



Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names



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Feedback

The FRDC welcomes suggestions for improvements and encourages readers to notify us immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Contact us via email or the contact details below.

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Introduction

Need for an Australian Aquatic Plant Names Standard

Commercial trade in aquatic plants is an important and rapidly emerging industry, and the industry has proactively developed a list of standard names for all current commercial, and potentially commercial, edible aquatic plant species.

The development of this Standard shall prevent a plethora of unregulated names for the same species eventuating in the marketplace.

This Standard includes names for both marine and freshwater plants but has initially focused on commercial edible marine plants. Further commercial species that fall within the Standard's definition of aquatic plants shall be added in the future as necessary.

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation was accredited as a Standards Development Organisation (SDO) in 2013 and has continued responsibility for the maintenance and continuing development of standards relevant to its scope of accreditation.

Description of the Standard

This Standard defines the standard names to be used in Australia for edible aquatic plants and specifies when the standard names are to be used. Annex A of this Standard lists the agreed standard names for edible aquatic plants and forms part of the Standard. Plants from salt water and freshwater environments are included, irrespective of the country of origin.

The FRDC has given autonomy to the Aquatic Plant Names Standards Reference Body (SRB) for the development and maintenance of the *Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names*, which is underpinned by rigorous policies and procedures that have been developed by the FRDC.

Purpose and Net Benefit of the Standard

Use of standard names for aquatic plants in Australia, as defined in this Standard, achieves outcomes that are consistent with the aims of industry and governments.

Public health and safety

- Public health and safety are enhanced because as edible aquatic plants become more prevalent, the community should need to have confidence in what they are purchasing/consuming, particularly as this is an emerging industry offering new products to many Australian consumers.
- It is possible that specific allergens and/or potential toxins may be present in some aquatic plants and correct labelling should allow affected persons to avoid products that pose a risk.

Social and community impact

- This is an emerging industry and there is opportunity to create an industry agreed set of standard names for aquatic plants in the embryonic stages of the industry's development.
- Producers shall have confidence in the names of the species of aquatic plants that have been harvested.
- A more successful marketing strategy can be undertaken because of the industry agreed plant names.
- Stakeholders have expressed widespread support for the Standard.
- All state jurisdictions either reported growth in the sector or growing interest in macroalgae farming.

Environmental impact

- Use of the agreed standard names for aquatic plants allows for improved management of the aquatic resource.

- This Standard provides the opportunity for linkages to stock assessment data to facilitate better management of aquatic resources.

Competition

- Development of this agreed set of standard names for aquatic plants to be used in Australia shall facilitate international alignment, particularly where aquatic plant products are imported. Both imported and domestic product shall need to use the same name in Australia.

Economic impact

- **Consumers** shall know what they are getting through truth in labelling. The names that are developed shall be well publicised and shall become known to consumers. Not developing a standard would result in marketplace confusion.
- **Producers and suppliers** shall have certainty in what they are producing and/or supplying and shall have the ability to develop marketing strategies and business plans based on agreed and accepted standard names.

Recognition of Indigenous names for aquatic plants

We acknowledge that many Australian aquatic plants have a long history of use by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, each with their own diverse languages and cultures.

Such traditional knowledge is place-based and developed from unique and intimate relationships with land and sea. Therefore, there is not one single Indigenous word that could represent each of the species covered in this Standard, but rather a collection of words specific to each Indigenous group and their Country.

We support Indigenous Peoples' right to maintain and develop cultural practices to address spiritual, cultural, social and economic needs associated with aquatic resources and landscapes.

Preparation of this Standard

FRDC is accredited by the Standards Australia Standards Development Advisory Committee (SDAC) as a Standards Development Organisation. This Standard was prepared by FRDC's Aquatic Plant Names Standards Reference Body (SRB) in accordance with requirements prescribed for developing Australian Standards. The Standard is the result of a consensus among a wide range of stakeholders and an extensive process of consultation with industry experts, end users, and the general public.

The Aquatic Plant Names Standards Reference Body

The membership and operational procedures for the Aquatic Plant Names SRB are specified in the following key FRDC policies and procedures documents:

- [FRDC Standards Development Policy](#), which sets the overall policy direction for FRDC in its standards development activities;
- [FRDC Standards Development Procedure](#), which provides guidance on all standards development activities and applies to all Standards Reference Bodies.

Membership of the Aquatic Plant Names SRB reflects the important role of key stakeholders in the process to develop an Australian Standard for Aquatic Plant Names and ensures that the committee collectively possesses skills and knowledge relating to:

- Producer/harvester
- Marketing and trade
- Promotion and public relations
- Consumer issues
- Taxonomy and nomenclature
- Processer/manufacturer

- Legislation and processes relevant to the import and export of aquatic plants
- Corporate governance including the operations of boards or committees
- Industry leadership
- Any additional skills identified.

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

FRDC invests to pursue the shared vision of Australia's fishing and aquaculture sectors of building collaborative, vibrant fishing and aquaculture, creating diverse benefits from aquatic resources, and celebrated by community. The FRDC does this through acting as a national thought leader, facilitating knowledge creation, collaboration and innovation to shape the future of fishing and aquaculture in Australia, for the benefit of the Australian people.

FRDC invests in Research and Development (R&D) that supports aquaculture, commercial, Indigenous and recreational fishers. These stakeholders operate across environments that range from the open oceans in the northern tropics through to temperate seas and icy Antarctic waters, from freshwater lakes and rivers that flow down through the country's estuaries.

FRDC was formed on 2 July 1991, and has two pieces of governing legislation:

- Primary Industries Research and Development Act 1989 (PIRD Act), and
- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013.

FRDC is accountable to the Australian Parliament through the Minister for Agriculture, Water and Environment. It is governed by a Chair and Board of Directors. Management is led by the Managing Director supported by a number of dedicated staff. Staff members work as a team to ensure good relationships exist with all stakeholders, and that the concerns and needs of the broader community are taken into consideration.

FRDC is accredited by Standards Australia as a Standards Development Organisation and undertakes internal and external audits annually with a reaccreditation audit every three years.

FRDC works to ensure that the returns from R&D are implemented with the greatest positive impact. It continually looks to evolve the approach to investing in R&D, enabling adaptive and creative approaches to problem solving, which in turn aids FRDC to be agile to respond to the changing environment faced by fishing and aquaculture in Australia.

1. Scope

This Standard defines the names for aquatic plants for use in Australia and specifies when Standard Aquatic Plant Names are to be used.

Annex A lists the approved Standard Aquatic Plant Names and forms part of this Standard.

1.1 Application

This Standard provides guidance on complying with requirements for the use of Standard Aquatic Plant Names in Australia and is intended for use by people and businesses involved with commercial activities and trade in aquatic plants in Australia.

2. Interpretative Guidelines

2.1 Compliance with this Standard

Requirements designated by the words 'shall' or 'shall not' are mandatory for organisations seeking to achieve compliance with this Standard.

Requirements designated by the words 'should' or 'should not' are recommended but are not mandatory to achieve compliance with this Standard.

2.2 Abbreviations, definitions, and terms

2.2.1 Application

For the purpose of this Standard, if there is conflict between the definitions in this document and those in other relevant standards or documents, the definitions herein take precedence.

2.2.2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Description
CAAB	Codes for Australian Aquatic Biota
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
RD&E	Research, Development and Extension
SRB	Standards Reference Body
SDO	Standards Development Organisation