



Australian Government
 Australian Fisheries Management Authority



ENVIRONMENTUPDATE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Issue 25, September 2005

Inside this edition:

Assessment reports	2
Establishing Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Project.....	3
Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) workshops.....	3
Ecological Risk Assessments for Commonwealth Fisheries	3
Bycatch action plans (BAPs)	4
Review of BAPs.....	4
Oceans Policy.....	5
High seas governance.....	5
Marine protected areas.....	5
Updated marine protected area management plans.....	5
Protected Species Reporting	6
Marine turtles	6
New Marine Turtle Recovery Plan.....	6
New research into the effects of circle hooks in longline fisheries.....	6
Indian Ocean – South East Asia (IOSEA) Year of the Turtle 2006.....	6
Dugong	7
Nominations under EPBC Act.....	7
Seals.....	8
Industry-based program to monitor seal interactions in the South East Trawl Fishery (SETF).....	8
National seal strategy group.....	8
Sharks.....	8
AFMA Workshop on Enhanced Collection of Shark Catch and Effort Data.....	8
Shark-Implementation and Review Committee (SIRC).....	9
Dolphins and Seals in the Small Pelagic Fishery	9
Sea birds.....	9
Draft TAP for the Incidental Catch (or Bycatch) of Seabirds during Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations	9
New AFMA Website	10
IMPORTANT - Change to subscriptions process for Environment Update & other AFMA publications	10
Feedback on AFMA's Environment Update	10
Environment Policy Section contacts.....	11

www.afma.gov.au

 AFMADIRECT 1300 723 621

Assessment reports

AFMA is preparing assessment reports to meet the export and strategic assessment requirements for all Commonwealth managed fisheries under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Through the assessment process, AFMA is also seeking accreditation of fisheries under Part 13 of the EPBC Act, which relates to interactions with protected species.

AFMA prepares the assessment reports for each fishery in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries* to address the EPBC Act requirements.

Copies of assessment reports are available from AFMA's website (www.afma.gov.au) or by contacting AFMA's Environment Policy Section (details at the end of Environment Update).

Assessments completed by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery
- Bass Strait Scallop Fishery
- Northern Prawn Fishery
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery
- Coral Sea Fishery
- Southern Squid Jig Fishery
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Western Trawl Fisheries
- Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery*
- Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Torres Strait Sea Cucumber Fishery*
- Southern and Eastern Scafish and Shark Fishery

Assessment reports submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- Small Pelagic Fishery
- Skipjack Tuna Fishery
- Torres Strait Prawn Trawl Fishery*

Assessment report drafted and public comment sought - to be submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- Torres Strait Finfish Fishery*

Assessment reports drafted and released for public comment until Thursday 6 October 2005

- New and Exploratory Fisheries in the CCAMLR Region
- Macquarie Island Fishery

Drafting under way

- Informally Managed Fishing Permits
- Torres Strait Pearl Shell Fishery*
- Torres Strait Trochus Fishery*
- Torres Strait Crab Fishery*

Terms of Reference to be released for public comment

- Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong Fishery*

Two Draft Environmental Assessments are available for public comment. The period will close on Thursday 6 October 2005. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessments can be obtained at our website, www.afma.gov.au or by contacting Peter Neave (Antarctic Fisheries Section peter.neave@afma.gov.au or on (02) 6272 5794).

Assessments of Commonwealth fisheries are based on fishery specific Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR for the Torres Strait Turtle and Dugong fishery will be available for public comment soon. Their availability will be advertised at www.afma.gov.au. Copies of the TORs can be obtained at our website or by contacting Cate Coddington (AFMA Environment Section, cate.coddington@afma.gov.au, (02) 6272 4208).

* (managed by the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority)

Review of strategic assessments

The Wildlife Trade Operation for the Bass Strait Scallop Fishery expires on 22 April 2006. This will be the first AFMA-managed fishery to require reassessment. AFMA and the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) are presently discussing the form this and future reassessments will take.

For further information on assessment reports please contact Paul Ryan, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5266.

Establishing Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Project

AFMA has been granted \$2.71 million over three years through the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) fund for its "Establishing Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)" project. Environment Update 23 and 24 outlined what had been achieved in the first and second years of this project.

AFMA is continuing to implement this project in 2005-06, with the roll out of major activities of ecological risk assessments, enhancing data collections and improving communication and extension services. Additionally AFMA is initiating a number of new activities during the third year of the project, including:

- Hosting EBFM workshops in major ports (see next article);
- Supporting the integration of AFMA's databases to assist in retrieving fishery catch information through time;
- Supporting a public communication program to raise awareness and understanding of EBFM efforts in AFMA fisheries within the broader Australian public; and
- Supporting the scalefish trends and mapping in the SESS fisheries project to obtain a better understanding of the scale and spatial trends of bycatch catches.

For more information on the "Establishing Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management" project, please contact Tim Smith, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5631.

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) workshops

AFMA is organising a series of information days for fishers and skippers through port based workshops in AFMA managed fisheries. This initiative is part of the EBFM NHT Project and will run over the next 12 months. The overall objective of the workshops is to increase understanding and foster active involvement of fishers in the management of Commonwealth fisheries and to address the environmental impacts of their fishing.

This project is being tailored to deliver the key messages to each fishery with its unique management issues and particular areas of concern. The first Longline Bycatch Reduction Initiative Workshops were recently held with the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery to develop and test the overall concept of the workshops. This involved three formal workshops and numerous port visits from Mooloolaba to Ulladulla.

For further information on the EBFM workshops please contact Cliff Lloyd, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4432.

Ecological Risk Assessments for Commonwealth Fisheries

AFMA and CSIRO have been undertaking the Ecological Risk Assessment for Commonwealth Fisheries (ERACF) Project since 2001. The key component of this project is to undertake an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for major AFMA fisheries. These assessments will be an integral part of future AFMA fisheries management. Environment Update 24 provided an update on developments with this project.

Phase II assessments:

Progress with phase two has continued with CSIRO currently putting the finishing touches to the updated assessment methodology and initiating ERAs for major AFMA fisheries. The methodology is well developed for species assessments, with the habitat methods less developed (requiring testing) and the community assessment methods the least developed. In August, the ERA for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and the Bass Strait Scallop Fishery were drafted, using the updated methodology, and discussed with the fisheries. Between now and June 2006, AFMA and CSIRO will complete ERAs for all major AFMA fisheries.

Risk Management Framework:

The ecological risk management (ERM) framework has been further refined through discussions at the AFMA Board Environment Committee and provided to the AFMA Board for in-principle support. AFMA has further explored each step of the framework to determine what will be required and who the responsible groups are at each step. As a key tenet of the framework is to streamline fishery environment reporting, AFMA has developed an ideal approach to using the framework for this purpose. Further discussion with fishery managers and key stakeholders (eg. the Department of the Environment and Heritage) will occur to ensure the ERM framework is applicable to all AFMA fisheries.

For more information on any aspect of the ERAs or the ERACF Project, please contact Tim Smith, AFMA ERA project officer, on (02) 6272 5631.

Bycatch action plans (BAPs)

Review of BAPs

The *Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch* commits AFMA to review BAPs every two years. AFMA has finalised the BAPs for major Commonwealth Fisheries with the exception of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). The SESSF BAP combines the South East Trawl, Gillnet, Hook and Trap and Great Australian Bight Fisheries BAPs into one BAP. AFMA expects to seek public comments on the draft SESSF BAP in late 2005.

Two new bycatch action plans are being prepared. The Torres Strait Finfish BAP was released for public comment in April 2005, and is being finalised. The Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) BAP was released for public comment in September–October 2004. The BAP has been re-released for public comment given a number of substantive changes made to the previous draft. These relate primarily to additional actions to manage midwater trawl dolphin and seal bycatch, collection of information on bycatch, and development of management responses. For further information please refer to the 'Dolphins and Seals in the Small Pelagic Fishery' article later in this update.

Copies of BAPs are available from the AFMA website at www.afma.gov.au. Alternatively, they may be obtained by contacting Cate Coddington, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4208 or by email to cate.coddington@afma.gov.au.

Finalised BAPs

- Northern Prawn Fishery
- Antarctic Fisheries
- Bass Strait Scallop Fishery
- Southern Squid Jig Fishery
- Tuna longline and minor line fisheries
- Tuna Purse Seine Fishery
- Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Re-released for public comment - now closed

- Small Pelagic Fishery

Public comment sought - awaiting final approval

- Torres Strait Finfish Fishery

BAPs being drafted - awaiting approval for release for public comment

- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

For further information on Bycatch Action Plans please contact Cliff Lloyd, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4432.

Oceans Policy

High seas governance

Over the past few years there has been increasing discussion on the issue of high seas governance, including the use of marine protected areas and the proposal for a moratorium on trawling on seamounts. The issue was discussed at the United Nations open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) in 2004 and was again on the agenda at the sixth meeting, which commenced in New York on 6 June 2005.

The sixth meeting of UNICPOLOS included debates on fisheries issues such as high seas biodiversity conservation and proposed moratoria on fishing methods.

Key topics included:

- Bottom trawling on the high seas, longline fishing and sea turtle bycatch;
 - moratoria on bottom trawling and longlining on high seas were strongly championed by NGOs, scientists and some states
 - the proposed longlining moratorium and related debates about sea turtle conservation are likely to be raised at future related meetings.
- The current international fisheries management regime and the role and performance of regional fisheries management organisations;
 - implementation and effectiveness were considered in terms of conservation of high seas marine biodiversity and the gaps in the current international legal regime.
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
 - there was agreement on the detrimental impacts of IUU fishing, particularly in the absence of a holistic governance framework for the high seas.

Australia is currently developing a whole of government position on high seas biodiversity governance.

For further information on high seas governance and oceans policy please contact Paul Ryan, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5266.

Marine protected areas

Updated marine protected area management plans

A new draft of the management plan for the Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve was released for public comment by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). The main changes under the new draft management plan relevant to the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery are:

- all fishing and pleasure vessels cannot enter or anchor in waters adjacent to Elizabeth Reef
- there are more prescriptions related to commercial fishers, e.g. fishing gear must be stowed whilst within the marine reserve.

AFMA submitted comments on the draft plan, as did members of the Eastern Tuna MAC. DEH will revise the plan in light of comments received in the public comment phase, and will check to ensure that the final management plan addresses concerns of stakeholders. It is anticipated that the final plan will be released early next year, once approved by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

Copies of the draft plan are available at www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/gab/index.html or by contacting the Department of Environment and Heritage on 1800 803 772. For further information on marine protected areas please contact Amanda Parr, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5228.

Protected Species Reporting

AFMA and DEH have negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the streamlining of protected species interactions reporting by Commonwealth fishers, to reduce the reporting burden on fishers. Currently all fishery interactions with protected species need to be both recorded in the logbooks and separately reported to DEH.

Under the new streamlined arrangement, operators participating in this reporting arrangement, will only need to report protected species interactions in the logbook. AFMA will then report to DEH on operators' behalf, using logbook data, through summary reports of protected species interactions on a fishery basis.

Now that the MOU is finalised, AFMA will be providing information to industry regarding the implementation of this new reporting arrangement and providing concession holders with the option of not participating in this arrangement. Any concession holder opting not to participate will be required to report interactions to both DEH and AFMA separately.

For more information on protected species reporting please contact Tim Smith, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5631.

Marine turtles

New Marine Turtle Recovery Plan

The Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage is redrafting the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia. The new draft plan, due to be released for public comment shortly, will be divided into two separate documents - an 'Issues Paper' and a 'Recovery Plan'.

The Issues Paper will be an evolving document, where the outcomes of new research can be incorporated. This will allow it to be updated with current research and knowledge of biology, threats and conservation.

The Recovery Plan will be a 5-year statutory document under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, and will identify actions aimed at assisting the recovery of marine turtle species.

New research into the effects of circle hooks in longline fisheries

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has commissioned a pilot study into the effects of circle hooks in Australia's longline fisheries. The aim of this research is to determine whether circle hooks, which have been shown in some overseas fisheries to reduce bycatch, as well as post-capture mortality in turtles-are economically viable and commercially practical in our fisheries.

Indian Ocean – South East Asia (IOSEA) Year of the Turtle 2006

The recent meeting of the IOSEA Turtle MOU agreed to initiate and support the 2006 Year of the Turtle campaign. The campaign will promote broad turtle conservation themes, and is expected to include local, national and international activities. There was an enthusiastic and encouraging response from Signatory States, non-governmental organisations and others in attendance.

To guide the preparations for the campaign, a Year of the Turtle Steering Committee has been formed. Australia is a member of this committee and has recently provided financial support to the IOSEA Turtle MOU Secretariat for promotion and on-ground activities.

To keep updated on the campaign as it develops visit www.ioseaturtles.org/index.php.

If you have any ideas for a fisheries contribution to the Year of the Turtle or would like any further information on marine turtles please contact Cliff Lloyd, AFMA Environment Policy Section, on (02) 6272 4432.

Dugong

The first meeting on dugong conservation in the Indian Ocean and South-east Asian region under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held at the Chaophya Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 25 August 2005, co-hosted by the Governments of Thailand and Australia.

The meeting was represented by the following Governments: Australia, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Yemen. Also in attendance were: a representative from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Secretariat, NGOs from Australia and the region, and scientific experts: Professor Helen Marsh of James Cook University, Dr Ellen Hines (USA) and Dr Mohammed Al Rumaidh (Bahrain). Comoros, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu had expressed interest in attending the meeting, but were unable to attend.

The meeting discussed the biology, ecology of and threats to dugongs throughout their range. Following identification of activities which require regional cooperation and key elements of a possible framework, the meeting developed a draft text for a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding under the CMS to serve as a basis for future negotiation.

Delegates agreed that a second meeting be held to further develop the text and to draft conservation and management actions to be included in the Conservation and Management Plan.

For further information on dugong please contact Paul Ryan, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5266.

Nominations under EPBC Act

The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) has received a number of nominations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) relevant to marine species and fisheries. The following have been nominated for listing as threatened species under the EPBC Act:

- Southern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*)
- Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*)
- Eastern Gemfish (*Rexea solandri*)
- School Shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*)
- Harrison's Deepsea Dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*)
- Endeavour Dogfish (*Centrophorus moluccensis*)
- Southern Dogfish (*Centrophorus uyato*)

Each nomination is being assessed by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing and then the Committee's advice and subsequent recommendations are forwarded to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage for the final decision.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon Ian Campbell has now considered the advice of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee on the Southern Bluefin Tuna and has decided not to list the species under the EPBC Act at this time.

The Minister has concluded that the listing of the Southern Bluefin Tuna as a threatened species under the EPBC Act would be detrimental to the survival of the species, as it may weaken Australia's ability to influence both the management of the global fishing effort and the global conservation of the species. As a result, conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna in Australian waters could not be achieved.

Information on nominations under the EPBC Act is available on DEH's website at: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations/index.html>. Any amendments to the above nomination list will be found under the heading 'Outcomes of nominations' at the above webpage.

For further information on nominations under the EPBC Act, please contact Cliff Lloyd AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4432

Seals

Industry-based program to monitor seal interactions in the South East Trawl Fishery (SETF)

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded project: "An industry-based program to monitor seal interaction in the SETF" was formally commenced on 20 June with a half-day workshop and the launch of a booklet entitled 'South East Trawl Fishery: Seal Bycatch Guidelines for reporting and data collection'.

The booklet is available for download free of charge at <http://affashop.gov.au/product.asp?prodid=13224>.

The project will run for 18 months. An educational video is being prepared and an industry-based liaison officer has been appointed, and is now visiting ports in the SETF. The South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) is looking for at least one skipper in each port to join the Industry Liaison Officer in promoting the project. Preliminary indications are that a wider number of people are reporting interactions with seals.

National seal strategy group

The National Seal Strategy Group (NSSG) is a small government working group, established by the Marine and Coastal Committee (MACC) of the Natural Resource Management Standing Committee which identified the need to address the emerging national issue of human and seal interactions.

The NSSG is examining existing and emerging seal-human interaction issues with the view to developing strategies to mitigate adverse impacts on seal populations and on industries with particular reference to fisheries, aquaculture and eco-tourism. The NSSG has met four times and is currently finalising a strategy and report which assesses interactions between humans and seals which is anticipated for release for public consultation in October this year.

For further information on seal issues please contact Cliff Lloyd AFMA Environmental Policy Section on (02) 6272 4432

Sharks

AFMA Workshop on Enhanced Collection of Shark Catch and Effort Data

On the 3 - 4 August 2005, the AFMA Compliance section held a workshop on enhancing collection of shark catch and effort data and raising awareness of shark bycatch issues. The workshop was an important component of the overall project funded by NHT.

Attendees of the workshop included representatives from CSIRO, AIMS, ANU Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies, Customs National Marine Unit, Coastwatch, Navy, state fisheries managers and scientists, and of course AFMA. By having both scientists and data collectors present, data needs and constraints in data collection were identified. This information was then work-shopped to come up with a feasible and improved data collection strategy, which was the main outcome of the workshop.

Participants agreed that implementation of this strategy would significantly improve the ability of scientists to calculate stock assessments, allowing for the illegal catch of shark. It was accepted that, given the nature of illegal fishing, accurate catch and effort figures could not be collected but that estimates, together with an understanding of the reliability of those estimates, would be a major improvement on the current situation.

The workshop agreed that AFMA would be the initial source of contact regarding data queries or access to data collected under the strategy and that requests for access should be made through AFMA. AFMA will then liaise with the collection agency as required.

The next phase of the NHT project is to run training workshops for AFMA compliance officers, observers, customs and navy personnel to achieve consistent and accurate data collection for the new strategy. Prior to these workshops being held, the newly defined variables for data collection will be incorporated into the existing data collection form used in apprehensions of illegal foreign vessels.

Shark-Implementation and Review Committee (SIRC)

The SIRC met on 8 July 2005 to discuss how Australia's National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (Shark-plan) is being implemented. Along with other agencies and departments, AFMA reported on how it is meeting the actions prescribed to it under the Shark plan. The SIRC will co-ordinate the development of an operational plan for the sustainable use of shark resources in southern Australian waters.

Copies of the plan are available from <http://www.daff.gov.au/sharkplan> or by writing to Shark Secretariat, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601.

For further information on shark issues please contact Amanda Parr, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4258.

Dolphins and Seals in the Small Pelagic Fishery

Following the incidental catch of dolphins and seals in Zone A of the Small Pelagic Fishery AFMA is continuing to lead the progress on both:

- A Revised Draft Bycatch Action Plan for the Small Pelagic Fishery, which now includes dolphins and seals; and
- Research of mitigation strategies for dolphins and seals.

The Revised Draft Bycatch Action Plan for the Small Pelagic Fishery has been released for public comment. The period for public comment closed on Friday 23 September 2005. The Revised Draft SPF BAP and covering letter can be found on our website at:

http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/small_pelagic/notices/default.htm

Please contact Selina Stoute for further information regarding the Revised Draft Bycatch Action Plan.

Stage 1 of research into mitigation strategies for dolphins and seals has neared completion. A report titled "An investigation of underwater camera technology to assess dolphin and seal bycatch mitigation strategies for mid-water trawlers operating in the Small Pelagic Fishery" is due to be provided to AFMA during the next month. This report will be posted to AFMA's website upon approval. The Stage 2 proposal for the research is currently being assessed.

For further information on dolphins, please contact Steve Bolton, Manager Small Pelagic Fishery, on (02) 6272 5451.

Sea birds

Draft TAP for the Incidental Catch (or Bycatch) of Seabirds during Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations

The incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations has been listed as a key threatening process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and a Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) has been approved by the Minister for the Environment on 2 August 1998 to alleviate the impact of this activity. This plan expired in August 2003, necessitating a review under subsection 279(2) of the EPBC Act.

A revised threat abatement plan has been prepared to coordinate national action to alleviate the impact of longline fishing activities on seabirds in Australian waters.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage is calling for public comment from interested groups and individuals on the revised Threat Abatement Plan for the incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations.

The three-month public comment period will close on Friday 9 December 2005.

An electronic copy of the draft threat abatement plan may be viewed on the internet at <http://www.aad.gov.au>.

Written comments on the plan should be sent to: Antarctic and International Policy Section, Australian Antarctic Division, 203 Channel Highway, KINGSTON TAS 7050 or email: barry.baker@aad.gov.au.

For further information on seabirds please contact Paul Ryan, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 5266.

New AFMA Website

AFMA is pleased to announce the launch of our new website, www.afma.gov.au. The new website is the start of a long term plan to deliver easier, more efficient online systems to help you get the information you need. The website now features user friendly design and improved navigation, as well as the latest fisheries news and information. There is also a search engine to help you find what you want easily and quickly.

Two new exciting services are offered by the website. One is a QUOTABOARD service enabling people to privately browse or advertise quota, Statutory Fishing Rights or permits to buy, sell or lease. A new and improved QUOTAVIEW service is also now available for people to run tailored reports on their current quota status.

IMPORTANT - Change to subscriptions process for Environment Update & other AFMA publications

With our new website, from our next edition, we will be moving to using our new online subscriptions service. **This means to continue receiving Environment Update or any of the other AFMA publications, you will need to register at www.afma.gov.au/information/subscriptions** and select what publications or information you want to receive from AFMA, and by what method. You will also be able to update your details at any time on this system by simply logging in.

If you are currently receiving AFMA Environment Update by fax or hardcopy and do not have web access, please contact AFMA Direct 1300 723 621 and provide your details so that you can continue to receive Environment Update from us.

For further information on the new website or subscriptions process please contact AFMA Communications on (02) 6272 4591.

Feedback on AFMA's Environment Update

The last issue of Environment Update (EU) requested feedback on elements of the newsletter. We wanted to know what you thought of the layout, content, length, readability, frequency of release and relevance. We received comments from nine stakeholders and all responses were positive. A summary of the comments is provided in the following table.

Overall as a publication	The EU is considered to be a very valuable and outstanding publication.. We received encouraging words to continue the good work.
Layout/formatting	Stakeholders reported the EU to be an excellent document that should continue in its current form. They experienced the format to be user friendly and particularly useful from an industry perspective. The index is considered great as it allows easy, quick access to relevant sections. One comment was received in regards to converting the update to a PDF format. This is in the process of happening. In fact you may be viewing this edition in PDF right now!
Content and readability	The EU is perceived as being filled with information that might otherwise be missed, and an effective way to see the challenges AFMA is facing and how it is addressing them. Stakeholders feel the EU provides a feeling of confidence in the fact that AFMA Environment Policy section is well up to date with key issues, and thereby reduces concern about exposure to 'unknown' environment-related issues. People find the update provides a useful and easy to read, review and summary of progress in key environmental issues in fisheries management.
Length	Stakeholders report the EU to be overall a good length with each section being an appropriate length and they appreciate the inclusion of sources for further information, as well as a contact officer.

AFMA and stakeholders are interested in the views of NGO groups on the EU. A number of NGO groups receive the update, and we are keen to receive feedback from them. We are always seeking to improve so if you have any comments or suggestions please contact Cate Coddington, AFMA Environment Policy Section on (02) 6272 4208.

Environment Policy Section contacts

Katrina Maguire has resigned from AFMA to join the Murray-Darling Commission. As former Senior Manager Environment Policy, Katrina made a valuable contribution to getting a broader understanding of fisheries management that included environmental issues, accepted within AFMA and amongst stakeholders.

Recruitment action is currently underway to replace Katrina. Until it is completed the following arrangements will apply:

Acting Senior Manager Environment Policy

Paul Ryan 02 6272 5266 paul.ryan@afma.gov.au

Acting Manager Environmental Assessments

Tim Smith 02 6272 5631 tim.smith@afma.gov.au

Senior Environment Officer

Cliff Lloyd 02 6272 4432 cliff.lloyd@afma.gov.au

Senior Environment Officer

Amanda Parr 02 6272 5228 amanda.parr@afma.gov.au

Acting Senior Environment Officer

Cate Coddington 02 6272 4208 cate.coddington@afma.gov.au

Environment Officer

Aminya Hepp 02 6272 5681 aminya.hepp@afma.gov.au

Section fax 02 6272 5167