

Fishers need to register to commercially fish in areas within the South East Commonwealth Marine Reserves (where fishing is permitted), or transit through any reserves

AFMA's standard response to 'enquiries from fishers wanting to commercially fish in the South East Commonwealth Marine Reserve (where fishing is permitted), or transit through any reserves' is as follows:

1. Inform the fisher that DEWHA is the responsible Department concerning management of MPAs, and that AFMA is happy to assist with general enquiries.
2. Advise fishers that if they wish to continue to commercially fish in areas within the reserves where fishing is permitted, or transit through any reserves, they must be registered under an approval from the Director of National Parks.
3. If fishers have not registered:
 - Direct the fisher to apply. **Registration forms** are available from the DEWHA website. If they are not comfortable using a computer then refer them to the SE Region manager, Marine Protected Areas (DEWHA Canberra Office) 02-6274 1111 who can post them a registration form. Advise the fisher to send their registration form to: SE region manager Marine Protected Areas Management, Department of the Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601.
 - Their registration will be processed by DEWHA. They will receive a **User Guide, a certificate of registration and a signed copy of the general approval** from DEWHA. They will then be a 'registered commercial fishing operator' and will be able to conduct commercial fishing (where commercial fishing is permitted) or transit within the SE Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network, subject to the conditions of approval.
 - The User Guide contains a range of information relating to the SE reserves, e.g., information relating to approvals, network management, commercial fishing approval and conditions, registrations and zoning arrangements.
 - Registered commercial fishing operators are required to keep a copy of their confirmation of registration and their signed approval on all approved fishing vessels while they are within a Commonwealth Marine Reserve.
 - It may also be useful for them to keep the User Guide on the vessel for quick reference to information and details of the approval and conditions.
4. Refer the fisher to the DEWHA website (<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html>) for information on the following:
 - Management arrangements
 - Where commercial fishing is allowed
 - Zoning within Reserves
 - What approvals are required
 - Conditions of approval
5. If the fisher requires more specific information, refer them to the SE Region manager, Marine Protected Areas (DEWHA Canberra Office) 02-6274 1111.

*Note: The homepage for each MPA lists "Activity Management" as an active link. **Direct the fisher to links to the DEWHA homepage for their MPA if they are outside the SE:*** <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/index.html>