



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management

Ecosystem based fisheries management is an integrated approach that considers all factors that affect the sustainability of our fisheries

Ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) considers the impact fisheries have on all components of the broader marine environment. This includes managing the impact of fishing on target species as well as byproduct species, bycatch species, threatened, endangered and protected species, habitats and communities.

AFMA is well underway to achieving EBFM, although it will take several years for it to be fully implemented.

As part of its EBFM approach, AFMA is implementing:

- **Ecological Risk Assessments** to assess the risks that fishing poses to the ecological sustainability of the marine environment. AFMA completed the process of undertaking ecological risk assessments for major Commonwealth fisheries in June 2007. Ecological risk assessments are the key component of AFMA's implementation of EBFM. (See fact sheet on this topic for more information)
- **Improved data collection** to ensure AFMA receives accurate information on which to make management decisions. For example, through working with researchers and the industry, AFMA is focusing on improving information on non-target species catch and increasing observer coverage and fishery independent surveys.
- **Bycatch reduction incentives** are being supported to encourage the industry to develop innovative approaches that lead to a reduction in the capture of bycatch and non-target species.
- **Good communication** is essential to good fisheries management. AFMA is improving communication with fishers through the introduction of Logbook Liaison Officers, industry workshops, guides and reference material, and actively pursuing

industry consultation and input on environmental management arrangements.



Consultation

AFMA is currently working closely with its fisheries advisory bodies such as its Resource Assessment Groups and Management Advisory Committees as well as industry associations to ensure they are involved and are well informed of the process. Government Departments and conservation groups are also being consulted throughout the process.

AFMA will ensure that stakeholders and the community are kept up-to-date with the initiatives and progress of the implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management.

Keep checking AFMA's website www.afma.gov.au for progress reports and updates.