) were interested in the idea of becoming involved as volunteers or collaborators in OceanWatch Australia Marine NRM projects.

D. Participants

The survey sample were well-balanced in terms of gender and adult age groups. The sample represented responses from all states and territories in Australia (excluding offshore territories), although NSW (30.2%) and QLD (25%) were most represented. Overall, respondents indicated their strong interaction with Australian coastal and marine areas. Almost two-thirds (63.3%) reported frequenting marine and coastal areas at least once per week.

Implications: looking ahead

The survey results overall highlight opportunity for OceanWatch Australia to better engage and connect with the wider Australian community. Two-thirds of respondents did not know that OceanWatch Australia runs the National Marine NRM Plan and Program – as such, community and stakeholder engagement should be a future focus to retain the relevance and impact of the Plan and Program.

For example, almost three-quarters of respondents were interested in the idea of collaborating or volunteering in OceanWatch Australia Marine NRM projects, which presents a future avenue for interactive engagement – and an opportunity for potential dialogue and education about the Marine NRM Plan objectives and actions, as well as OceanWatch Australia programs and initiatives happening on-the-ground.

Further, whilst only half of the survey respondents were aware of OceanWatch Australia, the survey reach achieved indicates the potential reach for OceanWatch Australia program and initiative engagement.

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The poorer understanding and endorsement of *First Nations involvement* highlights opportunity for OceanWatch Australia to better consider its current engagement and relationships with Indigenous coastal and marine communities, and its recognition of cultural values in OceanWatch projects and the Plan.

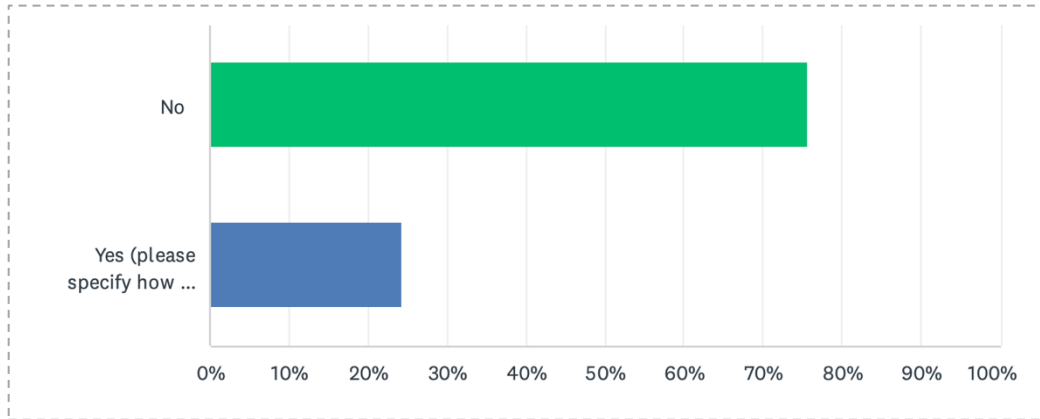
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Community support and understanding of the importance of *pollution reduction* in marine and coastal environments was apparent and likely a reflection of contemporary cultural awareness of ocean plastic and pollution issues – as well the current focus and effort of several OceanWatch Australia programs, including Tide to Tip, and Source Reduction. OceanWatch can celebrate the success of engagement on this issue and consider how lessons learned from these programs (and others) might bolster future efforts to improve engagement on other objectives set out in the Marine NRM Plan.

Overview of results

A. Awareness of and engagement with OceanWatch Australia

Did you know that OceanWatch Australia runs the National Marine NRM Program?



Whilst the majority of survey respondents (64.1%; 468 responses) were aware of OceanWatch Australia as an organisation, three-quarters of respondents (75.6%; 552) were not aware that the organisation runs the National Marine NRM Program. This is likely because half of respondents (49.9%; 364) do not engage with OceanWatch Australia at all. Of those that did, they predominately read the newsletter (21.2%; 155) or engaged as seafood industry stakeholders (10.4%; 76) which demonstrated the reasonable reach and potential engagement achieved through these activities.

Other types of engagement respondents reported included:

- via social media
- research connections as marine, coastal and environmental scientists
- interactions at sector/industry networking events and
- connecting at other stakeholder meetings.

B. Understanding of Marine Natural Resource Management Plan

Overall, survey results indicated that respondents largely did have an understanding of the NRM Plan objectives (determined by combined percentage scores). Respondents reported they best understood the objective *Pollution reduction* (95.2%; 533), followed closely by *Ecological restoration* (93.2%; 519), and *Coastal and marine environmental*

monitoring (92.3%; 519). These objectives reflect the current work of OceanWatch Australia programs (i.e. up to 2023) and might be better understood by respondents who engage with OceanWatch as a result.

Still, the survey results also indicated that many respondents (4.8-20.3%) were unsure of or did not understand the NRM Plan objectives. One-fifth of respondents indicated they did not properly understand the objective *Collaborations on NRM interventions* (20.3%; 113) the focus of which included 'regional stewardship' and 'building the capacity of First Nations groups'. This finding was echoed in the poor understanding of other related objectives, ranked in order of poorer understanding: *First Nations involvement* (15.9%; 89), *Marine stewardship* (12.5%; 70), and *Ocean literacy* (12.2%; 68).

Please indicate your understanding of each of these objectives.

	DON'T UNDERSTAND	UNSURE	SOME UNDERSTANDING	GOOD UNDERSTANDING	COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING	TOTAL
Coastal and marine environmental monitoring	2.31% 13	5.34% 30	24.02% 135	46.26% 260	22.06% 124	562
Collaboration on NRM interventions	4.66% 26	15.59% 87	35.48% 198	30.82% 172	13.44% 75	558
Ecological restoration	1.97% 11	4.85% 27	24.42% 136	46.68% 260	22.08% 123	557
First Nations involvement	6.64% 37	9.34% 52	36.27% 202	31.78% 177	15.98% 89	557
Marine stewardship	3.20% 18	9.25% 52	29.72% 167	40.93% 230	16.90% 95	562
Ocean literacy	2.50% 14	9.66% 54	29.87% 167	41.86% 234	16.10% 90	559
Pollution reduction	1.07% 6	3.75% 21	23.57% 132	46.61% 261	25.00% 140	560
Saltwater community and seafood industry best practices	2.49% 14	8.72% 49	33.63% 189	37.90% 213	17.26% 97	562

Objective	<i>Unsure/Did not understand</i>
<i>Coastal and marine environmental monitoring</i>	7.7
<i>Collaborations on NRM interventions</i>	20.3
<i>Ecological restoration</i>	6.8
<i>First Nations involvement</i>	15.9
<i>Marine stewardship</i>	12.5
<i>Ocean literacy</i>	12.2
<i>Pollution reduction</i>	4.8
<i>Saltwater community & seafood industry best practice</i>	11.2

C. Endorsement of the Marine NRM Plan

Support for the Marine NRM Plan was recorded by asking respondents for their view on the importance of the Plan objectives and their related actions (from somewhat important to critical, or not important at all).

Again, the objective *Pollution reduction* scored highly: 85% of respondents indicated that was very important or critical. In concordance with this result, the action focused on pollution (*Reducing or eliminating marine and coastal pollution, both from land and marine sources*) scored higher (combined percentages) than all other actions: 82.8% of respondents thought that this action was very important or critical.

8% of respondents (45) considered the objective *First Nations involvement* not at all important. This reflects its ranking as one of the more poorly understood objectives (above). Similarly, the action associated with First Nations' involvement (*Increasing Indigenous representation, employment, and recognition in marine national resource management*) received the highest score under not at all important: 9.4% (53). It is unclear why this objective was less prioritised throughout the survey; respondents' poorer understanding of the objective, and thus likely the related action, partly offer an explanation.

Please indicate your view on the importance of these objectives.

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRITICAL	TOTAL
Coastal and marine environmental monitoring	1.25% 7	4.09% 23	15.84% 89	31.49% 177	47.33% 266	562
Collaboration on NRM interventions	3.20% 18	11.19% 63	23.09% 130	36.41% 205	26.11% 147	563
Ecological restoration	1.42% 8	6.58% 37	13.17% 74	25.98% 146	52.85% 297	562
First Nations involvement	8.01% 45	11.92% 67	17.79% 100	28.83% 162	33.45% 188	562
Marine stewardship	3.04% 17	8.94% 50	18.78% 105	37.21% 208	32.02% 179	559
Ocean literacy	1.79% 10	6.98% 39	21.11% 118	39.00% 218	31.13% 174	559
Pollution reduction	0.54% 3	3.39% 19	11.07% 62	27.86% 156	57.14% 320	560
Saltwater community and seafood industry best practices	1.79% 10	4.29% 24	16.96% 95	37.32% 209	39.64% 222	560

Please indicate your view on the importance of these action themes.

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	CRITICAL	TOTAL
Capacity building and/or training, bottom-up engagement and funding	3.20% 18	6.75% 38	24.33% 137	38.37% 216	27.35% 154	563
Marine NRM planning and coordination	3.20% 18	10.83% 61	24.51% 138	38.54% 217	22.91% 129	563
Coastal and marine research and monitoring	1.24% 7	4.97% 28	15.99% 90	33.75% 190	44.05% 248	563
Assist the recovery of coastal and marine ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed	1.60% 9	4.26% 24	15.45% 87	25.93% 146	52.75% 297	563
Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean	1.07% 6	3.55% 20	16.70% 94	35.35% 199	43.34% 244	563
Conservation and protection of coastal and marine habitats and wildlife	2.31% 13	4.26% 24	12.61% 71	24.51% 138	56.31% 317	563
Work to increase marine biosecurity	1.78% 10	5.51% 31	15.63% 88	38.54% 217	38.54% 217	563
Work with the commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors to reduce their environmental footprint	2.31% 13	6.57% 37	14.74% 83	34.81% 196	41.56% 234	563
Work with the professional fishing and aquaculture sectors to improve their social licence	4.80% 27	8.17% 46	22.91% 129	32.68% 184	31.44% 177	563
Reducing or eliminating marine and coastal pollution, from both land and marine sources	0.89% 5	3.73% 21	12.61% 71	29.66% 167	53.11% 299	563
Climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation	7.82% 44	5.51% 31	13.50% 76	25.58% 144	47.60% 268	563
Increasing indigenous representation, employment and recognition in marine natural resource management	9.41% 53	9.95% 56	20.25% 114	31.62% 178	28.77% 162	563

Ocean literacy was reasonably prioritised by respondents: 70.1% (392) thought this objective was very important or critical. As was its corresponding action - *Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean* - which 78.7% () believed was very important or critical.

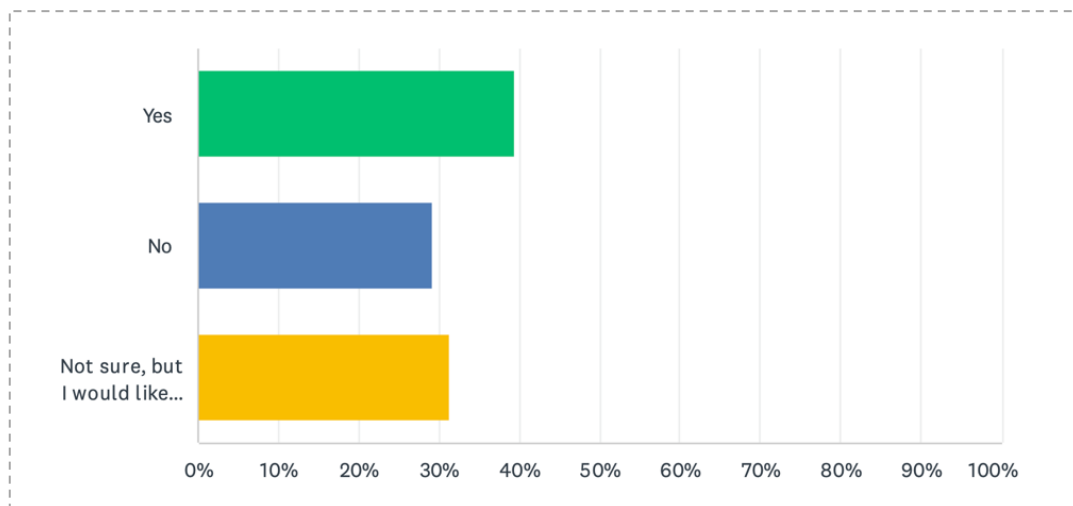
Similarly, the results indicated respondents' perceived importance of *Coastal and marine environmental monitoring* (78.8% thought this was very important or critical; 443), *Ecological restoration* (78.8%; 443), and *Saltwater community and seafood industry best practice* (77%; 431) objectives.

Almost three-quarters of respondents (70.7%; 398) were interested in the idea of getting involved as volunteers or collaborators in OceanWatch Australia Marine NRM projects.

Preferred avenues of engagement respondents suggested included:

- talking with community members about marine issues
- participating in beach clean-ups
- collaborating with Indigenous partner organisations
- collaborating with OceanWatch Australia through respondents' organisations and networks, and
- providing expert industry or research knowledge to OceanWatch Australia programs.

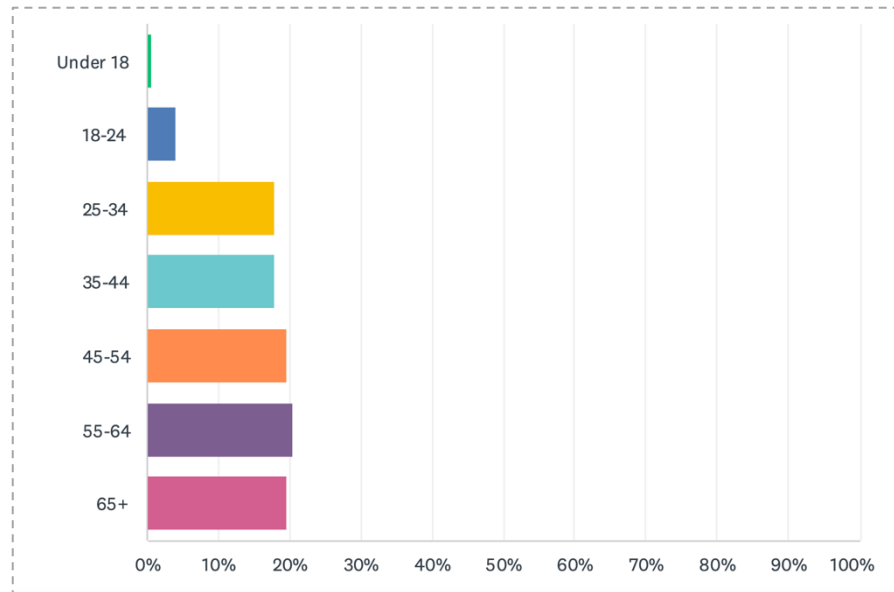
Would you be interested in being involved in OceanWatch Marine NRM projects?



D. Participants

Overall, responses were gender-balanced; 49% male (263): 48% female (257): 3% other (15). This was a slight improvement on the 2015 NRM Survey. All ages groups over 24-years were well and evenly represented, which again was an improvement on the 2015 survey and demonstrated that survey reach was extended to all adult age groups. This result also indicates the potential reach of OceanWatch Australia beyond this survey.

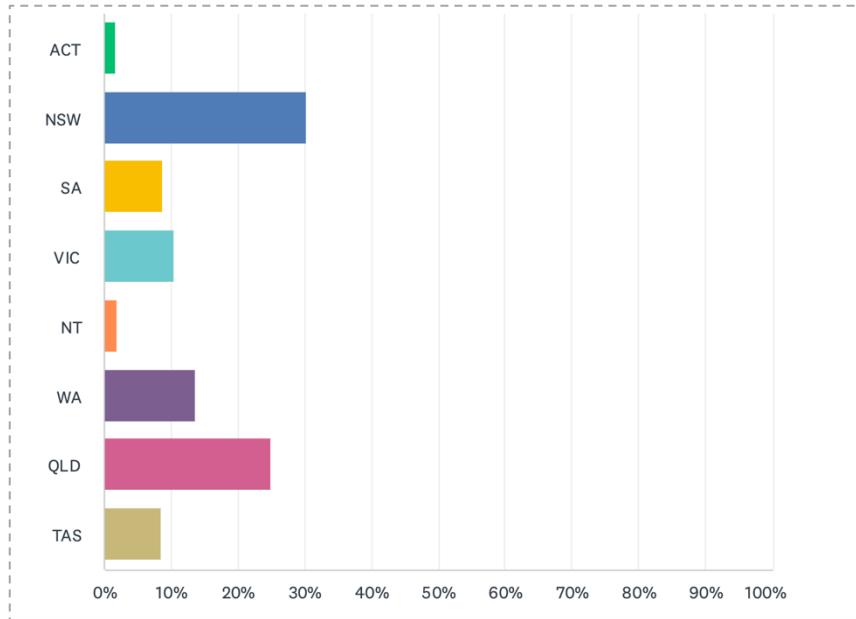
What age are you?



The respondents represented a range of employment sectors, and sectors most represented included those related to NRM – i.e. science/research (16.9%; 91), government (12.9%; 70) and natural resource management (12%; 65), indicated the relevant knowledge likely held by this respondent sample. Note, a small proportion of respondents 5.9% (32) reported to be retirees.

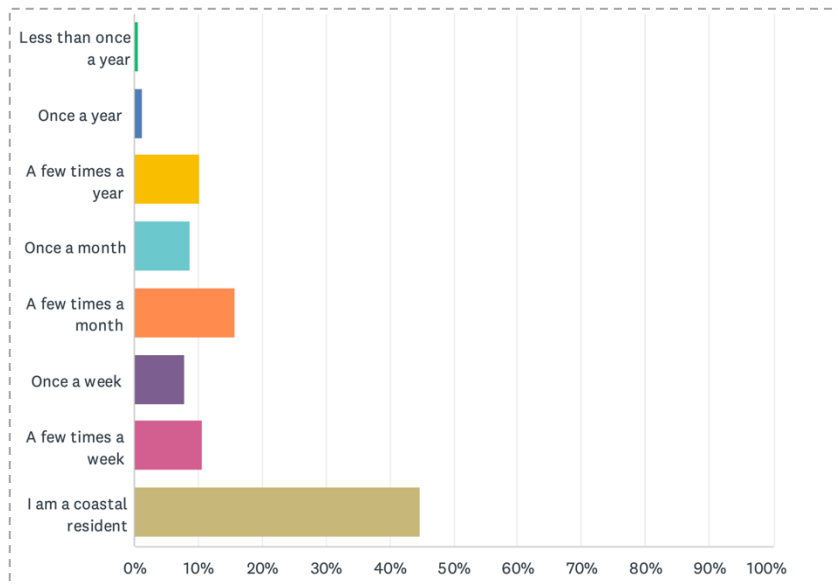
The survey recorded responses from all states and territories in Australia (excluding offshore territories), in contrast to the NRM Plan workshops which had included input from coastal states and the Northern Territory only. Most respondents hailed from NSW (30.2%; 163) or QLD (25%; 135) which reflected the 2015 survey results (NSW 35%; QLD 20%).

In what Australian state/territory do you reside in?



Overall, the respondents indicated strong interaction with Australian coastal and marine areas. Almost two-thirds (63.3%; 341) reported frequenting these areas at least once per week. Less than 1% of respondents (4) reported they did not visit coastal and marine environments at least annually.

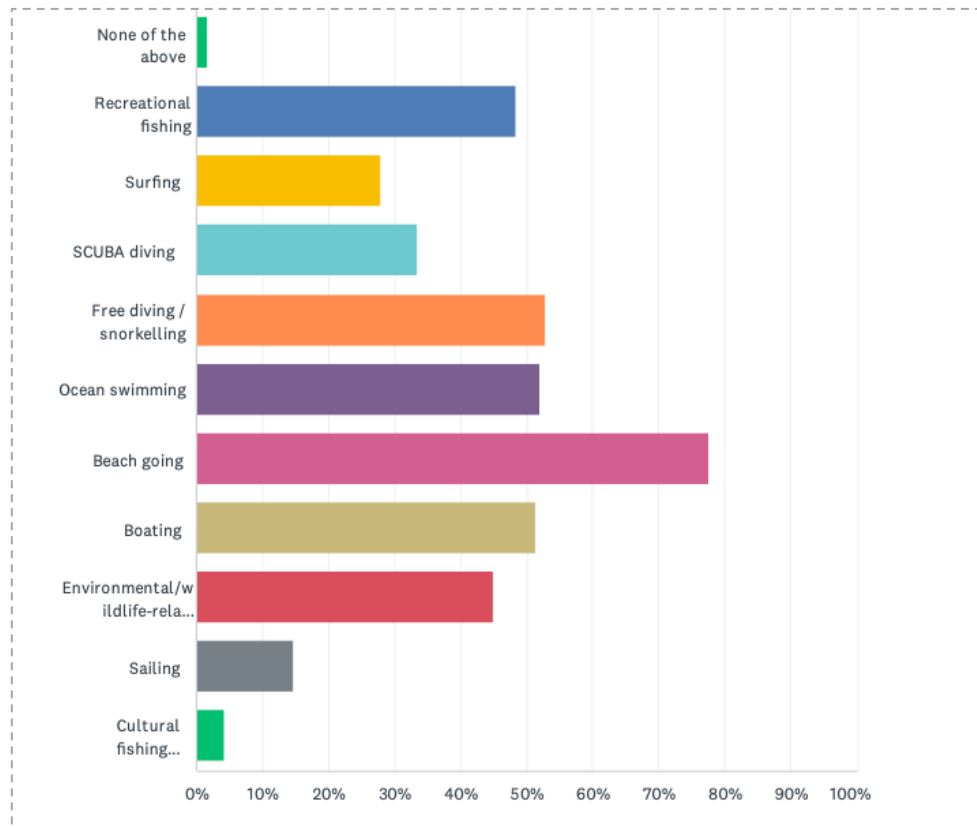
How often do you frequent Australian coastal and marine areas?



Respondents' strong interaction was further illustrated by the multiple types of activities they reported to engage in, including beach-going (77.6%;

418), free-diving/snorkelling (52.9%; 285), boating (51.4%; 277), and recreational fishing (48.4%; 261).

Do you do any of the following activities?



Respondents' open comments and suggestions regarding the Marine NRM Plan and OceanWatch Australia more generally were diverse, but largely fell under two broad issues/themes:

1. Increasing Australian community awareness and engagement in the Plan and OceanWatch Australia:

- *Increase visibility and understanding of marine issues to the general population, especially in marine areas with public information and stalls at markets etc.*
- *It is critical that OceanWatch's marine NRM projects are communicated effectively through the right channels to inform and engage community and citizen stakeholders.*
- **Particularly Indigenous-led engagement:**
 - *Empower and respect First Nations in the protection and management of sea and land country.*
 - *I do not think you can have collaborative management nor marine stewardship without prioritising Indigenous engagement.*

2. Prioritising objectives and actions for operationalisation:

- *All are important but resources will be limited so OceanWatch will need to decide to have a material impact in a few or a continuous improvement approach to many. A challenging issue.*
- *Including reflecting societal focus on climate change:*
 - *Greater focus should be given to climate change impact and adaptation work. I would strongly encourage the consideration and inclusion of this in the plan.*

Appendix A

Survey methodology

A. Approach

The survey approach consisted of an open online survey questionnaire which included a mix of short multiple-choice and open-answer questions. . OceanWatch enlisted expertise from the Centre for Marine Socioecology (CMS) to conduct this exploratory (i.e. non-research) project. CMS supported the development of the online survey questionnaire. The survey was targeted at OceanWatch stakeholders and the wider Australian community and aimed to obtain respondents' views of the Marine NRM Plan objectives and actions, and information on their awareness and engagement of OceanWatch Australia and the NRM Plan more broadly.

The survey also collected demographic information from respondents, as different demographics can be expected to have different perceptions and values in regards to the marine environment - and in the case of this survey, incorporating a more diverse sample would infer that more perceptions could be included and collated.

B. Dissemination and analysis

The survey questionnaire was drafted with input from the OceanWatch team and workshop facilitator, and then piloted for feedback before being finalised. The survey was administrated via the online platform SurveyMonkey and open for 4 weeks in April/May 2023.

OceanWatch Australia stakeholders and the wider Australian marine community were invited to participate in the survey via links through the OceanWatch Australia newsletter and social media outlets. In addition, organisation contacts in recreational fishing, conservation, research, and NRM sectors were invited to forward the survey to relevant contacts and networks.

730 survey responses were collected. Survey data was analysed using SurveyMonkey and in Excel (for Mac 2022). The list of survey questions is provided in Appendix B.

C. Considerations

With the aim of extending the survey questionnaire to the wider Australian community, this survey was launched as an open call to all. Recognising the limitations of this 'opt-in' approach, the potential for non-response bias was a factor that was considered and addressed as much as possible to mitigate any potential influence on results. However, future efforts to engage with wider community perspectives might better target these groups using other approaches including in-person questionnaire surveys, semi-qualitative interviews, and interactive workshops – potentially also at or near coastal and marine areas.

Appendix B

Survey questionnaire

Intro blurb

We are OceanWatch Australia, an organisation that delivers projects focused on adopting best practices for fishing and aquaculture, encouraging stewardship actions amongst coastal and marine users, and on protecting, restoring, and enhancing key marine and coastal habitats around Australia.

This survey is being sent to groups and individuals around coastal Australia to help us better understand community understanding and support for OceanWatch, the Marine NRM Plan and its core objectives. We invite you to participate in this survey to better understand your views and priorities. The survey should take 5-10 minutes. Thank you in advance!

1. *Have you heard of OceanWatch Australia before? Yes/No*
2. *Before you opened this survey, did you know that OceanWatch Australia runs the National Marine NRM program? Yes/No (If yes, please specify how you were aware, e.g. info via the newsletter, website, projects, etc.)*
3. *How do you engage with OceanWatch Australia?*
 - *I have participated in projects as a volunteer*
 - *I have participated in projects as a staff member*
 - *I read the newsletter*
 - *I participated in an NRM Plan workshop in December 2022*
 - *I have been trained as a Master Fisherman/Responsible Oyster Farmer*
 - *I have participated as a seafood industry stakeholder*
 - *Other (please specify)*
 - *I don't engage*

Marine NRM Plan

OceanWatch Australia is working to develop the National Marine Natural Resource Management Plan 2022-2028 (Marine NRM Plan) in collaboration with key marine stakeholders. The Marine NRM Plan is a call to action - it aims to help secure a prosperous future for Australia by maintaining and improving current quality of life and ensuring marine environmental health in the long-term.

The Plan will guide OceanWatch Australia’s Marine NRM programme over the next 5 years. OceanWatch Australia will invest in projects that achieve the **key objectives** identified in the plan. These **key objectives** were identified through national workshops attended by almost 100 independent

Better coastal and marine environmental monitoring of threats and species recovery, with nationally standardised data collection systems
Better collaboration on NRM interventions via (1) regional stewardship and Marine NRM coordination roles; and (2) supporting collaborative multi-stakeholder plan-making on a regional basis, including building the capacity of First Nations groups to participate
Ecological restoration including the re-establishment of seagrass beds, kelp forests, shellfish reefs, mangroves, saltmarsh, and where necessary building artificial reefs. Additionally, it will support opportunities for Blue Carbon investments and the protection of existing habitats and wildlife.
First Nations involvement, connection, and capacity building in Sea Country management
Marine stewardship with a focus on building the capacity of stakeholder groups and citizen science projects
Ocean literacy improving marine stakeholders’ awareness of key coastal and marine issues related to all objectives
Pollution reduction including reducing run-off from agriculture and marine debris source reduction
Saltwater community and seafood industry best practices including supporting industry extension efforts and circular economy, biosecurity, and works towards a target for industry of a 30% greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

marine experts and stakeholders from all coastal states and the Northern Territory.

4. *Please indicate your understanding of each of these objectives (don't understand, unsure, some understanding, good understanding, expert understanding)*
5. *Please indicate your view on the importance of these objectives (not at all important, somewhat important, important, very important, critical)*

The workshops also identified **actions** to take to achieve the key objectives of the NRM Plan. OceanWatch Australia aims to deliver on these **actions** to achieve the objectives set in the Marine NRM Plan:

- a. *Capacity building and/or training, bottom-up engagement and funding*
- b. *Marine NRM planning and coordination*
- c. *Coastal and marine research and monitoring*
- d. *Assist the recovery of coastal and marine ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged or destroyed*
- e. *Increasing people's understanding of the ocean's influence on them and their influence on the ocean*
- f. *Conservation and protection of coastal and marine habitats and wildlife, including work on biosecurity*
- g. *Work with the commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors to reduce their environmental footprint and/or improve their social licence*
- h. *reducing or eliminating marine and coastal pollution, from both land and marine sources*
- i. *Climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation, including blue carbon and educational initiatives*
- j. *Increasing indigenous representation, employment and recognition in marine natural resource management.*

6. Please indicate your view on the importance of these action themes. (not at all important, somewhat important, important, very important, critical)
7. Do you have any comments you would like to add?
8. Would you be interested in being involved in OceanWatch's NRM projects (e.g. beach clean ups, environmental restoration)? Yes/No
9. If yes, how would you like to be involved?
10. Gender: male/female/non-binary/prefer not to say
11. What is your age?
12. In what Australian state/territory do you reside in?
13. Postcode
14. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
- a. Did not attend school
 - b. High school (year 12)
 - c. Bachelor's Degree
 - d. Master's Degree
 - e. Doctoral Degree
 - f. Certificate III
 - g. Diploma
 - h. Certificate II
 - i. Certificate IV
 - j. Other (please specify)
15. What is the sector you work in?
- a. Education
 - b. Land-based farming
 - c. Professional fishing
 - d. Aquaculture
 - e. Conservation
 - f. Government
 - g. Natural resource management
 - h. Tourism
 - i. Shipping, transport
 - j. Retail
 - k. Science, Research
 - l. Other (please specify)
16. Do you do any of the following activities? (tick all that apply)
- Recreational fishing
 - Surfing
 - SCUBA diving
 - Free diving / snorkelling
 - Ocean swimming
 - Beach going
 - Boating
 - Environmental/wildlife-related volunteering
 - Sailing
 - Cultural fishing activities

None of the above

17. *How often do you frequent Australian coastal and marine areas?*

- a. Less than once a year*
- b. Once a year*
- c. A few times a year*
- d. Once a month*
- e. A few times a month*
- f. Once a week*
- g. A few times a week*
- h. I am a coastal resident.*