

Annual Report

2014-15



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

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Australian Government
Australian Fisheries Management Authority

23 September 2015

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

We have much pleasure in presenting to you the annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2015. During 2014–15, AFMA has continued to efficiently deliver regulatory and management services to Australian fishing operators and the broader community. This has ensured sustainable and profitable fisheries that produce Australian seafood now and into the future, whilst minimising the risk of unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms. AFMA also continued to play a key role in the protection of Australia's marine environment from illegal foreign fishing.

This report has been prepared in accordance with section 63 of the *Public Service Act 1999* and section 87 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and in accordance with the *Requirements for Annual Reports, For Departments, Executive Agencies and other non-corporate Commonwealth Entities*, approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit under subsection 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

In addition, and as required under section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, we certify that we are satisfied that the Authority has:

- prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reporting and data collection procedures and processes that meet the specific needs of the agency
- taken all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud relating to the agency.

We give the report to you for presentation to Parliament, required under section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and subsection 63(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Findlay'.

Dr. James Findlay
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Norman Moore'.

Hon. Norman Moore
Chairman

Contents

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	1
USER GUIDE.....	5
PART 1 – OVERVIEW.....	6
Highlights.....	7
Chairman’s and CEO’s review.....	8
Our Agency.....	13
PART 2 – OUR PERFORMANCE.....	16
Performance measurement framework.....	18
Objectives.....	18
Outcomes	18
Goals and strategies	19
Report against intended actions.....	22
PART 3 – OUTCOMES OF OUR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	60
Report against services and deliverables	62
Report against program key performance indicators.....	67
Reports for each fishery.....	70
Reference guide	71
PART 4 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT	109
Organisational structure.....	110
Corporate governance practices.....	112
Stakeholder satisfaction.....	117
People management	120
Risk management	130

PART 5 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	134
Financial statements	134
PART 6 – APPENDICES	196
Appendix 1: Commission and executive	198
Appendix 2: Civil litigation outcomes	204
Appendix 3: Management advisory committee meetings and memberships	205
Appendix 4: Freedom of information reporting	208
Appendix 5: Work health and safety.....	209
Appendix 6: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance.....	211
Appendix 7: Disability reporting.....	215
Appendix 8: Consultancy services	216
Appendix 9: Procurement to support small business.....	217
Appendix 10: Agency resource statements and resources for outcome	218
Appendix 11: Expenses by outcomes	219
PART 7 – COMPLIANCE INDEX.....	220
Compliance index	222
Glossary	226
Index	233



User guide

This report provides details of the performance and operations of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ending 30 June 2015 as forecast in the Agriculture Portfolio Budget Statements 2014–15.

Part 1 – Overview

Part 1 provides the Chairman’s and Chief Executive Officer’s (CEO) review, looking at our key achievements in 2014–15, as well as developments in our operating environment and an outlook for the year ahead. An introduction to AFMA is also provided.

Part 2 – Performance report

Part 2 explains AFMA’s performance management framework and measures the agency’s performance against indicators and strategies in 2014–15.

Part 3 – Outcomes of our fisheries management

Part 3 focuses on the effectiveness of management for each relevant fishery and, where applicable, the statutory management plans. This part also includes a snapshot of each fishery and the key developments in 2014–15.

Part 4 – Accountability and Management

Part 4 covers AFMA’s governance arrangements and practices. This includes financial management, human resource management activities, risk management practices and communications with stakeholders.

Part 5 – Financial statements

Part 5 consists of AFMA’s financial statements for the 2014–15 year, as independently audited by the Australian National Audit Office, including financial performance, financial position and cash flows during the year.

Appendices

The appendices include reporting requirements such as civil litigation outcomes, Commission and executive details, management advisory committee meetings and membership, freedom of information, ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance, consultancy services, work health and safety, disability reporting, agency resource statements and statements of outcomes.

Compliance index

Provides a list of requirements as set out in the *Requirements for Annual Reports for Departments, Executive Agencies and other non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities*, approved by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit under Subsection 63(2) and 70(2) of the *Public Service Act 1991*.

Part 1

Overview

Highlights

Chairman's and CEO's review

Our Agency



Highlights

2014–15

Re-opening
of the eastern

orange
roughy fishery



500 tonnes

Six
foreign



apprehensions

Red tape
reduction
initiatives



Introduction
of **electronic**
monitoring

Combatting



illegal, unreported and
unregulated fishing in the
Southern Ocean

No
overfishing



*Based on ABARES Fishery status reports
2013–14

Chairman's and CEO's review

Key achievements for 2014–15

In 2014–15 the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) continued to deliver cost effective management that ensured healthy fish stocks and supported sustainable and viable Commonwealth fisheries.

Significant work was undertaken to reduce red tape in support of the Australian Government's commitment to reducing the cost of unnecessary or inefficient regulation imposed on individuals, businesses and community organisations. Since the election in 2013 AFMA has identified 35 red tape reduction initiatives that have been submitted to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and 15 of these initiatives have already been implemented. Revision of legislative instruments and changes to AFMA's online information, application, reporting and payment systems are also helping to reduce the costs and regulatory burden on fishing businesses.

Over the past year AFMA's activities have also focused on cost effective ways to help fishers further reduce their impact on the marine environment. In consultation with the commercial fishing industry and research partners we developed fishery specific work plans to minimise the risk to non-target species and ensure the risks to threatened species such as Australian sea lions and seabirds were minimised.

We have also worked towards implementing more cost effective methods of collecting and reviewing data with the introduction of camera-based electronic monitoring in a number of Commonwealth fisheries. Ongoing roll out of e-monitoring in Australia will provide greater insight into fishing operations, including the state of fish stocks and the impacts of fishing on the marine environment. This system will improve AFMA's ability to manage Commonwealth fisheries and industry's ability to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable fishing.

As part of this management, AFMA maintains an effective domestic compliance and enforcement program. This risk based program utilises intelligence driven and targeted operations to deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries and the Australian Fishing Zone. High priorities in 2014–15 were quota evasion and Vessel Monitoring System compliance to ensure all boats were reporting at all times. It was pleasing that Vessel Monitoring Systems compliance rates continued to improve over 2014–15 with the average rate increasing slightly from 97.7 per cent in 2013–14 to

97.9 per cent in 2014–15. Following a drop in compliance rates in March and April 2015, a zero tolerance program was conducted in May–June. This saw compliance rates rise to an average of 99.7 per cent in June 2015.

In May 2015 the orange roughy fishery was re-opened off eastern Tasmania. Re-opening of this fishery is a prime example of management success by AFMA, as well as by government and industry. In the late 1980s and early 1990s orange roughy stocks were severely overfished in Australia, leading to stock declines and fisheries closures. AFMA has been closely monitoring the stocks of orange roughy for many years. In 2015 the AFMA Commission reviewed scientific evidence and expert advice that the stocks are rebuilding and was confident in re-opening the fishery under a conservative total allowable catch of 500 tonnes for the 2015–16 fishing season subject to strict vessel monitoring measures. You can read more about the re-opening of the orange roughy fishery in the feature story on page 27.

AFMA also continued to engage with our international networks, including INTERPOL, in combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean. Since the start of 2015, with the sinking of the *Thunder* and detention of the *Kunlun* (Thailand), *Viking* (Malaysia), *Perlon* (Malaysia), *Songhua* and *Yongding* (Cabo Verde), there are no known illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels in operation in the Southern Ocean. Progressive reductions in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean over the past decade have supported recent increases in the total allowable catch for Patagonian toothfish in the Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery.

The most recent Fisheries Status Report (released by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences on 23 October 2014) found that no stocks managed solely by the Commonwealth (AFMA) were subject to overfishing (a stock that is experiencing too much fishing and the removal rate from the stock is unsustainable). This is the first time since 2006 that such a status has been achieved and reflects the effectiveness of AFMA's management approach. However, six stocks were listed as overfished (a fish stock below the biomass limit reference point), and AFMA will continue to pursue comprehensive management strategies to rebuild these stocks.

Financial performance

AFMA continues to focus on cost-efficient service delivery and has worked closely with industry over many years to minimise costs whilst successfully maintaining service levels.

AFMA reported a deficit of \$3.431 million for the 2014–15. This was in line with expectations. The deficit relates primarily to depreciation and asset write-down. AFMA's total departmental expenditure was \$39.963 million, which was \$0.222 million lower than the previous year. AFMA's administered expenditure was \$2.290 million, relating to the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessel; this was some \$1.046 million lower compared with the previous year, reflecting lower numbers of vessel seizures.

Budget outlook

AFMA has budgeted to spend \$39.852 million in delivery of regulatory and other services in 2015–16.

AFMA has budgeted for a small approved operating loss in the 2015–16 financial year of \$1.798 million. This loss represents AFMA's depreciation/amortisation expenses.

Administered expenditure is anticipated to remain at recent levels, approximately \$5.4 million, but this is highly dependent on the tempo of illegal foreign fishing vessel caretaking and disposal activities.

Our operating environment

AFMA continues to use the best available research, science and other evidence-based information to support our decision making and apply comprehensive risk assessment and management. As fisheries management often involves complex systems, our decisions are based on a precautionary approach particularly where the available scientific information is limited. Our approach is often more conservative than internationally accepted standards.

The profitability of many of our fishing operators is affected by the exchange rate. In the last 12 months cost drivers have generally been favourable. While variable, available indicators suggest operator profitability is rising. Wholesale diesel prices, though up from January 2015 reflecting in part the decreasing value of the Australian dollar against the US dollar, are still lower than recent years and translate into lower fishing costs. Prices for exports have generally increased and conversely, imported seafood has become more expensive. This assists the Australian fishing industry to compete in the domestic market.

Such external factors will always impact on the profitability of the fishing fleet, and AFMA will continue to implement management arrangements that support fishing industry efforts to maximise net returns to the Australian community.

Fisheries management cost processes

While the sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries is reasonably well assured through current and planned management practices, keeping management costs appropriately commensurate with beneficial outcomes to the fishing industry and the community is a constant challenge. AFMA's cost recovered budget for 2014–15 increased by nearly 4 per cent over the 2013–14 cost recovered budget reflecting a greater level of investment in research.

In 2010 AFMA made a commitment to industry that it would keep cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once corrected for Consumer Price Index increases. We met this commitment in 2014–15 and since 2010, AFMA has out-performed the cumulative Consumer Price Index increases by more than \$22.5 million. We are determined to continue to meet this commitment.

Government reviews of fisheries policy

AFMA has continued to work with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and other government agencies in developing the Australian Government Fisheries Policy, a revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and a new Bycatch Policy. It is anticipated the draft policies will be further developed in 2015–16. The outcomes of this work are expected to impact on AFMA's future operations and the operating environment for key stakeholders.

Environment and sustainability

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, our key role is to ensure that the management of fisheries is conducted in a way that is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and the exercise of the precautionary principle. In this context, AFMA manages the impact of fishing on commercial species, by-product, bycatch and the broader marine ecosystem.

In addition, all Commonwealth managed fisheries are accredited or undergoing renewed accreditation under Part 10 (strategic assessment), Part 13 (wildlife interaction) and Part 13A (export approval) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This means that all fishery operations are regularly assessed for their impact on matters of national environmental significance, in particular the Commonwealth marine environment. Interactions with protected species are allowed provided they are in accordance with the accredited management arrangements. Exports from the fishery are permitted for the period of accreditation.

Details of progress on environmental management and responsible fishing are provided in Part 3 of this annual report on page 60.

Outlook for 2015–16

AFMA will continue to pursue its legislated objectives and deliver the Australian Government's election commitments of 'competitive and sustainable fisheries, reducing regulation and boosting productivity, and improving stakeholder engagement'.

In 2015–16 AFMA will continue to focus on the cost effective delivery of fisheries management in the Australian Fishing Zone – the world's third largest. We will do this while working with industry to prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms. The completion of review and revision of the Australian Government Fisheries, Harvest Strategy and Bycatch Policies will be key elements in AFMA's efforts to deliver sustainable fisheries for the longer term.

AFMA's regulation of Commonwealth fisheries will ensure sustainable and profitable fisheries that produce fresh, healthy Australian seafood now and into the future.



Our Agency

History and establishment

AFMA was established under the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* in February 1992 to manage Australia's Commonwealth fisheries and apply the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. Together, these two Acts created a statutory authority model for the day-to-day management of Commonwealth fisheries.

Our portfolio department, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, retains responsibility for strategic fisheries policy advice and leading international negotiations.

The AFMA Commission is responsible for domestic fisheries management, and the CEO (who is also a Commissioner) is responsible for foreign compliance and assisting the Commission to implement its decisions. For the reporting period AFMA is governed by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Public Service Act 1999*.

During the reporting period our minister was the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, the Minister for Agriculture. Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture with responsibility for fisheries.

Role and functions

AFMA is the Australian Government agency responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of Commonwealth commercial fisheries on behalf of the Australian community and people with an interest in Commonwealth fisheries. The challenge is to find the right balance between a profitable and competitive fishing industry while keeping the impacts on Australia's marine ecosystem within sustainable and acceptable levels.

Our fisheries management practices aim to make sure that healthy and fresh local seafood is available to Australians both now and into the future. These practices have regard to the impact of fishing on non-target species and the long-term sustainability of the marine environment.

AFMA generally manages commercial fisheries from three nautical miles offshore to the boundary of the Australian Fishing Zone, as well as Australian boats fishing

on the high seas. State and territory governments generally manage fisheries within their borders and inside three nautical miles from shore, except where Offshore Constitutional Settlement exist between the Commonwealth and state governments.

The Commonwealth is also responsible for international fisheries matters, including preventing illegal foreign fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone. Our involvement in managing fish stocks on the high seas is also increasing. Since ratifying the *United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in 1999*, Australia has been actively involved in negotiating regional arrangements to manage a range of highly migratory, straddling stocks and international stocks.

AFMA is a regulatory agency that pursues efficient and cost effective fisheries management in a way that accounts for the effects of fishing and ensures ecologically sustainable development. AFMA also regulates the use of these fisheries with the aim to pursue maximising net economic returns to the Australian community. In doing so we are accountable to the community and the fishing industry.

Australia's Commonwealth fisheries are managed in accordance with government cost recovery policy. The commercial fishing industry pays for costs directly attributed to, and recoverable from, the fishing industry, while the government pays for activities that benefit the broader community.

Our stakeholders include the commercial fishing industry, researchers, environment/conservation organisations, recreational fishing, Indigenous interests and other government agencies. We have built a partnership approach with our stakeholders and involve them in developing policies and actions; encouraging them to share responsibility for fisheries management where appropriate.

We also provide fisheries management services to Joint Authorities of the Commonwealth and state governments, including the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*.

Our values

We individually and collectively underpin our service, partnerships and accountability to stakeholders by adhering to the principles of public sector governance.

We are:

- **Impartial** – we are apolitical and provide the government with advice that is frank, honest, timely and based on the best available evidence
- **Committed to service** – we are professional, objective, innovative and efficient, and we work collaboratively to achieve the best results for the Australian community and the government
- **Accountable** – we are open and accountable to the Australian community under the law and within the framework of Ministerial responsibility
- **Respectful** – we respect all people, including their rights and their heritage
- **Ethical** – we demonstrate leadership, are trustworthy, and act with integrity, in all that we do.

Part 2

Our performance

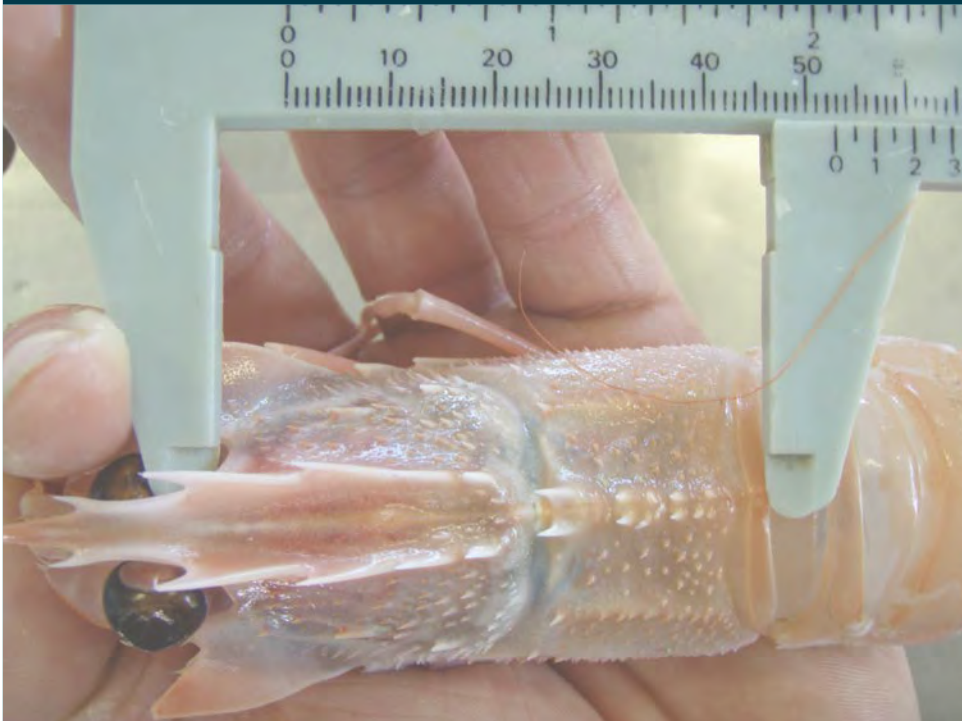
Performance measurement framework

Objectives

Outcomes

Goals and strategies

Report against intended actions



Highlights

Part 2

28 
port visits

5 
Capacity building programs


212 inspecting boats

VMS Compliance

Recreational Fishing Liaison Officer 

97.9% VMS compliance

 **Industry Liaison Officer**



Ensuring that **healthy, fresh**
Australian seafood is available **now**
and in to the **future**

 **-DAY** quota
reconciliation
arrangements

Performance measurement framework

AFMA's objectives

Table 01: AFMA objectives

AFMA'S OBJECTIVES
<p>The objectives we must pursue in performing our functions are set out in the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> and are in essence:</p>
<p>EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Implement efficient and cost-effective fisheries management arrangements. Ensure such arrangements and related activities implement Australia's obligations under relevant international agreements</p>
<p>ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Ensure fishing and related activity is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, including exercise of the precautionary principle, with regard to the long term sustainability of the marine environment.</p>
<p>MAXIMISE NET ECONOMIC RETURNS</p> <p>Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries.</p>
<p>ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>Ensure accountability to the fishing industry and to the Australian community in our management of fisheries resources.</p>
<p>COST RECOVERY</p> <p>Achieve government targets in relation to recovery of costs.</p>

Effective pursuit of these objectives enables AFMA to achieve its outcome of:

Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing.

In so doing, AFMA aims to deliver improved net economic returns to the Australian community and improve the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries as a whole. The achievements outlined in the following sections of this annual report evidence AFMA's positive performance for 2014–15 against this agenda.

Goals and strategies

AFMA's Corporate Plan 2014–2017 sets out the eight main goals and their associated strategies that we have adopted to pursue our objectives and outcome.

Table 02: Corporate Plan 2014–2017 goals and strategies

Corporate Plan 2014–2017 goals and strategies	
Goal	Strategy
1. Manage key commercial species at levels that support maximum economic yield.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage fisheries in line with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines and AFMA Harvest Strategy Framework. • Implement measures to recover remaining overfished stocks.
2. Improve the net economic returns of Commonwealth fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the development of underutilised fisheries resources. • Support the Department of Agriculture and fishery stakeholders in the revision of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines. • Develop and implement approaches to further reduce the amount of discarded fish.
3. Prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly review fishery risks and management measures under AFMA's Ecological Risk Management Framework. • Continue to manage fisheries in line with the Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch (Bycatch Policy).
4. Implement management arrangements and frameworks that are both cost effective and encourage compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make fisheries management arrangements more uniform, understandable and enforceable with appropriate penalties. • Continue to improve business processes, information flows and financial arrangements to reduce costs. • Continue to improve the effectiveness of quota management for Commonwealth Fisheries through the Quota Administration Policy and related instruments. • Apply individual accountability in appropriate fisheries.

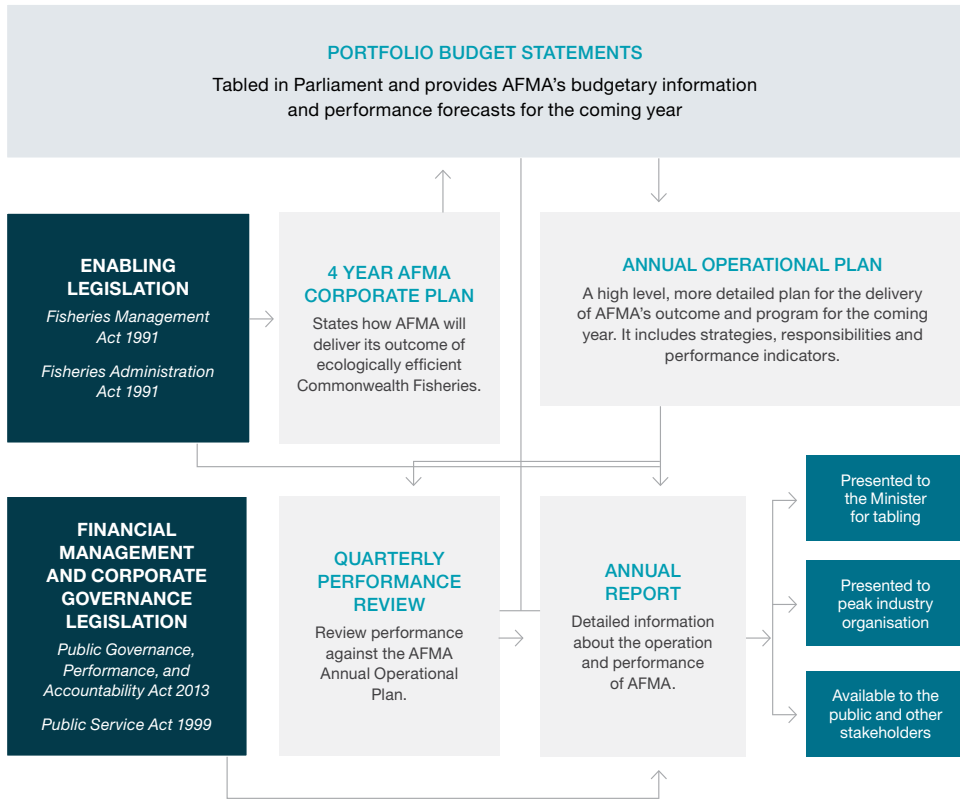
Corporate Plan 2014–2017 goals and strategies

<p>5. Effectively deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, the Australian Fishing Zone and adjacent regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct and enable compliance programs that target identified high risks. • Conduct capacity building programs with neighbouring countries to enhance fisheries management and governance frameworks and compliance programs. • Promote and advocate deterrence, prevention and cooperation at regional fisheries forums to deter illegal fishing.
<p>6. Streamline regulations and approvals and reduce costs of compliance and fisheries management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further adapt business processes and technologies that match the core needs of AFMA and its stakeholders. • Continue to reduce regulatory burden and cost to industry through reduction of red tape and unnecessary regulatory requirements, including establishment investment in electronic monitoring and data transfer technologies, and upgrading of fishery-management specific software. • Explore opportunities to streamline fisheries assessments under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.
<p>7. Facilitate co-management² in Commonwealth fisheries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For fisheries under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>, apply lessons from co-management trials and assist the development of new arrangements.
<p>8. Transparent and effective engagement with the community and other stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communications in a style usable by stakeholders through appropriate media channels. • Ensure the effective operation of management advisory committees and resource assessment groups, as the principal source of advice to the AFMA Commission. • Increase public accessibility and availability of scientific and other fishery management information. • Continue to work with the Department of Agriculture in servicing regional fisheries management organisations and other international fishery bodies

¹ Fisheries co-management is an arrangement in which responsibilities and obligations for sustainable fisheries management are negotiated, shared and potentially delegated between government, fishers and other stakeholders where appropriate.

To address this Corporate Plan, AFMA identified in its Annual Operational Plan the intended actions for delivery in 2014–15. These actions concentrated on providing cost effective fisheries management, targeted compliance programs, efficient licensing services and developing operational policies and regulations based on the best available scientific advice about Australian marine living resources that are affected by Commonwealth fisheries. Our performance against the intended actions is reported in pages 16–59.

Table 03: Planning and Reporting Structure



Performance against intended actions

Goal 1: Manage key commercial species at levels that support maximum economic yield

Strategy 1.1: Manage fisheries in line with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines and AFMA's Harvest Strategy Framework

AFMA's role is to ensure sustainable fishing in Australian Commonwealth managed fisheries contributes the highest possible benefit to the Australian people. Maximum economic yield sets catch limits at a level that aims to maximize profits for the fishery as a whole and at the same time protects the fishery from becoming overfished.

The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines also require AFMA to pursue maximum net economic yields from Commonwealth fisheries. More detailed fishery level reporting on our performance against this Harvest Strategy is on pages 60 to 107.

AFMA and associated organisations, such as the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, commission research that supports science based fisheries management decisions to manage fish stocks sustainably.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Implement harvest strategies which have targets based on maximum economic yield or the best target based on available scientific information.	✓	<p>Total allowable catches (or total allowable effort²) were set for the following fisheries in accordance with the relevant harvest strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern and Eastern Scalegfish and Shark Fishery • Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery • Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery • Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery • Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery • Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery • Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery • Northern Prawn Fishery • Small Pelagic Fishery • Southern Squid Jig Fishery <p>Total allowable catches or total allowable effort for quota species are set at sustainable levels.</p> <p>Total allowable catches for stocks below limit reference points are set in accordance with stock rebuilding strategies with no targeted fishing.</p> <p>NOTE: Internationally managed fish stocks are managed according to international agreements consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines and may not have targets based on maximum economic yield.</p>
Commission assessments and targeted research to underpin science based management decisions.	✓	<p>AFMA establishes research priorities for Commonwealth fisheries and arranges for research to be undertaken to address these priorities each year. The majority of research is undertaken by AFMA including undertaking and improving fishery assessments. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological and economic assessments of key commercial stocks • Risk assessments for bycatch species and fishery impacts on the ecosystem • Identifying strategies to ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources and address information gaps to ensure the effective management of these fisheries. <p>The following key fisheries assessments were completed in 2014–15:</p> <p>Small Pelagic Fishery</p> <p>Annual fishery assessments for all Small Pelagic Fishery species involving a review and analysis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing literature • catch and effort data • age monitoring programs for each species, including otolith analysis • existing biomass and management strategy evaluations. <p>These were used to support determination of recommended biological catches and total allowable catch for the season for the Small Pelagic Fishery.</p>

² Total allowable effort is used in fisheries where it is not cost effective or would be otherwise inappropriate for effective management to have total allowable catches

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
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Commission assessments and targeted research to underpin science based management decisions.



A Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded study was undertaken in early 2015 by the South Australian Research and Development Institute and the University of Tasmania applying the daily egg production method to jack mackerel successfully collecting large numbers of samples of eggs and adults concurrently from the key spawning area off eastern Australia during what has been previously identified as the main spawning period.

The study established an effective method for sampling adult jack mackerel and provides the first estimates for this species of the adult reproductive parameters required for application of the daily egg production method. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded study was conducted to acquire the knowledge needed to support ongoing ecologically sustainable management of these species and was used to set the sustainable catch limits for the season.

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

Results from the scallop bed surveys were used to estimate biomass and density in particular beds in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery in accordance with the harvest strategy to determine total allowable commercial scallop catch for the season.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Stock assessments for a suite of key species in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery were undertaken to inform the calculation of recommended biological catch and total allowable catch including:

- mirror dory
- orange roughy
- redfish
- john dory
- elephant fish
- sawshark.

Northern Prawn Fishery

Data obtained from the Northern Prawn Fishery pre-season recruitment and spawning surveys informed the stock assessment and computation of maximum economic yield for the fishery and total allowable effort for the season for tiger and endeavour prawn species.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Tagging data collected from the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery was incorporated into the fishery stock assessment and total allowable catch limits were considered by the Sub Antarctic Resource Assessment Group and the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee.

Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Fishery

Data collected through the fishery's independent random stratified trawl survey as well as tagging data was incorporated into the stock assessments for the Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Fishery with total allowable catch limits for the key species, Patagonian toothfish, recommended by the Sub Antarctic Fisheries Resource Assessment Group.

Strategy 1.3: Implement measures to recover remaining overfished stocks

AFMA sets total allowable catch or total allowable effort limits to ensure Commonwealth fisheries are sustainable.

We often regulate the catch through the use of individual transferable quotas, which is a long-standing Australian Government policy. Individual transferable quotas are regarded by government and AFMA as the preferred means of achieving efficient and sustainable fisheries that maximise net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries to the Australian community.

We continued to commission stock assessments for key commercial stocks to evaluate their status against agreed limit and target reference points. Rebuilding strategies were developed and implemented to address overfishing and to rebuild stocks in cases where they were assessed as below agreed limit reference points.



Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Set total allowable catch or total allowable effort at levels that will achieve limit and target reference points within agreed time frames.	✓	In 2014–15 AFMA continued to set total allowable catches or effort levels in accordance with relevant fishery specific harvest strategies and or rebuilding strategies. These measures are designed to achieve limit and target reference points to rebuild fisheries to sustainable levels where fisheries are overfished.
Implement stock rebuilding strategies for species assessed as being below agreed limit reference points.	✓	<p>Rebuilding strategies are currently in place or being implemented for the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orange roughy • eastern gemfish • school shark • blue warehou. <p>In March 2015 eastern orange roughy stocks were assessed to have been rebuilt to a healthy level where they can be commercially fished again.</p> <p>Following the assessment, the AFMA Commission set a total allowable catch of 500 tonnes for the eastern stock of orange roughy for the 2015–16 season allowing the stock to continue to rebuild.</p> <p>Fishing in the eastern orange roughy zone is subject to close monitoring, including on-board AFMA observers, to minimise the risk of discards.</p> <p>The 2013 Gulper Shark Management Strategy continues to support the rebuilding of Harrison’s and southern dogfishes.</p> <p>A rebuilding strategy is being developed for redfish due to the species being formally assessed as below the limit reference point for the first time in October 2014.</p> <p>An interim rebuilding strategy for southern bluefin tuna aimed at increasing the spawning biomass to 20 per cent of its original level by 2035 has been implemented by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, in which Australia is a member.</p>

FEATURE STORY



ORANGE ROUGHY FISHING IN THE COMMONWEALTH SOUTH EAST TRAWL FISHERY

The once poster child for unsustainable fishing in Australia, orange roughy, has returned to the spotlight, this time as an example of how the partnership between AFMA, the fishing industry and scientists enables a fish stock to rebuild to a point where it can again be harvested sustainably.

There were many lessons learnt during and following the overfishing of orange roughy stocks in the late 1980s and early 1990s. AFMA rapidly lowered total allowable catches during the 1990s and then closed waters deeper than 700 metres to trawling and banned commercial fishing for orange roughy (with the exception of an area known as the Cascade Plateau where the stock was assessed as healthy). Since the implementation of these closures the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association has partnered with the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to monitor stock recovery.

Over the past 10 years, regular surveys on orange roughy fishing grounds have been undertaken using towed multi-frequency acoustic systems. In 2014 the survey results, along with biological data, were used in an assessment that showed that the eastern stock had rebuilt to levels that would support the re-opening of targeted fishing under the fishery's harvest strategy.

In March 2015, AFMA announced the re-opening of commercial fishing on the eastern orange roughy stock subject to management measures that enable the stock to continue to rebuild. These arrangements include:

- real time monitoring of fishing on aggregations using 100 per cent observer coverage
- a minimum quota holding to enter and remain in the areas
- accounting for all orange roughy taken in the management areas (including discards)
- a trigger to stop fishing in the eastern aggregations while quota is still available to cover catches, coupled with a 100 per cent undercatch provision to minimise the incentive to fish to the limit of quota holdings (and potentially catch in excess of quota holdings).

The re-opening of the orange roughy fishery is a good example of how effective collaboration between industry members, researchers and management is essential to support quality monitoring, assessment and management programs. Further details can be found in the 2015 Orange Roughy Stock Rebuilding Strategy available on AFMA's website.

Goal 2: Improve the net economic returns of Commonwealth fisheries

Strategy 2.1: Facilitate the development of underutilised fisheries resources

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* AFMA has an objective of achieving optimum utilisation of living resources within the Australian Fishing Zone.

We are responsible for considering access to underutilised living resources in response to enquiries to do so. We assess and where appropriate approve applications for the use of specific fishing gear or allow fishing to take place in new areas. This approach includes gathering sufficient information to enable us to assess whether a sustainable fishery can be developed.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Facilitate access to underutilised fisheries resources.	✓	<p>AFMA and the South East Management Advisory Committee approved an application to amend gear configuration on trap fishing concessions to allow targeting of hagfish. Hagfish can be taken in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery but have not been targeted before. The assessment group provided recommendations for data collection to support close monitoring and assessment.</p> <p>AFMA issued a permit for an Australian vessel to fish for Patagonian toothfish in the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Exploratory Fisheries in the Ross Sea Region during the 2014–15 fishing season. The data collected will form part of a detailed stock assessment.</p>

Strategy 2.2: Support the Department of Agriculture and fishery stakeholders in the revision of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines

The Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines provide a framework to maintain key commercial fishery stocks at ecologically sustainable levels and maximise net economic returns to the Australian community.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Implement revised harvest strategy policy when available.	<i>Continues to assist</i>	AFMA has continued to work with the Department of Agriculture and other government agencies in developing the Australian Government Fisheries Policy, a revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and a new Bycatch Policy. Relevant elements of the new policies and associated guidelines will be implemented by AFMA once they are finalised.

Strategy 2.3: Develop and implement approaches to further reduce the amount of discarded fish

To support our objectives of sustainable fisheries and cost effective and efficient fisheries management, we are committed to bycatch reduction, improved measures for protected species and managing any effects of fishing on the marine environment.

In most of AFMA's quota managed fisheries the level of discards of commercial species is estimated through our independent observer program and these estimates are factored into the setting of total allowable catch levels. The use of electronic monitoring (recently introduced in several fisheries) will provide opportunities for more accurately estimating discards.

Several fisheries are trialling different discard and bycatch education processes. The South East Trawl Fishery will trial the use of individual report cards for discards to make individual owners and fishers more aware of their discarding practices. The Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery is examining the feasibility of introducing a zero discard policy, and is seeking funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to carry out initial studies. The Northern Prawn Fishery has also recently announced a plan to reduce its bycatch by 30 per cent over the next few years.

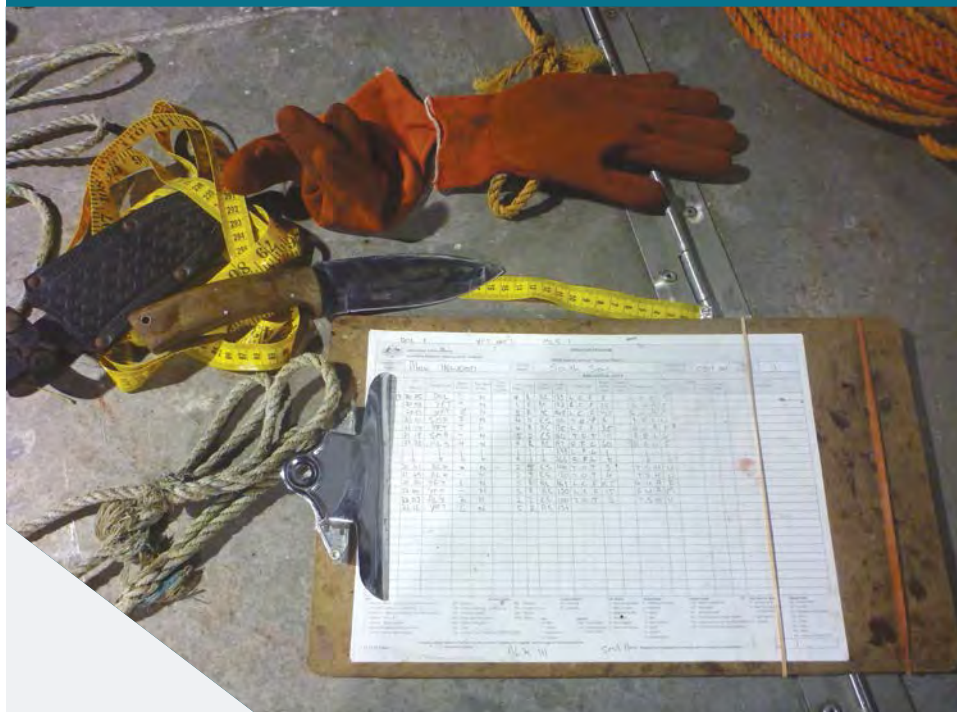
Our dedicated Bycatch and Discards team works on focused and cost effective ways to help the fishing industry to minimise their discards and reduce interactions with protected species. This includes working with industry on education programs to raise awareness and encourage operational practices to minimise discards.

We are also reviewing options for requiring individual accountability for quota species discards in fisheries where this is feasible and cost effective. Where implemented this would mean that discarded quota species will be taken off the individual fishers quota holdings (instead of being accounted at the fishery level before setting the total allowable catch). This will be an incentive for fishers to reduce discarding of quota species. We are also reviewing over catch and under catch arrangements and, in 2015–16, will undertake a cost benefit analysis of proposals to account for all catch of quota species. Both proposals, if proven feasible and implemented, should assist in minimising discards.

These proposals will be finalised after the Australian Government completes its reviews of the current Harvest Strategy and Bycatch Policies, which may also address discards of commercial species.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Support research and initiatives to reduce the amount of discarded fish.	Continues to support	AFMA is developing a discard policy with the goal of reducing the amount of discards.

FEATURE STORY



AFMA OBSERVER PROGRAM

This year proved to be an extremely busy year for AFMA's Observer Program, particularly with a substantial increase in fishing operations in the Southern Ocean.

The increased total allowable catch set for Patagonian toothfish in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery resulted in an increased total allowable catch and the requirement of 100 per cent observer coverage. The program achieved 777 sea days in the fishery compared to 660 in 2013–14.

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery is located in the southern Indian Ocean about 4000 kilometres south-west of Perth and 1000 kilometres north of Antarctica.

The area, which is considered to be one of the most isolated and inhospitable places on the planet, certainly lived up to this reputation recently with an Antarctic cyclone battering the fleet. Observers reported winds of up to 75 knots, waves over 15 metres and temperatures of below 30 degrees Celsius with wind chill.

On these trips, data is collected from every fishing activity. An AFMA observer is deployed to oversee this data collection and report it to us and the Australian Antarctic Division. The data

is recorded directly into an on-board computer that is checked and verified before the data is used in stock assessments. The AFMA observer is accompanied by a data collection officer who assists collections of data on a 24 hour rotational basis. The high level of data collection includes:

- biological information such as length frequencies, gonad staging (to determine breeding maturity) and otoliths (ear bones) for ageing of both target and non-target species
- tagging of Patagonian toothfish at a rate of two fish per tonne and the opportunistic tagging of skates deemed to have a good chance of survival
- conducting conversion factor tests to accurately estimate whole weight of the catch when the processed fillets are weighed and verified
- conducting wildlife observations and monitor for interactions
- reporting on the sighting of any suspected illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing operations
- reporting on the compliance of boats in relation to marine pollution
- reporting on the compliance with conservation measures.

The duration of voyages is typically 70 to 85 days although, in some circumstances, they can extend to 140 days. The duration of trips combined with the extreme conditions and isolation dictate the employment of observers who are industrious and self-motivated.

Goal 3: Prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms

Strategy 3.1: Regularly review fishery risks and management measures under AFMA's Ecological Risk Management Framework

AFMA has adopted ecosystem based fisheries management which considers the impacts of fishing on the marine environment. Our fishery-based ecological risk assessments provide a list of species, habitats and ecological communities that are at various levels of risk from the effects of fishing.

Our ecological risk management framework requires that ecological risk management reports for each fishery outline how we will address the impacts that fishing activities have on commercial species, bycatch and protected species. These reports respond to risks identified through the ecological risk assessment process (refer to Appendix 6 for further information).

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Further development of Ecological Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework to include habitats.	✓	<p>A review of the effectiveness of AFMA's current ecological risk management framework in identifying and responding to any ecological risks to the marine environment caused by fishing is currently underway. Revised Ecological Risk Assessment Guidelines will be applied in 2015–16.</p> <p>The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded a project (FRDC 2014/204 which commenced on 1 July 2014 and will be completed by 30 December 2015) to consider the impact of existing fishing area closures on habitats. The results of this project will influence further development of the framework to include habitats.</p>
Progress implementation of ecological risk management responses in key fisheries.	✓	<p>The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Ecological Risk Management Strategy 2015 has recently been implemented after consultation with stakeholders. The aim of the ecological risk management strategy is to implement management arrangements to minimise fishing impact on non-target species and habitats, with a particular focus on high risk species and habitats assessed through AFMA's ecological risk assessment process. All major AFMA fisheries have undergone previous ecological risk assessments and continue to implement existing ecological risk management strategies. These fisheries will be reassessed in line with the framework for reviewing, auditing and approving environmental decisions once it is completed.</p>

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
<p>Consider further application of catch thresholds (or their proxy) for interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>AFMA contributed to the development of the revised Seabird Threat Abatement Plan prepared by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of the Environment. The plan was finalised in August 2014 and the first full season managed under the new plan began in September 2014. An assessment of its effectiveness is planned after the first year of operation which finishes on 31 August 2015.</p> <p>Under the Small Pelagic Fishery (Closures) Direction No. 1 2015, zone 6 off southern New South Wales and Victoria as detailed in the Direction, has been closed to mid-water trawling methods for a period of six months from 17 June 2015. This is a result of a common dolphin mortality recorded in zone 6 on 17 June 2015. The closure will be in force until midnight on 16 December 2015.</p> <p>To ensure dolphin bycatch for gillnet fishing in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery is minimised, on 8 September 2014 AFMA implemented a Dolphin Strategy for gillnet fishing in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. The strategy specifies performance standards that fishers must adhere to when fishing with gillnets in higher risk areas. In the first six month review period one operator exceeded the maximum bycatch rate of one dolphin mortality per 50 gear sets. This vessel was excluded from fishing the Coorong Dolphin Zone for six months from 1 March 2015 to 31 August 2015. The other four fishers recorded much lower bycatches than in previous years.</p>
<p>Continue to partner with industry/service providers to educate fishing concession holders about responsible fishing practices and raise awareness of reporting and compliance obligations.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>AFMA seconded a liaison officer to the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association for an initial period of six months. The officer is working with the industry association in developing online education material for skippers and crew in the otter board trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. This will educate skippers and crew on aspects of bycatch mitigation, species identification, handling practices and species specific management arrangements. It also provides them with a formal Certificate III qualification from Technical and Further Education institutions.</p>

FEATURE STORY



AFMA – SETFIA LIAISON OFFICER

AFMA has enjoyed a long and productive working relationship with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association. The association represents the interests of over 35 fishers working in the South East Trawl sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, providing fresh local seafood for the people of Melbourne and Sydney.

The South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association is running a number of industry led projects aimed at reducing the impacts of the fishery on the marine environment. To aid the association in these projects, we have for the first time appointed one of our fisheries management officers, Andrew Trappett, as a liaison officer at the Association's office in the fishing port of Lakes Entrance, Victoria. Lakes Entrance is one of the busiest ports for Commonwealth commercial fishing boats in Australia.

Andrew has been working closely with industry members and using this experience to help design and implement two innovative online learning programs for trawl fishers on fisheries management and marine parks. Andrew has also been helping to conduct at-sea trials of new methods to further reduce seabird bycatch on trawlers.

Commonwealth fishers in Lakes Entrance have been really appreciative of AFMA maintaining an ongoing presence in the port. While posted to Lakes Entrance, Andrew will conduct media interviews on local radio to help the local community better understand fishery management issues and the good work we and the Association are carrying out together.

Goal 3: Prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms

Strategy 3.2: Continue to manage fisheries in line with the Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch (Bycatch Policy)

AFMA pursues ecological sustainability by applying the Commonwealth Policy on Fisheries Bycatch. This seeks to reduce or minimise interactions with non-target species. Direct and indirect impacts on marine systems are taken into account and managed through mechanisms that reduce bycatch, improve mitigation measures for protected species and minimise impacts of fishing on the marine environment. In line with this policy, AFMA is continuing to minimise seabird interaction in demersal trawl fisheries through the successful application and refinement of seabird management plans. In conjunction with this, vessel management plans have also been applied to manage and minimise marine mammal interactions in the Southern Shark Gillnet Fishery.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Implement a new Bycatch Policy within available resources and priorities.	Continues to support	<p>AFMA has continued to support the Department of Agriculture in the revision of the Bycatch Policy.</p> <p>AFMA has provided feedback on technical aspects and the practicality of implementing the policy in to existing harvest strategies.</p> <p>Work will continue with the department in 2015–16 in developing the new policy and guidelines.</p>

Goal 4: Implement management arrangements and frameworks that are both cost effective and encourage compliance

Strategy 4.1: Make fisheries management arrangements more uniform, understandable and enforceable with appropriate penalties

Through our red tape initiatives, AFMA has reviewed and standardised management arrangements across the fisheries to reduce the levels of complexity and make regulations easier for fishers to understand and comply with fishery management rules. A greater understanding of the rules can lead to improvement voluntary compliance, supports sustainable fishing activities and improves efficiencies in both administration and operational programs.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Continue to reform fishery management rules to reduce complexity.	✓	<p>AFMA is undertaking a phased review of the offences and penalty provisions of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> and regulations including powers, incentives, offences, and administrative and criminal penalties.</p> <p>Phase 1 has been completed. This will result in some minor changes to the regulations coming into effect in late 2015.</p> <p>Phase 2 is more substantive requiring extensive consultation with government and industry stakeholders. This process has commenced and will continue into 2015–16.</p>

Strategy 4.2: Continue to improve business processes, information flows and financial arrangements to reduce costs

AFMA is committed to reducing costs and administration for our stakeholders. More broadly, we are working towards the Australian Government’s agenda to reduce regulatory burden on businesses. AFMA’s red tape reduction review and associated consultations with the fishing industry are providing opportunities for improvements to our systems and services to benefit our stakeholders.

A number of initiatives have already been put in place to improve business processes and minimise costs to industry including automating processes through AFMA’s licensing portal, GoFish, and changing or removing redundant business processes.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Continue to minimise cost burdens and support a vibrant and efficient industry.	✓	<p>AFMA continued its extensive and comprehensive red tape reduction review. 35 specific initiatives have now been identified focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining protection for the environment through appropriate regulations that ensure access to, and the sustainability of, fisheries • streamlining and simplifying of the regulatory framework applying to Commonwealth fisheries • understanding and reducing the regulatory burden (costs, time and resource effort) for industry • revising the risk management and compliance arrangements to ensure regulations are risk-based and enforcement is proportionate to the level of risk developing a performance management and reporting framework available for independent reporting and auditing.
Further refine continuous improvement program and red tape process reductions in the Cost Recovery Impact Statement review.	✓	<p>AFMA has so far implemented 15 of the 35 specific initiatives identified, with another 20 under consultation with industry or in the process of being implemented. Implementation will continue in 2015–16.</p> <p>The Cost Recovery Implementation Review proposes a greater proportion of cost be recovered through fee for service which will assist continuous improvement and red tape reductions.</p>

Strategy 4.3: Continue to improve the effectiveness of quota management for Commonwealth Fisheries through the Quota Administration Policy and related instruments

The Australian Government has a long-standing preference for managing Commonwealth fisheries using individual transferable quotas in the form of statutory fishing rights. This quota system allows market forces to create incentives for fishers to become more efficient and also encourage environmental stewardship.

The Quota Administration Policy approved by the then AFMA Commission in January 2013 sets out the principals that AFMA uses when administering quota arrangements.

Part of this Policy was to change the within season quota reconciliation to require fishers to reconcile their catches in excess of their quota holding within a maximum 28 days of the catch being landed. An internal review of the changes to the within season reconciliation found that there has been a 25 per cent reduction in the number of fishers subject to compliance action by AFMA.

The Quota Administration Policy also requires AFMA to undertake a review of under-catch and over-catch provisions 2015 after the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy review and changes to within season quota reconciliation arrangements have taken effect.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Continue to implement a revised quota administration policy for all quota managed fisheries.	✓	AFMA has continued to implement the Quota Administration Policy, commenced the review of undercatch and overcatch provisions and is assessing the risks associated with covering the catch of quota species with quota in overlapping fisheries.
Consider fishery amalgamations linked to fisheries management plans.	✓	AFMA continued to explore the options and feasibility of reducing the number of management plans.

Strategy 4.4: Apply individual accountability in appropriate fisheries

Individual responsibility and accountability encourages innovation by the industry to minimise environmental impacts, rewards good fishers with reduced compliance burdens and a reduction in general restrictions due to a small number of non-compliant fishers.

Benefits in our domestic fisheries include enabling AFMA and industry to undertake the most effective and efficient management of Commonwealth fisheries to ensure our fisheries provide sustainable Australian seafood with acceptable environmental impact.

Electronic monitoring (using cameras and other on-board electronic sensors) is a cost effective method to record all fishing activity on a boat. Video footage and sensor data is analysed regularly to verify catch, discards and protected species interactions reported in logbooks. It increases accuracy and confidence in fisheries data and promotes stronger compliance by all fishers. This enables AFMA to apply more efficient management measures that focus on those fishers who are not yet meeting management standards.

To support stronger individual accountability and verification of logbook data, we have installed electronic monitoring on 74 boats in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap, and the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
<p>Continue to trial and expand the individual accountability approach in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery in accordance with priority areas established through risk assessments.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Boats fishing with automatic longline are now individually accountable for staying below bycatch rates specified in the Seabird Threat Abatement Plan. This is proving successful with seabird bycatch in 2014–15 lower than previous years and within the performance standards included in the plan.</p> <p>To ensure dolphin bycatch for gillnet fishing in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery is minimised, on 8 September 2014 AFMA implemented a Dolphin Strategy for gillnet fishing in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. The strategy specifies performance standards that fishers must adhere to when fishing with gillnets in higher risk areas. In the first six month review period one operator exceeded the maximum bycatch rate of one dolphin mortality per 50 gear sets. This vessel was excluded from fishing the Coorong Dolphin Zone for six months from 1 March 2015 to 31 August 2015. The other four fishers recorded much lower rates of dolphin interactions.</p>

FEATURE STORY



RESPONSIBLE FISHING REDUCES SEABIRD INTERACTIONS ON LONGLINES

Stronger accountability and line weighting have helped ensure that seabird interactions were close to zero in the automatic longline sector of the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery during the 2014–15 summer. This is a positive result for industry with seabird interactions within performance triggers specified in the Threat Abatement Plan for seabirds.

Under the Threat Abatement Plan, observed seabird bycatch in the auto-longline hook fishing sector needs to be less than 0.01 birds per 1000 hooks in each season. This trigger was exceeded by auto-longline fishers in previous years and new management measures were implemented along with some innovative changes by fishers. The management changes included stronger accountability for individual boats and a performance standard for fishers to sink their gear faster than 0.3ms getting the hooks quickly out of reach of seabirds.

Increased individual accountability has been achieved through installing electronic monitoring systems on each boat. Video and sensors data is regularly reviewed by AFMA every month to ensure that all seabird interactions have been correctly reported by fishers in their logbooks. Failure to report interactions with seabirds results in compliance action.

Electronic monitoring was implemented on all auto-longline boats at the start of the Summer Threat Abatement Plan season on 1 September 2014 and since then the level of independent monitoring in this sector has increased from around 10 per cent to nearly 100 per cent. Individual fishers are now accountable for their bycatch and have the strongest incentive to invest in mitigation strategies that work for their fishing operation.

This approach is proving successful with a significant reduction in the seabird interaction rate. During summer 2013–14 the observed seabird interaction rate was 0.078 seabirds per 1000 hooks with 15 per cent of hooks independently monitored. In 2014–15 independent monitoring increased to 95 per cent of all hooks set and the seabird interaction rate dropped to 0.005 seabirds per 1000 hooks. With individual accountability measures in place, fishers can continue to fish responsibly and with the confidence that the measures in place to avoid protected species interactions are working.

FEATURE STORY



SOUTHERN OCEAN SUCCESS

AFMA's cooperation with other Australian Government agencies, and our regional and international colleagues, is realising positive outcomes in disrupting and combatting the global threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean.

In 2014–15, five vessels on the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources' Non Contracting Party illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessel list were detained by countries cooperating in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Another illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessel sunk after a long pursuit by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

AFMA had a key role in the fight against these vessels through:

- working closely with other Australian Government agencies to board and collect information from two of the vessels to assist with investigations into the vessels and people on board
- notifying fellow member countries to the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Secretariat of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessel movements as they have become known
- making representations, on behalf of Australia, to the countries that register illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels or have nationals on board; encouraging them to take appropriate action under their domestic laws
- working with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to establish the beneficial owners of these vessels.

Australia's active participation has helped countries to detain illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels that enter their port, de-register illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels that claim their flag, or take action against the people that have links to these vessels.

In June 2015, Spain announced that it was considering imposing significant fines on Spanish companies and citizens allegedly involved in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Malaysia also prosecuted the masters and crew from two vessels and imposed sanctions involving fines ranging from A\$71 500 to A\$600 000 and the forfeiture of the proceeds of the sale of catch amounting to A\$1.8 million.

These developments demonstrate that international cooperation and the imposition of sanctions are the key to successfully disrupting Southern Ocean illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activity which threatens fish stocks and the livelihoods of those that do the right thing. The strong cooperation is achieving results and we commend those countries that continue to play their part in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Through a whole of Australian Government approach and through our regional networks, AFMA will continue to apply pressure in order to prevent operators from benefiting from the activities of these vessels.

Goal 5: Effectively deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, the Australian Fishing Zone and adjacent regions

Strategy 5.1: Conduct and enable compliance programs that target identified high risks

To maximise resources and enable compliance and enforcement activities to be targeted to the area of most need, AFMA continued to apply a risk-based National Compliance Program. In 2014–15 our domestic compliance remained focused on the issues of quota evasion and vessel monitoring system compliance.

Quota evasion was the focus of four dedicated Compliance Risk Management teams. These teams focused on misreporting, substitution and concealment, fish receiver fraud and investigated major and systemic incidents of quota evasion. An 'Evasion Detection Tools' team was established to focus on the development of data matching tools and techniques to identify quota evasion activities.

In addition to the risk-based approach, we maintained a general presence/deterrence program involving in port and at sea targeted inspections in order to discourage non-compliant behaviour by fishers.

We also kept a 'watching brief' on previously targeted risks such as 28 day quota reconciliation, fishing in closed waters and Threat Abatement Plan compliance.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Undertake compliance activities in accordance with priority areas established through risk assessments.	✓	<p>In 2014–15 our officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspected catch landed in Commonwealth fisheries including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 75 fish receiver premises inspections – visits to 28 different ports around Australia on 66 separate occasions to undertake 212 boat inspections covering 3.6 per cent of unloads. • finalised 89 domestic investigations resulting in the issuing of 24 warnings, 13 cautions and seven Commonwealth Fisheries Infringement Notices <p>Outcomes for 2014–15 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five domestic court matters were finalised resulting in \$68 000 in fines and one operator being banned from fishing for 10 years • five masters and 17 crew members from foreign fishing vessels were prosecuted with fines ranging from \$1000 to \$10 000 being imposed by the courts • vessel monitoring compliance rates averaged 97.9 per cent for 2014–15 compared to 97.7 per cent in 2013–14 • The number of apprehensions of illegal foreign fishing vessels declined with six apprehensions in 2014–15, five involving Indonesian vessels and one involving a Papua New Guinean vessel (banana boat in the Torres Strait). This is the lowest number of vessel apprehensions on record comparing with twenty six in 2013–14.
Develop a compliance intelligence capacity that is fully effective.	✓	<p>AFMA has a dedicated intelligence team which is effectively identifying potential offences and areas of high risk through a range of tools including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vessel monitoring systems continually monitor the Commonwealth fleet to identify non-compliance through routine daily assessments and real time monitoring • pre-operational intelligence packs which are given to AFMA officers prior to conducting inspections. The officers are also briefed on ‘potential’ risk and/or requirements from the National Intelligence Unit • risk identification of high risk operators through the use of a Multiple Risk Aggregation Index. The analysis is conducted periodically by the National Intelligence Unit using comprehensive data analysis to rank boats on the basis of offence risk.
Review and develop options to amend the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> structure for the domestic compliance regime, including powers, incentives, offences, and administrative and criminal penalties.	✓	<p>AFMA is undertaking a phased review of the offences and penalty provisions of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> and regulations including powers, incentives, offences and administrative and criminal penalties.</p> <p>Phase 1 has been completed. This will result in some minor changes to the regulations coming into effect in late 2015.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the project will include a new suite of penalties as well as more closely aligning the Act with the <i>Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014</i>.</p>

Strategy 5.2: Conduct capacity building programs with neighbouring countries to enhance fisheries management and governance frameworks and compliance programs

This year has again seen AFMA officers actively working with their regional neighbours to assist in building a strong monitoring, control and surveillance capability aimed at combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Our officers have conducted training programs in-country, worked alongside their fisheries colleagues during operational activities and undertaken officer exchanges to enable foreign fisheries officers to undertake work placements in the AFMA Darwin and Thursday Island offices.

These capacity building programs have simultaneously built knowledge amongst participants about emerging illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices and have provided fisheries officers with the tools to investigate and take action against those unscrupulous fishers and companies engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not only hurts our regional neighbours through the loss of income for their country but leads to the depletion of fisheries resources and makes managing of fisheries in a sustainable manner untenable.

This year's capacity building programs have seen our officers working alongside their colleagues in many remote parts of the Pacific including Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia as well as with some of our northern neighbours including Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Indonesia. Additionally, our officers also conducted a training course in Singapore that was attended by personnel from 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The capacity building activities have been funded through a variety of sources including through aid funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, funding from Singapore and the Australian Department of Defence's Pacific Class Patrol Boat Program as well as AFMA's funding. These programs have built upon the strong regional collaboration between Australia and its Pacific and South East Asian neighbours so that we can work effectively together in our efforts to protect fish stocks and economic livelihoods, now and into the future.

Educational programs also help other countries improve the effectiveness of fisheries policing programs and help them to set up their own rules and regulations as well as reducing the incidence of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Australian waters.

AFMA continued to keep incidents of illegal foreign fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone at low levels in 2014–15.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Collaborate with relevant agencies on deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated activity and developing fisheries management arrangements and capacity building.	✓	<p>AFMA conducted a range of capacity building programs in both South East Asia and the Pacific. Training programs and work placements for foreign fisheries officers were conducted with departments from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Vanuatu.</p> <p>Capacity building activities also occurred during operational deployments on foreign patrol vessels from regions including Tonga, the Cook Islands, Palau, the Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean as well as Indonesia in the Arafura and Timor Seas.</p> <p>Further training was provided to Pacific Island Countries' officers who are assigned to Pacific Class Patrol Boats at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania.</p> <p>At the request of Singapore and Malaysia, AFMA provided training in Port State Measures to officers from throughout South East Asia.</p> <p>Additionally, at the request of the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Justice AFMA officers supported investigations of a number of unlicensed Vietnamese fishing vessels apprehended in Federated States of Micronesia waters.</p>

Table 04 : Training provided to regional officers in 2014–2015

Country	Capacity building courses delivered	Fisheries surveillance operations	Port State and Monitoring Control Surveillance
Indonesia	2	1	
Papua New Guinea	2		
Kiribati	3		
Vanuatu	1		
Tonga		1	
Cook Islands		1	
Palau		1	
Solomon Islands		1	
Federated States of Micronesia		1	
Singapore			1
Malaysia			1

Strategy 5.3: Promote and advocate deterrence, prevention and cooperation at regional fisheries forums to deter illegal fishing

AFMA participates at regional fisheries management organisation meetings to ensure that measures adopted by regional fisheries bodies promote sustainable fishing practices and effective monitoring, control and surveillance, but do not create, burden on Australia’s commercial fishing industry or government resources.

We also work closely with member countries of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to promote regional cooperation in port state measures to deter illegal fishing. This cooperation has been extremely effective in 2014–15.

In particular Malaysia and Thailand have taken enforcement action against a number of illegal foreign fishing vessels identified by Australia as having contravened Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources conservation measures.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Engage at international meetings to ensure agreed outcomes can be implemented by Australia.	✓	<p>In 2014–15 AFMA participated in the annual meetings of five international fisheries management organisations that Australia is party to. AFMA together with the Department of Agriculture ensured the adoption of effective measures by these bodies to better manage fisheries in the region, while ensuring no unnecessary burden was placed on the Australian industry or the Australian Government.</p> <p>AFMA engaged both regionally and bilaterally to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing including through participation in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the South East Asia region the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group • the Australian-Indonesian Fisheries Surveillance Forum • bilateral forums with New Zealand.

FEATURE STORY



RED TAPE REDUCTION INITIATIVES

During the year Australia's commercial fishing industry benefitted from a raft of red tape reduction measures to help it pursue a competitive and sustainable future.

By June 2015 AFMA had implemented 15 red tape reducing initiatives, with another 20 initiatives under consultation with stakeholders or in the process of being implemented. This included initiatives to:

- implement electronic delivery of correspondence
- provide access to concession conditions online
- open the Cascade Plateau to long line fishing
- streamline carrier boat conditions in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery.

Our regulatory reduction work is having a positive impact on the fishing industry. Through industry and AFMA working together, streamlined and cost effective solutions have been developed to ensure that the fisheries sector is supported and adequately regulated without being unnecessarily constrained. Further information on how we are reducing red tape can be found on our website.

Goal 6: Streamline regulations and approvals and reduce costs of compliance and fisheries management

Strategy 6.1: Continue to adapt business processes and technologies that match the core needs of AFMA and its stakeholders

AFMA continues to encourage fishers to utilise technologies such as AFMA's licensing portal, GoFish, to improve business processes and reduce costs to industry. There has been significant progress in the development of GoFish, which has assisted in keeping costs down for licensing transactions. In 2014–15, the number of transactions in GoFish was more than double that in 2013–14.

We have also continued to implement the electronic monitoring program and encourage fishers to move away from paper logs to an electronic reporting regime. This has been achieved by better costing the manual processing of paper logs compared to electronic logs.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Investigate further options to improve the cost effective fisheries management arrangements in Torres Strait fisheries on behalf of the Protected Zone Joint Authority, including development of management plans.	✓	<p>Progress has been made to further centralise management responsibilities across the Protected Zone Joint Authority agencies consistent with the Protected Zone Joint Authority Administrative Review. AFMA has now taken on responsibility for licensing fishers in the region and the administration of the representation of Traditional Inhabitant fishers on all formal consultative forums.</p> <p>AFMA is developing a plan of management for the Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery that will implement individual transferable quota. This aims to provide capacity for trading between the traditional and non-traditional sectors and provide a source of revenue for the traditional sector to enable it to increase its share of the resource over time.</p>

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Encourage key fishing industry associations to increase the uptake of electronic-logs and GoFish.	✓	<p>Following preparatory work in 2014–15 electronic logs are scheduled to be installed on all south east trawl boats with no upfront costs to industry following a commercial partnership formed between the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association, Coles and World Wildlife Fund.</p> <p>AFMA has contracted the Commonwealth Fisheries Association to, among other things, encourage the uptake of GoFish and electronic-logs through promotion and engagement.</p>
Continue to improve cost effectiveness of independent monitoring and data collection programs.	✓	<p>AFMA has commenced market testing the independent observer program. The expression of interest phase closed at the end of February 2015 and evaluations have been completed. AFMA is currently considering whether to maintain the existing in house program or proceed with a request for tender.</p> <p>Increased use of electronic monitoring equipment is expected to reduce costs in particular fisheries as it is a most cost effective alternative to observer coverage.</p>

Strategy 6.2: Further reduce regulatory burden and cost to industry through reduction of red tape and unnecessary regulatory requirements, including establishment investment in electronic monitoring and data transfer technologies, and upgrading of fishery-management specific software

AFMA continues to explore mechanisms to reduce regulatory burden and cost to industry through its red tape reduction program in line with the Australian Governments agenda to reduce regulatory burden to businesses.

A number of initiatives have already been implemented which are seeing cost savings for industry through reduced fees and simplified licensing processes.

We have continued the roll out of electronic monitoring with services now implemented in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap, and the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Consider regulatory reduction options emerging from stakeholder engagement and relevant government reviews.	✓	AFMA consulted with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association to seek proposals for regulatory reduction initiatives that affect industry and AFMA is considering the comments and suggestions.
Continue changes to process and transactions to reduce red tape to industry.	✓	Measures have been implemented to make licensing and quota administration more efficient including simplified boat nominations, the ability to register multi-season leases, the online renewal of permits, removal of fees for scientific permits and the electronic delivery of correspondence, conditions and notices. These initiatives simplify stakeholders interactions with AFMA and reduce the time required to comply with regulations.
Commence roll out of electronic monitoring to the Gillnet, Hook and Trap, the Eastern Tuna and Billfish and the Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries.	✓	The project to roll out electronic monitoring across the Gillnet, Hook and Trap, the Eastern Tuna and Billfish and the Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries is almost complete, with completion scheduled for late August 2015.
Continue to implement the Fee for Service program.	✓	AFMA has collected funds as prescribed in the Fee for Service program. Logbook fees are collected under the fee for service program and a review of logbook fees was concluded in May 2015. The review recommended removing the overhead cost associated with entering paper logs from the levy base and incorporating it into the paper log book fee for service charge.
Revise fisheries legislation against provisions of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> and Productivity Commission Regulator Audit Framework.	✓	AFMA's Regulator Performance Framework which sets out how AFMA will measure and report on its regulatory performance was finalised in 2014–15. Indicators will now be applied to more effectively measure AFMA performance under the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> .

Strategy 6.3: Explore opportunities to streamline fisheries assessments under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

AFMA has contributed to discussions with the Department of the Environment regarding possible changes to how fisheries assessments are conducted. These include:

- a risk-based approach allowing up to 10 year accreditation of fisheries under Part 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Marine Stewardship Council equivalent certification for the Act, with the Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery being used as a case study.

AFMA is of the view that these suggested changes will assist in streamlining environmental assessments for Commonwealth fisheries to reduce duplication of functions and costs in line with the Australian Government’s red tape agenda.

We have commenced reviewing its ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management practices and recommendations will be implemented during 2015–16.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Contribute to the implementation of the Australian Government’s response to the review of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .	Continues to support this process	<p>AFMA is participating in the process to streamline accreditation Commonwealth fisheries under the Act. This includes reviewing AFMA’s processes in relation to ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management.</p> <p>The development of accreditation standards was identified as a Commonwealth Fisheries Research Advisory Body research priority for 2015–16 and a project was provisionally approved by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation Board for funding in 2015–16. The project, ‘Towards consistent standards for Australian fisheries management’, aims to deliver standards that can be applied across jurisdictions enhancing efficiency in administration and simplicity for fishers.</p>



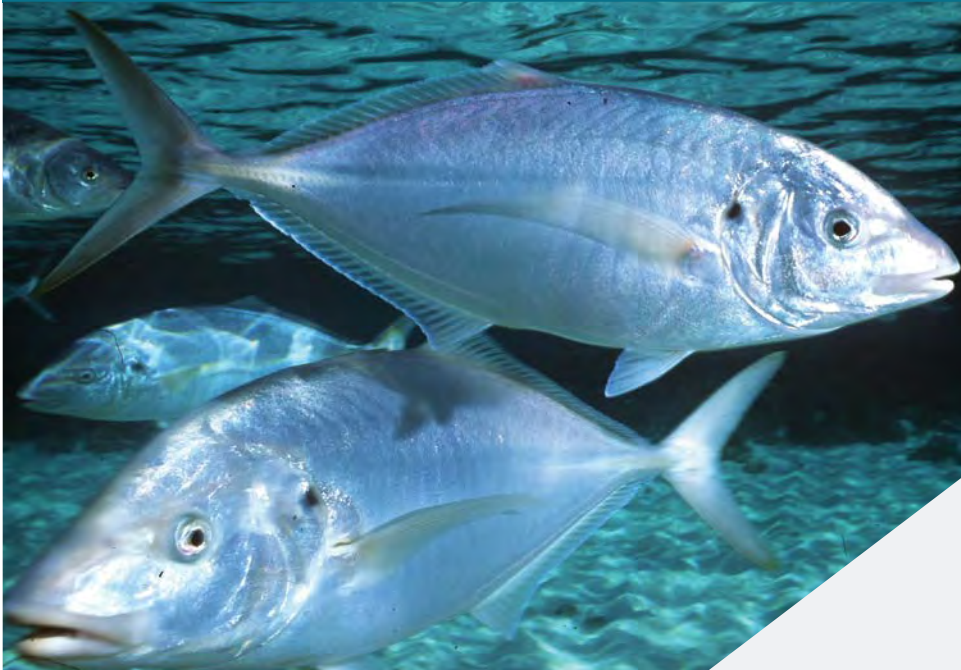
Goal 7: Facilitate co-management in Commonwealth fisheries

Strategy: For fisheries under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, apply lessons from co-management trials and assist the development of new arrangements

Co-management has a positive effect in management outcomes in these fisheries, including increasing stewardship over fisheries resources and the marine environment. The longer term goal is to see industry and government working together in the most cost-effective way to manage commercial fisheries. For example, in February 2015 AFMA and the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides industry with more flexibility to manage incidental catches of snapper off Victoria, while still meeting AFMA requirements. The arrangement is administered by the Association and allows fishers to land incidental catches of snapper in excess of the 200 kilogram trip limit, rather than discard them. Prior to landing, the Association runs through a set of criteria with the fisher and if satisfied that the catch is truly incidental, will grant them an authority to land the catch.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Utilise outcomes from the co-management trials to maintain, and expand where appropriate, co-management arrangements with industry groups.	✓	<p>Co-management arrangements were continued in the Northern Prawn Fishery and Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector in 2014–15.</p> <p>Supported by AFMA, the Northern Prawn Fishery Industry Pty Ltd is developing a strategy to reduce bycatch in the fishery by 30 per cent.</p> <p>AFMA is also collaborating with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association and the Great Australian Bight Industry Association to develop more effective methods to protect seabirds from coming into contact with fishing gear.</p>

FEATURE STORY



AFMA AND THE AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING FOUNDATION LIAISON OFFICER

AFMA and the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) have embarked on a partnership to build the communication, understanding and relationships between the two organisations with ARFF hosting an AFMA Liaison Officer for the year. The aim of the role was to make sure that the views and concerns of recreational fishers are considered by AFMA in its management of Commonwealth fisheries.

Highlights from the year include:

- holding the ARFF Policy Summit and AFMA Recreational Fishing Forums back to back in both November 2014 and April 2015 with attendance by Senator Richard Colbeck, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, and AFMA's Commissioners
- an increased understanding in AFMA of the values recreational fishers have for Commonwealth managed species and an increased understanding of Commonwealth fisheries management among recreational fishing organisations
- AFMA sponsorship and support of the National Recreational Fishing Conference 2015
- a commitment by both organisations to continue the liaison officer position into 2015–16.

We recognise the importance in consulting and collaborating with our stakeholders. The position has helped to build the relationships, capacity and understanding of both organisations and we hope this endeavour continues into the future.

Goal 8: Transparent and effective engagement with the community and other stakeholders

Strategy 8.1: Improve communications in a style usable by stakeholders through appropriate media channels

AFMA is committed to managing Commonwealth fisheries resources for the benefit of the community as a whole. This means co-operation and consultation with industry, government agencies and others with an interest in the sustainable management of the Commonwealth’s fisheries resources is vital.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Explore stakeholder and broader community engagement through digital and social media.	✓	In January 2015 AFMA launched a new website that increased capacity to engage with stakeholders. In May 2015, AFMA started trialling the use of SMS to remind concession holders about their compliance requirements. Use of social media as a tool for further engagement with stakeholders will be pursued in 2015–16.
Continue formal engagement with recreational fishing industry and environmental non-government organisations.	✓	In 2014–15 various stakeholder forums were held with both recreational fishing and environmental non-government organisations. Two specific forums were held about the management of the Small Pelagic Fishery in October 2014 and March 2015.

Strategy 8.2: Ensure the effective operation of management advisory committees and resource assessment groups, as the principal sources of advice to the AFMA Commission

Management advisory committees and resource assessment groups provide crucial advice and input to AFMA on the management of Commonwealth fisheries. Members of these committees and groups include AFMA fishery managers, commercial fishers, scientists and researchers, state and territory governments, conservation groups and recreational fishers.

Both forums provide significant input to management and science decision making processes and the provision of advice to the AFMA Commission. Further information on management advisory committees can be found on page 205 to 207.

To ensure effective operation of the management advisory committees and resource assessment groups, membership is regularly renewed. In 2015–16 AFMA will develop an on-line committee management system which will streamline recruitment processes and the general administration of these bodies.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Appoint appropriate people to committees and provide regular training to committee members.	✓	<p>Four management advisory committee and two resource assessment group recruitment process were successfully completed in 2014–15.</p> <p>AFMA held a two day resource assessment group workshop, focusing on membership roles and responsibilities, meeting governance and reporting of meeting outcomes. Workshop participants were also provided with a presentation on introduction to stock assessment science by Dr. Ian Knuckey.</p>

Strategy 8.3: Increase public accessibility and availability of scientific and other fishery management information

AFMA has undertaken or is currently engaged in a number of processes that will increase transparency and effective engagement with stakeholders.

These processes include development of a revised public website with increased and timely access to management advisory committee and resource assessment group information and records. Another relates to the revision of our Ecological Risk Management Framework and the development of a plain English guide in association with that framework. This describes our scientific risk assessment and risk management processes.

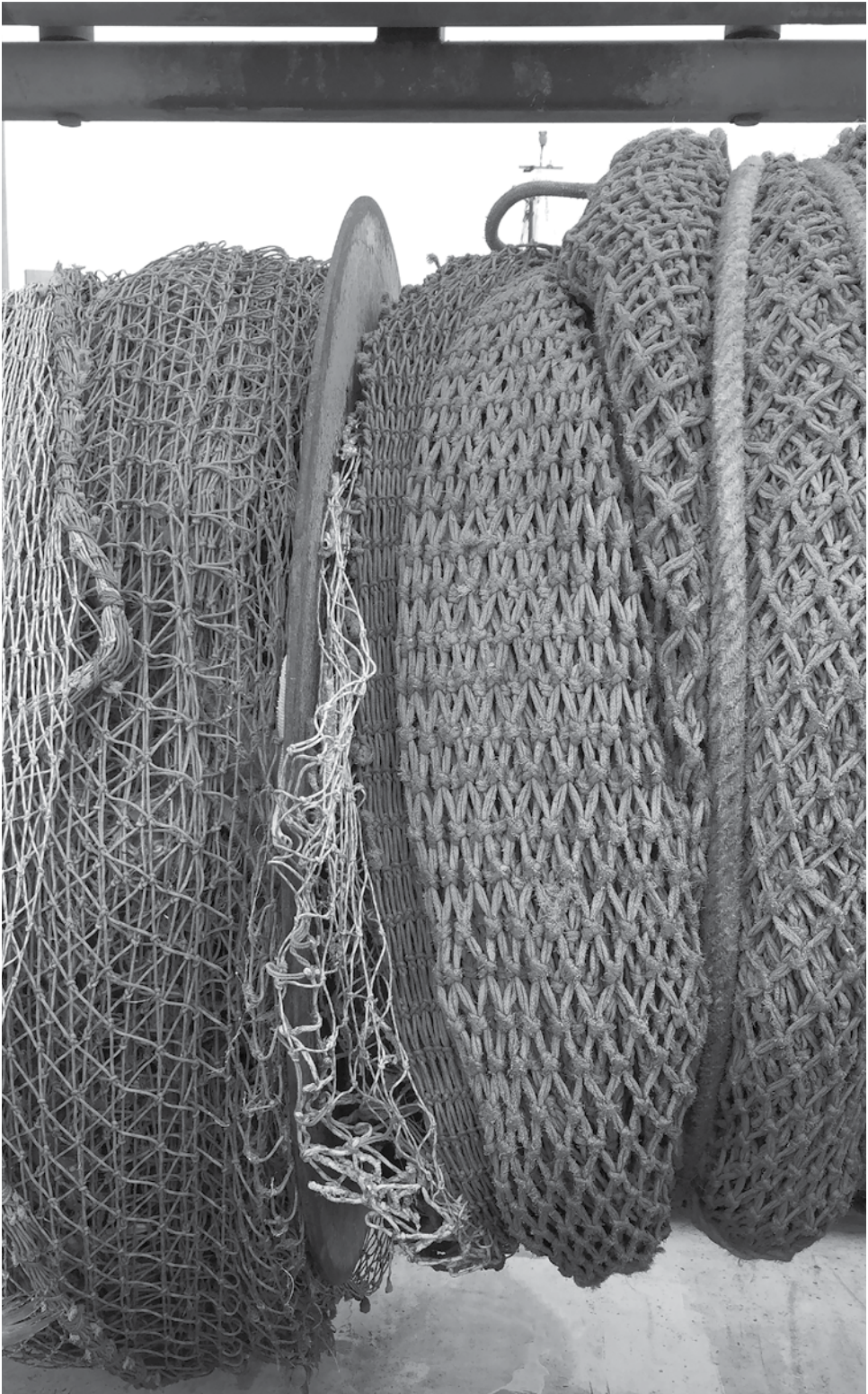
Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Establish scientific review processes for all AFMA commissioned research.	✓	AFMA is currently part of a collaborative project to develop and implement a science quality assurance standard for Australian fisheries.
Develop and implement research standards to ensure clear flow of information and increase accessibility to data.	Continues to support	The science standard is due to be completed at the end of 2015. AFMA will consider implementation in 2016.

Strategy 8.4: Continue to work with the Department of Agriculture in servicing regional fisheries management organisations and other international fishery bodies

To ensure that Australia’s interests are upheld in international fisheries forums it is important that AFMA maintains a strong relationship with the Department of Agriculture.

We provide technical advice on the implementation of any new or amended conservation and management measures that are agreed by regional fisheries bodies. We also amend fishing concession conditions to reflect new measures that are agreed by international fisheries bodies.

Intended actions in 2014–15	Achieved	Results
Support key regional and other international fishery bodies prioritised by their impact on domestic fisheries.	✓	<p>AFMA provided advice and supported the Department of Agriculture in leading key proposals at annual meetings of numerous international fisheries bodies in 2014–15. This has led, for example, to an agreement to develop a harvest strategy for key tuna species in the Western and Central Pacific.</p> <p>AFMA updated concession conditions in 2014–15 and amended the <i>Fisheries Management (International Agreements) Regulations 2009</i> to ensure Australia meets its obligations under new or amended measures adopted by regional fisheries bodies.</p>



Part 3

Outcomes of our fisheries management

Report against services and deliverables

Report against program key performance indicators

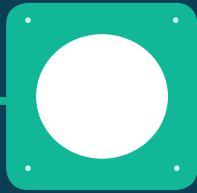
Report for each fishery

Reference guide



Highlights

Part 3



74

boats installed with **electronic monitoring**



99.1%

levies collected



Automated

licensing transactions

2014-15

4556

2013-14

2158



Six

illegal foreign fishing vessels apprehended



12

fisheries under plans of management



Disposed of 2

illegal foreign

fishing vessels



500 tonnes

eastern orange roughy TAC allocated

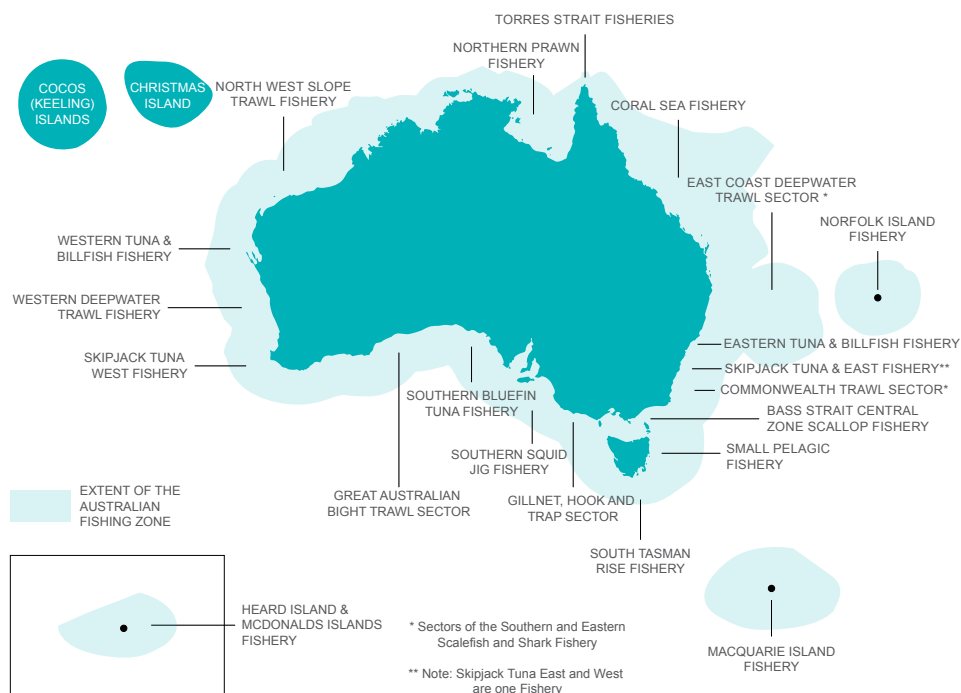


Figure 01: Map of Commonwealth fisheries managed by AFMA

Report against deliverables

In pursuing ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, AFMA works together with other Australian and state and territory government agencies, and our international counterparts in the Pacific, Southern and Indian Oceans and Torres Strait. We also work with the fishing industry, scientists, recreational and environmental fishery stakeholders to set catch limits that ensure healthy fish stocks are maintained and to develop policies and fishery-specific management arrangements that minimise fishers' impacts on the broader marine environment, including protected species.

In undertaking this work, we provide cost-effective management, monitoring, domestic compliance, fisheries border protection and licensing services. Results in providing these programs, as forecast in the Agriculture Portfolio Budget Statements 2014–15, are detailed in the table below.

Overall in the last 12 months, AFMA met or exceeded predicted levels of delivery, with two exceptions:

- The number of completed independent fisheries surveys was lower as the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna elected not to

conduct an aerial survey of southern bluefin tuna and an acoustic survey for blue grenadier did not take place.

- In regard to disposals of forfeited fishing vessels, while six vessels were apprehended, AFMA only received three. Two of these were disposed of on land and one remains in detention pending disposal. Hence 67 per cent of received vessels have been disposed of in financial year 2014–15 (further details on page 66).

Deliverables	2013–14 Predicted	2013–14 Actual	2014–15 Predicted	2014–15 Actual	Results
Completed research projects including Torres Strait Fisheries ⁴ .	10<	14	10<	10	Two Torres Strait research projects were completed in line with recommendations from the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. Additionally, eight essential stock assessment related research projects recommended by AFMA's Research Committee for AFMA funding were completed.
Completed fishery independent surveys.	10	10	10	8	<p>Eight of the ten fisheries independent surveys were completed. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two surveys were conducted in the Northern Prawn Fishery, a winter survey in July 2014 and a pre-season recruitment survey in February 2015 • a fishery independent survey in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery was completed in September 2014 to provide fishery-independent indices of abundance for some quota and byproduct species • a survey to determine the biomass estimates of scallop beds in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery was undertaken in May 2015 • a fishery independent survey for the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector was completed in April 2015 • a trawl survey was undertaken in the Heard Island and Macdonald Islands Fishery in May 2015 to monitor the abundance of icefish and Patagonian toothfish. The data collected forms the basis of the annual stock assessments carried out by Australian scientists and reviewed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources • a survey was undertaken in the Small Pelagic Fishery to assess the spawning stock of blue mackerel off the South East coast of Australia • a fishery independent survey was undertaken in the area of Torres Strait Rock Lobster Fishery in March 2015.

⁴ Includes only research projects that AFMA contracts with the research provider. It does not include research projects administered by other agencies in which AFMA co-invests.

Deliverables	2013-14 Predicted	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Predicted	2014-15 Actual	Results
Number of fisheries regulated under plans of management, including Torres Strait Fisheries.	12	12	12	12	<p>Management plans apply to the following fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Prawn Fishery • Torres Strait Prawn Fishery • Torres Strait Finfish Fishery • Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery • Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery • Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery • Small Pelagic Fishery • Southern Squid Jig Fishery • Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery • Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery • Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery • Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery. <p>These along with other instruments, such as fisheries regulations, regulate activity in these fisheries.</p>
Number of harvest strategies applied to regulated fisheries.	11	13	11	13	<p>The following fisheries have harvest strategies that are applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Prawn Fishery • Torres Strait Prawn Fishery • North West Slope Trawl Fishery • Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery • Coral Sea Fishery • Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery • Sub Antarctic fisheries • Small Pelagic Fishery • Southern Squid Jig Fishery • Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery • Skipjack Fishery • Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery • Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery.
Manual completed transactions.	400	828	400	567	The number of manually completed transactions continues to reduce.

Deliverables	2013-14 Predicted	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Predicted	2014-15 Actual	Results
Automated completed transactions.	2500	2158	2500	4556	Leasing of fishing concessions now follows a simplified one-step process.
Amount of levies collected.	Greater than 99% of levies collected	99.8%	Greater than 99% of levies collected	99.1%	The target was met and exceeded.
Prosecute illegal foreign fishers.	Note ⁵	25	Note ⁶	22	Five masters and 17 crew members from five foreign fishing vessels were prosecuted with fines ranging from \$1000 to \$10 000 being imposed by the courts. The master and crew of a Papua New Guinea vessel were handed over to Papua New Guinean authorities under the Torres Strait Treaty arrangements, where they were successfully prosecuted and fined.
Dispose of illegal foreign fishing vessels.	Note ⁷	18	Note	2	Of the six foreign fishing vessels apprehended, two were disposed of on land by AFMA, three sank at sea and one vessel remains in AFMA custody on Thursday Island pending disposal.
Capacity building programs in regional countries.	4	4 ⁸	4	5 ⁹	<p>AFMA conducted capacity building programs in Australia and across the region with fisheries and police officers from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Vanuatu. These officers undertook fisheries management, compliance and governance training and participated in patrols at sea.</p> <p>AFMA officers also continued to participate in multilateral fisheries surveillance operations with regional partners such as Tonga, Cook Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Indonesia to deter unreported and unregulated fishing and provide on the job capacity development for fisheries compliance officers.</p> <p>AFMA, at the invitation of Singapore, delivered a training program to officers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries in Singapore and at the invitation of Malaysia, to compliance officers in Malaysia.</p> <p>Additionally, AFMA provided training to Pacific Island officers at the Australian Maritime College in Hobart.</p>

4 Performance cannot be forecast reliably.

5 Performance cannot be forecast reliably.

6 Expressed as a proportion of fortified vessels brought to AFMA commissioned caretaking and disposal facilities. The actual numbers depend on the number apprehended and brought to the disposal facilities through Civil Maritime Surveillance and Response Program (Customs and Border Security Program 1.4), and cannot be forecast reliably.

7 Note multiple capacity building programs delivered in four countries.

8 Note multiple capacity building programs delivered in five countries.

Deliverables	2013–14 Predicted	2013–14 Actual	2014–15 Predicted	2014–15 Actual	Results
Evidence of suspected illegal foreign fishing vessel forwarded to regional organisation and/or country.	100% of cases	100% of cases	100% of cases	100% of cases	<p>AFMA participated in regional co-operative surveillance and enforcement activities under the auspices of the South East Asian Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. As a result of intelligence notifications generated by Australia a number of illegal, unreported and unregulated factory fishing vessels were detained.</p> <p>Intelligence information and evidence packs were also shared with Indonesia and Papua New Guinea under the auspices of the Regional Plan of Actions Arafura and Timor Seas sub regional working group.</p> <p>As part of Australia's membership of the Forum Fisheries Agency and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, AFMA deployed officers on multiple patrols in the Pacific region and shared evidence of suspected illegal fishing with regional stakeholders.</p>
Forfeited vessels disposed of ⁹ .	100%	95%	100%	67% ¹¹	Of the six foreign fishing vessels apprehended two Indonesian vessels were disposed of on land, three Indonesian vessels sank as they were unseaworthy and could not make port and the Papua New Guinea vessel remains in AFMA custody on Thursday Island pending disposal.
Review biennial domestic compliance risk assessment.	100%	N/A	100%	100%	<p>AFMA's Fisheries Operations Branch has completed the 2015–17 national compliance risk assessment.</p> <p>Risks that will be prioritised for the annual 2015–16 National Compliance Program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quota evasion • vessel monitoring systems • electronic monitoring systems compliance. <p>In addition we will continue to maintain 'business as usual' maintenance programs to address the following risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quota reconciliation (28 day program) • fishing in closures • threatened, endangered or protected species interactions.

9 Expressed as a proportion of forfeited vessels brought to AFMA commissioned caretaking and disposal facilities. The actual numbers depend on the number apprehended and brought to the disposal facilities through the Civil Maritime Surveillance and Response Program and cannot be forecast reliably.

10 Of the three vessels received by AFMA one vessel remains detained in the Torres Strait office pending disposal - hence 67% of vessels received by AFMA have been disposed.

Report against program key performance indicators

Harvest strategies exist for all major Commonwealth fisheries and are subject to regular monitoring and adjustment. Where possible, AFMA applies maximum economic yield harvest strategy targets to key fish stocks. Maximum economic yield is the most efficient harvest point and is a more conservative target than maximum sustainable yield. Of AFMA's top 30 stocks by value, 18 are managed to maximum economic yield targets. The remaining 12 stocks cannot be managed to maximum economic yield, largely reflecting that most of these stocks are subject to international harvest strategies or treaties, which may have adopted other targets to manage those fisheries.

We have also been devoting considerable resources to ecological risk assessments for Commonwealth managed fisheries. These have now been completed for almost 1200 species. Species considered to be potentially at high risk are the focus of mitigation (catch reduction) measures and further assessment. As a result, projections of numbers of high risk species may vary from year to year. For 2014–15, while the number of species assessed as remaining at high risk after mitigation was higher than predicted, it is expected that this will reduce as mitigation measures in ecological risk management reports are implemented.

To reinforce these fisheries management programs, we also undertake extensive monitoring, control and surveillance activities to address risks of non-compliance by domestic and foreign fishers.

As a broad indication of our performance effectiveness in managing for sustainability, the 2013–14 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences Status Report found that no stocks managed solely by the Commonwealth (AFMA) were subject to overfishing. We continue to work with the Department of Agriculture in refining the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy in light of recommendations stemming from the department's review of the Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines.



Key performance indicators	2014–15 Forecast	2014–15 Actual
For economically significant stocks ¹² :		
a. maximise the number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield or the best available proxy ¹³	19	18
b. improve the number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on target	13	8
c. for those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, improve the number that are heading towards their target reference point.	6	3

Key performance indicators	2014–15 forecast	2014–15 actual	Comment
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing ¹⁴	0	0	The 2013–14 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences Status Report notes that no stocks managed solely by the Australian Government are subject to overfishing.
Minimise the number of species assessed as remaining at high risk after mitigation ¹⁵	66	72	It is expected that this will reduce as the mitigation measures in ecological risk management reports are implemented.
Maximise the disposal of apprehended foreign illegal unregulated and unreported vessels and suspected illegal entry vessels	100%	67% ¹⁶	Of the six foreign fishing vessels apprehended two Indonesian vessels were disposed of on land, three Indonesian vessels sunk as they were unseaworthy and could not make port and the Papua New Guinea vessel remains in AFMA custody on Thursday Island pending disposal.
Treatment targets for all priority domestic compliance risks met	90%	82%	Of the initial 27 compliance targets, 10 were removed as they could not be measured. Of the remaining 17, 11 targets were met, another three met their threshold targets, and three did not meet the targets. The three targets not being met were due to resources being refocused to address emerging risks throughout the year.

11 Please note that not all Commonwealth fish stocks can be managed by MEY, for example, those managed under international regional bodies.

12 Where higher and lower value species are caught together, different targets for the lower value species may maximise net economic returns over all.

13 In AFMA managed fisheries, not including jointly and internationally managed fisheries.

14 Ecological risk assessments for Commonwealth managed fisheries and sub-fisheries have been completed covering almost 1200 species. Species considered to be potentially at high risk are the subject of mitigation measures and further assessment. This may mean that projections of numbers of high risk species may vary from year to year.

15 While six vessels were apprehended AFMA only received three, two of which were disposed on land and one remains in detention pending disposal hence 67% of received vessels have been disposed of in financial year 2014–15

Reports for each fishery

In 2013–14, AFMA was assessed against the sustainability performance of 93 fish stocks across 21 fisheries by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences. Sixty six stocks were assessed across nine fisheries that are managed solely by AFMA on behalf of the Australian Government, and 27 stocks were assessed across 12 fisheries that are managed jointly with other Australian jurisdictions or other countries. AFMA also manages many more species which are not assessed by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences but are managed by AFMA through fishery management plans, bycatch action plans, and ecological risk assessments.

For fisheries not solely managed by AFMA, evaluation of sustainability performance of fisheries management needs to consider relevant legislation and policies.



Quick reference guide to domestic fisheries 2014–15




Fishery	Fisheries management			Science based decision making				Research and information		
	Effectiveness of management arrangements	Management plan	Bycatch action plan	Harvest strategy	Ecological risk assessment	Strategic assessment	Strategic research plan	Data acquisition plan		
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coral Sea Fishery	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery*	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery*	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Norfolk Island Fisheries	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
Northern Prawn Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓		
Skipjack Tuna Fishery*	✓	n/a	n/a	✓	✓	✓	n/a	n/a		
Small Pelagic Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery*	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓		
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

✓ - Performance target met or exceeded for 2014–15 ✓ - Performance target partially met for 2014–15 ✗ - Performance target not met for 2014–15

*denotes fishery that manages stocks that are not solely AFMA-managed



Stock status of target species

	Not overfished/not subject to overfishing
	Uncertain
	Overfished/subject to overfishing

Source: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences *Fishery status reports 2013–14*, released in October 2014, which was the most current information available at the time this report was prepared.

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Stocks managed solely by the Australian Government					
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Commercial scallop (<i>Pecten fumatus</i>)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Sea Cucumber Sector	Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Sea Cucumber Sector	Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Sea Cucumber Sector	Surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Sea Cucumber Sector	White teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Sea Cucumber Sector	Other sea cucumber species (~11 spp.)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Aquarium Sector	Multiple species				
Coral Sea Fishery: Lobster and Trochus Sector	Tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i> , possibly other species)				
Coral Sea Fishery: Line and Trap Sector	Mixed reef fish and sharks				
Coral Sea Fishery: Trawl and Trap Sector	Numerous fish, shark and crustacean species				
Northern Prawn Fishery	Red-legged banana prawn (<i>Penaeus indicus</i>)				
Northern Prawn Fishery	White banana prawn (<i>Penaeus merguensis</i>)				
Northern Prawn Fishery	Brown tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>)				

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Northern Prawn Fishery	Grooved tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>)	Green			
Northern Prawn Fishery	Blue endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	Green			
Northern Prawn Fishery	Red endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus ensis</i>)	Yellow			
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Scampi (<i>Metanephrops australiensis</i> , <i>M. boschmai</i> , <i>M. velutinus</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Australian sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Blue mackerel, east (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Blue mackerel, west (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Jack mackerel, east (<i>Trachurus declivis</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Jack mackerel, west (<i>Trachurus declivis</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Redbait, east (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	Green			
Small Pelagic Fishery	Redbait, west (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Blue-eye trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>)	Green		Yellow	Green
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Blue grenadier (<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Blue warehou (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>)	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Deepwater sharks, eastern zone (18 spp.)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Deepwater sharks, western zone (18 spp.)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Eastern school whiting (<i>Sillago flindersi</i>)	Green			

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Flathead (<i>Neoplatycephalus richardsoni</i> and 4 other spp.)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Gemfish, eastern zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Red	Red	Yellow	Red
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Gemfish, western zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Gulper sharks (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i> , <i>C. moluccensis</i> , <i>C. zeehaani</i>)	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Jackass morwong (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	John dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Mirror dory (<i>Zenopsis nebulosa</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Ocean jacket, eastern zone (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Ocean perch (<i>Helicolenus barathri</i> , <i>H. percoides</i>)	Yellow		Green	
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Orange roughy, Cascade Plateau (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Orange roughy, eastern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Orange roughy, southern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Red	Green	Red
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Orange roughy, western zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Red	Green	Red
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Oreodory: smooth, Cascade Plateau (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>)	Green			

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Oreodory: smooth, non-Cascade Plateau (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Oreodory: other (<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i> , <i>Allocyttus niger</i> , <i>A. verrucosus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Pink ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>)	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Redfish, eastern (<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Ribaldo (<i>Mora moro</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Royal red prawn (<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors	Silver trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Silver warehou (<i>Seriola punctata</i>)	Green			
SESSF: East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Bight redfish (<i>Centroberyx gerrardi</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Deepwater flathead (<i>Neoplitycephalus conatus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Ocean jacket, west (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
SESSF: Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors	Elephantfish (<i>Callorhynchus milii</i>)	Yellow		Green	
SESSF: Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors	Gummy shark (<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>)	Green			
SESSF: Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors	Sawshark (<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> , <i>P. nudipinnis</i>)	Yellow		Green	
SESSF: Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors	School shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	Red		Yellow	Red

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Gould's squid (<i>Nototodarus gouldi</i>)	Green			
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Bugs (<i>Ibacus</i> spp.)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Ruby snapper (<i>Etelis carbunculus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Patagonian toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Green			

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass

Stocks managed jointly by the Australian Government

South Tasman Rise Trawl Fishery	Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Green	Red	Green	Red
Torres Strait Finfish Fishery	Coral trout (<i>Plectropomus</i> and <i>Variola</i> spp.)	Green			
Torres Strait Finfish Fishery	Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Fishery	Tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Brown tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery	Blue endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery	Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery	Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery	Sandfish (<i>Holothuria scabra</i>)	Green	Red	Green	Red

Fishery	Common name (scientific name)	Status			
		2012		2013	
		Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery	White teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>)	Green			
Torres Strait Bêche-de-mer Fishery	Other sea cucumbers (up to 18 species)	Yellow			
Torres Strait Trochus Fishery	Trochus (<i>Trochus niloticus</i>)	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	Green			
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Green			
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Red	Green	Red	Red
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Green			
Skipjack Tuna Fishery: Pacific Ocean	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Green			
Skipjack Tuna Fishery: Indian Ocean	Skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Green			
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Southern bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	Yellow		Red	
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Green			
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Red	Green	Red	Green
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Green			
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Green			
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>)	Green			
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Patagonian toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Green			

Antarctic Fisheries



Major species

- Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*)
- Mackerel icefish (Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery only) (*Champsocephalus gunnari*).

Fishery/sector	Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	3878 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	468 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the conservation measures mandated by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. All operations conducted in the fishery were in compliance with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. Six vessels operated in the fishery during 2014–15. Four vessels were longliners, one vessel both was a trawler/longliner, and another was a trawler.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

The Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006*. All operations conducted in the fishery were in accordance with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. One longline vessel operated in 2014–15.

Developments in 2014–15

Heard Island and McDonald Island Fishery

AFMA prepared the annual Fishery Assessment Plan for the 2014–15 fishing season. The Plan outlines research requirements for operators in the fishery, including tagging and the fishery's random stratified trawl survey. In order to gather more information about the fishery, the tagging rate increased from two tags per three tonnes to two tags per tonne for the 2014–15 fishing season.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

We prepared the annual Fishery Assessment Plan for the 2015–16 fishing season. The Fishery Assessment Plan outlines research requirements for fishers in the fishery.

The season dates were amended so that the fishing season starts on 15 April instead of 1 May each year. This change commences in the 2015–16 season and requires shortening the 2014–15 season by two weeks.

A trial of a two week extension to the longline fishing period, within the upcoming season will also be conducted. As a result, longline fishing commenced from 15 April 2015. If no seabirds are caught during the 2015 trial of the two week extension, it will be permanently set as 15 April to 31 August from 2016 onwards.

Coral Sea Fishery



Major species:

Line and Trap Sector

- Tropical finfish
- Sharks.

Trawl and Trap Sector

- Tropical finfish
- Crustaceans.

Lobster and Trochus Sector

- Tropical rock lobsters belonging to the genus *Panulirus* except *P. cygnus*
- No trochus have been caught over the past five years.

Aquarium Sector

- *Chondrichthys* (cartilaginous fishes)
- *Osteichthyes* (bony fishes)
- Invertebrates
- Live rock (limestone encrusted with organisms).

Sea Cucumber Sector

- White teatfish (*Actinopyga mauritiana*)
- Surf redfish (*Actinopyga mauritiana*)
- Prickly redfish (*Thelenota ananas*)
- Black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*)
- Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*)
- Other sea cucumber species.

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
19 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

The principal legal framework for the management of the fishery is specified in the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*.

A limited number of fishing permits are granted each year under the Act. These permits are subject to certain conditions in the Act as well as conditions specified in the permits. The permits are sector specific and conditions include limits on gear, species size limits, trigger limits and total allowable catch limits.

Developments in 2014–15

The Department of the Environment is undertaking a review of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves proclaimed in November 2012. The impacts of the review on the Coral Sea Fishery are not known at this stage.

Until the review is complete, transitional arrangements are in place for marine reserves in the south-west, north-west, north, temperate east and Coral Sea. Transitional management arrangements leads to no changes to 'on the water' activities for users of the reserves, with activities able to continue.

The Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package has been placed on hold while the review and management planning processes are undertaken.

Once the outcomes of the Commonwealth Marine Reserve review are known, the Coral Sea Fishery Stakeholder Group and Coral Sea Fishery Expert Panel will meet to advise AFMA on research planning, data requirements, ecological risk assessment and potential changes to harvest strategies.

Norfolk Island Fishery



Major species

<p>Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red throat emperor (<i>Lethrinus miniatus</i>). 	<p>Norfolk Island Offshore Demersal Finfish Fishery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not applicable.
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Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
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No commercial catch. Recreational and charter fishing only.	Nil
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Report against management plans

There is no formal management plan for the Norfolk Island fisheries and there are currently no commercial fishing concessions in this fishery.

Developments in 2014–15

Norfolk Island Inshore fishery

The Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery is a recreational and charter based fishery, operating predominantly in shelf waters around Norfolk Island using handlines, winches, rods and reels. The fishery is managed by the Norfolk Island Government in accordance with the *Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery Policy 2009* developed by the Norfolk Island Government, with input from AFMA and other Australian Government agencies. The associated Memorandum of Understanding has enabled AFMA to provide management expertise and guidance to the Norfolk Island Government and the Norfolk Island Fishing Association as required.

Norfolk Island Offshore Demersal Finfish Fishery

The fishery is currently closed.

Northern Prawn Fishery



Major species

- Brown tiger prawns (*Penaeus esculentus*)
- Grooved tiger prawns (*Penaeus semisulcatus*)
- White banana prawns (*Penaeus merguianus*)
- Red-legged banana prawns (*Penaeus indicus*)
- Endeavour prawns (*Metapenaeus endeavouri*, *M. ensis*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional Gross value of production 2013–14
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8436 tonnes	\$115 million
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Report against management plans

The Northern Prawn Fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*.

Future updates to the fishery's management arrangements may require changes to the management plan and will be subject to public consultation and ministerial acceptance.

Developments in 2014–15

Since the decision in 2013 by the then AFMA Commission that it was not optimal for the Northern Prawn Fishery to move to output controls (quota) but that significant improvements to the existing management arrangements were necessary, we have continued to work closely with stakeholders to improve the management arrangements under effort controls, particularly in relation to measures that address the risk of overcapacity and achieving economic inefficiency in the fishery.

During 2014–15 we have worked with stakeholders to develop an annually calculated and monitored (in-season) catch trigger to determine the optimum length of the white banana prawn fishing season and achieve the maximum economic yield target. We have worked to develop and implement a method to measure changes in annual fishing power and incorporate that into the fishery stock assessment. We have also finalised an investigation of tools that can be used in the fishery management plan to adjust the fishing fleet where it is shown to be fishing at excess capacity.

All of these initiatives were developed in collaboration with the Northern Prawn Fishery Industry Pty Ltd. As part of the co-management arrangements in the fishery we are also supporting the industry with its initiative to reduce bycatch in the fishery by 30 per cent over the next three years.

North West Slope and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries



Major species

North West Slope Trawl

- Scampi (*Metanephrops australiensis*).

Western Deepwater Trawl

- Bugs
- Mixed finfish.

Fishery/sector	Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional Gross value of production 2013–14
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	42 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	10 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

There is no formal management plan for the North West Slope and the Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries. Both fisheries are informally managed via fishing permits. Permit holders generally access the fisheries on a part time or opportunistic basis as an adjunct to other fisheries.

Under the harvest strategy, analysis of catch and effort data is conducted annually to assist in the management of the fisheries.

Developments in 2014–15

The Australian Government and Western Australian Government have agreed to realign the fisheries boundaries to be consistent with Geoscience Australia advice regarding the 200 metre isobath. Both governments are currently working together to implement these changes through the establishment of specific fisheries Memorandums of Understanding and amendments to the current Offshore Constitutional Settlements.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery



Major species

<p>Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepwater flathead (<i>Neoplitycephalus conatus</i>) • Bight redfish (<i>Centroberyx gerrardij</i>). 	<p>South East Trawl Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue grenadier (<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>) • Pink ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>) • Silver warehou (<i>Seriolella punctata</i>) • Tiger flathead (<i>Neoplitycephalus richardsoni</i>).
<p>Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gummy shark (<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>) • Pink ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>) • Blue eye trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>). 	<p>East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>).

Fishery/sector	Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
Great Australian Bight Sector	2327 tonnes	\$11 million
Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector	3556 tonnes	\$20 million
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	26 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.
South East Trawl Sector (includes Victorian Coastal Waters Permit)	12 252 tonnes	\$40.5 million

Report against management plans

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*. In 2014, the South East Management Advisory Committee assessed the effectiveness of the Plan, including the measures taken to achieve the objectives of the Plan. The South East Management Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations which are being considered by AFMA Management in the context of regulatory reduction measures.

Developments in 2014–15

Ecological risk management

A project to update the ecological risk management strategy for the Southern and Eastern and Scalefish and Shark Fishery commenced in 2014–15. The Strategy details the management arrangements that we have implemented to address the high risk species assessed through the ecological risk assessment process and minimise the impact of fishing on the broader ecosystem. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- implement management arrangements to minimise fishing impact on non-target species and habitats, with a particular focus on high risk species and habitats assessed through AFMA's ecological risk assessment process
- minimise interactions with species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* excluding conservation dependent species.

Pink ling

In response to the eastern zone pink ling biomass being below target levels AFMA introduced daily limits and area closures to constrain fishing mortality in the eastern zone. We continue to investigate alternative management arrangements for this fishery.

Rebuilding strategies

We updated our stock rebuilding strategies for four Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery species, orange roughy, blue warehou, eastern gemfish and school shark. External and internal stakeholders were consulted during the development of these strategies. The primary objective of the rebuilding strategies is to halt the decline in biomass and promote the recovery of the stocks to above their limit reference point.

Orange roughy

Following implementation of the Orange Roughy Conservation Program in 2006 AFMA closed waters deeper than 700 metres to trawling and banned targeted fishing for orange roughy (with the exception of an area known as the Cascade Plateau where stocks were assessed as healthy). Surveys of orange roughy areas have been undertaken over the last 10 years. These data and biological information formed the basis for a new assessment of the eastern orange roughy stock that showed that the stock has rebuilt to a level that would support a small commercial harvest. Consequently in 2015 the eastern zone orange roughy stock was reopened to targeted fishing under strict management arrangements.

Snapper

AFMA and the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association have entered into arrangements for the management of snapper caught by Commonwealth trawl boat concession holders in waters relevant to Victoria.

The principle of the new arrangement is to create a mechanism to allow incidental catches of snapper in excess of the trip limit to be landed instead of discarded, without creating incentives to target snapper.

Electronic monitoring in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector

Electronic monitoring systems have been installed on 34 boats using demersal gillnet and longline methods. Electronic monitoring systems include data sensors and cameras to monitor fishing activity and support independent verification of catch and discard information in logbooks.

The cameras operate at all times while the boat is fishing. Video data saved on hard drives is then returned to AFMA for analysis each month. A minimum of 10 per cent of gear sets is reviewed and compared to what has been recorded in logbooks. This means greater confidence in the fishery stock assessments and more effective management for protected species bycatch.

Seal mitigation measures

Work to reduce interactions with seals continues to be a priority for AFMA and industry. An assessment of the use of shortened trawl net codends to mitigate seal interactions in the Southern and Eastern and Scalefish Fishery undertaken by the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association in 2014–15 indicated that shortened codends do not appear to mitigate seal interactions.

Dolphins mitigation measures

During 2014 AFMA, working closely with scientists, fishers and environmental groups, developed and implemented a management strategy to address dolphin bycatch in the gillnet fishery. The objective of the Dolphin Strategy is to minimise dolphin mortalities in gillnets to as close to zero as possible. The Strategy aims to achieve this with individual responsibility and incentives for fishers to minimise their bycatch.

The Coorong region in South Australia was re-opened under the Strategy to gillnet fishing with 100 per cent electronic monitoring and strict performance requirements. Dolphin bycatch results in escalating management responses and requirements on fishers.

The Strategy is proving successful with fishers adapting their behaviour and fishing practices to avoid catching dolphins.

Research

Research supporting the fishery continued to be guided by the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Five Year Research Plan 2011–15. During the 2014–15 period we worked with resource assessment groups and management advisory committees to develop the next five year strategic research plan.

Data acquisition plan

The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group will meet in July 2015 to consider data requirements for the fishery. Data needs will be determined based on assessment and monitoring requirements. The Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Monitoring and Assessment Strategic Review research project continued in 2014–15. The project aims to identify options for improvement in the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of monitoring and assessment in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Concurrently, we are developing a data and assessment plan for the fishery which will be adapted to findings from the project.

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery



Major species

Commercial scallops (*Pecten fumatus*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
279 tonnes	\$0.5 million

Report against management plans

During 2014–15, the fishery continued to be managed under arrangements in the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002*.

Developments in 2014–15

In June 2014 the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery was opened to fishing under a new harvest strategy which had been developed with advice from the Scallop Resource Assessment Group and Scallop Management Advisory Committee. The new harvest strategy reserves some areas of adult scallops for spawning and recruitment, and allows fishing in other areas. Consistent with the requirements of the new harvest strategy, following scallop biomass surveys and Scallop Resource Assessment Group advice, the total allowable catch was increased from the starting level of 150 tonnes up to 1500 tonnes on 17 October 2014. A total of 1418 tonnes of the 1500 tonne total allowable catch was harvested during the season. From the perspective of catch rates and scallop condition, fishers advised us that this was one of the best seasons for at least 15 years.

In applying the new harvest strategy for the first time in 2014–15, a number of potential refinements were identified to improve the control rules in the harvest strategy. Consequently, a further review of the harvest strategy was undertaken after the start of the 2014 season opening in preparation for the 2015 season.

The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery continued to operate under the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* and *Bass Strait Central Zone Fishery Strategic Research Plan*.

Southern Squid Jig fishery



Major species

Arrow squid (*Nototodarus gouldi*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
2 tonnes	\$6000

Report against management plans

The Southern Squid Jig Fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* and the Arrow-Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy.

Developments in 2014–15

Arrow squid are a highly productive and relatively short lived species, which allows them to be managed through limits on the total allowable fishing effort. This limit was maintained at 550 standard squid jigging machines for the fishery in 2014 and 2015.

Actual fishing effort within the fishery varies between seasons but was relatively low during 2014 and 2015. The total catch in 2014 was small but significantly increased in 2015 with approximately 330 tonnes caught in the first six months up to July.

The majority of squid taken from the fishery is sold on the domestic market with some of the byproduct (mainly tentacles) exported to Mediterranean countries.

Most squid caught by the jigging method are taken from fishing grounds off Portland, Queenscliff and Lakes Entrance in Victoria, with a small number of operators fishing in waters off the coast of South Australia.

Skipjack Tuna Fishery



Major species

Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
Nil.	No fishing occurred.

Report against management plans

The fishery is managed in accordance with the Skipjack Tuna Harvest Strategy, the statement of fishery management arrangements and fishing concession conditions.

Developments in 2014–15

Effort in the fishery has remained at very low levels since 2008 due to economic reasons. There were no new management arrangements implemented in the fishery in 2014–15. No fishing occurred in the fishery in 2014–15.

Small Pelagic Fishery



Major species

- Australian sardine (*Sardinops sagax*)
- Blue mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*)
- Jack mackerel (*Trachurus declivis*, *T. murphyi*)
- Redbait (*Emmelichthys nitidus*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
-------------------------	---

97 tonnes

Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009*. In 2014, the South East Management Advisory Committee assessed the effectiveness of the Plan, including the measures taken to achieve the objectives of the Plan. The South East Management Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations which are being considered by AFMA Management in the context of regulatory reduction measures.

Developments in 2014–15

Following the publication of new research on appropriate harvest rates depending on each target species' biology, the Small Pelagic Fishery Harvest Strategy was amended in early 2015. The harvest strategy contains revised harvest rates for each of the four target species and new control rules to govern changes in harvest rates depending on information available. In adopting the new harvest strategy, the AFMA Commission identified a number of additional areas that could be improved. A further review of the harvest strategy will be undertaken in time for the 2016–17 season.

The Small Pelagic Fishery continued to operate under the Small Pelagic Fishery Five Year Strategic Research Plan 2012–13 to 2016–17.

During 2014, surveys were undertaken on the east coast of Australia to update population estimates for jack mackerel. The results were used in setting the 2015–16 total allowable catches under the revised harvest strategy. The 2015–16 total allowable catches increased for eastern jack mackerel and Australian sardine and decreased for the remaining stocks.

The *FV Geelong Star*, a mid-water trawl freezer vessel, commenced fishing in the Small Pelagic Fishery in April 2015. All mid-water trawl vessels fishing in the fishery are required to have a vessel management plan approved by AFMA. The Vessel Management Plan for the *FV Geelong Star* aimed to minimise the risk of interactions with protected species (seabirds, seals and dolphins) as well establishing regional catch limits and reporting requirements.

In response to dolphin and fur seal mortalities on the *FV Geelong Star's* second fishing trip, AFMA introduced a night time fishing ban on mid-water trawl vessels fishing in the Small Pelagic Fishery. As further protection and to provide incentive for fishers to make operational changes to reduce the risk of catching dolphins, a six month zone closure would be triggered if any dolphin mortalities occur red in any one of seven zones. Following a common dolphin mortality off New South Wales, zone 6 was closed to mid-water trawling for six months from 17 June 2015.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



Major species

- Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*)
- Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
- Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)
- Broadbill swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
- Striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
4682 tonnes	\$31 million

Report against management plans

The fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010*, and conservation and management measures mandated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Developments in 2014–15

The harvest strategy was used for recommending the total allowable commercial catch limits of broadbill swordfish and striped marlin.

AFMA implemented a Direction to require electronic monitoring for all full time boats in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery from 1 July 2015. As part of this requirement we arranged for full time boats to be installed with electronic monitoring systems.

During May to November each year, we implement core and buffer zones in the fishery to ensure that any southern bluefin tuna caught is covered by quota. To enter the core and buffer zones, operators must hold a certain amount of southern bluefin tuna quota and meet a certain level of observer coverage.

This year, the zones were updated weekly using sea surface temperatures, scientific and industry information to provide more real-time management. In previous years, the zones had been updated fortnightly.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



Major species
Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
5293 tonnes	\$39 million

Report against management plans

In the 2013–14 fishing season several Australian companies overcaught their allocated quota by a total of approximately 108 tonnes. In accordance with the requirements of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Plan 1995*, the corresponding amount of quota was taken off the respective companies' 2014–15 quota holdings.

Developments in 2014–15

In line with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Procedure, the Australian total allowable catch for southern bluefin tuna was set at 5665 tonnes for the 2014–15 fishing season.

In 2014 the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna employed an independent contractor to review the integrity and robustness of member countries monitoring and reporting systems. Australia's southern bluefin tuna fisheries management systems were shown to be effective, with well-established fisheries legislation, a strong fisheries management regulatory system and established fisheries reporting and sanctions.

Globally, southern bluefin tuna is considered overfished. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Extended Scientific Committee conducted a full stock assessment in 2014. The assessment determined that the current spawning biomass remains very low, about nine per cent of historic levels. However, there has been some improvement since the 2011 stock assessment and the fishing mortality rate is below the level associated with maximum sustainable yield.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery



Major species

- Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*)
- Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*)
- Broadbill swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
- Striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
336 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

The fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* and resolutions mandated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

Developments in 2014–15

The Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery has continued to operate at low levels of effort due to economic conditions.

AFMA implemented a Direction to require electronic monitoring for all full time boats in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery from 1 July 2015. As part of this requirement we arranged for full time boats to be installed with electronic monitoring systems.

High Seas Permits



Major species	
Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Smooth oreodory (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>)
Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>)	Spikey oreodory (<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i>)
Blue-eye trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>)	Redthroat emperor (<i>Lethrinus miniatus</i>)
Jackass morwong (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Boarfish (<i>Pentacerothidae spp.</i>)
Yellowtail kingfish (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>)	Cardinal fish (<i>Apogonidae, Dinolestidae</i>).

Estimated catch 2013–14	Provisional gross value of production 2013–14
600 tonnes	Due to the small number of operators, this information is confidential.

Report against management plans

High Seas Permits are managed consistent with conservation and management measures applying under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. Operational requirements are implemented through conditions on High Seas Permits.

Developments in 2014–15

High Seas Permits allow Australian flagged vessels to fish in designated areas for non-highly migratory species in the South Pacific Ocean and the Southern Indian Ocean outside the Australian Fishing Zone. The designated fishing areas are based on international agreements for demersal fishing between the Australian Government and other fishing nations.

The third South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Commission meeting was held in February 2015. At this meeting data standards, compliance, boarding and inspection procedures and regulation of transshipments were considered. New conservation and management measures for bottom fishing and minimising bycatch of seabirds came into effect in May 2014 and have been applied since.

The 2012 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences High Seas Sustainability Assessment concluded that no stocks fished by High Seas permit holders were overfished or subject to overfishing. Stocks of orange roughy in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation area and orange roughy and alfonsino stocks in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement area were assessed as uncertain.

Part 4

Accountability and management

Organisation structure

Corporate governance practices

Stakeholder satisfaction

People management

Risk management



Highlights

Part 4

Staff employed as at 30 June 2015



20

Casual field observers

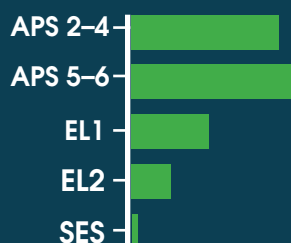


67 Women
130 Men

39 staff on
Individual
Flexibility
Agreements



Staff at level



Staff development & training

- Bullying and harassment training
- First Aid training
- Time Management Workshop
- Project Management
- Sea Safety Training
- Report Writing & Writing Skills



Redesign of
AFMA's
website for
improved
communication

4% employees
granted studies
assistance



Organisational structure

Figure 02: Organisational structure

Minister for Agriculture		Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture	
AFMA Commission			
AFMA CEO Dr. James Findlay			
Fisheries Management Branch		Fisheries Operations Branch	Corporate Services Branch
Executive Manager Dr. Nick Rayns		General Manager Mr. Peter Venslovas	General Manager Mr. Peter Tegart
Northern Fisheries		National Compliance Strategy	Communications and Executive Secretariat
Senior Manager Mr. Steve Bolton		Senior Manager Mr. Tod Spencer	Senior Manager Mr. Andrew Pearson
Demersal and Midwater Fisheries		Compliance Operations (Darwin)	Business
Senior Manager Mr. George Day		Senior Manager Mr. John Davis	Chief Finance Office Mr. Robert Gehrig
Tuna and International Fisheries		Foreign Compliance Policy	Legal
Senior Manager Mr. Trent Timmiss		Senior Manager Ms. Kerry Smith	Senior Manager Mr. Paul Halliday
Policy, Environment, Economics, Co-management and Research		Compliance Operations (Canberra)	Workplace
Senior Manager Ms. Beth Gibson		Senior Manager Mr. John Andersen	Senior Manager Ms. Libby Jenkins
Service One		Projects	
Senior Manager A/g Mr. Phil Ravanello		Senior Manager Mr. John Kozman	
Business Improvement and External Services		Service Group	
Senior Manager Mr. Ryan Murphy		Senior Manager Mr. Jeremy Richter	
AFMA Liaison Officer			
South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA) Mr. Andrew Trappett			
AFMA Liaison Officer Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF)			
Mr. Patrick Sachs			

Where we operate

AFMA has offices in three locations, Canberra, Darwin and Thursday Island. The largest of these is our Canberra office which, as at 30 June 2015, employed 126 people, managing most of AFMA's functions including fisheries management, licensing, environment and research, national compliance operations, foreign compliance policy, and corporate services.

The Darwin office employed 34 staff as at 30 June 2015, with a focus on our foreign compliance and international engagement functions.

The Thursday Island office manages the Torres Strait Fisheries and employed six staff as at 30 June 2015.

We also employed 20 casual field observers who undertake duties on commercial fishing vessels around Australia.

AFMA office locations

Canberra office

Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 6	PO BOX 7051	Ph: (02) 6225 5555
73 Northbourne Ave	Canberra Business Centre	Fax: (02) 6225 5500
CANBERRA ACT 2600	CANBERRA ACT 2610	AFMA Direct: 1300 723 621

Darwin office

Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 6	GPO Box 131	Ph: (08) 8943 0333
NT House	DARWIN NT 0801	Fax: (08) 8942 2897
22 Mitchell Street		
DARWIN NT 0800		

Thursday Island office

Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 2	PO Box 376	Ph: (07) 4069 1990
Pearls Building	THURSDAY ISLAND QLD	Fax: (07) 4069 1277
38 Victoria Parade	4875	
THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875		

Corporate governance practices

Governing body

As provided in the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, AFMA was established to manage Commonwealth fisheries. During the reporting period the Authority was a body corporate which could sue and be sued. However the Authority could not hold money and all financial liabilities are taken to be liabilities of the Commonwealth.

AFMA's domestic fisheries management functions and powers are the responsibility of the Commission. The CEO is responsible for assisting the Commission, including giving effect to its decisions.

The CEO is separately responsible for exercising the Authority's foreign compliance functions and powers, and the Chief Executive's responsibilities under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Public Service Act*

1999. The CEO and staff constitute a Statutory Agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*.

The Minister for Agriculture appoints the chairman, part-time commissioners and the CEO. Following advice from the chairman, the minister appoints a part-time commissioner as deputy-chairperson.

The AFMA Commission is subject to limited government policy direction as stated in section 91 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*. The minister is the approving authority for AFMA's Corporate Plan, Annual Operational Plan and all fishery management plans determined by AFMA.

The CEO is subject to Ministerial Direction with regard to the Authority's foreign compliance functions, and under the *Public Service Act 1999* is required to be responsive to government in implementing the government's policies and programs.

For more information about AFMA's Commissioners and fisheries management advisory committees, see our agency on page 198.

Conflicts of interest

Commissioners must disclose to the Minister any pecuniary or other interest that may relate to their AFMA functions, both prior to appointment and if such interests arise during their terms of office. Disclosures of interests are kept on a register of interests held by AFMA and a commissioner must not take part in any deliberation or decision in which he/she has such an interest.

Performance review

The AFMA Commission reviews its performance at each commission meeting. Matters reviewed may include its success in pursuing AFMA's objectives, strategic direction and committee effectiveness.

Corporate and operational planning and review

AFMA's Planning and Reporting Framework consists of obligations under the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, whole-of-government requirements, and internal documents we produce for the purpose of good governance. The key elements are:

Corporate Plan

This plan identifies factors in AFMA's operating environment that may affect our operations, and sets out our principal goals for the next four years. The plan also outlines the strategies we will use to pursue those goals and key performance indicators for measuring our performance. We have reported against the key result areas identified in our Corporate Plan 2014–17 on pages 17 to 59.

Annual Operational Plan

This plan covers 12 months and gives details of the strategies identified and to be applied in relation to meeting relevant corporate plan goals. We have reported against the key performance indicators described in our Annual Operational Plan 2014–15 on pages 17 to 59.

Portfolio Budget Statements

AFMA contributes to the Department of Agriculture's Portfolio Budget Statements. The purpose of the Portfolio Budget Statements is to inform senators and members of Parliament of the proposed allocation of resources to government outcomes. Within this document, we set out our broad strategic direction, budget estimates against specific outputs, and key performance indicators.

Internal reporting

Each quarter, we report to our CEO and Commission against our goals and strategies, key result areas and key performance indicators identified in our corporate and annual operational plans. This ensures that progress is on track, and simplifies the process of annual reporting.

Annual Report

The annual report provides information on AFMA's operations and performance, including reporting against the measures set out in the Corporate Plan, Annual Operational Plan and Portfolio Budget Statements.

The system of corporate plans and performance reporting is under review in accord with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Internal scrutiny

Risk management

AFMA's corporate risk management procedures have been in place since 2008 and its processes are imbedded in our planning, project management and fraud control procedures. AFMA's Risk Management Framework and Risk Register are each reviewed annually, and in 2015 a comprehensive review of overall risk management practices was undertaken.

The review found that while AFMA has robust risk management processes in place, the introduction of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* has resulted in some of these processes being redundant. Further work will be undertaken in 2015–16 to align our risk management processes with the Act and the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy.

The risk management process is monitored by AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee, while AFMA Commission meetings consider significant and current issues that potentially affect our operations or reputation, and advice from the Audit and Risk Committee.

Business continuity

AFMA's business continuity plan identifies essential business activities and provides guidance in establishing alternative arrangements in the event of unexpected disruption to normal service delivery. The plan enables the priority allocation of resources to critical business processes to ensure that we continue to function effectively following a disaster. The plan includes cyclone response procedures for our Darwin and Thursday Island offices, information and communications technology disaster recovery and AFMA's Pandemic Plan.

The plan was established in 2010 and is tested and updated annually, with the Audit and Risk Committee monitoring this. The annual test was conducted in August 2014 and identified several areas for enhancement including confirmation of emergency office accommodation arrangements and updates to legislation and important contacts in the plan. No event occurred within the reporting period that activated the plan.

Fraud control

The Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2014 requires us to review fraud control planning every two years. In accordance with this, in 2014 we established AFMA's Fraud Control Plan 2014–2016. This plan incorporates information relating to our approach to fraud control, the fraud risk assessment and strategies for fraud minimisation arising from risk treatment recommendations.

We investigated 82 new external fraud related matters during the 2014–15 period primarily associated with breaches of the domestic quota management arrangements. An additional 32 external fraud matters were carried over from the previous year.

AFMA finalised 89 external fraud matters as a result of instituting either administrative or prosecution action. There are still 25 matters currently under investigation, referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, in court or otherwise in the process of finalisation.

Additionally there were eight foreign matters involving six apprehensions and two legislative forfeitures¹⁶ in 2014–15.

Our Audit and Risk Committee monitors the status of the plan and its recommendations.

¹⁶ Legislative forfeiture is where Australia seizes the fishing gear and catch from the offenders and then releases the vessel and crew to return to their origin.

Audit and Risk Committee

AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the Chief Executive Officer and the AFMA Commission on AFMA's Risk, Control and Compliance Framework, Performance Framework and its external accountability responsibilities.

For further information on the Audit and Risk Committee see page 201.

External scrutiny

AFMA's financial statements are audited annually by the Australian National Audit Office. The Australian National Audit Office examines the strength of our internal controls to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement.

The Audit Office obtains and updates its understanding of AFMA, the environment in which it operates, its objectives and strategies and internal controls. This includes obtaining an understanding of the information systems and related business processes relevant to our financial reporting objectives (including the accounting system) and how we have responded to any related financial reporting risks. Relevant Australian National Audit Office performance audits or internal audit activity are considered as part of this process.

Our performance is also subject to review through Senate Estimates.

In addition, we engage an independent internal auditor to undertake audits of business programs and controls, identified in the biennial Assurance Map and Controls Framework Review. During 2014–15, two of the planned audits from the original plan were completed as follows:

- Review of fee for service arrangements
- Stakeholder engagement and the role of key committees.

The objective of the audits is to review and update the existing Assurance Map and Control Framework to:

- Provide the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee with an up-to-date assessment of the key business processes, risks and assurance activities along with the existing control framework.
- Assess the appropriateness of the overall assurance framework and inform the development of the strategic internal audit work program.
- Assess the appropriateness of assurance measures implemented since the last Assurance Map Report and Control Framework Review.

- Identify gaps in the existing control framework and identify suggested areas for improvement.
- Inform development of the next internal audit program.

Outcomes of judicial and administrative tribunals are referenced at Appendix 2: “Civil Litigation Outcomes” on page 204.

Stakeholder satisfaction

Our stakeholders

AFMA engages with a wide variety of stakeholders before making decisions on the management of Commonwealth fisheries, including scientists, commercial fishers and fishing associations, researchers, environment and conservation organisations, recreational fishers and Indigenous fishers.

We do this through a variety of channels, including:

- management advisory committees
- resource assessment groups
- port visits
- our website
- news stories
- media releases
- direct mail across all major Commonwealth fisheries.

These mechanisms provide an important avenue for us to have open dialogue with those with an interest in the management of Commonwealth fisheries.

Communication channels

The *Fisheries Management Act 1991* contains specific provisions on the communication and consultation processes and channels for communicating information about regulation.

AFMA communicates formally in writing via GoFish with all Commonwealth fishing concession holders regarding regulation of their access to Commonwealth fisheries.

In addition to statutory processes, we consult extensively with stakeholders on management issues. The main point of contact with stakeholders is through the statutory management advisory committees for each of the major fisheries and the non-statutory resource assessment groups. There is more information on the committees on page 205 to 207.

Stakeholders are regularly updated about changes to regulations, Commission decisions and other changes via our website, news stories and media releases. Interested stakeholders can register to directly receive AFMA News on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

We completed a significant redesign of our website in January 2015 to improve accessibility and navigability for the community and stakeholders. In the six months since its launch, numbers of subscribers to AFMA's website increased by nearly 9 per cent.

Media releases are used as a channel to distribute information to the broader community on a variety of topics to promote not only the work of AFMA, but notify of domestic and international compliance activity, and highlight the link between sustainable fisheries and a healthy supply of Australian seafood.

SMS messaging has also been introduced as part of monthly targeted campaigns to alert concession holders and skippers of AFMA changes and monthly compliance targets.

We also convey information about regulations during port visits and at public meetings. Open port meetings occur regularly in fisheries to discuss proposed new management arrangements.

We also have the ability to use integrated computer vessel monitoring systems, a satellite based system, to communicate with fishing vessels via text message/ email anywhere in the world.

Management advisory committees

Management advisory committees and resource advisory groups are a major source of advice to AFMA, reflecting the experience and expertise of the range of stakeholders with interest in the fishery or fisheries.

Management advisory committees play a vital role in helping AFMA fulfil its legislative functions and effectively pursue its objectives by acting as the main advisory body and link between AFMA and those with an interest in the fishery.

Each committee has an independent chair, an AFMA member and a maximum of seven other members. Generally, membership is drawn from industry, policy, research, conservation, state and territory governments, recreational fishing and research fields but it can include broader community members who have relevant skills and expertise including traditional fishers, where appropriate.

In 2014–15 there were seven management advisory committees covering tunas, northern prawns, sub-Antarctic fisheries, scallops, and scalefish, shark and squid fisheries in southern and eastern areas of Australia.

Client service charter

AFMA's Client Service Charter sets out the services and standards that all clients or stakeholders can expect from us. It applies to all of our fisheries administration and corporate services functions, including our licensing function. Our service charter is available on our website.

We have performed well against the customer service standards in our service charter and continue to streamline processes to improve customer service.

In 2014–15, our online licensing and quota management portal, GoFish, continued to assist in improving the timeliness of responses for licensing transactions. Around 89 per cent of fishing transactions that can be completed online were completed through GoFish during 2014–15. There were in excess of 4500 individual transactions conducted using GoFish, an increase of more than 2300 transactions from the previous year. This increase in transactions reflects the number of additional functions that can be performed in GoFish such as the development of a simplified one step process for leasing of concessions, which has further reduced the regulatory burden on industry.

Of the licensing transactions completed manually, 98 per cent were within the timeframes provided in the client service charter. This figure relates to manual transactions submitted by concession holders and responses to correspondence and information requests.

During 2014–2015 AFMA received one written complaint that was responded to in writing in line with the requirements of the service charter.

Measuring stakeholder satisfaction

As part of AFMA's focus on improving its regulatory performance, a performance audit of the effectiveness and adequacy of our community and stakeholder engagement activities with key external stakeholders and committees commenced in April 2015. The audit, which will continue in 2015–16, is being undertaken by Oakton Consulting Technology (AFMA's internal audit providers).



People management

Our staff

At 30 June 2015, AFMA employed 197 staff (174 ongoing, 23 non-ongoing). The majority of our staff were located in the Canberra office, with 34 staff located in the Darwin office, six on Thursday Island, and 20 casual field observers undertaking duties on commercial fishing vessels around Australia. The total of 197 also included 11 employees on long-term leave.

AFMA's employment profile has not changed significantly from 2013–14. The proportion of part-time staff has decreased slightly to 11.6 per cent in 2014–15 from 12 per cent in 2013–14.

The proportion of females has remained the same at 34 per cent as in 2014–15. The percentage of women at EL1–2 levels for 2014–2015 has slightly decreased to 25 per cent from 26 per cent the previous year.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of staff from non-English speaking backgrounds with a reduction to four staff in 2014–15 from five in 2013–14.

The number of staff whose parents come from a non-English speaking background has seen an increased from 14 to 24. This increase is most likely due to improved reporting capability within AFMA's Human Resource Management System.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members has slightly decreased from six to five while the number of employees who identified themselves as having a disability has remained the same at four.

Table 05: Equal opportunity profile of AFMA staff as at June 30 2015

Level	NESB1	NESB2	People with disability	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Women	Men	Total staff at level
APS 2–4	0	5	1	4	24	42	66
APS 5–6	4	12	2	0	30	45	75
EL1	1	5	0	1	9	26	35
EL2	0	1	1	0	4	14	18
SES	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
Total	5	24	4	5	67	130	197

NESB1: Persons from a non-English speaking background who were born overseas.

NESB2: Persons whose parent/s are from a non-English speaking background.

Table 06: Non-ongoing staff employed by location, gender and employment status as at June 30 2015

Level	Location	Female		Male		Total staff at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1-2	Canberra	0	0	15	0	15
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3-4	Canberra	0	1	5	1	7
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
APS 5-6	Canberra	0	0	0	0	0
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
EL1	Canberra	0	0	0	0	0
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
EL2	Canberra	0	0	0	1	1
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
SES	Canberra	0	0	0	0	0
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
Total		0	1	20	2	23

*These figures include 20 observers who are engaged as intermittent/irregular casual employees, included in Canberra Figures.

Table 07: Ongoing staff employed by location, gender and employment status as at June 30 2015

Level	Location	Female		Male		Total staff at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1–2	Canberra	1	1	0	0	2
	Darwin	1	0	0	1	2
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3–4	Canberra	4	10	0	14	28
	Darwin	0	4	0	5	9
	Thursday Island	0	2	0	1	3
APS 5–6	Canberra	11	16	4	26	57
	Darwin	0	3	0	14	17
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL1	Canberra	1	7	1	21	30
	Darwin	0	1	0	3	4
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL2	Canberra	0	3	0	12	15
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
	Thursday Island	0	1	0	0	1
SES	Canberra	0	0	0	2	2
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
Total		18	48	5	103	174

This table includes 11 staff on long-term leave. It does not include the four AFMA employees on temporary transfer to other Australian Public Service agencies. These figures relate to the nominal occupants of the position and not employees who may be acting as at 30 June 2015. This SES figure also includes AFMA's Chief Executive Officer.

Our human resource management

In May 2015, AFMA staff participated in the Australian Public Service Employee Census. For the 2015 Census, we again nominated to include an additional 10 questions directly related to AFMA. These questions focussed on organisational effectiveness, stakeholder engagement, performance management and recruitment and selection. To achieve a temporal comparison for change, the same 10 agency specific questions were used in the 2013 and the 2014 Census. The questions were developed in consultation with our executive and People Initiatives Committee. The results, due later in 2015, will be used to assist us in managing our workforce and to see how we compare to both other regulatory agencies and the APS as a whole.

In July 2014 the Human Resources section launched the implementation of new online modules in relation to our human resource self-service management system Kiosk. This saw the automation of human resources functions including learning and development, work health and safety reporting and performance management. These modules have provided significant improvement to the capability of the self-service elements of Kiosk and allow for more effective management of our people and capabilities.

We have a number of programs to acknowledge high performing employees through our Rewards and Recognition Scheme. Each year we offer staff the opportunity to nominate for the annual development award. The intention of the award is to recognise and reward performance on the part of the individual whilst providing an opportunity for personal development that ultimately benefits both the individual and AFMA.

The annual AFMA Achievement Awards were presented in February 2015 to the team/s and the individual/s that had made a significant contribution during 2014. These awards are nominated by staff and assessed by the Executive. There are two categories individual and team.

The 2014 Individual Achievement Award was presented to Mr. Shane Fava, Manager, Torres Strait Fisheries, based on Thursday Island. Shane demonstrated strong, high level leadership and management of his team and in representing AFMA. He was instrumental in ensuring his team on Thursday Island continued to build AFMA's reputation for fisheries management service delivery. With Shane's leadership, AFMA's relationship with Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people was strengthened and is testament to the hard work and commitment of both himself and his team. As a result of this, a high level of respect developed among communities, fishers, fisheries organisations, Native Title representatives and government bodies.

The 2014 Team Achievement Award was presented to the Seabird Threat Abatement Plan and Gillnet, Hook and Trap Seabird Response Team comprising David Power, Josh Cahill, Trent Timmiss, Mike Gerner and Paul Ryan. This cross-sectional seabird specialist team was able to strategically direct the approach used in the new Seabird Threat Abatement Plan to allow for an individual responsibility approach to management. The team worked closely with stakeholders and held industry workshops that were also attended by staff from the Australian Antarctic Division. The work done by this team resulted in improved management arrangements in addition to continued fishing activity.



From left to right: Mr Paul Ryan, Mr Trent Timmiss, Dr James Findlay (CEO), Mr David Power, Mr Mike Gerner, Mr Joshua Cahill.

Our terms and conditions of employment

The conditions of employment for all AFMA staff, except Senior Executive Service (SES), are covered by AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2011 (the EA) and associated policies. AFMA's current Enterprise Agreement has a nominal expiry date of 30 June 2014 and outlines a broad range of matters such as:

- rates of pay
- employment conditions, e.g. hours of work, meal breaks, overtime
- consultative mechanisms
- dispute resolution procedures.

A new Enterprise Agreement is being negotiated in accordance with the Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy announced by the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service, Senator the Hon. Eric Abetz on 28 March 2014.

The Agency Head and employees covered by the Enterprise Agreement may agree to make an individual flexibility agreement to vary the effect of terms of the Agreement if the arrangement deals with one or more of the following matters:

- arrangements about when work is performed
- overtime rates
- penalty rates
- allowances
- remuneration
- leave and the arrangement meets the genuine needs of the Agency and employee.

AFMA made 45 Individual Flexibility Agreements for 39 staff during 2014–2015. The number of agreements is higher than the number of staff outlined in the table below. This is due to five staff having more than one agreement approved within the financial year. The details of the agreements made in 2014–2015 are shown in the below table.

Table 08: Number of staff with Individual Flexibility Agreements 2014–2015

Classification	Number
APS 1	0
APS 2	2
APS 3	0
APS 4	6
APS 5	3
APS 6	17
EL1	13
EL2	4

Remuneration

AFMA's salary ranges are contained in AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2011. The salary minimum and maximum amounts at each classification as at 30 June 2015 are shown in the below table:

Table 09: Enterprise agreement salary ranges as at 30 June 2015

Classification	Minimum	Maximum
APS 1	\$37,827	\$48,278
APS 2	\$51,759	\$55,245
APS 3	\$56,656	\$61,574
APS 4	\$64,032	\$68,460
APS 5	\$70,568	\$74,741
APS 6	\$78,912	\$87,263
EL1	\$97,073	\$107,891
EL2	\$113,887	\$132,775

In accordance with AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2011, the Agency Head may approve additional salary of up to 20 per cent.

AFMA does not have performance bonuses.

AFMA's salary ranges for Senior Executive Service staff are contained in AFMA's Executive Remuneration Policy. The salary amounts as at 30 June 2015 are shown in the below table.

Table 10: AFMA Senior Executive Remuneration Policy salary ranges as at 30 June 2015

Classification	Minimum	Maximum
SES Band 1	\$162,283	\$183,762
SES Band 2	\$205,632	\$227,970

The remuneration of Senior Executives is determined with reference to the remuneration survey published by the Australian Public Service Commission and is commensurate with the assessed complexity of their work. Senior Executives

are not eligible for a bonus amount after a performance assessment by the Chief Executive Officer. In addition to the salary ranges above, and as part of their total remuneration package, Senior Executive officers are also eligible to access additional provisions including salary in lieu of a vehicle and car parking. Due to the small numbers of Senior Executives within AFMA, further breakdown of Senior Executive remuneration packages are not made available to avoid identification of individuals.

Remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. Details are available from the Remuneration Tribunal website.

AFMA did not generally make use of any non-salary benefits in 2014–15.

Training and development

AFMA continued to offer a wide range of training and development opportunities to ensure we have a capable workforce. In 2014–15 we had a particular focus on training in the following courses:

- Inappropriate Workplace Conduct
- Bullying and Harassment
- Harassment Contact Officer Training
- The New Supervisor
- Report Writing and Writing skills
- Project Management
- Working smart using Microsoft Outlook
- Time Management
- Sea Safety
- First Aid
- Defence Tactics refresher training
- Certificate of Safety training
- Protective Security training.

Training needs are identified by individual Performance Capability Plans which highlight both essential and desirable training for each staff member. The training identified in the plans is compiled to assess agency training

requirements. Individuals can also self-nominate or be nominated by a manager for any specific training. This system has worked well for us in determining training priorities and ensuring individuals are given opportunities they require for their roles and responsibilities and for self-development.



Bullying and harassment training

In 2014–15, AFMA was committed to implementing a bullying and harassment program for all staff. In a commitment to ensuring that our staff were adequately informed about the impacts of workplace bullying and harassment, we have a Bullying and Harassment Online Training Module available to all staff. The aim of this program is to raise awareness and to build an understanding to prevent

and respond to workplace bullying and harassment. In addition to this online program, Comcare facilitated a training session called Inappropriate Workplace Conduct which was delivered to managers. This training was designed to assist managers to recognise the early warning signs and symptoms in workers and others which result from inappropriate workplace conduct and to identify early intervention strategies through the risk management process and by following the issue resolution procedure.

AFMA's Harassment Contact Officers were provided with specific training in order to effectively fulfil their roles. This training enables AFMA's Harassment Contact Officers to provide support and assistance to employees in relation to harassment issues.

Risk-based regulation workshop

AFMA hosted the internationally renowned Professor Malcom Sparrow, who conducted a workshop on risk-based regulation. Professor Sparrow led a high-level discussion on the recent developments in the regulation and reforms in the context of the deregulation environments. Topics included performance management and measurement in risk control setting, reform implementation, challenges and opportunities, special categories of risk and implications for effective control. The workshop was attended by AFMA staff and representatives from other Australian Public Service agencies.

New supervisor training

This course was offered to those staff who were either first-time managers or staff wanting to increase their skills and potential for future leadership roles by identifying and exploring common challenges faced by new supervisors. The training provided information about the necessary skills to become a highly capable and successful team leader. It focused on identifying individual strengths and developing effectiveness in communicating with others. It also provided information about building credibility and trust while cultivating positive workplace relationships. Participants learning how to direct and motivate teams to achieve operational outcomes, how to monitor performance and respond to changing circumstances.

Study assistance program

We continued to support employees to gain relevant tertiary qualifications to expand individual and organisation capabilities. The program assists employees to pursue studies that are directly related to AFMA's business (including assistance in the form of funding and/or study leave). In 2014–2015,

eight employees were granted assistance for studies in various areas including Environmental Science, Project Management, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Applied Science (Fisheries Management), Policing (Investigations), Commerce, Research and Analytical Skills and Bookkeeping qualifications.

Purchasing and asset management

Purchasing

During 2014–15 purchasing activities have been undertaken across each branch in accordance with the Accountable Authority Instructions and related Procurement Rules.

The Procurement Rules specify two thresholds amounts:

- Major procurements with a threshold of \$80 000 in value must be undertaken through a request for tender unless there is a specific exemption.
- Procurements under \$80 000 must be undertaken in accordance with the minimum quotation and documentation rules set out within the Accountable Authority Instructions and Procurement Rules as they apply to the value and risk of a proposed procurement.

In some cases, major procurements were undertaken using coordinated procurement arrangements established by other Commonwealth agencies.

Asset management

During 2014–15 AFMA managed its assets in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, the Accountable Authority Instructions and the Australian Accounting Standards.

Departmental assets total \$23.418 million and this includes, cash, receivables, land, buildings, property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other assets. Administered assets total \$0.278 million and this includes cash and receivables.

AFMA maintains an asset register in its financial management system for non-financial assets, including land, buildings, property, plant and equipment, intangibles, with a value greater than \$2000. Revaluation of all AFMA asset classes are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets does not differ materially from the assets' fair values. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for managing and coordinating AFMA's revaluation program.

Contracts

During 2014–15, AFMA entered into contracts with a range of suppliers for the provision of goods and services. AFMA maintains a contracts register within its financial management system for all contracts entered into that are above \$10 000 in value. For procurement reporting AFMA:

- publishes all contracts over \$10 000 on the AusTender website
- publishes a list of all contracts that exceed \$100 000 on the on AFMA's internet site twice a year.

During 2014–15, AFMA entered into 50 consultancy contracts with an aggregate value of \$6.772 million. This reflected that specialised or professional skills were either not present or available internally or there was a need for an independent third party. Further information on AFMA's consultancy contracts is on the AusTender website tenders.gov.au

Advertising and market research

During 2014–15 AFMA spent \$2900 on advertising. This expenditure primarily related to fishery gazettal notices and community notices in the Torres Strait.

Discretionary grants

AFMA does not administer any discretionary grants.





Part 5

Financial statements

Financial statements



AFMA

Part 5

AFMA was
established
in 1992

AFMA is bound by the

- *Fisheries Management Act 1991*
- *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*
 - *PGPA Act 2013*

In 2014–15 AFMA managed

15  Active Commonwealth fisheries

621  Concession owners

307  Boats

We manage and monitor commercial Commonwealth fishing to ensure Australian fish stocks and our fishing industry are viable now and in the future. By doing so, we are aiming to make sure that healthy and fresh local seafood is available and affordable to all Australians for current and future generations.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Agriculture

Report on the Annual Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying annual financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority for the year ended 30 June 2015, which comprise:

- Statement by the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Schedule of Commitments;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement;
- Schedule of Administered Commitments; and
- Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Chief Executive of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the rules made under that Act. The Chief Executive is also responsible for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Accountable Authority of the entity, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

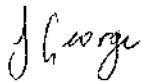
In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Jodi George
Senior Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

9 September 2015

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

STATEMENT BY OFFICERS

for the period ended 30 June 2015

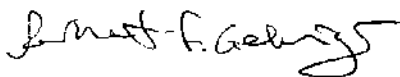
STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsections 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that AFMA will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Dr James Findlay
Chief Executive Officer
9 September 2015



Robert Gehrig
Chief Finance Officer
9 September 2015

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	3A	21,715	21,418
Supplier	3B	15,224	17,606
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	2,568	1,136
Write-down and impairment of assets	3D	456	16
Net losses from the sale of assets	3E	-	9
Total expenses		<u>39,963</u>	<u>40,185</u>
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	1,872	1,884
Rental income	4B	693	777
Total own-source revenue		<u>2,565</u>	<u>2,661</u>
Gains			
Other gains	4C	43	41
Total gains		<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>
Total own-source income		<u>2,608</u>	<u>2,702</u>
Net cost of services		<u>(37,355)</u>	<u>(37,483)</u>
Revenue from Government	4D	33,924	34,794
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		<u>(3,431)</u>	<u>(2,689)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(18)	99
Total other comprehensive income		<u>(18)</u>	<u>99</u>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government		<u>(3,449)</u>	<u>(2,590)</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	1,027	475
Trade and other receivables	6B	14,635	16,163
Total financial assets		<u>15,662</u>	<u>16,638</u>
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	7A,C	4,458	5,884
Property, plant and equipment	7B,C	1,085	1,199
Intangibles	7D	1,755	2,347
Other non-financial assets	7F	458	495
Total non-financial assets		<u>7,756</u>	<u>9,925</u>
Total assets		<u>23,418</u>	<u>26,563</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	1	-
Other payables	8B	6,308	7,088
Total payables		<u>6,309</u>	<u>7,088</u>
Provisions			
Employee provisions	9A	5,115	4,502
Total provisions		<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,502</u>
Total liabilities		<u>11,424</u>	<u>11,590</u>
Net assets		<u>11,994</u>	<u>14,973</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		10,652	10,182
Reserves		4,624	4,642
Retained surplus/(Accumulated deficit)		(3,282)	149
Total equity		<u>11,994</u>	<u>14,973</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation surplus		Contributed equity/capital		Total equity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	149	2,838	4,642	4,543	10,182	10,028	14,973	17,409
Balance carried forward from previous period	149	2,838	4,642	4,543	10,182	10,028	14,973	17,409
Adjusted opening balance								
Comprehensive income								
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(3,431)	(2,689)	(18)	99	-	-	(3,431)	(2,689)
Other comprehensive income							(18)	99
Total comprehensive income	(3,431)	(2,689)	(18)	99	-	-	(3,449)	(2,590)
Transactions with owners								
Departmental capital budget	-	-	-	-	470	154	470	154
Total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	470	154	470	154
Closing balance attributable to Australian Government	(3,282)	149	4,624	4,642	10,652	10,182	11,994	14,973

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations		35,870	35,956
Sales of goods and rendering of services		3,308	2,290
Net GST received		217	-
Total cash received		<u>39,395</u>	<u>38,246</u>
Cash used			
Employees		20,962	21,088
Suppliers		17,440	15,513
Net GST paid		-	193
Total cash used		<u>38,402</u>	<u>36,794</u>
Net cash from operating activities	10	<u>993</u>	<u>1,452</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		-	6
Total cash received		<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		911	1,493
Total cash used		<u>911</u>	<u>1,493</u>
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>(911)</u>	<u>(1,487)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity - departmental capital budget		470	154
Total cash received		<u>470</u>	<u>154</u>
Net cash from financing activities		<u>470</u>	<u>154</u>
Net increase in cash held		<u>552</u>	<u>119</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>475</u>	<u>356</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6A	<u>1,027</u>	<u>475</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
Sublease rental income ¹	1,655	1,639
Net GST recoverable on commitments	1,458	2,300
Total commitments receivable	<u>3,113</u>	<u>3,939</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
Land and buildings	-	292
Property, plant and equipment	-	186
Intangibles	-	425
Total capital commitments	<u>-</u>	<u>903</u>
Other commitments		
Operating leases ²	7,422	11,436
Research and development	2,169	6,420
Contractors	6,150	6,141
Other ³	300	3,108
Total other commitments	<u>16,041</u>	<u>27,105</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>16,041</u>	<u>28,008</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>12,928</u>	<u>24,069</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Operating lease income		
One year or less	453	438
From one to five years	1,202	1,201
Total operating lease income	<u>1,655</u>	<u>1,639</u>
Net GST recoverable on commitments		
One year or less	673	520
From one to five years	785	1,681
Over five years	-	99
Total net GST recoverable on commitments	<u>1,458</u>	<u>2,300</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>3,113</u>	<u>3,939</u>
Commitments payable		
Capital commitments		
One year or less	-	903
Total capital commitments	<u>-</u>	<u>903</u>
Operating lease commitments		
One year or less	2,108	1,939
From one to five years	5,314	8,405
Over five years	-	1,092
Total operating lease commitments	<u>7,422</u>	<u>11,436</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Research and development, contractors and other commitments		
One year or less	5,293	4,265
From one to five years	3,326	11,404
Total research and development, contractors and other commitments	<u>8,619</u>	<u>15,669</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>16,041</u>	<u>28,008</u>
Net commitments by maturity	<u>12,928</u>	<u>24,069</u>

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

¹ AFMA in its capacity as a lessor sub-leases office accommodation on Thursday Island and in Canberra.

² AFMA in its capacity as a lessee leases office accommodation in Canberra (11 years) and Darwin (4 years).

Lease payments are subject to fixed annual increases. The initial lease term in Canberra is still current and the Darwin lease was renewed for five years. Canberra may be renewed for up to three years.

³ The nature of other commitments is for the purchase of general ongoing goods and services.

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Suppliers	15A	1,835	3,274
Depreciation and amortisation	15B	34	37
Write-down and impairment of assets	15C	421	25
Total expenses		2,290	3,336
Income			
Revenue			
Taxation revenue			
Fees and charges	16A	-	12
Total taxation revenue		-	12
Non-taxation revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	16B	-	28
Fees and fines	16C	77	247
Interest	16D	-	2
Other revenue	16E	81	230
Total non-taxation revenue		158	507
Total revenue		158	519
Net cost of services		2,132	2,817
Deficit		(2,132)	(2,817)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(138)	-
Total comprehensive loss		(2,270)	(2,817)

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	17A	14	17
Trade and other receivables	17B	264	256
Total financial assets		<u>278</u>	<u>273</u>
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	18A	-	593
Total non-financial assets		<u>-</u>	<u>593</u>
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		<u>278</u>	<u>866</u>
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Other	19A	138	487
Total payables		<u>138</u>	<u>487</u>
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		<u>138</u>	<u>487</u>
Net assets		<u>140</u>	<u>380</u>

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTERED RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	380	698
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		
Income	158	519
Expenses	(2,290)	(3,336)
Other comprehensive income:		
Revaluations taken to/from reserves	(138)	-
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government:		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Annual appropriations	2,134	2,919
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to OPA	(104)	(420)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	<u>140</u>	<u>380</u>

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
ADMINISTERED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Levies and charges		-	40
Interest		-	2
Fees		81	176
Fines		7	220
Net GST received		226	142
Total cash received		<u>314</u>	<u>580</u>
Cash used			
Suppliers		2,347	3,064
Total cash used		<u>2,347</u>	<u>3,064</u>
Net cash flows used by operating activities	20	<u>(2,033)</u>	<u>(2,484)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			
		17	2
Cash from Official Public Account			
Appropriations		2,134	2,919
		<u>2,134</u>	<u>2,919</u>
Cash to Official Public Account for:			
Appropriations		(104)	(420)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	17A	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.			

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED COMMITMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	18	6
Total commitments receivable	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>
Other commitments		
Other Commitments ¹	202	71
Total other commitments	<u>202</u>	<u>71</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>202</u>	<u>71</u>
Net commitments by type	<u>184</u>	<u>65</u>
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments		
One year or less	9	6
From one to five years	9	-
Total net GST recoverable on commitments	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>
Total commitments receivable	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>
Commitments payable		
Other commitments		
One year or less	101	71
From one to five years	101	-
Total other commitments	<u>202</u>	<u>71</u>
Total commitments payable	<u>202</u>	<u>71</u>
Net commitments by maturity	<u>184</u>	<u>65</u>

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

¹ The nature of other commitments mainly relates to services provided by the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS).

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

- Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period
- Note 3: Expenses
- Note 4: Income
- Note 5: Fair Value Measurements
- Note 6: Financial Assets
- Note 7: Non-Financial Assets
- Note 8: Payables
- Note 9: Provisions
- Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation
- Note 11: Contingent Liabilities and Assets
- Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration
- Note 13: Financial Instruments
- Note 14: Financial Assets Reconciliation
- Note 15: Administered - Expenses
- Note 16: Administered - Income
- Note 17: Administered - Financial Assets
- Note 18: Administered - Non-Financial Assets
- Note 19: Administered - Payables
- Note 20: Administered - Cash Flow Reconciliation
- Note 21: Administered - Contingent Assets and Liabilities
- Note 22: Administered - Financial Instruments
- Note 23: Administered - Financial Assets Reconciliation
- Note 24: Appropriations
- Note 25: Special Accounts
- Note 26: Assets Held in Trust
- Note 27: Reporting of Outcomes
- Note 28: Cost Recovery Summary
- Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances
- Note 30: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objective of AFMA

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not for profit entity. The objectives of AFMA is to pursue the implementation of efficient and cost effective fisheries management consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and maximising the net economic returns for the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries for which the Commonwealth has legislative responsibilities.

AFMA has a single outcome: Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing.

The continued existence of AFMA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for AFMA's administration and programs.

The activities contributing toward this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by AFMA in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by AFMA, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

Administered activities for the agency involve the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) Financial Reporting Rule (FRR) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2014; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR, assets and liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to AFMA or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrealised are reported in the schedule of commitments or contingencies note.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

For the preparation of the 2014–15 financial statements, accounting policies are consistent with the previous year unless otherwise stated.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made the following judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- the fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer. In some instances, entity buildings are purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.
- the liability for long service leave has been estimated using present value techniques in accordance with the shorthand method as per FRR 24.1(a). This takes into account expected salary growth, attrition and future discounting using Commonwealth bond rates.

No accounting assumptions and estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

The following new accounting standards were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the accountable authority and chief financial officer, were applicable to the current reporting period and had a material effect on the entity's financial statements:

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement	The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) has recently approved amendments to Australian Accounting Standards that allow most Commonwealth entities to simplify disclosures about current values of assets in their financial statements. The amendments apply from 1 July 2016, however, entities are allowed to adopt the amendments as part of their 2014-15 financial statements, should they wish to do so, consistent with section 19 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting Rule) 2015. AFMA has accepted early adoption of the fair value changes.
AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting	AASB 1055 requires disclosure of major variances to be explained, for both departmental and administered line items in the primary statements

All other new standards, revised standards, interpretations or amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material effect, and are not expected to have a future material effect, on AFMA's financial statements.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) AFMA retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to AFMA.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to AFMA.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when AFMA gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as Revenue from Government by the corporate Commonwealth entity unless the funding is in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements (Refer to Note 1.7).

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.7 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity Injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Restructuring of Administrative Arrangements

Net assets received from or relinquished to another Government entity under a restructuring of administrative arrangements are adjusted at their book value directly against contributed equity.

Other Distributions to Owners

The FRR requires that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless it is in the nature of a dividend.

1.8 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits wholly settled within twelve months of end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of AFMA is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including AFMA's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The entity recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Staff of AFMA are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

AFMA makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The entity accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions as at year end.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.9 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Where an asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at either the fair value of the lease property or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease payments at the inception of the contract and a liability is recognised at the same time and for the same amount.

The discount rate used is the interest rate implicit in the lease. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.10 Fair Value Measurement

AFMA deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at the end of the reporting period. No transfers between levels occurred during 2014-15.

1.11 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes:

- a) cash on hand;
- b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value;
- c) cash held by outsiders; and
- d) cash in special accounts.

1.12 Financial Assets

AFMA classifies its financial assets as receivables:

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'receivables'. Receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the period ended 30 June 2015

flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial assets held at cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.13 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Other Financial Liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.14 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.15 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.16 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions. AFMA does not have any material make good requirements.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment were carried at fair value. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date was eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset was restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the entity using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2015	2014
Buildings on freehold land	40 to 45 years	40 to 45 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and Equipment	4 to 13 years	4 to 13 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2015. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if AFMA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.17 Intangibles

AFMA's intangibles comprise purchased and internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of AFMA's software assets are 3 to 10 years (2014: 3 to 10 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2015.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

1.18 Taxation

AFMA is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets and liabilities are recognised net of GST except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- b) for receivables and payables.

1.19 Williams Case

The Australian Government continues to have regard to developments in case law, including the High Court's most recent decision on Commonwealth expenditure in *Williams v Commonwealth* [2014] HCA 23, as they contribute to the larger body of law relevant to the development of Commonwealth programs. In accordance with its general practice, the Government will continue to monitor and assess risk and decide on any appropriate actions to respond to risks of expenditure not being consistent with constitutional or other legal requirements.

1.20 Prior Period Adjustments

In 2014-15, a calculation error was identified in the 2013-14 financial statements relating to AFMA's long service leave liability. As the impact of this calculation error was material AFMA have restated the comparatives for the Statement of Financial Position in 2014-15 in accordance with AASB 108 para 42(a).

The effects of the restatement are disclosed below:

Financial statements line item	Note reference	2013-14 published financial statements \$'000	Increase / (decrease) \$'000	2013-14 restated comparatives \$'000
Leave and other entitlements	3A	2,764	(960)	1,804
Employee Provisions	9A	5,462	(960)	4,502
Retained surplus / (deficit)	Equity	(811)	960	149

1.21 Reporting of Administered Activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the schedules of administered items and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated below, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by AFMA for use by the Government rather than AFMA is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by AFMA on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the statement of cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

Revenue

All administered revenue to the course of ordinary activities performed by AFMA on behalf of the Australian Government. As such, administered appropriations are not revenues of AFMA, but oversee the distribution of expenditure of the funds as directed.

Note 2: Events After the Reporting Period

There have been no significant subsequent events after the reporting period that impact on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 3: Expenses

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 3A: Employee Benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	16,550	16,544
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,660	1,884
Defined benefit plans	1,352	1,186
Leave and other entitlements	2,153	1,804
Total employee benefits	<u>21,715</u>	<u>21,418</u>
<u>Note 3B: Suppliers</u>		
Goods and services		
Research	3,622	3,189
Surveillance and compliance	729	558
Consultants and contractors	3,192	5,688
Travel and meetings	1,950	1,973
Information technology and communications	1,045	1,351
Training and development	322	480
Building repairs and outgoings	427	552
General administrative	1,127	1,111
Total goods and services	<u>12,414</u>	<u>14,902</u>
Goods and services are made up of:		
Related parties	4,526	4,102
External parties	7,888	10,800
Total goods and services	<u>12,414</u>	<u>14,902</u>
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals in connection with		
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	2,228	2,165
Workers compensation expenses	582	539
Total other suppliers	<u>2,810</u>	<u>2,704</u>
Total suppliers	<u>15,224</u>	<u>17,606</u>
<u>Note 3C: Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment	418	314
Buildings	1,426	340
Total depreciation	<u>1,844</u>	<u>654</u>
Amortisation:		
Computer software purchased	332	79
Computer software internally developed	392	403
Total amortisation	<u>724</u>	<u>482</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>2,568</u>	<u>1,136</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 3: Expenses (Continued)

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 3D: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets</u>		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Bad and doubtful debt expense	-	11
Write-down of property, plant and equipment	456	5
Total write-down and impairment of assets	<u>456</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Note 3E: Losses from Sale of Assets</u>		
Property, plant and equipment:		
Carrying value of assets sold	-	15
Proceeds from sale	-	(6)
Net loss from sale of assets	<u>-</u>	<u>9</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 4: Income

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Own-Source Revenue	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services</u>		
Sale of goods and rendering of services in connection with		
Related parties	277	284
External parties	1,595	1,600
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,884</u>
<u>Note 4B: Rental Income</u>		
Operating lease:		
Sublease - Canberra office	471	486
Sublease - Thursday Island office	124	199
Employee car parking	98	92
Total rental income	<u>693</u>	<u>777</u>
Gains		
<u>Note 4C: Other Gains</u>		
Resources received free of charge	43	41
Total other gains	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>Note 4D: Revenue from Government</u>		
Appropriations:		
Departmental appropriation	20,725	23,065
Special Appropriation (Levies and licensing charges) ¹	13,199	11,729
Total revenue from Government	<u>33,924</u>	<u>34,794</u>

¹ Special appropriations comprise amounts deposited to Consolidated Revenue for AFMA's levies and licensing charges that were credited to the AFMA Special Account in accordance with s94C of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 5: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value. The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below.

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
 Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
 Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Note 5A: Fair Value Measurements, Valuation Techniques and Inputs Used

	Fair value measurements		For Levels 2 and 3 fair value	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	Category (Level 1, 2 or 3)	Valuation technique(s)
Non-financial assets ¹				
Land	1,075	1,075	Level 2	Market
Buildings	916	1,237	Level 2	Market
Leasehold improvements	2,467	3,572	Level 3	Cost
Property, plant and equipment	1,085	1,199	Level 3	Cost
Total non-financial assets	5,543	7,083		

1. The highest and best use of all non-financial assets are the same as their current use. No change in valuation technique occurred during the period.
 2. Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes
 AFMA used values and relies on valuation models provided. AFMA tests the assumptions of the valuation model.
 A reconciliation of movements in non-financial assets has been included in Note 7.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 6: Financial Assets

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 6A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>		
Cash on hand or on deposit	1,027	475
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>1,027</u>	<u>475</u>
<u>Note 6B: Trade and Other Receivables</u>		
Good and services receivables in connection with		
Related entities	1,025	210
External parties	422	602
Total goods and services receivables	<u>1,447</u>	<u>812</u>
Appropriations receivables		
Existing programs - AFMA Special Account	12,835	14,781
Total appropriations receivables	<u>12,835</u>	<u>14,781</u>
Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	364	581
Total other receivables	<u>364</u>	<u>581</u>
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	<u>14,646</u>	<u>16,174</u>
Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	(11)	(11)
Total impairment allowance	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>14,635</u>	<u>16,163</u>
Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered		
No more than 12 months	1,800	1,382
More than 12 months	12,835	14,781
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>14,635</u>	<u>16,163</u>
Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows		
Not overdue	13,199	15,439
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	810	351
31 to 60 days	358	105
61 to 90 days	-	70
More than 90 days	279	209
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	<u>14,646</u>	<u>16,174</u>
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(11)	(11)
Total impairment allowance	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(11)</u>

Credit terms for Goods and Services were within 30 days for 2015 (2014: 30 days)

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 6: Financial Assets (Continued)

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance:	2015	2014
	Goods and services	Goods and services
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	11	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	11
Closing balance	11	11

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 7A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Land		
Fair value	1,075	1,075
Total land	1,075	1,075
Buildings on freehold land:		
Fair value	974	1,266
Accumulated depreciation	(58)	(29)
Total buildings on freehold land	916	1,237
Leasehold improvements:		
Fair value	4,175	3,883
Accumulated depreciation	(1,708)	(311)
Total leasehold improvements	2,467	3,572
Total land and buildings	4,458	5,884

Land and buildings may only be sold with the approval of the Minister for Agriculture.

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings.

No land or buildings are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 7B: Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment:		
Fair value	1,817	1,513
Accumulated depreciation	(732)	(314)
Total property, plant and equipment	1,085	1,199

No indicators of impairment were found for Property, Plant and Equipment

No Property, Plant and Equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (Continued)

Note 7C: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2015

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Improvements \$'000	Total land and buildings \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2014						
Gross book value	1,075	1,266	3,883	6,224	1,513	7,737
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(29)	(311)	(340)	(314)	(654)
Net book value 1 July 2014	1,075	1,237	3,572	5,884	1,199	7,083
Additions:						
By purchase	-	-	-	-	778	778
Reclassification of assets	-	(292)	292	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(18)	(18)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-	-	(44)	(44)
Depreciation expense	-	(29)	(1,397)	(1,426)	(418)	(1,844)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(412)	(412)
Net book value 30 June 2015	1,075	916	2,467	4,458	1,085	5,543
Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:						
Gross book value	1,075	974	4,175	6,224	1,817	8,041
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(58)	(1,708)	(1,766)	(732)	(2,498)
Total as at 30 June 2015	1,075	916	2,467	4,458	1,085	5,543

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (Continued)

Note 7C (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment 2014

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total land and buildings \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013						
Gross book value	1,220	906	3,717	5,843	1,129	6,972
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	(22)	(22)
Net book value 1 July 2013	1,220	906	3,717	5,843	1,107	6,950
Additions:						
By purchase	-	322	58	380	328	708
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(145)	38	108	1	98	99
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-	-	(5)	(5)
Depreciation expense	-	(29)	(311)	(340)	(314)	(654)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(15)	(15)
Net book value 30 June 2014	1,075	1,237	3,572	5,884	1,199	7,083
Net book value as of 30 June 2014 represented by:						
Gross book value	1,075	1,266	3,883	6,224	1,513	7,737
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(29)	(311)	(340)	(314)	(654)
Total as at 30 June 2014	1,075	1,237	3,572	5,884	1,199	7,083

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (Continued)

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 7D: Intangibles</u>		
Computer software:		
Internally developed - in use	4,331	4,756
Internally developed - accumulated amortisation	(3,195)	(2,803)
Purchased	1,648	1,093
Purchased - accumulated amortisation	(1,029)	(699)
Total computer software	<u>1,755</u>	<u>2,347</u>

No indicators of impairment were found for intangible assets.

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 7E: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2015

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2014			
Gross book value	4,756	1,093	5,849
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(2,803)	(699)	(3,502)
Net book value 1 July 2014	<u>1,953</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>2,347</u>
Additions:			
By purchase or internally developed	-	133	133
Amortisation	(392)	(332)	(724)
Other movements	(425)	425	-
Disposals:			
Disposals	-	(3)	(3)
Accumulated amortisation of disposed assets	-	2	2
Total as at 30 June 2015	<u>1,136</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>1,755</u>
Total as at 30 June 2015 represented by:			
Gross book value	4,331	1,648	5,979
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(3,195)	(1,029)	(4,224)
Total as at 30 June 2015	<u>1,136</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>1,755</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 7: Non-Financial Assets (Continued)

Note 7E (Cont'd): Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Intangibles 2014

	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013			
Gross book value	4,330	734	5,064
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(2,400)	(620)	(3,020)
Total as at 1 July 2013	1,930	114	2,044
Additions:			
By purchase or internally developed	426	359	785
Amortisation	(403)	(79)	(482)
Total as at 30 June 2014	1,953	394	2,347
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by:			
Gross book value	4,756	1,093	5,849
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	(2,803)	(699)	(3,502)
Total as at 30 June 2014	1,953	394	2,347

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Note 7F: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	285	151
Accrued revenue	173	344
Total other non-financial assets	458	495

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

All other non-financial assets are expected to be recovered within the next 12 months.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 8: Payables

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 8A: Suppliers</u>		
Trade creditors and accruals	1	-
Total supplier payables	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:		
External parties	1	-
Total Supplier Payables	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Settlement is usually made within 30 days.		

Note 8B: Other Payables

Accrued expenses	2,926	4,949
Lease incentives	73	94
Operating lease rentals	784	867
Wages and salaries	784	644
Unearned revenue	1,741	534
Total other payables	<u>6,308</u>	<u>7,088</u>
Total other payables are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	5,472	6,148
More than 12 months	836	940
Total other payables	<u>6,308</u>	<u>7,088</u>

Note 9: Provisions

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 9A: Employee Provisions</u>		
Leave	5,115	4,502
Total employee provisions	<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,502</u>
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	1,576	1,130
More than 12 months	3,539	3,372
Total employee provisions	<u>5,115</u>	<u>4,502</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 10: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per		
Cash flow statement	1,027	475
Statement of financial position	<u>1,027</u>	<u>475</u>
Discrepancy	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(37,355)	(37,483)
Revenue from Government	33,924	34,794
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	2,568	1,136
Net write down of non-financial assets	456	5
Loss on disposal of assets	-	9
Movements in assets / liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	1,699	640
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	(134)	71
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue	1,207	(31)
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	613	260
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(2,021)	2,041
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	<u>36</u>	<u>10</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>993</u>	<u>1,452</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 11: Contingent Liabilities and Assets

Quantifiable Contingencies

AFMA has no quantifiable contingent liabilities and assets.

Unquantifiable Contingencies

AFMA as a Commonwealth regulator engages in compliance and fisheries management activities. These activities expose AFMA to significant potential security, environmental and other risks that cannot be quantified.

Note 12: Senior Executive Remuneration

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits:		
Salary	1,025,561	970,460
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>1,025,561</u>	<u>970,460</u>
Post-employment benefits:		
Superannuation	164,335	179,265
Total post-employment benefits	<u>164,335</u>	<u>179,265</u>
Other long-term benefits:		
Annual leave accrued	64,138	61,962
Long-service leave	28,862	27,883
Total other long-term benefits	<u>93,000</u>	<u>89,845</u>
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	<u>1,282,896</u>	<u>1,239,570</u>

The total number of senior management personnel that are included in the above table are 4 (2014: 4).

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 13: Financial Instruments

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Note 13A: Categories of Financial Instruments</u>		
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,027	475
Receivables for goods and services	1,436	801
Total financial assets	<u>2,463</u>	<u>1,276</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	1	-
Total financial liabilities	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 13B: Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair value of financial instruments approximates their carrying amounts.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 13: Financial Instruments (Continued)

Note 13C: Credit Risk

AFMA is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of financial assets are cash and appropriations made under law (which guarantees fixed amounts of funding that AFMA can drawdown on as required). The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables in 2015 of \$1,447,000 (2014: \$812,000). AFMA has assessed the risk of default as \$11,000 in 2015 and \$11,000 in 2014.

AFMA manages its credit risk through policies and procedures that guide employees on the debt recovery techniques that are to be applied.

AFMA holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not past due nor impaired 2015 \$'000	Not past due nor impaired 2014 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2015 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2014 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,027	475	-	-
Receivables for goods and services ¹	810	337	637	384
Total	1,837	812	637	384

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2015

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for goods and services ¹	810	358	-	268	1,436
Total	810	358	-	268	1,436

¹Difference between financial instruments balance of \$1,447,000 and ageing of financial instruments balance of \$1,436,000 relates an impairment allowance of \$11,000

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for goods and services	351	105	70	209	735
Total	351	105	70	209	735

The debts considered to be impaired consist of fee for service invoices for observer coverage.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 13: Financial Instruments (Continued)

Note 13D: Liquidity Risk

AFMA's financial liabilities are trade creditors. The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that AFMA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to AFMA (eg Advance to the Finance Minister) and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations. AFMA's trade creditors for 2015 was \$868 (2014: Zero) and were all payable within one year.

AFMA is appropriated funding from the Australian Government. AFMA manages its budgeted funds through the AFMA Special Account to ensure it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. In addition, AFMA has policies in place to ensure timely payments are made when due and has no past experience of default.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2015

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	Total years \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	1	-	-	1
Total	-	1	-	-	1

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities 2014

	On demand \$'000	within 1 year \$'000	1 to 2 years \$'000	2 to 5 years \$'000	Total years \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

AFMA has no derivative financial liabilities in both the current and prior year.

Note 13E: Market Risk

AFMA does not have the authority to invest surplus funds or hold financial instruments that expose it to market risk. AFMA is not exposed to 'currency risk', 'interest rate risk' or 'other price risk'.

Note 14: Financial Assets Reconciliation

		2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<u>Financial assets</u>	Notes		
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position		15,662	16,638
Less: non-financial instrument components			
Appropriations receivable	6B	12,835	14,781
GST Receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	6B	364	581
Total non-financial instrument components		13,199	15,362
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note		2,463	1,276

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 15: Administered - Expenses

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
EXPENSES		
<u>Note 15A: Suppliers</u>		
Goods and services		
Surveillance and compliance	1,835	3,259
Total goods and services	<u>1,835</u>	<u>3,259</u>
Goods and services are made up of:		
Related parties	30	7
External parties	1,805	3,252
Total goods and services	<u>1,835</u>	<u>3,259</u>
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals in connection with		
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	-	15
Total other supplier	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>
Total suppliers	<u>1,835</u>	<u>3,274</u>
<u>Note 15B: Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation:		
Buildings	34	37
Total depreciation	<u>34</u>	<u>37</u>
<u>Note 15C: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets</u>		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Write-down of leasehold improvements	421	25
Total write-down and impairment of assets	<u>421</u>	<u>25</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 16: Administered - Income

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
REVENUE		
<u>Note 16A: Other Taxes</u>		
Fees and charges	-	12
Total other taxes	-	12
Non-Taxation Revenue		
<u>Note 16B: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services</u>		
Sale of goods in connection with		
External parties	-	28
Total sale of goods and rendering services	-	28
<u>Note 16C: Fees and Fines</u>		
Fines	77	247
Total fees and fines	77	247
<u>Note 16D: Interest</u>		
Interest on overdue levies	-	2
Total interest	-	2
<u>Note 16E: Other Revenue</u>		
Other	81	230
Total other revenue	81	230

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 17: Administered – Financial Assets

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
<u>Note 17A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>		
Cash on hand or on deposit	14	17
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Note 17B: Trade and Other Receivables</u>		
Fees and charges		
Fees and charges receivable - external parties	677	607
Total receivables fees and charges	<u>677</u>	<u>607</u>
Other receivables		
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	17	67
Total other receivables	<u>17</u>	<u>67</u>
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	<u>694</u>	<u>674</u>
Less impairment allowance		
Fees and charges	(430)	(418)
Total impairment allowance account	<u>(430)</u>	<u>(418)</u>
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>264</u>	<u>256</u>
Receivables are expected to be recovered within 12 months.		
Receivables were aged as follows		
Not overdue	5	30
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	15	133
31 to 60 days	5	36
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	669	475
Total receivables (gross)	<u>694</u>	<u>674</u>
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(430)	(418)
Total impairment allowance	<u>(430)</u>	<u>(418)</u>
Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2014: 30 days).		

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 17: Administered - Financial Assets (Continued)

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance	2015	2014
	Fees and charges \$'000	Fees and charges \$'000
Opening balance	(418)	(548)
Amounts written off	409	155
Movement recognised in net surplus	(421)	(25)
Closing balance	(430)	(418)

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 18: Administered - Non-Financial Assets

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
<u>Note 18A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Leasehold improvements		
Fair value	-	630
Accumulated depreciation	-	(37)
Total leasehold improvements	-	593
Total land and buildings	-	593
Leasehold improvement assets ceased operations in 2014-15 and were assessed as impaired.		
<u>Note 18B: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Leasehold improvements</u>		
Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements for 2015		
	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2014		
Gross book value	630	630
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(37)	(37)
Total as at 1 July 2014	593	593
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income		
Depreciation	(138)	(138)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(34)	(34)
Total as at 30 June 2015	(421)	(421)
Total as at 30 June 2015		
	-	-
Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of leasehold improvements for 2014		
	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013		
Gross book value	630	630
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	-
Total as at 1 July 2013	630	630
Depreciation	(37)	(37)
Total as at 30 June 2014	593	593
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by		
Gross book value	630	630
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(37)	(37)
Total as at 30 June 2014	593	593

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 19: Administered - Payables

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 19A: Other Payables</u>		
Accrued expenses	132	462
GST payable	6	25
Total other payables	<u>138</u>	<u>487</u>
Other payables are expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	138	487
Total other payables	<u>138</u>	<u>487</u>

Note 20: Administered - Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities to Administered Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Schedule of administered cash flows	14	17
Schedule of administered assets and liabilities	14	17
Discrepancy	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from / (used by) operating activities:		
Net (cost of) / contribution by services	(2,132)	(2,817)
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation / amortisation	34	37
Net write down of non-financial assets	421	25
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(8)	(61)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	(348)	332
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>(2,033)</u>	<u>(2,484)</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 21: Administered - Contingent Assets and Liabilities

Quantifiable Administered Contingencies

	Claims for damages or costs		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent assets				
Balance from previous period	-	987	-	987
Re-measured	-	(987)	-	(987)
Total contingent assets	-	-	-	-

AFMA has no quantifiable contingent liabilities and assets.

Unquantifiable Contingencies

AFMA is responsible for the caretaking and disposal of apprehended foreign fishing vessels on behalf of the Commonwealth. These activities expose AFMA to significant potential security, environmental and other risks that cannot be quantified. AFMA is presently involved in several legal actions that may result in a liability for the agency. The total liability to AFMA is not presently quantifiable.

Significant Remote Contingencies

There were no significant remote contingencies as at 30 June 2015.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 22: Administered - Financial Instruments

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 22A: Categories of Financial Instruments</u>		
Financial Assets		
Receivables:		
Cash and cash equivalents	14	17
Receivables for fees and charges	247	189
Carrying amount of financial assets	261	206

Note 22B: Credit Risk

The administered activities of AFMA are not exposed to a high level of credit risk as the majority of financial assets are statutory receivables. AFMA manages its credit risk through its power to suspend fishing concessions under s38(1) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* if any fee, levy, charge or other money relating to the concession is not paid as it becomes due. In addition, AFMA has policies and procedures that guide employees on debt recovery techniques that are to be applied.

AFMA did not hold any non-statutory administered receivables at 30 June 2015.

Note 22C: Liquidity Risk

AFMA's financial liabilities are limited to the value of accounts payable. The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that AFMA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to AFMA (eg Advance to the Finance Minister (AFM)) and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

Maturity of non-derivative financial liabilities for 2015 are all within one year.

Note 22D: Market Risk

AFMA does not have the authority to invest surplus funds or hold financial instruments that expose it to market risk. AFMA is not exposed to 'currency risk', 'interest rate risk' or 'other price risk'.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 23: Administered - Financial Assets Reconciliation

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Notes		
Total financial assets as per schedule of administered assets and liabilities	278	273
Less: non-financial instrument components		
GST Receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	17B 17	67
Total non-financial instrument components	17	67
Total financial assets as per administered financial instruments note	261	206

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 24: Appropriations

Table A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	Appropriation Act		PGPA Act		Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2015 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ¹ \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	AFM \$'000	Section 74 \$'000	Section 75 \$'000			
Departmental							
Ordinary annual services	21,199	-	-	-	21,199	21,195	4
Total departmental	21,199	-	-	-	21,199	21,195	4
Administered							
Ordinary annual services							
Administered items	5,309	-	-	-	5,309	1,715	3,594
Total administered	5,309	-	-	-	5,309	1,715	3,594

Notes:

- The variance of \$4,000 relates to an amount that has been temporarily quarantined by the Department of Finance. Whilst AFMA maintains control of these funds, AFMA does not have the ability to spend the funds. For Administered funds \$3,593,983 remained as unspent and returned to consolidated revenue.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 24: Appropriations (Continued)

Annual Appropriations for 2014	Appropriation Act		FMA Act		Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2014 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ² \$'000
	Annual Appropriation ¹ \$'000	AFM \$'000	Section 74 \$'000	Section 75 \$'000			
Departmental							
Ordinary annual services	23,246	-	-	-	23,246	23,219	27
Total departmental	23,246	-	-	-	23,246	23,219	27
Administered							
Ordinary annual services							
Administered items	4,075	-	-	-	4,075	3,342	733
Total administered	4,075	-	-	-	4,075	3,342	733

Notes:

1. AFMA incurred a whole of government efficiency dividend, which had the effect of reducing the available Departmental appropriation by \$27,000.
2. For Administered funds, \$732,874.76 was remaining as unspent and returned to consolidated revenue.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 24: Appropriations (Continued)

Table B: Departmental Capital Budgets (Recoverable GST exclusive)

		2015 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2015 (current and prior years)		
		<i>PGPA Act</i>	Total Capital Budget Appropriations	Payments for non-financial assets ²	Payments for other purposes	Variance ³
		Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Section 75 Appropriations \$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget ¹	470	-	470	470	-	470

Notes:

1. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No 1.3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchases of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.

		2014 Capital Budget Appropriations		Capital Budget Appropriations applied in 2014 (current and prior years)		
		<i>FMA Act</i>	Total Capital Budget Appropriations	Payments for non-financial assets ²	Payments for other purposes	Variance
		Annual Capital Budget \$'000	Section 75 Appropriations \$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental Ordinary annual services - Departmental Capital Budget ¹	154	-	154	154	-	154

Notes:

1. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No 1.3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. For more information on ordinary annual services appropriations, please see Table A: Annual appropriations.
2. Payments made on non-financial assets include purchases of assets, expenditure on assets which has been capitalised, costs incurred to make good an asset to its original condition, and the capital repayment component of finance leases.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 24: Appropriations (Continued)

Table C: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Departmental		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2014-15	4	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2013-14	-	27
Total departmental	4	27
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2014-15	3,594	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2013-14	-	733
Total administered	3,594	733

Table D: Special Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

Authority	Type	Purpose	Appropriation applied	
			2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991; Section 94C, Departmental</i>	Unlimited Amount	To provide an appropriation for adjusted levy amounts and other receipts specified by s94C of the <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>	13,199	11,729
Total			13,199	11,729

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 25: Special Accounts

	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) ¹		Entities and Trust Monies Special Account (Special Public Money) ²	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	15,256	16,299	135	218
Increase:				
Appropriation for reporting period	21,195	23,219	-	-
Special appropriation (<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1995</i> Section 94C)	15,145	12,891	-	-
Other receipts	3,525	2,296	-	-
Total increases	55,121	54,705	135	218
Decrease:				
Employee payments	(20,962)	(21,088)	-	-
Supplier payments	(19,386)	(16,868)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(911)	(1,493)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	(83)	(83)
Total decreases	(41,259)	(39,449)	(83)	(83)
Total decrease	(41,259)	(39,449)	(83)	(83)
Total balance carried to the next period:	13,862	15,256	52	135

1. Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2001* Section 80.

Establishing Instrument: *Fisheries Administration Act 1995* Section 94B.

Purpose: Payment or discharge of the costs, expenses or other obligations incurred in the performance or exercise of the functions and powers of the Authority.

2. Appropriation: *AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Monies Special Account (Special Public Money)*

Establishing Instrument: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2001* Section 78.

Purpose: For amounts that are held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 26: Assets Held in Trust

Monetary assets

Financial assets held in trust were also disclosed in Note 26: Special Accounts in the table titled AFMA Service for Other Entities and Trust Monies.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank - monetary asset		
As at 1 July	135	218
Receipts	1	-
Payments	(23)	(83)
As at 30 June	<u>113</u>	<u>135</u>

The values above were estimated fair values at the time when acquired.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 27: Reporting of Outcomes

AFMA has a single outcome for the financial year: *Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Common fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing.*

Note 27A: Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental				
Expenses	39,963	41,145	39,963	41,145
Own-source income	(2,608)	(2,702)	(2,608)	(2,702)
Administered				
Expenses	2,290	3,336	2,290	3,336
Own-source income	(158)	(519)	(158)	(519)
Net cost/contribution of outcome delivery	<u>39,487</u>	<u>41,260</u>	<u>39,487</u>	<u>41,260</u>

Note 27B & 27C: Major Classes of Expense, Income, Assets and Liabilities by Outcome

AFMA has a single outcome and as such the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Balance Sheet, Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income and Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities is representative of that outcome.

2. All expenses, income, assets and liabilities were attributable to AFMA's single outcome.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 28: Cost Recovery Summary

Note 28A: Cost Recovery Summary

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	13,552	11,950
Total amounts applied	<u>13,552</u>	<u>11,950</u>
Expenses		
Departmental	13,827	11,472
Total expenses	<u>13,827</u>	<u>11,472</u>
Revenue		
Departmental	13,552	11,950
Total revenue	<u>13,552</u>	<u>11,950</u>
Receivables		
Not overdue		
Overdue by		
0 to 30 days	-	1
31 to 60 days	176	54
61 to 90 days	2	2
More than 90 days	20	10
Total receivables	<u>198</u>	<u>67</u>

Cost recovered activities:

AFMA undertakes cost recovered activities for the provision of Fisheries Management functions within the Commonwealth fisheries sector, including the following activities:

- management of Domestic Commercial Fisheries
- data collection and management
- research – industry funded
- licensing/Registration and Revenue Collection

AFMA's Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) describes how AFMA will charge fishing concession holders for the management of Commonwealth fisheries. The AFMA CRIS 2010 can be found at www.afma.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances

The following tables provide a comparison of the original budget as presented in the 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2014-15 final outcome as presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for AFMA. The Budget is not audited.

Note 29A: Departmental Budgetary Reports

Statement of Comprehensive Income for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
	2015	Original ¹	Variance ²
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	21,715	22,937	(1,222)
Suppliers	15,224	14,930	294
Depreciation and amortisation	2,568	1,798	770
Write-down and impairment of assets	456	-	456
Total expenses	39,963	39,665	298
Own-Source Income			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	1,872	2,527	(655)
Rental income	693	577	116
Total own-source revenue	2,565	3,104	(539)
Gains			
Other gains	43	34	9
Total gains	43	34	9
Total own-source income	2,608	3,138	(530)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(37,355)	(36,527)	(828)
Revenue from Government	33,924	34,729	(805)
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(3,431)	(1,798)	(1,633)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	(18)	-	(18)
Total comprehensive income	(3,449)	(1,798)	(1,651)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(3,449)	(1,798)	(1,651)

1. The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 PBS).

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

Statement of Financial Position for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
	2015	Original ¹	Variance ²
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1,027	356	671
Trade and other receivables	14,635	14,271	364
Total financial assets	15,662	14,627	1,035
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	4,458	4,875	(417)
Property, plant and equipment	1,085	495	590
Intangibles	1,755	1,775	(20)
Other non-financial assets	458	758	(300)
Total non-financial assets	7,756	7,903	(147)
Total assets	23,418	22,530	888
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	1	1,384	(1,383)
Other payables	6,308	2,507	3,801
Total payables	6,309	3,891	2,418
Provisions			
Employee provisions	5,115	5,080	35
Total provisions	5,115	5,080	35
Total liabilities	11,424	8,971	2,453
Net assets	11,994	13,559	(1,565)
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	10,652	10,651	1
Reserves	4,624	4,543	81
Retained surplus/(Accumulated deficit)	(3,282)	(1,635)	(1,647)
Total equity	11,994	13,559	(1,565)

1. The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 PBS).

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided further below.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

Statement of Changes in Equity for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Retained earnings			Asset revaluation			Contributed equity/capital			Total equity		
	Actual	Budget estimate	Variance ²	Actual	Budget estimate	Variance ²	Actual	Budget estimate	Variance ²	Actual	Budget estimate	Variance ²
	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance												
Balance carried forward from previous period	1.49	(192)	341	4,642	4,543	99	10,182	10,181	1	14,973	14,532	441
Adjustment for errors												
Adjusted opening balance	1.49	(192)	341	4,642	4,543	99	10,182	10,181	1	14,973	14,532	441
Comprehensive income												
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(3,431)	(1,798)	(1,633)							(3,431)	(1,798)	(1,633)
Other comprehensive income				(18)						(18)		(18)
Total comprehensive income	(3,431)	(1,798)	(1,633)	(18)		(18)				(3,449)	(1,798)	(1,651)
Transactions with owners												
Departmental capital budget		355	(355)				470	470		470	825	(355)
Total transactions with owners		355	(355)				470	470		470	825	(355)
Closing balance attributable to Australian Government	(3,282)	(1,635)	(1,647)	4,624	4,543	81	10,652	10,651	1	11,994	13,559	(1,565)

1. The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 PBS).

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

Cash Flow Statement for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
		Original ¹	Variance ²
	2015	2015	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations	35,870	34,607	1,263
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3,308	3,104	204
Net GST received	217	310	(93)
Total cash received	39,395	38,021	1,374
Cash used			
Employees	20,962	23,071	(2,109)
Suppliers	17,440	14,595	2,845
Net GST paid	-	-	-
Total cash used	38,402	37,666	736
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	993	355	638
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	911	825	86
Total cash used	911	825	86
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(911)	(825)	(86)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity	470	470	-
Total cash received	470	470	-
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	470	470	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	552	-	552
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	475	356	119
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,027	356	671

1. The entity's original budgeted financial statement that was first presented to parliament in respect of the reporting period (i.e. from the entity's 2014-15 PBS).

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

<u>Note 29B: Departmental Major Budget Variances for 2015</u> Explanations of major variances	Affected line items (and statement)
<p><u>Employees</u> Employee benefits are \$1.222 million lower than budget primarily due to: • lower staffing levels than budgeted of 2.3% resulting in an estimated \$0.530 million lower employee expenditure; and • budgeted assumptions for a 2% salary increase did not eventuate with a new Enterprise Agreement yet to be negotiated resulting in an estimated \$0.450 million lower employee expenditure.</p>	<p><i>Employee benefits expense (Statement of Comprehensive Income), Employee provisions (Statement of Financial Position), Operating cash used - employees (Cash Flow Statement)</i></p>
<p><u>Depreciation and amortisation, Write-down and impairment of assets</u> A review of all non-financial assets resulted in some write-downs due to obsolescence or impairment and revision of useful lives.</p>	<p><i>Depreciation and amortisation expense (Statement of Comprehensive Income), Non-financial asset (Statement of Financial Position)</i></p>
<p><u>Payables</u> Payables were \$2.416 million higher than budget as estimates did not appear to take account of historical trends in accrued expenses and unearned revenue.</p>	<p><i>Payables (Statement of Financial Position)</i></p>
<p><u>Own-Source Income</u> Sale of goods and rendering of services was \$0.655 million lower than budget primarily resulting from higher estimates for a number of capacity-building projects. Rental income is \$0.116 million higher than budget as employee car parking revenue was not included in revenue estimates.</p>	<p><i>Sale of goods and rendering of services (Statement of Comprehensive Income), Operating cash received - sale of goods and rendering of services (Cash Flow Statement)</i></p>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

Note 29C: Administered Budgetary Reports

Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
	2015	Original ¹	Variance ²
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Suppliers	1,835	5,309	(3,474)
Depreciation and amortisation	34	63	(29)
Write-down and impairment of assets	421		421
Total expenses	2,290	5,372	(3,082)
Income			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	-	721	(721)
Fees and fines	77	-	77
Other revenue	81	-	81
Total non-taxation revenue	158	721	(563)
Total revenue	158	721	(563)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(2,132)	(4,651)	2,519
Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,132)	(4,651)	2,519
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	(138)	-	(138)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(2,270)	(4,651)	2,381

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

2. Between the actual and original budgeted amounts for 2015. Explanations of major variances are provided in Note 29D.

Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities for not-for-profit Reporting Entities
for the period ended 30 June 2015

	Actual	Budget estimate	
	2015	Original ¹	Variance ²
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	14	-	14
Trade and other receivables	264	222	42
Total financial assets	278	222	56
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	-	504	(504)
Total non-financial assets	-	504	(504)
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	278	726	(448)
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Other payables	138	155	(17)
Total payables	138	155	(17)
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government	138	155	(17)
Net assets/(liabilities)	140	571	(431)

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 29: Budgetary Reports and Explanations of Major Variances (Continued)

Note 29D: Administered Major Budget Variances for 2014-15

Explanations of major variances	Affected line items (and schedule)
Suppliers	
Suppliers expenditure was some \$3.474 million lower than budget, resulting from lower levels of caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels.	<i>Suppliers expense (Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income, Land and buildings)</i>
Sale of goods and rendering of services	
The budget estimate of \$0.721 million relates to the collection of levies on behalf of Agriculture for FRDC levies which are not recognised as revenue for AFMA.	<i>Sale of goods and rendering of services (Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income)</i>
Write-down and impairment of assets	
Write-down and impairment of assets included the write-down of a boat ramp which is no longer in use due to revised contract arrangements for the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels.	<i>Write-down and impairment of assets (Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income), Land and Buildings (Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities)</i>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the period ended 30 June 2015

Note 30: Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Total comprehensive income (loss) less depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriations ¹	(2,100)	(1,305)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses previously funded through revenue appropriation	<u>1,349</u>	<u>1,285</u>
Total comprehensive income - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	<u>(3,449)</u>	<u>(2,590)</u>

¹ From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements, where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses ceased. Entities now receive a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

² Depreciation and amortisation expenditure represented above refers to the government funded portion of AFMA's total depreciation and amortisation charges.

Part 6

Appendices

Appendix 1: Commission and executive

Appendix 2: Civil litigation outcomes

Appendix 3: Management advisory committee meetings and memberships

Appendix 4: Freedom of information reporting

Appendix 5: Work health and safety

Appendix 6: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Appendix 7: Disability reporting

Appendix 8: Consultancy services

Appendix 9: Procurement to support small business

Appendix 10: Agency resource statements and resources for outcome

Appendix 11: Expenses by outcomes



Highlights

Part 6

The AFMA Commission



7 Commissioners including AFMA's CEO

5

meetings held in 2014-15

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

4



APS Code of Conduct

APS Values

AFMA Code of Conduct

2014-15



2013-14



Accident or dangerous occurrence statistics

WH&S meetings



25% green electricity used in the Canberra office

4.5

Energy rating in all offices

100%

recycled paper



Appendix 1

Commission and executive

AFMA Commissioners are appointed for their high level of expertise in one or more of the fields of fisheries management, fishing industry operations, science, natural resource management, economics, business or financial management, law, public sector administration or governance. The following Commissioners held appointments during the reporting period 2014–15.



From left to right: Dr James Findlay (CEO), Mr Ian Cartwright, Mr David Hall, Hon. Norman Moore (Chairman), Mr Richard Stevens, OAM (Deputy Chair), Ms Catherine Cooper, Prof Keith Sainsbury.

Hon. Norman Moore – Chairman

Norman is a member and Chair of a number of boards including: Chair, Cannings Purple Strategic Communications; Deputy Chair Sir Charles Court Foundation (Chair, Education Trust sub-committee); and Chair, Patrons Group of Western Australian School of Mines Graduates Association. He was previously Western Australian Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Fisheries, Electoral Affairs (Minister for Justice – June 2012) and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

Dr. James Findlay – CEO

James is an AFMA Commissioner and AFMA's CEO. James has a PhD in fisheries biology and has held senior government roles across fisheries science, policy

and management. He has also held senior government roles in other natural resource management areas including climate adaptation and sustainable water use. He was a research consultant in aquatic animal health for the aquaculture industry and was a senior lecturer in genetics at the University of Tasmania.

Mr. Richard Stevens, OAM – Deputy Chair

Richard has been an AFMA Commissioner and Deputy Chairperson since 2009. He was AFMA Director from 2004 to 2008. Richard has a Bachelor of Economics and is Deputy Presiding Member of the Fisheries Council of South Australia and Chair/Member of a number of State and Territory fisheries committees. His expertise covers natural resource management, fishing industry operations and economics.

Mr. Ian Cartwright

Ian has a Master of Science in Economics, is Chair of the Tasmanian Fisheries Research Advisory Board and Chair of various fisheries committees. His expertise covers commercial fishing, fisheries science, natural resource management, economics and business management.

Prof. Keith Sainsbury

Keith is Director of SainSolutions, Professor of Marine Systems Science (University of Tasmania) and Vice-Chair of the Board of the Marine Stewardship Council. His internationally recognised expertise covers fisheries science, natural resource management and marine ecology.

Ms. Catherine Cooper

Catherine currently chairs the South Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee and Aquaculture Advisory Council. Catherine is an industry leader and she was a finalist in both the 1997 and 1998 Telstra Business Women's Awards. She has extensive committee and board experience including as former Chair of the Fisheries Council of South Australia.

Mr. David Hall

David is the Managing Director of fish tagging manufacturing company Hallprint P/L. David was formerly Executive Director, Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation and Director of Fisheries in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

AFMA Commissioners – attendance at meetings in 2014–15

Table 11: AFMA Commissioners – attendance at meetings in 2014–15

Commissioner	Commission meeting	Research Committee meeting	Audit and Risk Committee meeting
Hon. Norman Moore (Chairman)	5		
Dr. James Findlay (CEO)	4		
Mr. Richard Stevens (Deputy Chairman)	5		
Mr. Ian Cartwright	5	2	
Prof. Keith Sainsbury	5	2	
Ms. Catherine Cooper	5		4
Mr. David Hall	5	3	
Dr. Nick Rayns (acting CEO)	1		

Five Commission meetings were held in 2014–15. The number above shows the number of meetings commissioners attended in 2014–15.

Executive

Role and function

The Executive is AFMA's senior management team responsible to the CEO for the effective operation and performance of the agency.

Membership

- Dr. James Findlay – CEO
- Dr. Nick Rayns – Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch
- Mr. Peter Venslovas – General Manager, Fisheries Operations Branch
- Mr. Peter Tegart – General Manager, Corporate Services Branch
- Mr. Andrew Pearson – Executive Secretary
- Mr. Robert Gehrig – Chief Finance Officer.

Audit and Risk Committee

Role and function

During 2014–15 the Audit and Risk Committee operated in line with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The current committee met four times during the financial year (two face-to-face and two out of session meetings). The main items considered by the committee were:

- the committee's charter, membership and relationship to the AFMA Commission
- review of the 2014–15 financial statements
- review of the internal audit program and internal audit reports, and risk management, planning
- implementation of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- review of governance arrangements
- AFMA's risk management, planning and regulator performance frameworks and Business Continuity Plan.

In addition the previous committee met on an interim basis in September 2014 to finalise the 2013–14 financial statements.

Membership

The current committee comprises one AFMA Commissioner and three independent members.

These members are:

- Ms. Catherine Cooper – Chair (Commissioner)
- Ms. Mary Harwood (independent)
- Mr. Geoff Knuckey (independent)
- Ms. Kate Freebody (independent).

A number of observers and advisers attended meetings during the year, including AFMA's CEO, Chief Finance Officer, General Manager of Corporate Services Branch and audit representatives from Oakton Consulting Technology (AFMA's internal audit providers), KPMG (contracted external auditors) and the Australian National Audit Office.

AFMA's Executive Secretariat provides secretariat support for the Audit and Risk Committee.

The committee's charter, membership and relationship to the AFMA Commission were noted by the committee at its out-of-session meeting in December 2014 and reflect the introduction of a new AFMA Commission from 1 July 2014 and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Research committee

The role of AFMA's Research Committee is to advise the AFMA Commission on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for monitoring and research relevant to meeting AFMA's information needs and objectives. In doing so the primary functions of the committee are to:

- review and advise on research, monitoring and assessment priorities for Commonwealth fisheries
- review AFMA's five year research plans for Commonwealth fisheries managed by AFMA
- provide advice to the AFMA Commission on allocation of AFMA research funds
- assess research, monitoring and assessment investments for the Commonwealth fisheries for consistency with management needs.

The Committee held three meetings in the 2014–15 financial year.

Membership

- Mr. Ian Cartwright, (Chair and Commissioner)
- Mr. David Hall, (Commissioner)
- Dr. Keith Sainsbury, (Commissioner)
- Dr. James Findlay, (AFMA CEO)
- Dr. Nick Rayns, (Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch)
- Ms. Danait Ghebregabhier, (A/g Secretary to the Committee).

Permanent advisors

- Ms. Beth Gibson, (Senior Manager, Policy, Environment, Economics and Research)
- Ms. Yvonne Zunic, (A/g Manager, Policy, Environment, Economics and Research).

Regular Observers

The committee also invites regular observers from the following agencies and departments to attend and provide expert advice:

- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Oceans and Atmosphere
- Commonwealth Fisheries Association
- Department of Agriculture.

Information and Communications Technology and Projects Governance Committee

The purpose of the Information and Communications Technology and Projects Governance Committee is to strengthen and enhance information and communications technology and projects governance by advising and providing guidance on:

- strategic direction for information and communications technology
- strategic analyses and recommendations as necessary
- monitoring information and communications technology and other project capital expenditure, paying particular attention to projects and programs affecting strategic change
- prioritising information and communications technology and other projects initiatives ensuring that the value realised for information and communications technology investments is maximised. This includes the consideration of all business cases for projects with a value exceeding \$80 000
- communication of information and communications technology strategy to the wider AFMA audience and to relevant external stakeholders
- oversight of all major projects undertaken by AFMA.

The committee's role is to advise on the strategic direction for the future of information and communications technology and projects within AFMA. The combined business knowledge and strategic sense of the members of the committee contribute to an information and communications technology environment that appropriately supports business processes, business re-engineering and effectively promotes business outcomes.

The committee's membership comprises the CEO (as Chair), and all General Managers. There are also another four members who represent Senior Management and significant business areas.

Appendix 2

Civil litigation outcomes

Table 12: Civil litigation outcomes

Matter	Fishery	Outcome/Status
High Court of Australia		
Nil		
Supreme Court		
Nil		
Federal Court		
Sahring vs Commonwealth of Australia	Northern	A decision was handed down by the Federal Court on 1 April 2014 by Justice Mansfield. AFMA is in the process of resolving claims made by secondary applicants.
Aregar & Damaryanta vs Commonwealth of Australia & AFMA	Northern	Judgement was handed down on 27 April 2015 relating to criminal proceedings. The directions hearing for the associated civil forfeiture challenge in the Federal Court has been postponed until 24 September 2015 to allow for the applicant's appeal against criminal convictions to be finalised.
Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel		
Nil		

Significant matters

One applicant applied to the Federal Circuit Court seeking damages in relation to the transfer of Statutory Fishing Rights. The matter was resolved without the need for formal court proceedings.

AFMA has one matter before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal where a fisher has sought review on a concession condition limiting the catch of snapper in the central zone of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. The matter is yet to be listed for hearing.

Appendix 3

Management advisory committee meetings and memberships

Management Advisory Committees are statutory committees established by AFMA under section 56 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

The committees provide advice to AFMA on the preparation of management arrangements, the operation of the relevant fishery and reporting to AFMA on scientific, economic and other information on the status of fish stocks, substocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing on the marine environment. This advice should be evidence-based and address biological, economic and wider ecological factors affecting the performance of the fishery. Committee advice assists AFMA in its role to regulate commercial fishing of Commonwealth fisheries.

Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC)

The committee held two face-to-face meetings in Sydney during 2014–15. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on total allowable commercial catch limits for both the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries species. The committee also discussed the implementation of electronic monitoring, the 2015–16 budget and the outcomes of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission meetings.

In addition, the committee held one out-of-session teleconference in 2015 to discuss the two electronic monitoring directions; the Electronic Monitoring (Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Direction 2015 and the Electronic Monitoring (Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Direction 2015. In 2014, the committee also provided an out-of-session recommendation to AFMA Management for the negotiation of a five year List of Exempt Native Specimens exemption under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for both the Eastern and Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries.

Great Australian Bight Trawl Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)

The committee met once during 2014–15 and discussed the South Australia Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements out of session. It made recommendations to the AFMA Commission in relation to total allowable catches for quota species and future co-management arrangements for the fishery.

Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC)

The committee held one face-to-face meeting in Brisbane during 2014–15. The committee discussed the five year strategic research plan and future management arrangements for the Northern Prawn Fishery.

The committee also held two out-of-session teleconferences in 2014 to discuss general management arrangements and research applications.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC)

The committee met once in 2014–15 and discussed the outcomes of the 2014 meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Scientific Committee. This included noting the outcomes of the 2014 stock assessment.

The committee also discussed the Southern Bluefin Tuna Annual Research Statement (2015–16), endorsed the five year Strategic Research Plan (2014–2018) and recommended changes to a number of permit conditions to reduce red tape.

Bass Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)

The committee held one teleconference meeting during 2014–15 to discuss their recommendation to the AFMA Commission for the 2014 total allowable catch for commercial scallops in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery.

The committee also held two face-to-face meetings during 2014–15 in Hobart and Canberra. The committee discussed the revised harvest strategy, procedures to test for Paralytic Shellfish Toxin and the 2015–16 budget. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on the 2015 total allowable catch for commercial scallops.

South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC)

The committee held two face-to-face meetings in Canberra, one face-to-face meeting in Melbourne, three teleconferences and one email meeting during 2014–15.

The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on total allowable catches and effort controls for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, the Small Pelagic Fishery and the Southern Squid Jig Fishery. The committee also reviewed management arrangements and rebuilding strategies for several species.

Additionally the committee discussed the fishery's annual and strategic research plan, the review of historic closures across various gear sectors, the implementation of electronic monitoring in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector, the implementation of the Dolphin Management Strategy and amendments to the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Harvest Strategy Framework.

Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

The committee held one face-to-face meeting and one teleconference during 2014–15. It made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on total allowable catches for Patagonian toothfish and mackerel icefish in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery and for Patagonian toothfish in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery.

The committee also discussed the outcomes from the 33rd meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the exploratory fisheries expression of interests for 2015–16.

Appendix 4

Freedom of Information reporting

Agencies subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme. This requirement is in Part II of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and has replaced the former requirement to publish a Section 8 statement in an annual report. Each agency must display on its website a plan showing what information it publishes in accordance with the Information Publication Scheme requirements.

Information on AFMA's Freedom of Information reporting can be found at afma.gov.au.

Appendix 5

Work health and safety

Work health and safety performance

The Work Health and Safety Committee met four times during 2014–15. The committee's role is to assist AFMA to develop, implement, review and update policies and procedures in relation to work, health and safety, incident reporting and consequent prevention measures, improving the cooperation between AFMA and its staff on work, health and safety issues and helping AFMA to distribute work, health and safety information.

Health and safety initiatives

AFMA continued to recognise the importance for a healthy workplace including mental health and general wellbeing. The 2015 health and wellbeing program offered staff specific initiatives including onsite health checks and influenza vaccinations. The program also included various lunch time seminars and workshops on topics including mental health awareness, healthy heart, being sun smart and a healthy eating and cooking demonstration.

A Beyond Blue mental health information session was provided internally to increase staff awareness and understanding of anxiety and depression and to reduce the associated stigma that goes with this. Raising awareness and understanding can assist in reducing the impact of anxiety, depression and suicide in the workforce and in the general community. In addition a session was held to introduce New Access, a Beyond Blue initiative which offers free and confidential support to help tackle day-to-day pressures, through the guidance and support of trained Access Coaches.

All new starters to AFMA are provided with an assessment of their workstation as part of their new starter induction. The Human Resources Section undertook basic workstation assessments for all new starters and any other staff as requested. Eight workstation assessments were conducted in 2014–15 by an external assessor and as a result of these assessments a variety of measures were implemented, including specialised equipment.

Health and safety outcomes achieved

AFMA's workers compensation premiums have slightly increased. There were no injuries or incidents that were required to be notified to Comcare that fell within the definition of a Dangerous Occurrence under the Work Health and Safety Legislation.

We have continued to successfully rehabilitate a number of staff who incurred an injury with the potential to become more serious.

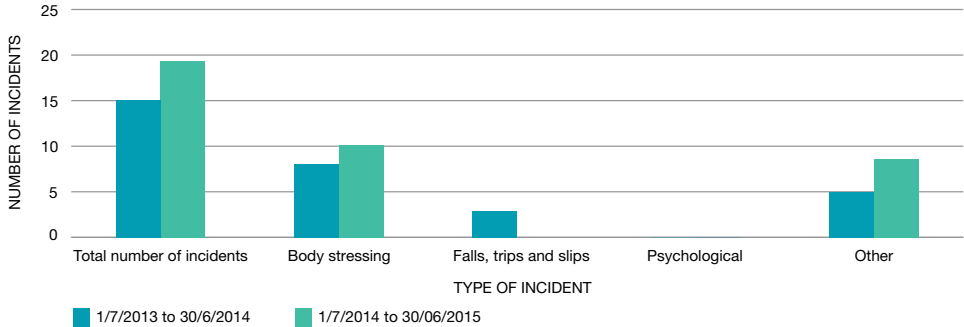
Accident or dangerous occurrence statistics

In 2014–15 AFMA recorded 19 incidents, accidents or near-misses (see Figure 03). This rate is slightly up from 15 in 2013–14 and was dominated by minor incidents. There were only two personal injuries resulting in two or more weeks absence.

Investigations conducted during the year

No investigations were conducted by Comcare under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*. In addition, there were no notices issued in relation to work, health and safety representatives and no prohibition notices issued.

Figure 03: AFMA work health and safety incident reports comparison



Ethical standards

In working towards AFMA’s goals and objectives, staff are expected to maintain the highest standards of business and personal ethics. These expectations are underpinned by:

- APS Code of Conduct
- APS Values
- AFMA Code of Conduct
- AFMA’s Respect: ensuring a positive workplace culture free from bullying and harassment policy.

Appendix 6

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Legislation according with ecologically sustainable development principles

AFMA's implementation of the ecological component of ecologically sustainable development is based on ecosystem elements relating to:

- target and by-product species
- bycatch
- threatened, endangered and protected species
- community and habitat interactions.

To support and implement an ecologically sustainable development approach in its fisheries, we draw upon ecological risk assessments for each Commonwealth fishery. Ecological risk assessments involve a number of methods, including comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analyses. This approach screens out low risk activities and focuses on higher potential risks within Commonwealth fisheries.

The results of these risk assessments for each fishery are consolidated into a priority list upon which an ecological risk management strategy is focused. A detailed ecological risk management strategy for each AFMA-managed fishery has been prepared, clearly identifying how each species or group of species will be managed.

Key management policy initiatives include:

- the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines
- the Australian Sea Lion Management Strategy
- the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy
- Bycatch and Discard Program
- the Chondrichthyan Guide for Fisheries Managers
- Dolphin Management Strategy based on individual responsibility
- Seabird Management Plan based on individual responsibility.

All Commonwealth fisheries have completed and published their ecological risk management reports. The number of species remaining at high potential risk across all Commonwealth fisheries is 72, which is approximately 3.6 per cent of all species assessed. It is expected that this will reduce as the mitigation measures are implemented as outlined in ecological risk management reports.

Outcome contributing to ecologically sustainable development

AFMA's outcomes are directed at Commonwealth fisheries being both ecologically sustainable and economically efficient.

This approach reflects our commitment to pursuing management of Commonwealth fisheries in accordance with our legislative objectives and in partnership with others who also have an interest in sustainable management.

Effect of fishing on the environment

All of AFMA's managed fisheries are currently accredited under three parts of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Part 10 of the Act requires that all Commonwealth and Torres Strait Fisheries must be strategically assessed before a management plan is determined (Section 148) or, where a determination is made that a management plan is not required for a Commonwealth fishery (Section 149). If a management plan is amended or replaced, or management arrangements change significantly in a fishery without a management plan, then a further assessment is required (Section 152). If a management plan remains unchanged, no further strategic assessment is required. This process involves assessment of the impact of the fishery on matters of national environmental significance with particular emphasis on the impact on the Commonwealth marine environment. Without this approval a management plan cannot take effect.

Part 13 of the Act defines a number of offences in relation to listed threatened species and ecological communities, but provides for accreditation of management plans or regimes (Sections 208A, 222A, 245, 265). The effect of accreditation is that certain actions are not offences if they are carried out in accordance with those management plans or regimes. There is no requirement to remake the accreditation decisions unless the management plans or regimes change. These accreditations impose a requirement on fishers to report any interactions with protected species. As fishers are also required to report interactions to AFMA through logbooks, we regularly report these interactions to the Department of the Environment on fishers' behalf thus reducing unnecessary duplication of reporting.

Part 13A of the Act covers the international movement of wildlife specimens. It provides for controls over the movement of regulated native specimens that are not on the list of exempt native specimens. Currently products from all assessed Commonwealth and Torres Strait fisheries are on the list of exempt native specimens, although some are subject to the condition that the listing applies only while a wildlife trade operation is in force. This allows exports of marine species to be carried out while ensuring that they have been taken sustainably.

Actions to minimise fishing effects on the environment

Fisheries

The development of the various elements of ecological risk management is designed to minimise the impact of fisheries on the environment.

Species identified as high risk after the application of the various ecological risk assessment methods are combined with any identified protected species to form the priority list on which we focus our ecological risk management activity.

Risk management strategies addressing species identified as at medium or low risk will be implemented after high risk species have been addressed.

Research has been commissioned to extend the ecological risk assessment methodology to habitats and communities. Extension to cumulative impacts has been identified as a priority for future research.

Our offices

AFMA purchases a proportion (25 per cent) of green electricity for the Canberra office as part of the Commonwealth energy contract.

Energy for our Thursday Island office is a mixture of wind and diesel power.

We continue to review and implement regular energy improvements across our Canberra, Darwin and Thursday Island sites. This has included automatic shutdown of staff computers daily and purchasing more energy efficient equipment when required.

Nationwide we have five vehicles which are part of the Greenfleet program. We have recently changed internal policy allowing staff to use our energy efficient vehicles on more extended trips.

We currently use 100 per cent recycled paper in printers, copiers and fax machines at all our sites.

Our Canberra office has an overall four and a half (4.5) star energy rating and includes zoned air-conditioning and lighting and automatic light dimming in response to daylight sensors. Additionally, intermittently used rooms and spaces are motion sensor activated. We also participate in Earth Hour annually.

We continue to make small changes around the office that can have important impacts in reducing our environmental footprint. A composting and recycling system is in place for the Canberra office which reduces general office waste and is proving successful.

Mechanisms for reviewing

A number of mechanisms exist for reviewing the effect of fishing on the environment. AFMA will conduct regular reassessments of each ecological risk assessment for Commonwealth fisheries as part of AFMA's Ecological Risk Management Framework. AFMA also regularly reviews the other elements of the Ecological Risk Management Framework. For example the Bycatch and Discard Workplans for each Commonwealth fishery are formally reviewed every two years.

AFMA is also subject to reassessment of all its fisheries under Part 13A of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Fisheries granted exemptions are reassessed every five years. Fisheries granted wildlife trade operations are reassessed prior to expiry.

Appendix 7

Disability reporting

Since 1994, Commonwealth departments and agencies have reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. In 2007–08, reporting on the employer role was transferred to the Australian Public Service Commission’s State of the Service Report and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at apsc.gov.au. From 2010–11, departments and agencies have no longer been required to report on these functions.

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy has been overtaken by the National Disability Strategy 2010–2020, which sets out a ten year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation and create a more inclusive society. A high level two-yearly report will track progress against each of the six outcome areas of the Strategy and present a picture of how people with disability are faring.

Appendix 8

Consultancy services

During 2014–15, 50 new consultancy contracts were entered valued at \$6.772 million for the period. In addition, 16 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during 2014–15 valued at \$4.701 million.

All consultancy contracts entered into by AFMA above the value of \$10 000 are available via the Austender website tenders.gov.au.

Table 13: Consultancy spend

	2012–13 \$'000	2013–14 \$'000	2014–15 \$'000
Total consultancy expenditure	1225	1559	1031

Selection and engagement of consultants

The majority of consultancy services engaged during the 2014–15 financial year were for fisheries research purposes.

The selection and engagement of research consultants was primarily conducted through a limited tender because of the small pool of qualified vendors for these specific services.

Appendix 9

Procurement to small business

AFMA supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and medium enterprises and small enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website:

finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts.

How AFMA's procurement practises support small and medium enterprises

As an organisation that interfaces with many small and medium enterprises as part of our engagement role with the fishing industry and broader community, AFMA has procurement policies that do not unfairly discriminate against small and medium enterprises and provide appropriate opportunities for small and medium enterprises to compete. AFMA's procurement policies specify that, Officials should consider, in the context of value for money:

- the benefits of doing business with competitive small and medium enterprises when specifying requirements and evaluating value for money
- barriers to entry, such as costly preparation of submissions, that may prevent small and medium enterprises from competing
- small and medium enterprises capabilities and their commitment to local or regional markets
- the potential benefits of having a larger, more competitive supplier base.

Appendix 10

Agency resource statements and resources for outcomes

Table 14: Australian Fisheries Management Authority resource statement
– Budget estimates for 2015–16 as at Budget May 2015

	Actual available appropriation 2014–15 \$'000	Estimate of prior year amounts available in 2014–15 \$'000	Proposed at Budget 2014–15 \$'000	Total Estimate 2014–15 \$'000
Ordinary annual services				
Departmental appropriation				
Departmental appropriation ¹	21,199	-	20,955	20,955
s. 74 Retained revenue receipts ²	3,104	-	3,115	3,115
Total	24,303	-	24,070	24,070
Administered Expenses				
Outcome 1	5,309	-	5,375	5,375
Total	5,309	-	5,375	5,375
Total ordinary annual services	A 29,612	-	29,445	29,445
Special accounts				
Opening balance ³	15,256	15,256	-	15,256
Appropriation receipts	20,725	-	21,104	21,104
Appropriation receipts to special accounts	17,104	-	18,831	18,831
Total special accounts	B 53,085	15,256	39,935	55,191
Total resourcing (A+B)	82,697	15,256	69,380	84,636
Less appropriations drawn form annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts and/ or payments to corporate entities through annual appropriations	(20,725)	-	(21,104)	(12,104)
Total net resourcing for AFMA	61,972	15,256	48,276	63,532

1. Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2015–16 includes an amount of \$0.470 million in 2015–16 for the Departmental Capital Budget (refer to table 3.2.5 for further details). For accounting purposes this amount has been designated as 'contributions by owners'.

2. Estimated retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

3. Estimated opening balance for Special Accounts (less 'Special Public Money' held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Monies Special Accounts (SOETM)).

Reader note: All figures are GST exclusive.

Appendix 11

Expenses by outcomes

Outcome 1: Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing.	Budget 2014–15 \$'000	Actual Expenses 2014–15 \$'000	Variation 2014–15 \$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Program 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,309	2,290	3,019
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	23,833	23,290	543
Special accounts	14,000	13,199	801
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	1,895	3,522	(1,627)
Total for Program 1.1	45,037	42,301	2,736
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,309	2,290	3,019
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	23,833	23,290	543
Special accounts	14,000	13,199	801
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	1,895	3,522	(1,627)
Total expenses for Outcome 1	45,037	42,301	2,736
	2014–15	2013–14	2013–14
Average Staffing Level (number)	185.0	180.7	4.3

1 Departmental Appropriation combines "Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)" and "Revenue from independent sources".

2 Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year is made up of depreciation expense and amortisation expense for both Departmental and Administered items.

Notes on actuals:

Total expenses from ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Note 4: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services (4A) + Rental Income (4B) + Departmental appropriation (4D).

Excludes Gains (4C)

Special Appropriation (Levies and licensing charges) (4D)

Depreciation and amortisation (3C,15B) + Write-down and impairment of assets (3D,15C) + RFOC

APS ASL report (includes CEO, Commissioners and Observers as required per EM 2014–58)

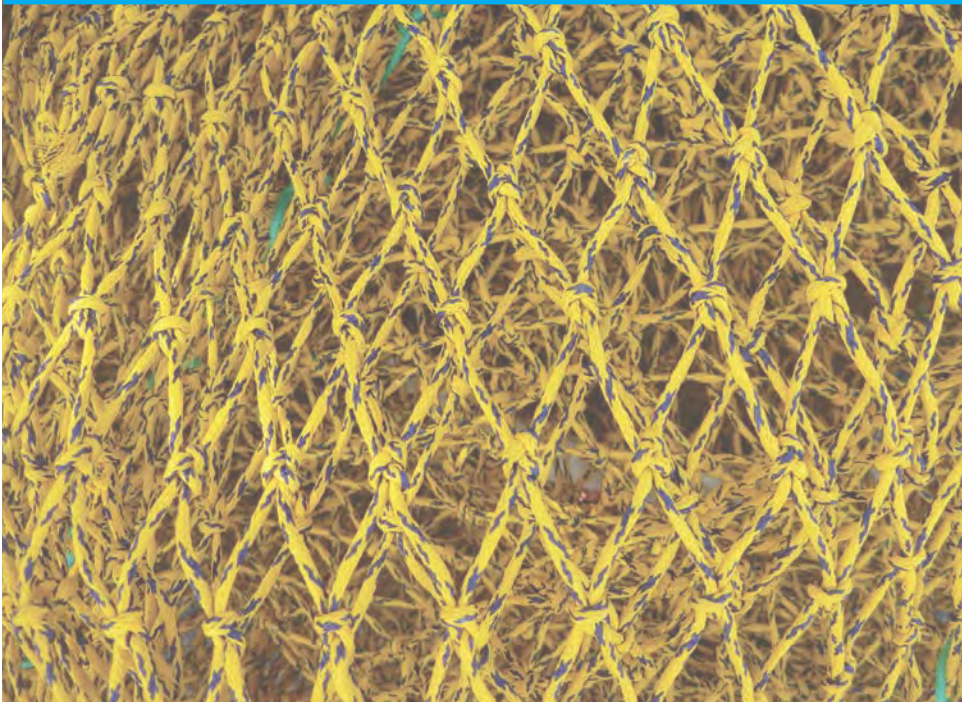
Part 7

References

Compliance index

Glossary

Index





Compliance index

Description	Page
Letter of transmittal	1
Table of contents	2–3
Index	233–247
Glossary	226–232
Contact officer(s)	ii
Internet home page address and Internet address for report	ii
Review by departmental secretary	8–12
Summary of significant issues and developments	8–12
Overview of department's performance and financial results	9–11
Outlook for following year	12
Significant issues and developments – portfolio	8–12
Role and functions	13
Organisational structure	110
Outcome and programme structure	18
Where outcome and programme structures differ from PB Statements/PAES or other portfolio statements accompanying any other additional appropriation bills (other portfolio statements), details of variation and reasons for change	n/a
Portfolio structure	n/a
Review of performance during the year in relation to programmes and contribution to outcomes	17, 22–107
Actual performance in relation to deliverables and KPIs set out in PB Statements/PAES or other portfolio statements	17, 22–107
Where performance targets differ from the PBS/PAES, details of both former and new targets, and reasons for the change	n/a
Narrative discussion and analysis of performance	17, 22–107

Description	Page
Trend information	8–11, 27, 40, 43, 49, 61–66, 72–107, 119–121, 197, 210, 216
Significant changes in nature of principal functions/services	n/a
Performance of purchaser/provider arrangements	131–132
Factors, events or trends influencing departmental performance	8–12
Contribution of risk management in achieving objectives	114–115
Performance against service charter customer service standards, complaints data, and the department's response to complaints	117–119
Discussion and analysis of the department's financial performance	9–11
Discussion of any significant changes in financial results from the prior year, from budget or anticipated to have a significant impact on future operations.	9–11
Agency resource statement and summary resource tables by outcomes	218–219
Agency heads are required to certify their agency's actions in dealing with fraud	1
Statement of the main corporate governance practices in place	112–119
Names of the senior executives and their responsibilities	198–203
Senior management committees and their roles	200–203
Corporate and operational plans and associated performance reporting and review	17–58, 113–114
Internal audit arrangements including approach adopted to identifying areas of significant financial or operational risk and arrangements to manage those risks	114–117, 201–202
Policy and practices on the establishment and maintenance of appropriate ethical standards	15, 210
How nature and amount of remuneration for SES officers is determined	127–128
Significant developments in external scrutiny	116–117
Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner	204

Description	Page
Reports by the Auditor-General, a Parliamentary Committee, the Commonwealth Ombudsman or an agency capability review	116
Assessment of effectiveness in managing and developing human resources to achieve departmental objectives	124–131, 209–210
Workforce planning, staff retention and turnover	120–123
Impact and features of enterprise or collective agreements, individual flexibility arrangements (IFAs), determinations, common law contracts and Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs)	125–128
Training and development undertaken and its impact	128–131
Work health and safety performance	209–210
Productivity gains	n/a
Statistics on staffing	120–123
Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous	121
Enterprise or collective agreements, IFAs, determinations, common law contracts and AWAs	125–128
Performance pay	127
Assessment of effectiveness of assets management	131
Assessment of purchasing against core policies and principles	131–132
The annual report must include a summary statement detailing the number of new consultancy services contracts let during the year; the total actual expenditure on all new consultancy contracts let during the year (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing consultancy contracts that were active in the reporting year; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting year on the ongoing consultancy contracts (inclusive of GST). The annual report must include a statement noting that information on contracts and consultancies is available through the AusTender website.	132, 216
Absence of provisions in contracts allowing access by the Auditor-General	n/a
Contracts exempted from publication in AusTender	n/a
Procurement initiatives to support small business	217
Financial Statements	136–195
Work health and safety (Schedule 2, Part 4 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>)	209–210
Advertising and Market Research (Section 311A of the <i>Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918</i>) and statement on advertising campaigns	132

Description	Page
Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance (Section 516A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>)	211–214
Compliance with the agency's obligations under the <i>Carer Recognition Act 2010</i>	n/a
Grant programmes	132
Disability reporting – explicit and transparent reference to agency level information available through other reporting mechanisms	215
Information Publication Scheme statement	208
Correction of material errors in previous annual report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Page no. 35, 'Prosecute illegal foreign fishers (continued)'. The 2013–14 actual was recorded as 31, the correct actual was 26. Page no. 35 'Comment'. Per cent should not have been included after the number 17. 'Eight masters and 17 per-cent repeat offender crew members from eight of ten Indonesian vessels targeting finfish and beche der mer were all successfully prosecuted with fines of up to \$12 000 being imposed. Page no. 71 'Figure 4' side label stated 'Number of employees' this should be 'Number of stocks'. Page no. 72 'Source: Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences Fishery Status Report 2012. The correct source was: Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences Fishery Status Report 2013–14. 	
Agency Resource Statements and Resources for Outcomes	218
List of Requirements	222–225
<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>	
Assessment of the extent to which operations have contributed to AFMA's legislative objectives	8–12, 17–107
The goals set out in the corporate plan for the period	19–20
The objectives set out in the annual operational plan for the period	21, 16–59
Performance against performance indicators set out in the corporate plan and annual operational plan	62–66, 67–69
Variations of the corporate plan and the annual operational plan	n/a
Significant changes to plans of management	n/a
The introduction of new plans of management	n/a
Effectiveness of plans of management	70–107

Glossary

Australian Fishing Zone

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, the Australian fishing zone means:

- (a) the waters adjacent to Australia within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of Australia; and*
- (b) the waters adjacent to each external territory within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of the external Territory;*
but does not include:
- (c) coastal waters of, or waters within the limits of, a State or internal Territory; or*
- (d) waters that are excepted waters.*

Biomass

Total weight of a stock or a component of a stock.

Biomass limit reference point

The point beyond which the risk to the stock is regarded as unacceptably high.

Bycatch

Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target, and which are always discarded.

Byproduct

Any part of the catch that is kept or sold by the fisher but is not the target species.

Demersal

Found on or near the benthic habitat (c.f. Pelagic).

Discard

Any part of the catch returned to the sea, whether dead or alive.

Effort

A measure of the resources used to harvest a fishery's stocks. The measure of effort appropriate for a fishery depends on the methods used and the management arrangements. Common measures include the number of vessels, the number of hooks set or the number of fishing days.

Electronic monitoring

Electronic monitoring uses sensors and cameras to monitor and record information on fishing activity in a targeted way. Sensor data and video footage is analysed retrospectively to provide information and verify logbooks according to the needs identified for that fishery.

Fisheries Management Act 1991

One of the two main pieces of legislation (along with the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*) that detail AFMA's responsibilities and powers.

Fishing concession

A Statutory Fishing Right, or a fishing permit, or a foreign fishing boat licence granted under the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Fishing permit

A type of fishing concession granted under Section 32 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to a person, authorising the use of a specified Australian boat by that person, or a person acting on that person's behalf, for fishing in a specified area of the Australian Fishing Zone or a specified fishery for specified species, using specified equipment.

Fishing season

The period during which a fishery can be accessed by fishers.

Gillnet

Type of passive fishing gear consisting of panels of net held vertically in the water column, in contact with the seabed, such that fish attempting to swim through the net are entangled. The mesh size of the net determines the size range of fish caught, as smaller fish can swim through the meshes and larger fish are not enmeshed.

GoFish

GoFish is AFMA's online business facility for fishers to submit their applications, view their record of fishing concessions as held by AFMA, keep their contact details up to date, view quota and catch information, receive messages from AFMA and monitor progress of applications lodged with AFMA.

Harvest strategy

Strategy outlining how the catch in a fishery will be adjusted from year to year depending on the size of stock, the economic or social conditions of the fishery, conditions of other interdependent stocks or species, and uncertainty of biological knowledge. Well-managed fisheries have an unambiguous (explicit and quantitative) harvest strategy that is robust to the unpredictable biological fluctuations to which the stock may be subject.

Incidental catch

Any part of the catch that is not the target species, including bycatch and by-product.

Individual transferable quotas

Individual portions of a total allowable catch – units of quota – that allow the holder to catch that portion of the total allowable catch each season. The weight value of the individual transferable quotas changes in proportion to changes in the total allowable catch set for a species each season.

Individual transferable quotas are fully tradeable and can be sold or leased to other fishers.

Key commercial species

A species that is, or has been, specifically targeted and is, or has been, a significant component of a fishery.

Logbook

Official record of catch-and-effort data completed by fishers. In many fisheries, a licence condition makes the return of logbooks mandatory.

Longline

Fishing gear in which short lines (branchlines or droppers) carrying hooks are attached to a longer main line at regular intervals. Pelagic longlines are suspended horizontally at a predetermined depth with the help of surface floats. The main lines can be as long as 100 kilometres and have several thousand hooks. Droppers on demersal longlines (set at the seabed with weights) are usually more closely spaced.

Maximum economic yield

The sustainable catch or effort level for a commercial fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised. Note that for most practical discount rates and fishing costs maximum economic yield will imply that the equilibrium stock of fish is larger than that associated with maximum sustainable yield. In this sense maximum economic yield is more environmentally conservative than maximum sustainable yield and should in principle help protect the fishery from unfavourable environmental impacts that may diminish the fish population.

Maximum sustainable yield

The maximum average annual catch that can be removed from a stock over an indefinite period under prevailing environmental conditions.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) box

The area of the Australian Fishing Zone where traditional fishing by Indonesian nationals is permitted.

Nautical mile

A unit of distance derived from the angular measurement of one minute of arc of latitude, but standardised by international agreement as 1852 metres.

Net economic returns

A fishery net economic returns over a particular period are equal to fishing revenue less fishing costs.

Non target species

Species that are unintentionally taken by a fisher or not routinely assessed for fisheries management. *See also Bycatch.*

Offshore Constitutional Settlement

The agreement between the states and Northern Territory and the Australian Government which gives States and the Northern Territory jurisdiction for activities from the low water mark to three nautical miles seaward of the territorial sea baseline, and Commonwealth jurisdiction over activities from the three nautical mile boundary out to 200 nautical miles.

Under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, a Memorandum of Understanding between the states or the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth can give individual or joint jurisdiction for a particular fishery that is in both coastal waters and the Australian Fishing Zone.

When no Memorandum of Understanding for a specific fishery is in place under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement, the fishery remains under the jurisdiction of the state out to three nautical miles, and of the Australian Government from three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles.

Output controls

Restrictions imposed on the quantity of fish that can be taken from a fishery within a specified period of time. This can be by either a competitive total allowable catch or a total allowable catch allocated to participants as individual transferable quotas.

Overfished

A fish stock with a biomass below the biomass limit reference point. 'Not overfished' implies that the stock is not below the threshold, and is now used in place of the status classification of 'fully fished' or 'underfished'.

Pelagic fish

Inhabiting surface waters rather than the sea floor: usually applied to free swimming species such as tunas and sharks.

Precautionary principle

A principle asserting that a degree of scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation in situations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Quota

Amount of catch allocated to a fishery as a whole (total allowable catch) or to an individual fisher or company (individual transferable quota).

Quota management

A method of management based on output controls that allocates the total allowable catch among eligible operators as shares in the annual total allowable catch.

Reference point

An indicator of the level of fishing (or stock size), used as a benchmark for interpreting the results of an assessment.

Statutory Fishing Rights

Rights granted under Section 21 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The nature of Statutory Fishing Rights in a fishery is detailed in the plan of management that creates those rights. A Statutory Fishing Right may be a right to use a boat, a unit of fishing gear or a quantity of catch, or other rights as identified in the management plan.

Species

Members of a species of fish that can breed with one another and produce fertile (capable of reproducing) offspring. In this way, a species maintains its 'separateness' from other species; for example, the yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna are two distinct tuna species whereas the general term 'tuna' includes all tuna species.

Stock

A functionally discrete population of a species that is largely distinct from other populations of the same species. Such a population may be regarded as a separate entity for management or assessment purposes. Some species form a single stock (e.g. southern bluefin tuna) while others form several stocks (e.g. albacore tuna in the Pacific Ocean are divided up into separate Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific stocks).

Targeting

Fishing selectively for particular species or sizes of fish.

Target species

The species being actively sought by fishers.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority

An authority comprising the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture (Chairperson), the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority. The authority is responsible for monitoring the condition of the jointly managed fisheries in the Torres Strait and the formulation of policies and plans for their management.

Torres Strait Treaty

The treaty between Australia and Papua New Guinea concerned with sovereignty, management and maritime boundaries in the area between the two countries and the protection of the way of life and livelihood of traditional inhabitants and the marine environment.

Total allowable catch

The amount of fish of a particular species that can be taken from a fishery in a prescribed period. Total allowable catches are set for fish species managed either through individual transferable quotas or through competitive total allowable catches.

Uncertain

Status of a fish stock for which there is inadequate or inappropriate information to make a reliable assessment.

Undercatch and overcatch

Undercatch and overcatch provide for 'carry over' or 'carry under' of an amount of end of season quota between fishing seasons thereby allowing fishers the flexibility to catch a certain amount of fish over or under their quota, and debit or credit this to or from the following season's quota

Vessel monitoring system

Electronic device that transmits the identity and location of a vessel.

Index

Description	Page
Accountability and management	18, 108–33
Highlights	109
Achievements, key	8–9
Advertising	132
Advisory committees	56
Agency resource statements	218
Annual Operational Plan	21
Antarctic Fisheries	78–9
Developments 2014–15	79
Estimated catch 2013–14	81
Major species	78
Report against management plans	79
Asset management	131
Audit and Risk Committee	115, 116, 201–2
Membership	201–2
Role and function	201
Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences	9

Description	Page
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)	
Budget outlook	10
CEO's review	8–12
Chairman's review	8–12
Financial performance	9–10
Goals and strategies	19–21
Highlights	7
History and establishment	13
Key achievements	8–9
Key performance indicators	67, 69
Objectives	18–19
Offices	111–12
Operating environment	10
Organisational structure	110
Outlook for 2015–16	12
Performance management highlights	17
Planning and reporting structure	21
Role and functions	13–14
Values	15
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Commission	56–7, 197
Commissioners	198–200
Meetings	197, 200
Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Enterprise Agreement	125–6, 127
Australian National Audit Office	116
Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF)	
Liaison officer	55
Automated licensing transactions	61
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	24, 92–3
Bass Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)	206
Developments 2014–15	93
Estimated catch	93
Major species	92
Report against management plans	93

Description	Page
Budget outlook	10
Portfolio budget statements	21
Bullying and harassment training	129–30
Business continuity	115
Bycatch Policy	12, 35
Capacity building programs	17
Cartwright, Ian	198, 199, 202
Civil litigation	204
Client service charter	119
Commercial species	
Management to support maximum yield	22
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	41–2, 47
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna	62
Commonwealth fisheries	
Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines	22
Illegal fisheries	42–7
Map	62
Marine ecosystems and organisms	31–3, 35
Net economic returns, improving	28–9
Commonwealth Fisheries Association	50, 51, 203
Communication channels	117–18
Community engagement	56–8
Compliance and enforcement	8
Capacity building programs	44–6
Cost of, reducing	49–52
Streamlining regulations and approvals	49–52
Targets	42–7
VMS	17

Description	Page
Compliance index	222–5
Conflicts of interest	113
Consultancy services	216
Selection and engagement	216
Contracts	132
Cooper, Catherine	198, 199, 201
Coral Sea Fishery	80–1
Developments 2014–15	81
Major species	80
Report against management plans	81
Corporate governance	112–19
Conflicts of interest	113
External scrutiny	116–17
Governing body	112–13
Internal scrutiny	114–16
Performance review	113
Planning and review	113–14
Stakeholder satisfaction	117–19
Corporate Plan 2014–2017	19–21, 113
Cost recovery	18–19
Data transfer technologies	50–1
Deliverables, report against	62–6
Department of Agriculture	11, 13, 19, 20, 28, 47, 58, 67, 114, 203
Servicing regional fisheries management	58
Supporting fishery stakeholders	28
Disability reporting	215
Discarded fish	
Reduction measures	29

Description	Page
Dolphin mitigation measures	91
Eastern Orange Roughy Fishery	7, 9, 61
Eastern Tuna and Billfish fisheries	50–1, 100–1
Developments 2014–15	101
Estimated catch	101
Major species	100
Report against management plans	101
Ecological risk management	
Ecological Risk Management Framework	31–3, 57
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	89
Ecologically sustainable development	See Environment and sustainability
Economic returns	
maximising net	18
Electronic monitoring	7, 50–1, 61
Employees	See Staff
Environment and sustainability	11, 197
Ecologically sustainable development	18, 31–3, 211–14
Fishing, environmental impact of	212–13
Legislation	211–12
Outcomes	212
Review mechanisms	214
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	11, 52, 89, 205, 212, 214
Executive	
Membership	200
Remuneration	127–8
Role and function	200
Expenses	219
External scrutiny	116–17

Description	Page
Fava, Shane	124
Financial performance	9–10
Financial statements	134–95
Highlights	135
Findlay, Dr. James	198–9, 200, 202
<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>	13
Fisheries management	
Accountability	38–9
Arrangements	35–6
Business processes, improving	36–7
Capacity building programs	44–6
Co-management, facilitation of	54
Cost processes	8, 11, 12, 18, 35–9
Development of underutilised resources	28
Domestic fisheries	71
Environmental impact	213
Financial arrangements	36–7
Information flows, improving	36–7
Outcomes	61
Plans	61
Reports	70
Scientific information	57
<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>	11, 13, 28, 54
Fisheries policy	
Government review	11
Fisheries Research and Development Corporation	22, 29
Fisheries Status Report	9
Foreign apprehensions	7
Fraud control	115

Description	Page
Freebody, Kate	201
Freedom of information Reporting	208
Gehrig, Robert	200
Ghebrezgabhier, Danait	202
Gibson, Beth	220
Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery Electronic monitoring	40, 50 90
Gillnet, Hook and Trap Seabird Response Team	125
Glossary	226–32
Goals and strategies	19–21
Governing body Conflicts of interest Performance review	112–13 113 113
Grants, discretionary	132
Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery Management Advisory Committee (GABMAC)	29 205
Hall, David	198, 199, 202
Harvest Strategy and Bycatch Policies	12
Harvest Strategy Framework	22
Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines	22, 28
Harwood, Mary	201
Heard Island and MacDonal Islands Fishery Developments 2014–15 Report against management plans	9, 24, 30, 78, 207 79 79

Description	Page
High Seas Permits	106–7
Developments 2014–15	107
Estimated catch	107
Major species	106
Report against management plans	107
Highlights	7
Accountability and management	109
Financial statements	135
Performance management	17
Human resources	See Staff
Illegal fishing	
Combatting	7, 9, 46–7
Foreign vessels	61
Industry Liaison Officer	17
Information and Communications Technology and Projects Governance Committee	203
Internal scrutiny	114–16
International fishery bodies	58
Kiosk	124
Knuckey, Geoff	201
<i>Kunlun</i>	9
Levies	61
Licensing transactions, automated	61
Litigation	
Civil	204
Significant matters	203
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	24, 78
Developments 2014–15	79
Report against management plans	79

Description	Page
Management	See Accountability and management
Management advisory committees	118
Meetings and memberships	205–7
Marine Stewardship Council	52
Market research	132
Minister for Agriculture	8
Moore, Hon. Norman	198
National Compliance Program	42
Norfolk Island Fishery	82–2
Developments 2014–15	83
Estimated catch 2013–14	82
Major species	82
Report against management plans	83
Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery	83
Norfolk Island Offshore Demersal Finfish Fishery	83
North Western Slope and Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries	86–7
Developments 2014–15	87
Estimated catch 2013–14	86
Major species	86
Report against management plans	87
Northern Prawn Fishery	24, 29, 84–5
Developments 2014–15	85
Estimated catch 2013–14	84
Major species	84
Management Advisory Committee (NORMAC)	206
Report against management plans	85
Observer Program	30

Description	Page
Offices	
Environmental impact	213–14
Locations	111–12
Operating environment	10
Operations	
Annual operational plan	114
Planning and review	113–14
Orange Roughy	90
Fishing	7, 9, 27, 61
Organisational structure	110
Outcomes	
Expenses	219
Resources for	218
Overfishing	7
Recovery of overfished stocks	25–6
Pandemic Plan	115
Patagonian toothfish	9, 30
Pearson, Andrew	200
people management	See Staff
Performance management	
Framework	18–21
Goal 1	22–6
Goal 2	28–9
Goal 3	31–3
Goal 4	35–42
Goal 5	42–7
Goal 6	49–52
Goal 7	54
Goal 8	56–8
Highlights	17
Key performance indicators	67, 69

Description	Page
<i>Perlon</i>	9
Pink ling	89
Planning and reporting structure	21
Port visits	17
Portfolio Budget Statements	114
Procurement	217
Public accessibility	57
<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>	13, 112, 114, 131, 201, 202
<i>Public Service Act 1999</i>	13
Purchasing	131
Quota Administration Policy	37–8
Quotas	
Day reconciliation arrangements	17
Management	37–8
Rayns, Dr. Nick	200, 202
Recreational Fishing Liaison Officer	17
Red tape	
Reduction initiative	7, 8, 48, 50–1
Reporting	
Annual Report	114
Disability	215
Freedom of information	208
Internal	114
Structure	21

Description	Page
Research Committee	202–3
Membership	202
Permanent advisors	202
Regular observers	203
Role	202
Resource assessments groups	56
Risk-based regulation	130
Risk management	114
Sainsbury, Prof. Keith	198, 199, 202
Seabirds	40, 125
Seabird Threat Abatement Plan	125
Seafood	17
Seal mitigation measures	91
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	96–7
Developments 2014–15	97
Estimated catch	97
Major species	96
Report against management plans	97
Small business	
Procurement	217
Small Pelagic Fishery	23–4, 98–9, 206
Developments 2014–15	99
Estimated catch	98
Major species	98
Report against management plans	99
Snapper	90
<i>Songhua</i>	9
South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC)	206–7

Description	Page
South East Trawl Fishery	29, 54
South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFA)	
Liaison officer	34
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	24, 34, 88–91, 206
Data acquisition plan	91
Developments 2014–15	89–91
Estimated catch 2013–14	89
Major species	88
Rebuilding strategies	90
Report against management plans	89
Research	91
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	102–3
Developments 2014–15	103
Estimated catch	103
Major species	102
Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC)	206
Report against management plans	103
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	94–6, 206
Developments 2014–15	95
Estimated catch	95
Major species	94
Report against management plans	95
Sparrow, Professor Malcolm	130
Staff	109, 120–3
Human resource management	124–5
New supervisor training	130
Remuneration	127–8
Rewards and Recognition Scheme	124
Statistics	120–3
Study assistance	130–1
Terms and conditions of employment	125–6
Training and development	109, 128–31
Workplace health and safety	197, 209–10

Description	Page
Stakeholders	117
Client service charter	119
Communication channels	117–18
Engagement	56–8
Satisfaction	117–19
Stevens, Richard	198, 199
Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)	207
Sustainability	See Environment and sustainability
Target species	
Stock status	72–7
Tegart, Peter	200
Threat Abatement Plan	40
<i>Thunder</i>	9
<i>Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984</i>	14
Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority	14
Training and development	109, 128–31
Trappett, Andrew	34
Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC)	205
<i>United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement 1999</i>	14
Unreported fishing	
Combatting	7, 9
User guide	5
Values	15
Venslovas, Peter	200

Description	Page
Vessel Monitoring System	8
Compliance rates	8–9
<i>Viking</i>	9
Wages	See Staff
Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery	52
Western Tuna and Billfish fisheries	50–1, 104–5
Developments 2014–15	105
Estimated catch	105
Major species	104
Report against management plans	105
Workplace health and safety	197, 209–10
Accident statistics	210
Dangerous occurrence statistics	210
Ethical standards	210
Health and safety initiatives	209
Health and safety outcomes	209–10
Investigations	210
Performance	209
<i>Yongding</i>	9
Zunic, Yvonne	202



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