



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery**

**Management Arrangements Booklet 2018-19**

# AFMA Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

---

Published in 2018 by Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

## Important Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and accurate at the time of printing. However, the information provided is intended to serve as a guide only, and therefore AFMA will not be liable for any loss caused, whether due to negligence or otherwise, arising from the use of or reliance upon this booklet. The booklet is not intended to replace operator's concession conditions, the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005*, *Fisheries Management Act 1991* or the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*. Some of the items in this booklet may not apply to a particular fishing operation. Operators should refer to the key documents listed in this booklet. Web addresses for these documents can be found at the end of this booklet or they can be accessed via links on AFMA's website.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2018

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from AFMA. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Manager, AFMA Communications, Box 7051, Canberra BC, ACT, 2610.

## Copies available from:

Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Box 7051  
Canberra BC  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

or electronically at the AFMA website at: [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/western-tuna-and-billfish-fishery/](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/western-tuna-and-billfish-fishery/).

## Preferred way to cite this publication:

AFMA (ed) 2018, Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Arrangements Booklet 2018-19, Australian Fisheries Management Authority. Canberra, Australia.

Published by AFMA.  
Cover photo by AFMA.

## Contents

---

Contents.....	3
Figures .....	5
Tables.....	5
Acronyms .....	6
Introduction .....	7
The Role of AFMA .....	7
The WTBF Management Plan and Associated Regulations .....	7
What season dates will apply?.....	7
What happens if I am fishing across the season dates? .....	8
What do I need to fish in the fishery? .....	8
Before Going Fishing .....	8
What concessions do I need to go fishing? .....	8
How much quota do I hold? .....	9
Annual Management and Research levies .....	9
How to pay your levies.....	9
Need more time to pay your levies? .....	9
Fee for service arrangements .....	10
What species can I catch and retain? .....	10
Quota Species.....	10
Non-Quota Species .....	11
What forms do I have to fill in? .....	11
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) .....	13
Manual Reporting .....	14
Temporary Switch Off Arrangements .....	14
Observers .....	15
Electronic Monitoring (e-monitoring) .....	15
While I am fishing .....	15

Where can I fish? .....	15
Where can't I fish? .....	16
Fishing on the High Seas .....	16
Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) Arrangements .....	17
Size Limits .....	17
Catch Limits .....	17
Bycatch Handling .....	25
Southern Bluefin Tuna .....	25
Northern Bluefin Tuna .....	26
Processing Fish .....	27
Mandatory Seabird Mitigation Measures for Longline Fishing .....	29
Mandatory Turtle Mitigation Measures for Longline Fishing .....	29
Protected Species .....	30
Wildlife Interactions .....	31
Compliance .....	33
Domestic Offences .....	33
Foreign Fishing Offences .....	33
Transshipping Catch .....	34
After I Get Back From Fishing .....	34
Fish Receivers .....	34
Who can sign forms? .....	34
Keeping Track of Your Quota .....	35
Quota Transaction Statements .....	35
GOFish .....	35
How will AFMA monitor catch and quota during the season? .....	35
Conversion Factors .....	35
Quota Reconciliation .....	36
Undercatch and Overcatch .....	36
Overcatch .....	37
Undercatch .....	37

Determined Weight .....	37
Transfer of a Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) .....	37
AFMA Quota Administration Policy .....	38
How is the fishery managed internationally? .....	38
Landing in a Foreign Port .....	38
Contact Details .....	40
WTBF Internet Links for Relevant Documents .....	43

## Figures

---

Figure 1: Processing cuts for Tuna .....	28
Figure 2: Processing cuts for Broadbill Swordfish .....	28
Figure 3: AFMA 2018 Moon phase calendar .....	44
Figure 4: Area of the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery .....	45

## Tables

---

Table 1: TACC and kilogram per SFR conversion factors for each quota species in the 2018 fishing season. ....	9
Table 2: Species allowed to be taken in the WTBF .....	19
Table 3: Species not allowed to be taken in the WTBF .....	20
Table 4: Restricted species for northern waters (Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland) (these apply to all waters extending out from the coastline of the respective State or Territory) .....	21
Table 5: No take species for South Australian waters (these apply to all waters extending out from the South Australian coastline) .....	23
Table 6: Restricted species in South Australian waters with total maximum 200kg take per trip of all species combined (these apply to all waters extending out from the South Australian coastline) .....	23
Table 7 Single jurisdiction high seas trip limits .....	24
Table 8: Conversion factors for processing of quota species .....	36
Table 9: Determined percentage of overcatch and undercatch for WTBF quota species .....	36

## Acronyms

---

AAP	Archipelago Asia Pacific
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ALC	Automatic Location Communicator
CDR	Catch Disposal Record
CTF	Commonwealth Managed Fisheries Transit Form
DNIN	Data Network Identification Number
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EM	Electronic Monitoring
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
FRP	Fish Receiver Permit
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
ISMP	Integrated Scientific Monitoring Program
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
MAC	Management Advisory Committee
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
QTS	Quota Transaction Statement
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SFR	Statutory Fishing Right
TACC	Total Allowable Commercial Catch
TAP	Threat Abatement Plan
TSO	Temporary Switch Off
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WTBF	Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

## Introduction

---

This booklet summarises the management arrangements for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) that apply under the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* (the Plan) that came into effect on 1 July 2010.

This booklet is intended as a guide only. The complete requirements for operators in the WTBF are detailed in several key documents. It is the responsibility of the concession holder to familiarise themselves with these documents:

- *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;
- *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* and associated amendments, directions, determinations and temporary orders;
- *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*; and
- Conditions on Boat Statutory Fishing Right certificates and Extracts of Register.

If there is anything that you do not understand in this booklet, if you need further information, or if you want to discuss your specific access arrangements to the fishery, please contact AFMA Direct for the cost of a local call on **1300 723 621**.

We would also like to hear your feedback about how useful this booklet is, and welcome your suggestions on ways we could improve it for next year. You can provide any comments you may have by calling AFMA Direct on **1300 723 621**.

## The Role of AFMA

The WTBF is managed by AFMA, in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (the Act). In managing the fishery, AFMA is required to pursue the objectives of the Act. These objectives include:

- Implementing efficient and cost effective fisheries management;
- Pursuing ecologically sustainable development;
- Maximising the net economic returns to the Australian community;
- Ensuring accountability; and
- Achieving Australian Government targets in relation to cost recovery.

Please refer to <http://www.afma.gov.au> or the Plan for details of the objectives of the Act.

## The WTBF Management Plan and Associated Regulations

The Plan is a key document in managing the WTBF. Along with the conditions on your SFRs, it details your obligations when fishing in the area of this fishery. A copy of the Plan is available on the Federal Register of Legislation website at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au). The Plan provides the basis for issuing SFRs and the requirements that you will need to meet before you can fish in the fishery.

## What season dates will apply?

The fishing season runs for 12 months commencing on 1 February 2018 and ending on 31 January 2019.



## What happens if I am fishing across the season dates?

If you leave port before 31 January 2019 and return after 1 February 2019 you are considered to have fished across seasons. This is permitted, but AFMA will distinguish between fish caught on the trip before 11.59pm on 31 January and fish caught after 12.00am on 1 February for quota purposes.

In order to distinguish between fish caught across season dates you will be required to complete two Catch Disposal Records (CDRs) at the end of the trip instead of one as is normally required.

- The fish caught on shots that commenced before 11.59pm on 31 January 2019 will be recorded on the first CDR form and will count against quota in the 2018-19 season.
- The fish caught on shots that commenced after 12.00am on 1 February 2019 are recorded on a second CDR form and will be counted against quota in the 2019-20 season.

It is your responsibility to determine when the fish were caught and record the appropriate numbers and weights on the two CDRs.

## What do I need to fish in the fishery?

---

### Before Going Fishing

Access to the fishery is through longline or minorline boat Statutory Fishing Rights (boat SFRs), and quota Statutory Fishing Rights (quota SFRs) for each of the quota species (Bigeye Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Broadbill Swordfish, and Striped Marlin) granted under the Plan.

A copy of the extract from the longline or minorline boat SFR that states the name of the boat, must be carried on board that nominated boat at all times.

### What concessions do I need to go fishing?

#### Longlining, Minorlining or Purse Seining

If you intend to fish using the pelagic longline, minorline or purse seine methods in the WTBF, you will need to hold:

- a **boat SFR** and at least one **quota SFR**; and
- the **boat SFR** that you hold, must be **nominated to an Australian registered vessel**.

#### Other Methods

To use a fishing method other than pelagic longline, minorline or purse seine, you may apply to AFMA in writing for a fishing permit. You may only do this if you hold at least one quota SFR with uncaught quota, and a boat SFR



## How much quota do I hold?

The Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the WTBF have been set for the 2018 fishing season (1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019). The TACC and kilograms per SFR conversion factors for each quota species is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: TACC and kilogram per SFR conversion factors for each quota species in the 2018 fishing season.

Quota species	TACC (tonnes)	Total number of SFRs	Conversion factor (kilograms per SFR)
Bigeye Tuna	2,000	988,566	2.02313250
Yellowfin Tuna	5,000	988,508	5.05812801
Broadbill Swordfish	3,000	988,584	3.03464349
Striped Marlin	125	83,628	1.49471469

**Example:** If you hold 500 Bigeye Tuna SFRs, you should multiply the number of SFRs (500) by the kilograms per SFR conversion factor (2.02313250) to result in 1011.566 kilograms of Bigeye Tuna available to catch for the fishing season ( $500 \times 2.02313250 = 1011.566$ ).

You can check your quota holdings at any stage throughout the season by registering for GOFish, AFMA's e-licensing system. You can do this online at [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services) or by contacting Licensing on 1300 723 621.

## Annual Management and Research levies

Operators who own fishing concessions that attract a levy will receive three separate management and research levy invoices. Each invoice being one third of your total annual levy amount payable on the fishing concession(s) you own on the date of invoicing. Levy invoices are issued in January, March and May every year.

It is important to note that levies are issued in line with the financial year, not fishing season.

### How to pay your levies

You can make your payments by BPAY, direct deposit to the National Australia Bank, credit card (by faxing in your card details or calling AFMA direct) or by cheque. All account details, biller code and contact details are included on the Payment Options page of your levy invoice. Please include the associated invoice/reference number with your payment so AFMA can ensure your payment is attributed correctly.

### Need more time to pay your levies?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay an overdue levy. To request an arrangement to pay, a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss payment options. There is a \$220 administration fee to enter into an arrangement and unpaid amounts attract a penalty at the rate of 20 per cent

per annum, which is calculated daily. AFMA will suspend and may cancel fishing concessions if levy remains unpaid and an arrangement has not been entered into. For further information on levies, including invoice issue and due dates, please refer to the AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide for the year, available at [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au).

### Fee for service arrangements

AFMA introduced revised fee for service arrangements for licensing and logbook services on 1 July 2013. The costs of providing these services are now charged directly to those using the service instead of through annual levies.

Licensing services will be charged at the time an application is lodged or a transaction is processed. Paper logbook submission charges will be invoiced in arrears in October, January, May and July every year.

In most cases, you can reduce the amount you pay for licensing services by using the electronic options available.

The licensing and logbook fee for service rates are available at [www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/fees-payments/](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/fees-payments/).

## What species can I catch and retain?

---

WTBF commercial species (i.e. species that can be retained and sold) fall into two main categories, **quota** and **non-quota** commercial species.

### Quota Species

Catches of the following species (which form part of the “primary species” list in the Management Plan) must be covered by quota:

- Bigeye Tuna (*Thunnus obesus*);
- Yellowfin Tuna (*Thunnus albacares*);
- Broadbill Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*); and
- Striped Marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*).

You may take any of these species for which you hold uncaught quota SFRs.

For each quota species a total allowable commercial catch (TACC) is set prior to the commencement of the fishing season. The TACC is the total catch of a species that may be taken by all SFR holders in a fishery during a fishing season. Operators are allocated a share of the TACC based on the number of SFRs that they hold. This is referred to as your ‘quota holdings’. Quota holdings (SFRs) can be leased or permanently transferred between operators. See Table 1 for instructions on calculating your quota holdings.

**Note: Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) is NOT a quota species under the Plan. To take SBT, you must also hold Statutory Fishing Rights granted under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. See the section on Southern Bluefin Tuna in this booklet.**

## Non-Quota Species

Non-quota commercial species in the WTBF are predominantly **byproduct** species (i.e. species that are retained for sale but comprise a more minor component of the fishery catch and economic return). The Plan lists non-quota commercial species as either “primary species” or “secondary species”.

### Primary Species

Non-quota primary species may be taken subject to the following catch limits:

- Albacore Tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) - no catch limit;
- Northern Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) - no catch limit<sup>1</sup>;
- Rays Bream (or Pomfret) (Family *Bramidae*) - no catch limit;
- Skipjack Tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) - no catch limit;
- Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) - 35 tonne limit for the whole fishery per fishing year with a 10 fish trip limit per operator being imposed if the 35 tonne trigger limit is reached; and
- Other Billfish (Family *Istiophoridae*) - note you are **not** permitted to land either Blue Marlin or Black Marlin.

### Secondary Species

Secondary species are defined under the Plan as any species of fish, other than the primary species, that can be taken and retained in the area of the fishery. Many secondary species are subject to trip limits. These are detailed in Memoranda of Understanding which complement the Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) fisheries arrangements between the Commonwealth and States. A list of the limits (for all species) is provided in Tables 1-6. These tables also identify species that must **never** be retained (i.e. bycatch species including general and protected bycatch species).

## What forms do I have to fill in?

You should be aware of all the requirements for completing logbooks and required forms before you go fishing. You should complete the following in accordance with the instructions outlined in the logbooks and forms. Note that some parts of the following forms may need to be completed before, during and after fishing.

### Your LOGBOOK

- Longline operators must complete the **AL06** logbook (Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing Log) and record details of each shot.
- Minorline operators must complete the **LN01A** or **LN01B** logbook (Line Fishing Daily Fishing Log).
- Purse seiners must complete the **PS01A** logbook (Purse Seine Daily Fishing Log).

**Note: Paper logbooks now cost \$11.00 per fishing day.**

---

<sup>1</sup>See Table 2 and page 23 for reporting and identification requirements relating to Northern Bluefin Tuna

- You must ensure the master of the boat (skipper) is nominated as an authorised agent for the concession holder **before** going fishing.
- You must ensure that the authorised agent signing the AL06, LN01A, LN01B or PS01A logbook page was the master of the boat at the time the recorded fishing operation took place.
- You may sign the AL06, LN01A, LN01B or PS01A logbook page if you were the master of the boat when the recorded fishing operation took place.
- If you have more than one master of the boat on board during the fishing trip, each master must complete and sign a separate AL06, LN01A, LN01B or PS01A logbook page for each of the fishing operations for which they had control over.

## ELECTRONIC LOGBOOKS (e-logs)

Electronic logbooks (e-logs) are now available for WTBF operators. This technology allows you to fill out and complete your logsheets electronically and submit them directly to AFMA online. Detailed information, including an e-log user guide, can be found on the AFMA website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/electronic-logbooks/>.

## A CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD (PT02B)

- A **PT02B** Catch Disposal Record (CDR) must be completed by WTBF operators at the time of landing. PT02B forms are numbered and accountable so if you make a mistake or damage a form and want to cancel it, you have to clearly mark it as cancelled and send it to AFMA.
- The PT02B requires the fishing concession holder, or authorised representative, to fill out Parts A and B of the document and the AFMA Licensed Fish Receiver to fill in Part C. The instructions within the PT02B require that immediately upon receipt of the fish, the fish receiver must weigh the fish accurately and complete all sections of Part C.
- The accurate weight must be determined using certified scales. Aside from the instructions within the PT02B, the requirements relating to the weighing of fish are clearly outlined within each fish receiver permit.
- It is important to note that the AFMA Licensed Fish Receivers must not:
  - tare down the scales to account for ice or water loss;
  - amend the verified weight once it is obtained from the certified scales (i.e. do not attempt to account for ice/water loss); nor
  - use market verified weight data to fill in Part C of PT02B.
- Fish receivers are also reminded that the blue copy of the PT02B needs to be returned to AFMA within 3 calendar days of the date on which the fish were received.

## A TRANSIT FORM (CTF)

- If a consignment of fish is split between more than one truck, a completed Commonwealth Managed Fishery Transit Form (**CTF**) must accompany **every** load that is going to the same receiver. The CDR (**PT02B**) must also accompany the last load.

## The **SBT CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME**

- The purpose of the SBT Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) is to allow individual SBT to be tracked from the point of capture to the point of sale.
- Under the CDS the fish must be tagged and the following CDS forms are used:
  - Catch Tagging Form (**CTAU02A**);
  - Catch Monitoring Forms (**CMAU02C**); and
  - Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product (**REAU02**).
- For full details of how to complete the CDS forms please refer to the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Longline Handbook* (available on the AFMA website) and the detailed instructions included under the “**SBT Catch Documentation Scheme**” below.

Failure to complete these forms according to the instructions and/or failure to lodge returns in time is a breach of your concession conditions. AFMA may then issue you with a fine or you may be prosecuted.

## **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

---

### **VMS reporting**

It is the concession holder's responsibility to ensure that any boat nominated to their concession is fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved units. This register can be found on the AFMA website under [List of approved units](http://www.afma.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AFMA_VMS_Type_Approved.pdf) ([http://www.afma.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AFMA\\_VMS\\_Type\\_Approved.pdf](http://www.afma.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/AFMA_VMS_Type_Approved.pdf)).

The VMS unit must remain switched on at all times that the boat is nominated to a Commonwealth concession, including when in port or engaged in State fishing. The concession holder must ensure the VMS is reporting correctly before going out to sea for the first time and that no interference occurs with the correct operation of the VMS unit. On becoming aware of a problem with the VMS functioning, the concession holder must advise AFMA as soon as practicable via:

Phone: (02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail) or;

Mobile: 0419 205 329; or

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: [VMSreporting@afma.gov.au](mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au)

If the VMS is not operating or is malfunctioning the boat must remain in port until the VMS is inspected, repaired if necessary and AFMA has received confirmation from an authorised technician that the automatic location communicator (ALC) is functioning normally.

### **Directions to return to port**

Depending on the circumstances, and in accordance with its enforcement decision principles as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy, if a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting AFMA may require the boat to immediately return to, and/or remain in

port until such a time as AFMA is satisfied the problems with the VMS unit have been rectified.

## Manual Reporting

---

If a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting, the concession holder will be required to manually report the boat's position at a frequency specified by AFMA.

The manual position reports must include:

- the boat's name
- the boat's distinguishing symbol
- the boat's present latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes)
- the date and time.

Manual position reports are to be made by:

Phone: (02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail); or

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: [VMSreporting@afma.gov.au](mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au)

## Temporary Switch Off Arrangements

---

A Temporary Switch Off (TSO) is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated vessel is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, the concession holder can apply for a TSO by filling out an 'Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off' form. The request needs to be made prior to the VMS being switched off. A TSO is not automatically granted, and AFMA considers a variety of factors, including previous VMS non-compliance and whether the need is genuine before permission being granted. Completed forms should be sent to AFMA via:

Fax: (02) 6225 5440

Email: [VMSreporting@afma.gov.au](mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au)

Mail: Data Processing

AFMA

PO Box 7051

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Further information can be found on the AFMA website under [Vessel Monitoring Systems](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring)  
[www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring](http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring)

**Note:** Switching off a unit without first obtaining a TSO will constitute an offence. It is also an offence for a vessel to be moved, from the place stipulated under the TSO, without approval from AFMA.

## Observers

---

The WTBF now has electronic monitoring (e-monitoring), however if requested by AFMA, you **MUST** take an observer and all their equipment on board your boat. Concession holders must also ensure that the observer is provided with adequate food and accommodation while on board, and that they are carried safely on the boat during a trip. Penalties exist if you do not, such as suspension of your concession or cancellation of your boat nomination.

All the detailed information collected by observers from individual vessels is subject to privacy laws and will only be available to AFMA Fisheries Management, AFMA Compliance Section and the vessel owner. However, compiled data (where individuals cannot be identified) is available for release by AFMA.

The role of the observer is not one of a Fisheries Officer. Observers have no authority to direct fishing operations of the vessel or give operational advice or act in an enforcement role. However, observers are required to report illegal fishing activity.

## Electronic Monitoring (e-monitoring)

---

Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring) became compulsory in the WTBF as of 1 July 2015. If you operate for more than 30 shots per fishing season, you are required to have an e-monitoring system installed and functioning on your boat.

You are required to keep your e-monitoring system in good working order at all times. **This includes performing a system function test prior to each trip.** Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP) provide the e-monitoring equipment, installation and maintenance. If you experience any problems with your e-monitoring system, please contact AAP as soon as possible:

Phone: 02 6162 1192

Email: [service@archipelago-ap.com.au](mailto:service@archipelago-ap.com.au)

If you experience difficulties with your e-monitoring system while you are fishing, you are allowed to complete your trip as long as you are not fishing in a zone that requires 100% monitoring. When you return to port, you must arrange a time to have your e-monitoring system repaired before you go fishing again.

**You must send your e-monitoring hard drives to AFMA on the first landing of each month.**

## While I am fishing

---

### Where can I fish?

The areas of the fishery managed under the Plan (Schedule 1) are:

- The part of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) that extends westward from Cape York Peninsula off Queensland (142°30'E), around the west coast of Western Australia and eastward, across the Great Australian Bight to 141°E at the South Australian/Victorian border. More precisely, the area bounded by a notional line:



- commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of Australia with the meridian of longitude 142° 09' E
- then running north along that meridian to the intersection with the parallel of latitude 10° 28' S
- then running west along that parallel to the intersection with the meridian of longitude 141° 20' E
- then running north along that meridian to the intersection with the outer limit of the AFZ
- then running generally westerly, southerly and easterly along the outer limit of the AFZ to the intersection with the meridian of longitude 141° E
- then running north along that meridian to its first intersection with the southern coastline of Australia
- then running generally westerly, northerly and easterly along that coastline to the point where the line began.
- Those parts of the AFZ that:
  - surround Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands; and
  - extend toward the outer limit of the AFZ from a line every point of which is 12 nautical miles from the Australian territorial sea baseline.
- The high seas area of the Indian Ocean. Specifically, those parts of the high seas that are within the area of competence of the IOTC and west of 141° E.

The specific details and precise co-ordinates of the fishery area are described in Schedule 1 of the Plan. A map of the WTBF is displayed at the end of this booklet (Figure 4).

## Where can't I fish?

### *Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*

WTBF boats are not allowed to fish inside State and Commonwealth managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), however in some MPAs fishing may be permitted. It is the concession holder's responsibility to check if fishing is permitted. See the Department of the Environment and Energy [website](#) or contact the (Parks Australia) Marine Parks Duty officer on 0419 293 265.

You are not permitted to fish in another country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

## Fishing on the High Seas

When conducting fishing operations on the high seas, the permit holder must:

- Make sure the boat is clearly marked with its international radio call sign according to internationally recognised standards;
- Make sure they report to AFMA ([vmsreporting@afma.gov.au](mailto:vmsreporting@afma.gov.au)) prior to entering the high seas and prior to landing;
- Make sure that all fishing gear is properly stowed when transiting through another country's EEZ, and
- Fish in accordance with permit conditions.

## Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) Arrangements

Within the area of the WTBF, the Commonwealth has Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) arrangements with Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia. Through these arrangements, AFMA has jurisdiction over all waters off these States for species managed under the Plan.

### Size Limits

There are no size limits for primary species in the WTBF, but a minimum size limit of 450 mm does apply to any School Shark or Gummy Shark taken in this fishery. The measurement must be taken on a straight line from the middle of the gill furthest away from the mouth to the bottom insertion of the caudal fin.

### Catch Limits

#### *Commercial Species*

Commercial species are those that may be retained and sold. Many commercial species taken in the WTBF are subject to catch restrictions, either via quota and TACCs or other mechanisms (e.g. trip limits, State restrictions etc), which **must** be adhered to. These restrictions are described in Tables 2-6.

#### *Bycatch Species*

Bycatch species are those species that are never retained (i.e. are always discarded). These will include species that fishers choose not to retain (e.g many general fish bycatch species) and species that **must not** be retained, including protected species (listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and other species listed under certain State, Territory and international agreements. Bycatch species that must not be retained are described in Tables 3-6.

You must record **all** retained and discarded catches of both commercial species and general bycatch species under the 'Catch Details' section of your logbook and any interactions with protected bycatch species under the 'Wildlife and other Protected Species' section of your logbook.

Tables 3 to 6 display the State and Territory bycatch limits for each species that interact within the WTBF. The State and Territory restrictions apply to all waters extending out from the coastline of the respective State or Territory.

#### *Baitfish*

Fishing for bait is subject to the following limitations:

- (a) Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory – If your concession allows access to waters adjacent to the States of Queensland and Western Australia, and the Northern Australia, then you may fish for bait in those waters.
- (b) South Australia – If your concession allows you access to waters adjacent to the State of South Australia, you may, while operating in those waters, use a lampara net, lift net and/or a small scale purse seine to fish for:
  - i. unlimited amounts of Emmelichthyes, Trachurus, Sardinops, Clupea, Engaulis and Scomber australasicus for use as live bait; and

- ii. up to three tonnes per trip in total comprising Emmelichthyes, Trachurus, Sardinops, Clupea, Engaulis and Scomber australasicus for use as dead bait.

Any bait taken must only be used by the holder for fishing under this concession.

**Table 2: Species allowed to be taken in the WTBF** (Note – some restrictions apply to entire WTBF, some to Commonwealth waters and some to single jurisdiction high seas trips. These differences are noted in the table).

Common name	Scientific Name	Restrictions
Yellowfin Tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Quota species
Bigeye Tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Quota species
Striped Marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	Quota species
Broadbill Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Quota species
Longtail Tuna	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	A maximum 35 tonne limit by the fleet per fishing year is in place for the ETBF and WTBF. A 10 fish trip limit per operator will be imposed should the 35 tonne trigger limit be reached in either fishery in any fishing year.
Skipjack Tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Nil
Albacore Tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Nil
Northern Bluefin Tuna	<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>	You must report to AFMA prior to landing NBT (via e-mail <a href="mailto:northernbluefin@afma.gov.au">northernbluefin@afma.gov.au</a> or fax 02 6225 5440) at least 1 hour before landing in port. Further information is provided in the Northern Bluefin Tuna section below.
Southern Bluefin Tuna	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Any take of SBT must be done in accordance with the quota arrangements under the <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995</i> .
Pomfrets and Rays Bream	Family <i>Bramidae</i>	No limit
Indo-Pacific Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	
Shortbill Spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	
Moonfish	Genus <i>Lampris</i>	
Rudderfish	Genus <i>Centrolophus</i>	
Escolar/Oilfish	<i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i> and <i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i>	
Commonwealth waters restrictions (within WTBF)		
Shark species - general	Family <i>Elasmobranchii</i>	20 sharks combined total EXCEPT for the species listed below
School Shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Combined trip limit of 5 carcasses (provided your boat is not also nominated to an
Gummy Shark	<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>	

Common name	Scientific Name	Restrictions
Elephantfish	Families <i>Callorhinchidae</i> , <i>Chimaeridae</i> and <i>Rhinochimaeridae</i>	SESSF Boat SFR. If the boat also holds an SESSF boat SFR then you cannot take these species.)
Sawshark	<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> and <i>Pristiophorus nudipinnis</i>	
Longfin Mako Shark	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	
Shortfin Mako Shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Only dead on line sharks may be retained. All live sharks (including those in poor condition or showing minimal signs of life) must be released back into the water.
Porbeagle Shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	
Harrisons Dogfish		
Endeavour Dogfish		As with makos and porbeagles, only to be retained if dead, combined for all species*: Trips under 6 days – no more than 15kg whole weight per day Trips over 6 days - no more than 90kg whole weight per trip
Southern Dogfish		
Greeneye Spurdog		
Single jurisdiction high seas trips		
Pelagic sharks	Family <i>Elasmobranchii</i>	No more than 100 sharks per trip, comprised of a maximum of 80 Blue whaler shark ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> )
Crocodile Shark	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	No more than 20 sharks or rays
Shortfin Mako Shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	
Porbeagle Shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	
Smooth Hammerhead Shark	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	
Pelagic Stingray	<i>Dasyatis violacea</i>	

\*Time period and weight determined in accordance with permit conditions.

Table 3: Species not allowed to be taken in the WTBF

Common Name	Scientific Name	Limits
Blue Eye Trevalla	<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>	No take
Blue Grenadier	<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>	
Blue Warehou	<i>Seriola brama</i>	
Blue Marlin	<i>Makaira mazara</i>	
Black Marlin	<i>Makaira indica</i>	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Limits
Flathead	<i>Platycephalus</i> and <i>Neoplatycephalus</i> sp.	
Gemfish	<i>Rexea solandri</i>	
Jackass Morwong	<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>	
John Dory	<i>Zeus faber</i>	
Ling	<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>	
Mirror Dory	<i>Zenopsis nebulosus</i>	
Ocean Perch	<i>Helicolenus</i> sp.	
Orange Roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	
Redfish	<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>	
Royal Red Prawn	<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>	
School Whiting	<i>Sillago findersi</i>	
Silver Trevally	<i>Pseudocaranx dentex</i>	
Spotted Warehou	<i>Seriola punctata</i>	
Black Cod	<i>Epinephelus daemeli</i>	
Great White Shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	
Grey Nurse Shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	
Oceanic Whitetip Shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	
Silky Shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	
Thresher Shark*	Family <i>Alopiidae</i>	

**Table 4: Restricted species for northern waters (Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland) (these apply to all waters extending out from the coastline of the respective State or Territory)**

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	2 fish total per trip for all species combined
Black Kingfish that are in waters East of the meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	
Yellowtail Kingfish	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	
Australian Bonito	<i>Sardi australis</i>	10 fish total per trip for all species combined
Australian Spotted Mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus munroi</i>	
Bar Cod	<i>Polyprion moeone</i>	
Cod	Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Dog Toothed Tuna	<i>Gymnosarda unicolor</i>	
Emperor	Families <i>Lethrinidae</i> and <i>Lutjanidae</i>	
Frigate Mackerel	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Grouper	Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Hapuku	<i>Polyprion oxygeneios</i>	
Leaping Bonito	<i>Cybiosarda elegans</i>	
Mackerel Tuna	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	
Oriental Bonito	<i>Sarda orientalis</i>	
Rainbow Runner	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	
Rake Gilled Mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	
Shark Mackerel	<i>Grammatorcynus bicarinatus</i>	
Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	
Spanish Mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	
Trevally	Family <i>Carangidae</i> (except genus <i>Seriola</i> )	
Tropical Snapper	Families <i>Lethrinidae</i> and <i>Lutjanidae</i>	
Tuskfish	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Wrasse	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Butterfly Mackerel	<i>Gasterochisma melampus</i>	20 fish total per trip for all species combined
Shark	Subclass <i>Elasmobranchii</i> and Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Slender Tuna	<i>Allothunnus fallai</i>	
Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	
Black Kingfish that are in waters west of the meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	No limit
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish) that are in Commonwealth waters off Western Australia <u>west</u> of meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	200 fish limit per trip
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish) that are in Commonwealth waters off Western Australia <u>east</u> of the meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	No limit



**Table 5: No take species for South Australian waters (these apply to all waters extending out from the South Australian coastline)**

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Australian Anchovy	<i>Engraulis australis</i>	No take
Australian Salmon/Tommy Ruff	Genus <i>Arripis</i>	
Banded Morwong	<i>Nemodactylus spectabilis</i>	
Black Bream	<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>	
Blue Sprat	<i>Spratelloides robustus</i>	
Dusky Morwong	<i>Dactylophora nigricans</i>	
Garfish	<i>Hyporhamphus melanochir</i>	
Grassy (Rock) Flathead	<i>Platycephalus laevis</i>	
King Gar	<i>Scomberesox forsteri</i>	
King George Whiting	<i>Sillaginodes punctata</i>	
Luderick	<i>Girrella tricuspidata</i>	
Magpie Morwong	<i>Cheilodactylus nigripes</i>	
Pilchard	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>	
Red Mullet	<i>Upeneichthys vlamingii</i>	
Sea Sweep	<i>Scorpius aequipinnis</i>	
Snook	<i>Sphyraena novaehollandiae</i>	
Sprat	<i>Clupea bassensis</i>	
Wrasse	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Yellow Eye Mullet	<i>Aldrichetta forsteri</i>	
Yellow-finned Whiting	<i>Sillago schomburgkii</i>	

**Table 6: Restricted species in South Australian waters with total maximum 200kg take per trip of all species combined (these apply to all waters extending out from the South Australian coastline)**

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions	
Bastard Trumpeter	<i>Latridopsis forsteri</i>	20 kg per trip	200 kg total per trip for all species combined
Striped Trumpeter	<i>Latris lineata</i>		
Blue Groper	<i>Achoerodus gouldii</i>	50 kg per trip	
Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>		
Mulloway	<i>Argyrosomus hololepidotus</i>	100 kg per trip	
Yellowtail Kingfish	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	10 fish per trip	
Black Reef Leatherjacket	<i>Eubalichthys bucephalus</i>	200 kg per trip	

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions	
Chinaman Leatherjacket	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>		
Parrotfish (or Knifejaw)	<i>Oplegnathus woodwardi</i>		
Rough Leatherjacket	<i>Monacanthus chinensis</i>		

Note: there is a weight limit of 200 kg per trip for the combined catch of all of the species in Table 6, noting the individual species trip limits.

Table 7 Single jurisdiction high seas trip limits

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions	
Pelagic sharks	<i>Lamniformes</i> species	100 fish per trip	100 pelagic sharks per trip comprised of a maximum of 80 blue whaler shark ( <i>Prionace glauca</i> )
Crocodile shark	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	20 shark or rays combined total	
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>		
Porbeagle shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>		
Smooth hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>		
Pelagic stingray	<i>Dasyatis violacea</i>		

On a single jurisdiction high seas fishing trip no other sharks of the subclass Elasmobranchii may be retained.

## Bycatch Handling

The holder of a fishing concession must take all reasonable measures to ensure that bycatch, and the impact of fishing operations, are kept to a minimum. It is your responsibility to understand your obligations in relation to bycatch handling and treatment.

You must not mistreat bycatch. Mistreat means the taking of an action or actions, or the failure to take an action or actions, which results, or is likely to result, in the death of, injury to, or causing of distress to any bycatch.

There is a list of principles to help you know what is and is not acceptable treatment of bycatch. These are:

### Principle 1: Safety of the boat and its crew are paramount

Mishandling does not include actions taken (or not taken), which are reasonably necessary<sup>2</sup> to ensure the safety of the boat and or its crew.

### Principle 2: All reasonable steps should be taken

Operators are expected to take all reasonable steps to ensure that bycatch is returned to the water as quickly as practicable and in a manner which does not reduce its chance of survival.

### Principle 3: Minor gear recovery is not 'reasonably necessary'

Actions taken for the sole purpose of recovering minor<sup>3</sup> fishing gear, are not considered 'reasonably necessary'.

### Principle 4: Expediting removal from gear is not 'reasonably necessary'

It is not 'reasonably necessary' to injure bycatch when removing it from fishing gear to save time.

### Principle 5: Harm, injury or death caused during capture is not mishandling

Mishandling does not include where bycatch is already dead, injured or stressed when it is brought on-board<sup>4</sup>.

### Principle 6: Compliance with approved bycatch management plans

Handling of bycatch in accordance with AFMA approved bycatch management plan(s) is not mishandling.

## Southern Bluefin Tuna

The Plan does not allow fishing for SBT. Any take of SBT must be done in accordance with the quota arrangements under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*.

---

<sup>2</sup> See principles 3 and 4.

<sup>3</sup> 'Minor' gear includes items such as hooks, which are unlikely to cause further harm to the bycatch, or marine pollution, if discharged/discarded attached to the bycatch.

<sup>4</sup> Unless further deliberate action or inaction results in the death or further injury to the bycatch.

Therefore, only operators who hold SBT quota SFRs are permitted to take SBT when fishing within the WTBF.

The following conditions apply when using the pelagic longline method:

- Before entering the area of the fishery east of longitude 129° 00' East for the first time and before leaving port, you must ensure that you have 2000kg of SBT quota nominated to your boat.
- At all times after the first entry you will need to ensure that the sum of SBT taken by the boat in the area of the fishery to the east of longitude 129° 00' East, and live weight untaken value of SBT SFRs nominated in respect of the boat, is at least 2000kg.
- SBT are only allowed to be released if they are alive and vigorous. AFMA defines an alive and vigorous fish as a healthy specimen that is likely to survive if released. If SBT are to be released alive and vigorous they must not be shot or gaffed prior to release. All SBT that are to be released must be done so at the fish door in full view of the e-monitoring system.

A SBT CDS was introduced by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in 2009 to allow individual SBT to be tracked from the point of capture to the point of sale.

For full details of how to complete the CDS logbooks please refer to the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Longline Handbook* (available on the AFMA website) and the instructions contained within the CDS logbooks.

**Operators are no longer required to complete the Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Disposal Record (CR4A). All catches of SBT must be reported in the Commonwealth Pelagic Fisheries Catch Disposal Record (PT02B) and in the CDS logbooks.**

## Northern Bluefin Tuna

Northern Bluefin Tuna (NBT) can be confused with SBT so to resolve identification difficulties operators must follow these directions:

- If the Bluefin Tuna was taken north of latitude 28° South **and** was greater than 220cm fork length it may be deemed a NBT;
- If the Bluefin Tuna was taken south of 28° South, between 1 January and 1 May **and** was greater than 200cm, it may be deemed a NBT; or
- The holder can supply a sample of the fish to an AFMA approved agency for testing to determine the species. The sample must be comprised of an intact tail section of the fish (small part of the keel and caudal finlets) and should contain a small section of muscle. The caudal fins may be trimmed for transport purposes.

If a Bluefin Tuna does not fit the spatial, temporal and length criteria as described above, you can:

- Obtain genetic testing showing that the fish in question is a NBT (AFMA will then deem the fish as a NBT); or
- For fish exported to Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Tsukiji Market), document the fish as a Bluefin Tuna on the CDRs; and provide the documentation from the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market (Tsukiji Market) showing the fish was sold as a NBT (AFMA will then deem the fish as a NBT).

**Note: the SFR holder takes a risk if they export a fish as NBT and it is subsequently deemed to be SBT by the Tsukiji Market or Japanese authorities. This may then prevent the sale of the fish in Japan.**

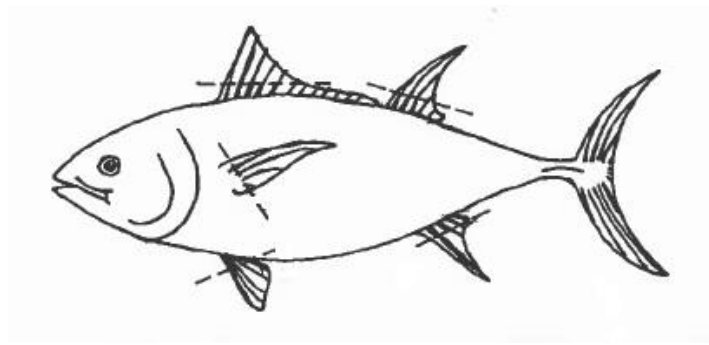
When landing NBT, you must let AFMA know. This can be done via e-mail [northernbluefin@afma.gov.au](mailto:northernbluefin@afma.gov.au) (or fax if e-mail is not available on 02 6225 5440) at least 1 hour before landing in port. You must tell AFMA:

- The name of the boat;
- Distinguishing symbol of the boat;
- Port of landing;
- Date and time of landing; and
- Number and weight of NBTs and/or SBTs.

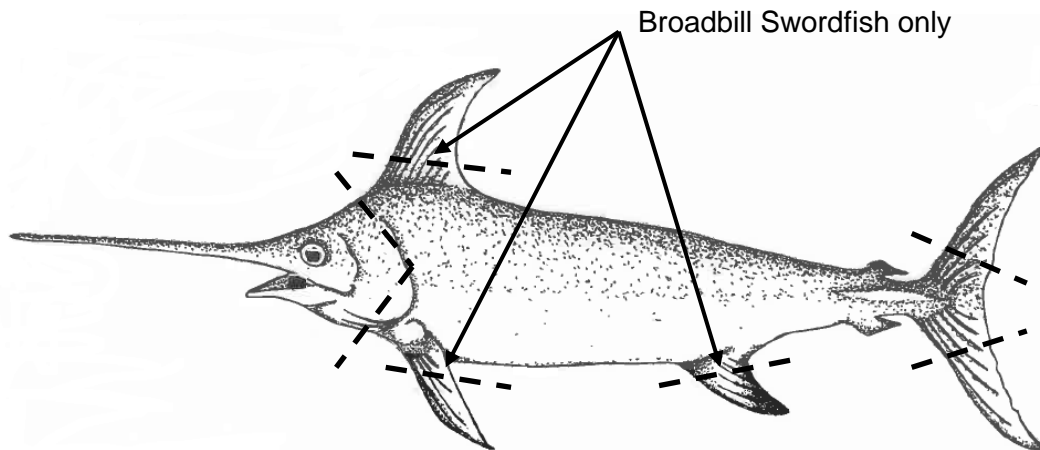
## Processing Fish

There are specific landing requirements for tuna in the WTBF:

- Tuna (except SBT and NBT) cannot be processed at sea except for the removal of fins (except the caudal fin), gilling and gutting. SBT and NBT can be landed gilled and gutted (also known as Australian cut). Please see Regulation 9ZO of the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992* for more details.
- Billfish (except Broadbill Swordfish) must be landed with the caudal keel, pectoral and anal fins still attached to the carcass. **No other processing can be conducted.**
- Broadbill Swordfish can be processed at sea, either by filleting or the removal of all fins. Please see Regulation 9ZO of the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992* for more details.
- Bony fishes must not be landed in a form other than as a whole, gilled, gutted or headed fish or a combination of these forms.
- Sharks must be landed with their fins still attached to the carcass and **it is forbidden to carry, retain or land shark livers unless the carcass from which the liver was obtained is also landed.**



**Figure 1: Processing cuts for Tuna**



**Figure 2: Processing cuts for Broadbill Swordfish**

## Mandatory Seabird Mitigation Measures for Longline Fishing

### At all times you must:

- Carry an assembled tori line onboard; and
- Not discharge offal while setting.

### When you are fishing South of 25° South you must:

- Deploy a tori line before commencing a shot when fishing between the hours of nautical dawn and nautical dusk;

**Note:** Nautical Dawn is defined as the instant in the morning, when the centre of the Sun is at a depression angle of twelve degrees (12°) below an ideal horizon. Nautical Dusk is defined as the instant in the evening, when the centre of the Sun is at a depression angle of twelve degrees (12°) below an ideal horizon. At both times, the sea horizon is not normally visible.

- A tori line is not required to be deployed when performing fishing operations between the hours of nautical dusk and nautical dawn, providing the vessel uses minimum deck lighting (where minimum deck lighting is a lighting level which does not pose a risk to safety and navigation).
- Use only thawed bait;
- Weight longlines with either a minimum of:
  - 60g swivels at a distance of no more than 3.5m from each hook; or
  - 98g swivels at a distance of no more than 4m from each hook; or
  - 40g weights immediately adjacent to the hook, or at no more than 0.5m from the hook, with dead, non-frozen baits attached to the hooks; or
  - “Smart Tuna Hooks” with a cap and weighing at least 38g may be deployed directly at the hook as an alternative.

### Tori line specifications:

Your tori line must be:

- At least 100m long;
- Set up from a position on the boat that allows it to stay above the water for at least 90m;
- Have streamers attached at least every 3.5m;
  - Streamers should be maintained, ensuring that their lengths are as close to the water as possible.
- Have a drogue at the end of the line to give sufficient drag to meet the 90m aerial coverage criteria.

## Mandatory Turtle Mitigation Measures for Longline Fishing

### Circle hooks

Large circle hooks must be used if less than eight hooks per bubble are set.



## De-hooking device

At all times you must carry on board a minimum of one de-hooking device, with the following specifications:

- The device must enable the hook to be secured and the barb shielded so that the barb does not re-engage with the fish while the hook is being removed;
- The device must be blunt with all edges rounded;
- Where more than one size of hook is to be carried, a de-hooking device (or devices) must be carried that can be used with all hooks on the boat; and
- The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

## Line cutting device

At all times you must carry on board a minimum of one line cutting device. The line cutting device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:

- The device must be constructed to allow the line to be cut as close to the hook as possible;
- The blade of the device must be enclosed in a blunt rounded (arc-shaped) cover with the hook exposed on the inside of the arc; and
- The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

## Protected Species

### What is a protected species?

The EPBC Act establishes four different categories of protected species in Commonwealth areas. These are:

1. Listed threatened species or listed threatened ecological communities: these generally include species with low population numbers, those that have had a reduction in habitat or distribution, or those that are subject to an increase in other threats.
2. Listed migratory species: are listed to meet Australia's obligations under certain international treaties (such as the Convention on Migratory Species).
3. Listed marine species: are listed to provide general protection to Australia's marine native wildlife and to reduce the likelihood of population decline. It is an offence to kill injure, trade, take, keep or move native wildlife without a permit or other authorisation.
4. All cetaceans (whales and dolphins): are listed to uphold Australia's strong international, regional and national measures for the protection of this group of animals.

### What are the most common protected species that I could interact with in the WTBF?

The most common protected species that you are likely to encounter in the WTBF include seabirds, turtles and marine mammals such as whales. There are also a small number of

sharks (Great White, Grey Nurse, Longfin Mako and Shortfin Mako) and other fish listed under the EPBC Act.

Under the EPBC Act taking and retaining of Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako and Porbeagle Sharks is prohibited in Commonwealth waters. There are exceptions to these prohibitions where species are caught as bycatch in the ETBF and WTBF in the following specific circumstances:

- All **live** Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako and Porbeagle Sharks (including those in poor condition or showing minimal signs of life) must be **released** back into the water;
- Only dead on line Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako and Porbeagle Sharks may be retained;
- All Longfin Mako, Shortfin Mako and Porbeagle Sharks caught, regardless of whether they are returned to the water, must be **recorded on the appropriate logbook**.

There are a range of other species that are protected and are encountered in other AFMA fisheries. These include Sea Snakes, Sea Lions, Syngnathids (Sea Horses, Sea Dragons and Pipefish), Sawfishes (Green and Freshwater), Crocodiles and Dugongs.

An up-to-date list of all protected species is available on the Department of the Environment and Energy website ([www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)).

### How can I tell exactly which protected species I've seen or interacted with?

To help you accurately report any protected species interactions, AFMA has produced a Protected Species Identification Guide and a Seabird Identification Guide. These guides cover the range of protected species that AFMA-managed fisheries interact with, or have the potential to interact with, during their normal fishing operations. The guides provide pictures of these species along with indicative distribution maps and key biological information. Waterproof copies of both of these guides have been printed, so please let us know if you would like one sent for your boat. Please note that only one copy of each guide will be provided for each boat. Guides can be requested by contacting the bycatch team on AFMA Direct (**1300 723 621**).



Both identification guides are also available on the AFMA website; the Protected Species Identification Guide as a [PDF](#), and the Seabird Identification Guide as an [e-book or PDF](#) ([www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au)).

## Wildlife Interactions

### What is an interaction with a protected species?

"Interaction" means any physical contact that you (personally, your boat or your fishing gear) have with a protected species that causes death, injury or stress to an individual member of a protected species. This includes any collisions, catching, hooking, netting, entangling, or trapping of a protected species.

### **Is it illegal to interact with a protected species when I'm fishing in the ETBF?**

No – provided that you are fishing in accordance with the Plan and provided that you report any and all interactions.

### **Do I have to report every time I have an interaction with a protected species?**

Yes – you need to record the interaction in your AFMA Daily Fishing Logbook. The obligation to report all protected species interactions is a legal requirement under the EPBC Act.

### **How do I report interactions with protected species?**

You report by recording the relevant information in your AFMA Daily Fishing Logbook or electronic logbook equivalent. You need to indicate 'Yes' on the logbook and then fill out the 'Listed Marine and Threatened Species' form. These forms are located at the back of the paper logbooks and, once filled out, should be returned to AFMA within 3 calendar days of the end of the trip. These forms must be completed for all protected species except for Mako Shark species.

### **How does this information get from AFMA to Department of the Environment and Energy?**

AFMA has formally agreed to provide the Department of the Environment and Energy, with 3 monthly summary reports of all protected species interactions, as reported through AFMA logbooks. This streamlines the reporting arrangements, and removes your responsibility for reporting interactions separately to both AFMA and Department of the Environment and Energy.

All interaction reports provided to Department of the Environment and Energy from 1 April 2012 to date are available on the AFMA website at: <http://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/protected-species-management/protected-species-interaction-reports/>.

### **Can I take back responsibility for reporting my interactions directly to Department of the Environment and Energy?**

Yes – you can advise AFMA that you no longer want AFMA to report your protected species interactions to Department of the Environment and Energy on your behalf. If you formally request this, you will still be required to record all protected species interactions in your AFMA Daily Fishing Logbook. In addition, you would then also be responsible for advising Department of the Environment and Energy directly of any interactions that you have with protected species.

### **How can I get further information about protected species interaction issues?**

Please contact AFMA Environment Section via AFMA Direct on **1300 723 621**.

### **What do I need to do if a seabird is killed during an interaction?**

1. **Keep the dead seabird onboard the boat** (if feasible, collected whole or tissue sampled for analysis retained it in a way which will limit decay of the specimen and meet Australian Biosecurity requirements);

2. **Record the details** in your *Australian Longline Daily Fishing Log (AL06)*, circle 'Yes' in the box at the bottom of the log sheet and fill out the 'Listed Marine and Threatened Species' form (i.e. as for any other protected species interaction); and
3. **Contact the Department of the Environment and Energy to arrange analysis**, if feasible, either transported, as a whole seabird specimen or tissue sample, to a storage and analysis facility nominated by the Department of the Environment and Energy, or undergo other analysis, as required by the Department with these costs met by the Department.

### Why do I need to keep all seabirds killed during interactions?

This action is necessary to meet the requirements of the second Threat Abatement Plan for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (TAP2).

The collected seabirds undergo an examination to validate species, subspecies, origin (where possible), cause of death, age, sex and breeding status.

### How do I store a dead seabird on board my boat without risking contaminating my catch?

Australian Biosecurity approved seabird collection kits can be obtained from AFMA by contacting the AFMA Environment Section via AFMA Direct: **1300 723 621**. It is advisable these kits are carried onboard at all times.

## Compliance

---

### Domestic Offences

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring, contact AFMA's Compliance Duty Officer on **0419 205 329** as soon as possible after you discover the event. Reports may be made anonymously and would ideally include the following:

- the date, time and location that the activity took place;
- the names of any verifying witnesses; and
- any photographs and/or other evidence.

For domestic offences you can also use AFMA's 'CRIMFISH' hotline on **1800 274 634** (1800 CRIMFI). A reporting form can also be downloaded from the 'CRIMFISH' website, (<http://www.afma.gov.au/monitoring-enforcement/report-illegal-fishing-activity/>) and then sent to AFMA.

All information received will be treated as strictly confidential.

### Foreign Fishing Offences

If you sight a foreign vessel that you believe may be involved in illegal fishing, please contact Australian Border Force on free call **1800 009 623** (attended 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). All information received will be treated as strictly confidential. You may also contact the AFMA Compliance Duty Officer on **0419 205 329** for foreign fishing offences.

## Transshipping Catch

Transshipping (transferring fish taken from one vessel to another vessel) cannot be undertaken in the WTBF.



## After I Get Back From Fishing

### Fish Receivers

Fish taken in the WTBF can only be landed or disposed of to holders of a Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit (FRP). The FRP holder must verify the species and weight of all fish received and sign the **blue copy** of the CDR immediately after the fish are received (within 50m of unload area unless the FRP holder has an 'exempt' certification).

A CDR must be completed for each consignment of fish sent to each different receiver and all fish landed in the WTBF must be recorded on the CDR.

After completing a CDR:

- the **white** copy (filled in by the permit holder or authorised agent) must be sent to AFMA within 3 calendar days of unloading;
- the **blue** and **yellow** copies must accompany each load of fish to the first receiver;
- the **blue** copy must be completed by the FRP holder or their authorised agent and sent to AFMA within 3 calendar days of receiving the fish; and
- the **yellow** copy must be retained by the FRP holder.

It is the responsibility of the operator to make sure that the first person to receive their catch is a Commonwealth FRP holder. A list of licensed FRP holders can be found on AFMA's website (<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/fishing-rights-permits/>) as well as information on how to apply for a FRP.

### Who can sign forms?

Only the holder or their authorised agents are allowed to sign logbooks, CDRs and transit forms. To nominate an authorised agent to do specific things on your behalf, you will need

to complete an Authorised Agent Nomination form (AA form) available on AFMA's website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/resource-centre/publications-and-forms/fisheries/licensing-and-quota-management/>.

## Keeping Track of Your Quota

**You are responsible for monitoring your own quota to ensure you have enough to cover your fishing activity at all times.**

## Quota Transaction Statements

AFMA provides concession holders with yearly Quota Transaction Statements (QTS) that show:

- (a) individual quota allocations;
- (b) quota trading transactions; and
- (c) catch.

QTS and quota holdings can be viewed on AFMA's online service GOFish (no charge), or by contacting Licensing and Quota Management on AFMA Direct (**1300 723 621**) (\$30 fee applies).

## GOFish

In addition to Quota Transaction Statements, concession holders can access **GOFish**. This is an online service to allow concession holders to conduct transactions and to keep track of their concessions. The service enables fishers working in most AFMA-managed fisheries to obtain instant online access to their current holdings, including full history of quota transactions conducted during the current season. Fishers can apply for access to the new service by visiting the AFMA website at [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au) or by contacting AFMA Direct on **1300 723 621**.

## How will AFMA monitor catch and quota during the season?

The weight of fish that you have caught is deducted from your quota holdings based on the weights reported on your CDR forms as verified by an AFMA registered fish receiver. These weights are then converted to a whole weight based on the species and method used to process the fish.

## Conversion Factors

When AFMA receives your CDR forms, the weights, process codes and species form the basis for the calculation of processed weight to whole weight. The calculated whole weight is the weight that will be deducted from your quota holdings. The current conversion factors used by AFMA for the four WTBF target species are outlined in Table 7.



Table 8: Conversion factors for processing of quota species

	Whole	Gilled and Guttled	Headed and Guttled	Trunked	Damaged	Filletted	Guttled
Bigeye Tuna	1	1.1	1.25	1.5	1.5	-	-
Yellowfin Tuna	1	1.1	1.25	1.5	1.5	-	-
Broadbill Swordfish	1	1.1	1.25	1.25	-	1.75	-
Striped Marlin	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	-	-	1.1

### Quota Reconciliation

If you exceed your quota holdings during the season, you will have 28 days from the date of landing to cover that exceeded amount with quota. During this 28 day period you can still fish. If you go further over quota during this 28 day period, the second amount of overcatch must be reconciled within 28 days from when it is landed. This means that you have 28 days from the date of each landing to cover the catch from that landing, with quota.

If you are still over quota after the 28 day period for each landing you will be subject to compliance action. You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure that you reconcile catch with quota prior to the due date. The only over-quota notification you will receive from AFMA is via GOFish. If, due to exceptional circumstances, you cannot reconcile you must contact AFMA prior to the due date. Further information on quota reconciliation can be obtained from the AFMA website (<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/28-day-quota-reconciliation/>).

### Undercatch and Overcatch

Undercatch and overcatch provisions along with determined weights have been set for the 2018 fishing season and are outlined in Table 8. The purpose of these provisions is to provide some practical flexibility when fishing close to your quota limit at the end of the season.

Table 9: Determined percentage of overcatch and undercatch for WTBF quota species

Quota Species	Determined Percentage (Overcatch – s4.5)	Determined Percentage (Undercatch – s4.6)	Determined weight (s4.5) (kg)
Bigeye Tuna	10	10	2,000
Yellowfin Tuna	10	10	2,000
Broadbill Swordfish	10	10	2,000
Striped Marlin	10	10	2,000



## Overcatch

Overcatch is when you catch more than the quota allocated to your quota SFR, for one species in one fishing season. Overcatch is an administrative penalty that allows AFMA to avoid pursuing operators who exceed their entitlements by small amounts.

A 10% overcatch amount has been set for the WTBF. This means that you can catch an extra 10% above your quota holdings for a species in one season without penalty, provided this is within the last 28 days of the season, and AFMA will deduct this amount from your quota holdings in the next season. The 10% will be calculated based on your holdings at the end of the fishing season.

If you do not hold quota in the following season you may not use overcatch provisions, and you must reconcile any overcaught quota within 28 days of landing as outlined under the quota reconciliation provisions.

If you have exceeded your quota by more than 10% at the end of the season, you must obtain additional quota or you will be subject to compliance action.

## Undercatch

Undercatch is when you catch less than the quota allocated to your quota SFR for a particular species in a particular season. A 10% undercatch percentage has been set for the WTBF and is calculated at the end of the season. This '10%' of your total quota holding, is the maximum amount of uncaught quota that AFMA will allow you to take in the following fishing season. It does not apply to any quota that you have leased out, but it does apply to any quota that you have leased in. **Undercatch is not transferrable.** Undercatch provides relief to operators who encounter circumstances within a fishing season, which prevent them from taking their quota for a species.

Concession holders are reminded that in order to receive undercatch on their holdings for utilisation in the 2019 season, operators are required to hold at least one quota SFR for that species on **31 March 2019**. This SFR can either be permanently held by the operator, or can be leased in for the new season.

## Determined Weight

In the WTBF, the determined weight for the 2018 season is 2,000 kg. This is the amount that you can catch in addition to the 10% overcatch already allowed, without facing prosecution. The amount you exceed your 10% overcatch by will be deducted from your holdings in the following season at the rate of two for one, i.e. 4,000 kg will be deducted for a 2,000 kg overcatch.

## Transfer of a Statutory Fishing Right (SFR)

Operators may transfer SFRs online by registering for GOFish. You can access **GOFish** located on AFMA's website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/>.

For a transfer to take effect close to the end of the season, a completed application must be received by AFMA in the approved form, by no later than **5:00pm EST 16 February 2019**.

AFMA will **NOT** approve the transfer of an SFR if:

- the owner of the right (transferee) is subject to legal proceedings in relation to that Right;
- the Right has been suspended or AFMA believes there may be grounds for suspension; and/or
- the application is received when levies have been issued and the current instalment has not yet been fully paid.

It is the purchaser's responsibility to check the Personal Property Securities Register to find out if a third party has registered an interest in the SFRs. See [www.ppsr.gov.au](http://www.ppsr.gov.au) for information about Personal Property Securities Registration.

SFR transfers **CAN** take effect within the fishing season where:

- quota has been caught under that Right during the fishing season (the SFR may be transferred without a kilogram value attached and the kilogram value will be re-granted to the SFR in following season); or
- the Right has been leased to another operator during the fishing season.

Transfer forms are available on the AFMA website at [www.afma.gov.au](http://www.afma.gov.au).

### AFMA Quota Administration Policy

The AFMA Commission approved an overarching Quota Administration Policy in January 2013. This policy applies to all Commonwealth fisheries and includes a maximum 28-day quota reconciliation arrangement that applies in the ETBF. The undercatch and overcatch provisions for all fisheries are currently under review. For more information on the Quota Administration Policy please see <http://www.afma.gov.au/about/fisheries-management-policies/>.

### How is the fishery managed internationally?

All the quota species caught in the WTBF are part of wider Indian Ocean stocks. International management of the stocks is coordinated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Australia is an active member of the IOTC and Australian Government representatives from AFMA and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, along with industry members, participate in all meetings of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, IOTC Scientific Committee and IOTC Compliance Committee. The Australian Government position is to support all Conservation and Management Measures and catch level decisions agreed at the IOTC and implement them in domestic management arrangements. More details on the IOTC can be found on the IOTC website ([www.iotc.org](http://www.iotc.org)).

### Landing in a Foreign Port

If you intend to land in a foreign port you must:

- ensure all fishing gear remains stowed and secured when transiting through any other country's exclusive economic zone;
- where the boat has entered any foreign fishing jurisdiction from the high seas for the intention of mooring in port, the boat must travel to port by the most direct route

possible, unless approval for fishing within the jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;

- where the boat leaves any foreign port, the boat must travel directly to the high seas by the most direct route possible unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
- not to partake in fishing activity within any foreign fishing jurisdiction during a trip unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
- not to partake in any unloading activity within any foreign port unless an approval for unloading within that foreign port has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat and;
- co-operate with inspections by foreign fisheries officers authorised by other signatories to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

Further details are provided in the Inspection of Australian Fishing Vessels Unloading in Foreign Ports policy available on the AFMA website at <http://www.afma.gov.au/about/fisheries-management-policies/>.

## Contact Details

---

### Management

Trent Timmiss [Trent.Timmiss@afma.gov.au](mailto:Trent.Timmiss@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5313  
*Senior Manager, Tuna and International Fisheries*

### Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Don Bromhead [Don.Bromhead@afma.gov.au](mailto:Don.Bromhead@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5363  
*Manager*

Sara Murphy [Sara.Murphy@afma.gov.au](mailto:Sara.Murphy@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5386  
*Senior Management Officer*

Natalie Rivero [Natalie.Rivero@afma.gov.au](mailto:Natalie.Rivero@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5431  
*Management Officer*

WTBF Fax (02) 6225 5440

WTBF Email [TunaandInternational@afma.gov.au](mailto:TunaandInternational@afma.gov.au)

### Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Matt Daniel [Matt.Daniel@afma.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Daniel@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5338  
*Manager*

### Logbook and Licensing Administration

Anne Shepherd (02) 6225 5361  
*Manager, Licensing and Data Services*

Karen Cullen (02) 6225 5452  
*Logbook/Data Administration Officer*

Logbooks Fax (02) 6225 5440

Logbooks Email [DataEntry@afma.gov.au](mailto:DataEntry@afma.gov.au) or [licensing@afma.gov.au](mailto:licensing@afma.gov.au)

### Protected Species Interactions

[bycatch@afma.gov.au](mailto:bycatch@afma.gov.au) (02) 6225 5555

### Domestic Compliance

AFMA Direct 1300 723 621

Adam Wade (02) 6225 5563  
*Manager, Domestic Compliance*

Glen Salmon (02) 6225 5395  
*Manager, National Surveillance and Response Unit*

### **Intelligence and VMS**

Tod Spencer (02) 6225 5312  
*Senior Manager, National Compliance Strategy*

Nate Meulenberg (02) 6225 5428  
*Manager, National Intelligence*

Mark Lockerbie (02) 6225 5474  
*Senior Intelligence Analyst (VMS)*

Narelle Williams (02) 6225 5542  
*VMS Administration*

CRIMFISH 1800 274 634

Duty Officer 0419 205 329

Compliance Fax (02) 6225 5442

Compliance Email [ForeignSurveillanceResponse@afma.gov.au](mailto:ForeignSurveillanceResponse@afma.gov.au)

Intelligence Email [Intelligence@afma.gov.au](mailto:Intelligence@afma.gov.au)

### **Observers**

Duty Officer 0427 016 859

### **Electronic Monitoring**

Mike Gerner (02) 6225 5379  
*Manager, E-monitoring Program*

Archipelago Asia Pacific (02) 6162 1192

E-monitoring Email [e-monitoring@afma.gov.au](mailto:e-monitoring@afma.gov.au)

E-monitoring System  
Maintenance and Repairs  
Email [service@archipelago-ap.com.au](mailto:service@archipelago-ap.com.au)

### **State Fisheries**

Tasmania	Wild Fisheries Management Branch, Department of Primary Industry, Water & Environment	(03) 6233 2147
South Australia	Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industries and Regions	(08) 8204 1380 (Head Office)
Victoria	Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industries	1300 366 356
New South Wales	New South Wales Fisheries	1300 550 474
Queensland	Queensland Fisheries Service	(07) 3404 6999

## WTBF Internet Links for Relevant Documents

---

*Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005*

[www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2005L03187](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2005L03187)

*Fisheries Management Act 1991*

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C01062>

*Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016C00617>

*Fisheries Management (Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Regulations 2006*

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2006L03975/Amendments>

Department of the Environment and Energy

[www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

AFMA legislation page

<http://www.afma.gov.au/about/fisheries-management-policies/>

AFMA logbook page

[www.afma.gov.au/services-for-industry/logbooks-and-catch-disposal/](http://www.afma.gov.au/services-for-industry/logbooks-and-catch-disposal/)

AFMA licensing forms

[www.afma.gov.au/resource-centre/publications-and-forms/fisheries/licensing-and-quota-management/](http://www.afma.gov.au/resource-centre/publications-and-forms/fisheries/licensing-and-quota-management/)

Commonwealth Harvest Strategy

[http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest\\_strategy\\_policy](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/domestic/harvest_strategy_policy)



Figure 3: AFMA 2018 Moon phase calendar





Figure 4: Area of the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

