



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

# Annual Report

2015–16



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**Front cover photos:** Southern bluefin tuna – Photo courtesy of Jarrad James, AFMA;  
Quad rigged trawler starboard boom – Photo courtesy of Joshua Cahill, AFMA;  
Snapper processing – Photo courtesy of Mathew Jones, AFMA; Fish and chips



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

16 September 2016

The Hon Anne Ruston  
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Assistant 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 2016. This annual report includes AFMA's Annual Performance Statement for 2015–16.

During 2015–16, AFMA continued to efficiently deliver regulatory and management services to Australian fishing operators and the broader community. This has ensured sustainable and profitable Commonwealth fisheries that contributed approximately \$400 million in gross value of production. At the same time AFMA was minimising the risk of unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems. 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 for the purposes of section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and section 87 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Non corporate Commonwealth Entity Annual Reporting) Rule 2016*, approved by the Minister for Finance under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

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, recording or reporting mechanisms 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, as required under section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Yours sincerely



Hon Norman Moore AM  
Chairman



Dr James Findlay  
Chief Executive Officer

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Figure 1: Danish seine nets and boats at Lake's Entrance, Victoria –  
Photo courtesy of Ryan Keightley, AFMA.

# USER GUIDE

This report provides details of the operations and performance of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ending 30 June 2016, as forecast in the Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio Budget Statements 2015–16, our Corporate Plan 2015–18 and our Annual Operational Plan 2015–16.

## PART 1 – OVERVIEW

Part 1 provides an introduction to AFMA together with the Chairman's and Chief Executive Officer's overview, looking at our key achievements in 2015–16, as well as developments in our operating environment and outlook for the year ahead.

## PART 2 – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Part 2 is AFMA's Annual Performance Statement explaining our purposes, performance results and analyses of these results.

## PART 3 – FISHERY REPORTS

Part 3 describes each fishery's contribution to the performance results for the year, any significant changes to management arrangements and highlights the opportunities and challenges addressed in meeting AFMA's purposes as described in the Annual Performance Statement.

## PART 4 – MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Part 4 covers AFMA's governance arrangements and practices. These include financial management, human resource management activities, risk management practices and monitoring and review mechanisms.

## PART 5 – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND STATEMENTS

Part 5 consists of AFMA's annual financial performance report and financial statements for the 2015–16 financial year as independently audited by the Australian National Audit Office. These statements include our financial performance, financial position and cash flows during 2015–16.

## PART 6 – APPENDICES

The appendices include reporting requirements such as details of AFMA's Commission and Executive, civil litigation outcomes, management advisory committee meetings and membership, freedom of information, ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance, consultancy services, work health and safety, disability reporting, agency resources and payments and a statement of expenses by outcomes.

## PART 7 – GLOSSARY AND INDEXES

This section provides a list of requirements as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Non corporate Commonwealth Entity Annual Reporting) Rule 2016* and the Resource Management Guide no 135 'Annual reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities'. The annual reporting requirements of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* are also shown. A glossary and index are also provided in this section.



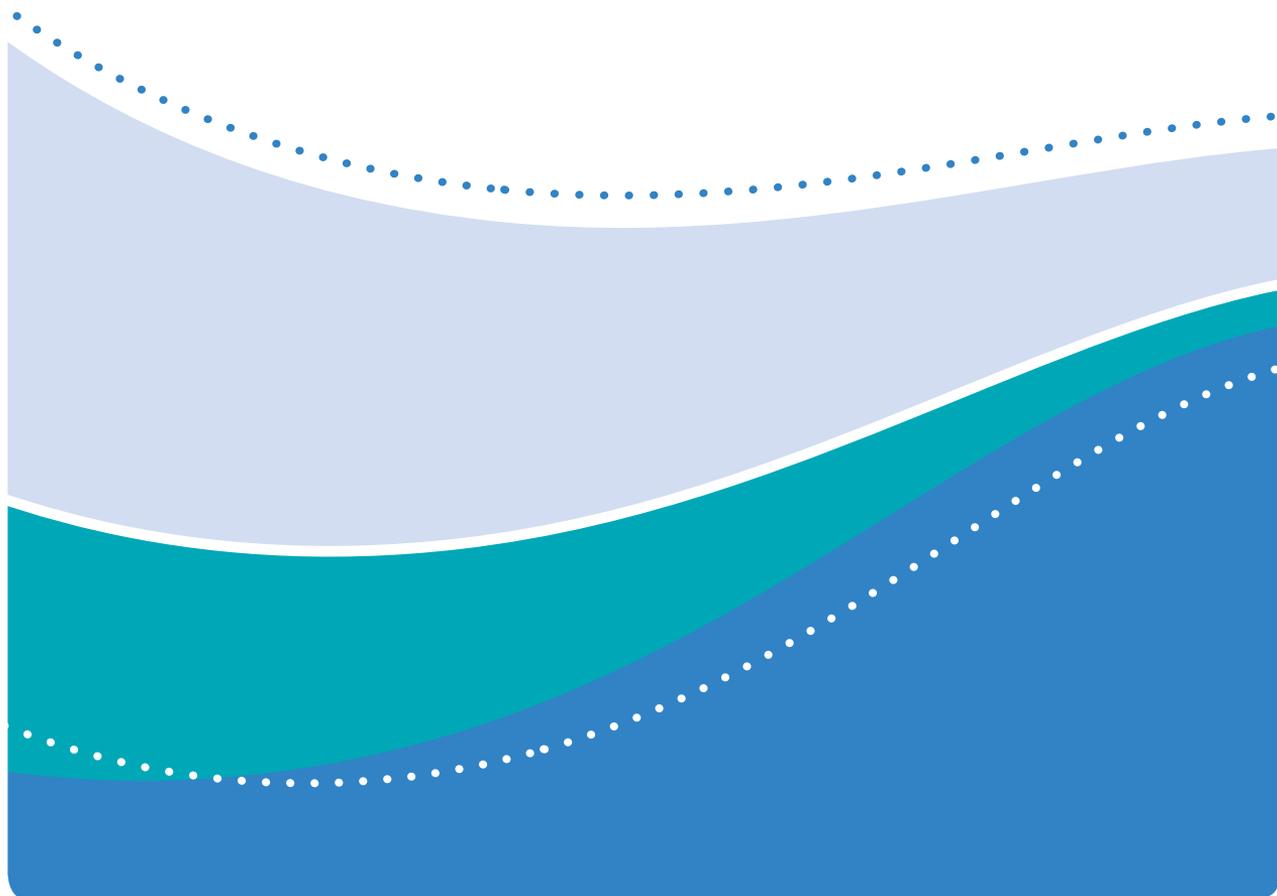
Figure 2: Scallops.

# Part 1

# Overview

Chairman's and CEO's overview

Our Agency



## PART 1 - SUMMARY

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### SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

No stocks subject to overfishing in AFMA solely managed fisheries for three consecutive years.

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### RED TAPE REDUCTIONS

**15** red tape reduction ideas were implemented to remove unnecessary or inefficient constraints on fishery operators.

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### ELECTRONIC MONITORING

**25%** of all Commonwealth fishing vessels are now using e-monitoring to observe operator performance, and to collect and review data.

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### REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

**>100** Kiribati Officers were trained over three years in fisheries management and compliance which strengthened their capacity to sustainably manage their fish stocks and take enforcement action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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### GROSS VALUE OF PRODUCTION 2015-16

**\$400 million** is the estimated gross value of production for Commonwealth fisheries.

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# CHAIRMAN'S AND CEO'S REVIEW

The gross value of production for Commonwealth fisheries rose to approximately \$400 million in 2015–16. This emphasises the importance of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) continuing to deliver an efficient and responsive regulatory approach that supports a profitable and competitive Commonwealth commercial fishing industry. At the same time, AFMA has successfully pursued the sustainability of Australia's fisheries for the benefit of present and future generations of Australians.

In this report AFMA presents, for the first time, an Annual Performance Statement in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The statement in Part 2 of this report provides details of our operational objectives, our performance results and, together with Part 3 'Fishery reports', an analysis of those results.

## ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

The most recent Fishery Status Report 2016 (released by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences) found that, for the third consecutive year, no stocks managed solely by the Commonwealth (AFMA) were subject to overfishing (i.e. a stock that is experiencing too much fishing and the removal rate from the stock is unsustainable). However, seven stocks were listed as overfished (i.e. a fish stock below the biomass limit reference point), and we will continue to pursue comprehensive management strategies to rebuild these stocks. More detail is provided in the fishery reports in Part 3 of this report.

During 2015–16 AFMA placed significant effort into reviewing its ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management system. This system is a holistic approach for assessing and managing the impact of Commonwealth fisheries on marine species, habitats and communities. The review was supported by the Ecological Risk Assessment Technical Working Group, management advisory committees and resource assessment groups. The ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management guide for AFMA fishery managers is the main product of the review and will be presented to the AFMA Commission for approval later in 2016. AFMA will implement the revised ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management system in 2016–17. A short 'plain English' summary of the guide will be produced for stakeholders and the public.

We take our role to protect species incidentally caught by commercial fishers seriously. In 2015–16 the Commission approved two new seabird mitigation methods to reduce the risk of seabird interactions. We have introduced improved marine mammal mitigation options in fishery Management Plans. In June 2016 we participated in a workshop to discuss options for mitigating marine mammal interactions with mid-water trawl gear in the Small Pelagic Fishery. In addition, fifty people have completed a bycatch and discards e-learning course developed by AFMA in collaboration with the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association.

As part of our efforts to promote and embrace innovative approaches to fisheries management and to broaden engagement with stakeholders, AFMA sponsored ‘Fishackathon 2016’, at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. This was a global initiative of the United States Department of State designed to raise awareness and help develop innovative solutions to address overfishing and marine sustainability issues. This was the first year that it was held in Australia. Fishackathon 2016 brought together a range of participants from multidisciplinary backgrounds, for the love of a challenge and a desire to improve sustainability. The five person team, ‘Fillet Finder’, of Angus Yuen, Benjamin Mo, Edwin Li, Emma Young and Mendel Liang was successful with their innovation giving seafood lovers an app to help identify fillets and to be sure what they were buying matched the label.

## **EFFICIENT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE**

Removing unnecessary and/or redundant regulation has allowed operators to modify their practices to increase efficiencies. These improvements have been complemented by our effective compliance regime.

From May 2016 more than one million square kilometres of additional offshore waters near southern and eastern Australia were opened to mid-water trawling in the Small Pelagic Fishery. This reflected AFMA’s findings that the Small Pelagic Fishery mid-water trawlers pose a low risk to deep water species such as orange roughy and gulper sharks. Many of the existing closures were not required to protect these species during trawler operations.

In April 2016 the AFMA Commission agreed that gillnet length restrictions in the shark gillnet sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery would be removed in Commonwealth waters (excluding State waters and for fishers without e-monitoring), following implementation of measures to minimise interactions with dolphins across the entire gillnet fishery.

Removing limits on net lengths will provide fishers with more flexibility to catch the sustainable total allowable catch for gummy shark. We will continue to monitor the impacts of removing gillnet length restrictions on other species including school shark and snapper, along with threatened, endangered and protected species.

In 2015–16 we implemented 15 of the 39 red-tape reduction initiatives identified in earlier years. Our red tape reduction efforts focused on simplifying licensing arrangements, reviewing closure directions and simplifying management advisory committee and resource assessment group arrangements.

The roll out of AFMA's camera-based electronic monitoring program (e-monitoring) has been completed in several fisheries with approximately one quarter of all Commonwealth fishing vessels now fully using this system. This provides a more cost effective method of monitoring operator performance, and collecting and reviewing data. The program continues to draw international interest as a way of using new technology to improve fisheries management. Taiwan is developing an e-monitoring system and is seeking our expert advice before taking its program further. A visit by a Taiwanese expert in March 2016 followed visits last year from Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the South Pacific Community based in Noumea, who are also considering adopting e-monitoring for use in their fisheries.

Amendments to statutory fisheries Management Plans continued in 2015–16. These will see a consistent approach applied across all Commonwealth fisheries for managing uncaught fishing quota and removing the need to carry fishing concessions on board boats. The amendments also provide the mechanism for AFMA to transition individual transferable quota units to statutory fishing rights in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery which, when complete, will see a single quota management system apply across Commonwealth fisheries.

AFMA's risk based compliance programs use intelligence driven and targeted operations to deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries and the Australian Fishing Zone. High priorities in 2015–16 were minimising quota evasion and reviewing compliance with AFMA's Vessel Monitoring System to ensure all boats were reporting at all times. Vessel Monitoring Systems compliance rates continued to be high with an average rate of 97 per cent in 2015–16.

We also continued to engage with our international networks, Maritime Border Command and the Australian Border Force in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In 2015–16 a total of 20 boats were apprehended as suspected illegal foreign fishing vessels. Sanctions imposed ranged from being placed on good behaviour bonds to fines totalling \$10 000 for an individual and suspended jail sentences of up to seven months.

In addition, we continued to build regional capacity to reduce the risk of illegal fishing in Australian waters and on stocks of interest to Australian operators. For example, AFMA officers worked with fisheries officials in Samoa, Tuvalu and the Cook Islands to assist in developing country specific procedures to facilitate cooperative fisheries surveillance programs under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement framework. Also in the Pacific, AFMA delivered in-country training on monitoring, control and surveillance techniques, participated in patrol activities and assisted in investigating breaches of legislation.

## EFFECTIVE, COST EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT AND REGULATOR ARRANGEMENTS

With about one third of our annual budget cost-recovered from industry, and most of the remainder sourced from allocations of public funds, AFMA recognises the importance of delivering effective, cost efficient and transparent management and regulator arrangements.

In 2010 AFMA made a commitment to industry that it would keep cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index changes. Since making this undertaking in 2010, we have out-performed the cumulative Consumer Price Index by more than \$27.8 million (as at 2015–16).

In April 2016 AFMA held a meeting with interested State, Territory and Commonwealth stakeholders to discuss and develop technical specifications and requirements for a broad based Vessel Monitoring System. The intention is for AFMA to offer our Vessel Monitoring System platform to host such a service on behalf of other jurisdictions. Increasing the number of boats hosted on our Vessel Monitoring System platform, whether they are State or Commonwealth vessels, will reduce the cost of providing Vessel Monitoring System services. To date two States have accepted AFMA's offer and a number of others have indicated interest.

In addition to such initiatives, we continued to focus on cost-efficient service delivery and have worked closely with industry over many years to minimise costs whilst successfully maintaining service levels.

AFMA has an ongoing focus on cost-effective delivery of its activities and has continued to drive efficiencies in its operations. AFMA reported a deficit of \$0.6 million for 2015–16. AFMA had an approved operating loss, relating to depreciation and amortisation expenses of \$2.2 million for the year. AFMA's total departmental expenditure was \$38.3 million, which was \$1.6 million lower than the previous year. AFMA's administered expenditure was \$2.1 million, relating to the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels. This was some \$0.2 million lower compared with the previous year; however, there was considerable interception activity in the latter part of the year.

## RECOGNITION

Again in 2015–16 our success was built on the dedication, skills and knowledge of our staff, who together with the Executive and Commissioners, have worked hard to deliver on the expectations of the government, commercial and recreational fishers and other stakeholders. Members of the commercial and recreational fishing sectors, environment and conservation organisations and government agencies continued to provide valuable insights and advice that enhanced fisheries management outcomes.

## OUTLOOK

AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016 was agreed with the majority of AFMA staff who participated in voting in May 2016. It includes a two per cent annual pay increase and makes improvements to flexible working conditions while reducing some leave entitlements.

AFMA staff numbers have steadily declined from a peak of 252 staff in 2008–09 to 187 staff in 2015–16. Reductions are expected to continue as regulatory and other service delivery models continue to adopt new technology.

Our Corporate Plan 2016–19 was approved by the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources in April 2016. Over the next four years we will have an increased focus on:

- managing the impact of fishing on marine wildlife (particularly on sea birds and mammals) and managing biological habitats and communities.
- examining the influences of catch rates on fishing industry viability.
- further examining opportunities for the deployment of electronic and digital solutions and services to improve efficiency of operations.

- refining policies (for example addressing overlapping and adjacent fishery quota management), reviewing opportunities to improve the efficiency and impact of legislation or regulations and engaging more extensively with our partners and regional contacts.
- increasing transparency in AFMA data and information systems that support decision making.

Further information is available from our website [afma.gov.au](http://afma.gov.au).



*Figure 3: Domestic boat boarding.*

# OUR AGENCY

## HISTORY AND ESTABLISHMENT

AFMA was established under the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* in February 1992 to manage Australia's Commonwealth fisheries and to 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 commercial fisheries.

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

AFMA's Commission is responsible for domestic fisheries management, and the Chief Executive Officer (who is also a Commissioner) is responsible for foreign compliance and assisting the Commission to implement its decisions. 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, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources. On 21 September 2015 responsibility for fisheries passed from Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck (the Parliamentary Secretary) to Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston (Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources).

## ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

AFMA is the Australian Government agency responsible for the provision of regulatory and other services to ensure efficient and sustainable management of Commonwealth commercial fisheries on behalf of the Australian community. The challenge in delivering these services is to find the right balance between ensuring a profitable and competitive fishing industry while keeping the impacts of commercial fishing on Australia's marine ecosystem within sustainable and acceptable risk levels.

Our fisheries management practices aim to maintain the ecological sustainability and profitability of Commonwealth commercial fisheries for 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 broader marine environment.

AFMA generally manages commercial fisheries from three nautical miles offshore to the boundary of the Australian Fishing Zone (200 nautical miles offshore), 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 agreements exist for the management of fish species between the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments.

The Commonwealth is also responsible for international fisheries matters, including preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone. Since ratifying the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in 1999, Australia has been negotiating regional arrangements to manage a range of highly migratory, straddling stocks and international stocks. AFMA participates in management, monitoring, control and surveillance activities as well as developing capacity building activities and providing advice and training to neighbouring countries and our regional partners.

As a regulatory agency, AFMA 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 of maximising net economic returns to the Australian community. In doing so we are accountable to the community and the fishing industry.

Australia's Commonwealth commercial 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 Australian community.

Our key stakeholders include the commercial fishing industry, researchers, environment/conservation organisations, recreational fishers, Indigenous communities and other government agencies. We have built a partnership approach with our stakeholders and involve them in developing policies and actions and encouraging them to share responsibility for fisheries management (and the associated risks) 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*.

## OUTCOME AND PROGRAMME

Our outcome is:

‘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.’

AFMA has a single programme with the objective of ‘to sustainably manage Commonwealth fisheries and deter illegal fishing’.

## AFMA’S PURPOSES

AFMA’s Corporate Plan 2015–18 describes that we are responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of Commonwealth commercial fisheries.

The Annual Performance Statement is structured to throw light on the major elements of AFMA’s purposes:

- pursuing the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries
- improving net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries (including compliance activities)
- delivering effective, cost efficient and transparent management and regulatory arrangements.

## OUR VALUES

AFMA staff 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.

AFMA's Client Service Charter also expresses our ongoing commitment to providing stakeholders with quality service.

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

AFMA's organisational structure as at 30 June 2016 is presented below.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources		Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources	
AFMA Commission			
AFMA Chief Executive Officer Dr James Findlay			
<b>Fisheries Management Branch</b> Executive Manager Dr Nick Rayns	<b>Fisheries Operations Branch</b> General Manager Mr Peter Venslovas	<b>Corporate Services Branch</b> Acting General Manager Mr John Andersen	
<b>Northern Fisheries</b> Senior Manager Mr Steve Bolton	<b>National Compliance Strategy</b> Senior Manager Mr Tod Spencer	<b>Executive Secretariat</b> Senior Manager Mr Andrew Pearson	
<b>Demersal and Midwater Fisheries</b> Senior Manager Mr George Day	<b>Compliance Operations (Darwin)</b> Senior Manager Mr John Davis	<b>Business</b> Chief Finance Office Mr Robert Gehrig	
<b>Tuna and International Fisheries</b> Senior Manager Mr Trent Timmiss	<b>Foreign Compliance Policy</b> Senior Manager Ms Kerry Smith	<b>Legal</b> Senior Manager Mr Paul Halliday	
<b>Policy, Environment, Economics, Co-management and Research</b> Senior Manager Ms Beth Gibson		<b>Workplace Human Resources</b> Senior Manager Ms Libby Jenkins	
		<b>Property, Risk and Security</b> Senior Manager Mr Scott Connors	
<b>Service One</b> Senior Manager Mr Ryan Murphy		<b>Service Delivery</b> Senior Manager Mr Jeremy Richter	

## WHERE WE OPERATE

AFMA has offices at three locations: Canberra, Darwin and Thursday Island. Details of AFMA's office locations are provided below.

AFMA office locations		
<b>Canberra office</b>		
Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 6 73 Northbourne Avenue CANBERRA ACT 2600	PO BOX 7051 Canberra Business Centre CANBERRA ACT 2610	Ph: (02) 6225 5555 Fax: (02) 6225 5500 AFMA Direct: 1300 723 621
<b>Darwin office</b>		
Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 6 Jacana House 39–41 Woods Street DARWIN NT 0800	GPO Box 131 DARWIN NT 0801	Ph: (08) 8943 0333 Fax: (08) 8942 2897
<b>Thursday Island office</b>		
Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Level 2 Pearls Building 38 Victoria Parade THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875	PO Box 376 THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875	Ph: (07) 4069 1990 Fax: (07) 4069 1277



Figure 4: AFMA Thursday Island Office - Photo courtesy of Lauren Posmyk, AFMA.



*Figure 5: A Danish seiner (a type of net) fishing boat – Photo courtesy of Andrew Trappet, AFMA.*

# Part 2

## Annual performance statement

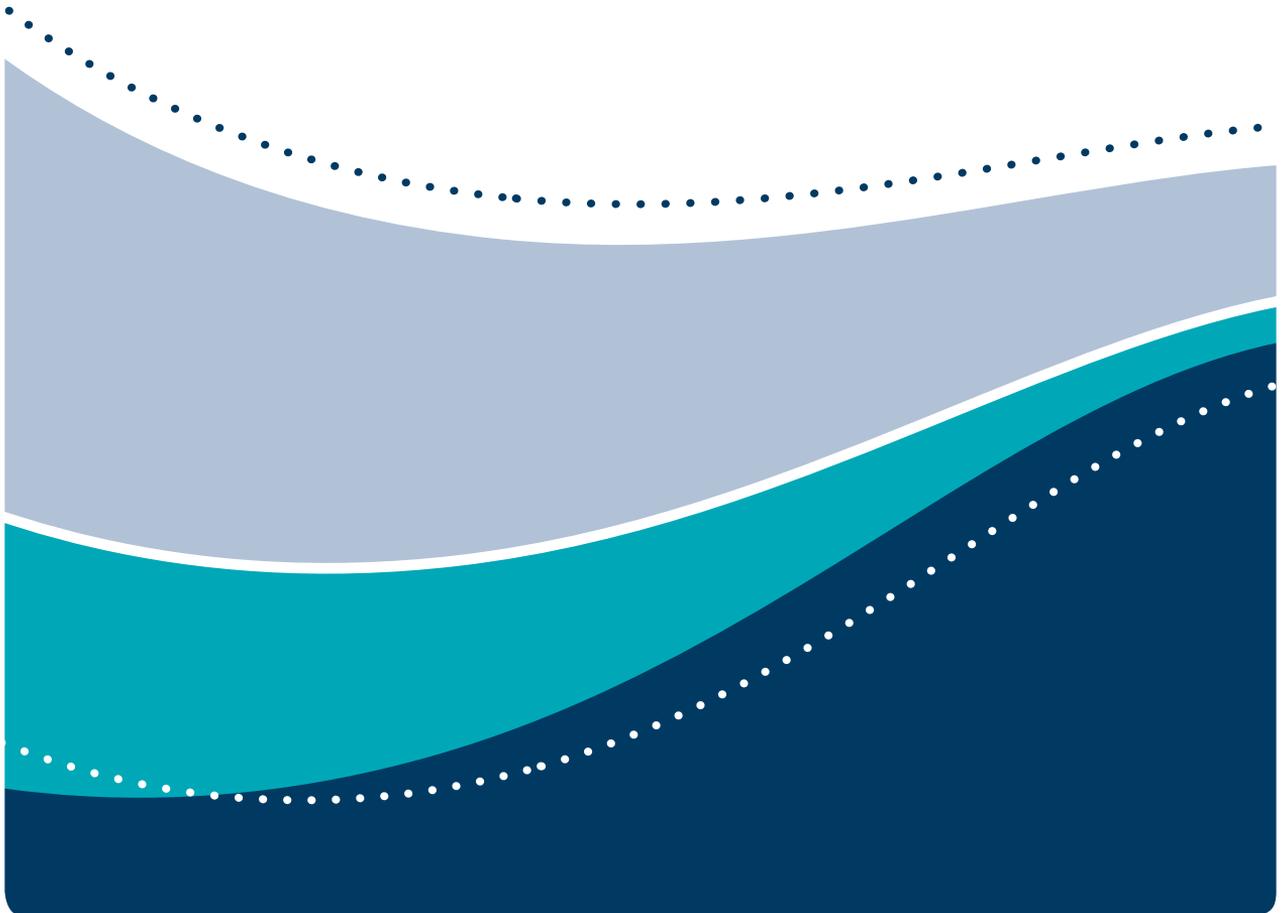
Certification by the Chief Executive Officer

AFMA's purposes

Pursuing the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries

Improving net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries

Delivering effective, cost efficient and transparent management and regulatory arrangements



## PART 2 - SUMMARY

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### GENERAL DETERRENCE PROGRAM

**93%** of domestic vessel inspections resulted in no breaches detected and no action required.

**20** illegal foreign fishing vessels were apprehended and disposed of. One sank at sea, 12 were destroyed and 7 are being disposed of by sale by tender.



### CLIENT SERVICE CHARTER

**> 95%** of AFMA's client service charter obligations were met.



### SUSTAINABLE FISH STOCK LEVELS

**17** economically significant stocks managed to maximum economic yield (a sustainable catch or level of fishing effort that allows net economic returns to be maximised).



### VESSEL MONITORING

**97%** Vessel Monitoring System compliance rates in 2015–16.

# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

## CERTIFICATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, James Findlay, as the accountable authority of AFMA, present the 2015–16 Annual Performance Statement of AFMA, as required under paragraph 39(1) (a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. In my opinion, this annual performance statement is based on properly maintained records, accurately reflects the performance of the entity and complies with subsection 39(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.



Dr James Findlay GAICD  
Chief Executive Officer and Accountable Authority of AFMA

## AFMA'S PURPOSES

AFMA's Corporate Plan 2015–18 describes that we are responsible for the efficient and sustainable management of Commonwealth commercial fisheries.

The Annual Performance Statement is structured to throw light on the major elements of AFMA's purposes:

- pursuing the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries
- improving net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries (including compliance activities)
- delivering effective, cost efficient and transparent management and regulatory arrangements.

# PURSuing THE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMONWEALTH FISHERIES

## Purpose

The objectives and related corporate goals in AFMA’s Corporate Plan 2015–18 and the Annual Operational Plan for 2015–16 aim to pursue the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries and prevent unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms. This purpose is achieved by meeting AFMA’s legislative objectives including its ecological and sustainable objectives.

## Performance results

AFMA pursues its economic objective by setting maximum economic yield (or proxy) targets for key commercial stocks as required by the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines 2007. Maximum economic yield is the sustainable catch or level of fishing effort for a fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised. We aim to ensure healthy fish stock levels by using this maximum economic yield target to guide our management of with Commonwealth fisheries. The stock level which delivers a maximum economic yield level is generally higher (healthier) than that which delivers maximum sustainable yield.

Criteria sources: The performance criteria below are recorded in AFMA’s chapter in the Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio Budget Statements 2015–16 and in AFMA’s Corporate Plan for 2015–18.

Performance criteria	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
For economically significant stocks <sup>1</sup> :		
a) Number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield or the best available proxy. <sup>2,3</sup>	19	17
Of the top 31 stocks ranked by gross value of production there are currently 17 stocks managed to have a biomass level that equates to the maximum economic yield target (or proxy). Of the remaining 14 stocks, 10 are not managed to maximum economic yield as they are subject to international management arrangements and 4 stocks are not currently suited to maximum economic yield for biological or other reasons, so are managed using other sustainability measures.		

1 These are the top 31 stocks by gross value of production. Please note that not all Commonwealth fish stocks can be managed by maximum economic yield, for example, those managed under international regional bodies.  
 2 Where higher and lower value species are caught together, different targets for the lower value species may maximise net economic returns overall.  
 3 Assessment methodologies are regularly reviewed so future projections may vary.

Performance criteria	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
b) Number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on target. <sup>3</sup>	13	5
Stocks that are 'on target' have assessed biomass levels that are within a range around the maximum economic yield target biomass level.		
c) For those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, the numbers that are heading towards their target reference point.	6	5
Stocks not included above (explained below).	0	7
<i>Source of above information: Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences gross value of production data for Commonwealth fisheries 2012–13 to 2014–15, AFMA stock assessments.</i>		
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing. <sup>4</sup>	0	0
<i>Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I &amp; Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.</i>		
Minimise the number of species assessed as potentially remaining at high risk after mitigation. <sup>5</sup>	72	72
<i>Source: AFMA's Ecological Risk Assessments.</i>		

## Assessment of performance against the purpose

While there are some targets which have not been met, overall, we continued to maintain the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences' assessments confirm a positive trend for fish stocks. We take action to minimise the unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms.

Under our ecological risk assessment and ecological risk management framework around 3.6 per cent of species remain at high potential risk across all Commonwealth fisheries (refer appendix 6 of this annual report). AFMA conducts ecological risk assessments for fisheries approximately every five years. The number of species at risk has remained relatively stable in recent years despite a number of species 'at high risk' status being removed due to mitigation actions. However, the use of more precautionary reference points has meant that some species previously rated as medium or low risk are now high risk.

<sup>4</sup> In solely AFMA managed fisheries, not including jointly and internationally managed fisheries.

<sup>5</sup> Ecological risk assessments for Commonwealth managed fisheries and sub-fisheries have been completed covering almost 1,200 species including protected species which may remain at high risk from factors other than fishing. 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.

## Analysis of performance against the purpose

### *Status of fish stocks*

Seventeen key commercial stockers were managed to maximum economic yield targets in 2015–16. Of these 17 stocks, there are five on target and a further five heading towards the target.

For the remaining seven stocks:

- three stocks are above the target (meaning economic returns from these stocks could be increased).
- two stocks are between the target and the limit reference point (also indicating that economic returns are likely to be less than maximum economic yield).
- one stock (school shark) is below the limit reference point and is subject to a recovery program.
- the remaining stock (banana prawn) pursues maximum economic yield through dynamic fishery economics and a catch rate trigger rather than using the general biomass targets applied to other key Commonwealth stocks. This approach reflects the difficulty in estimating maximum economic yield for such highly variable and short lived species.

The most recent fisheries stock status report issued by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences shows:

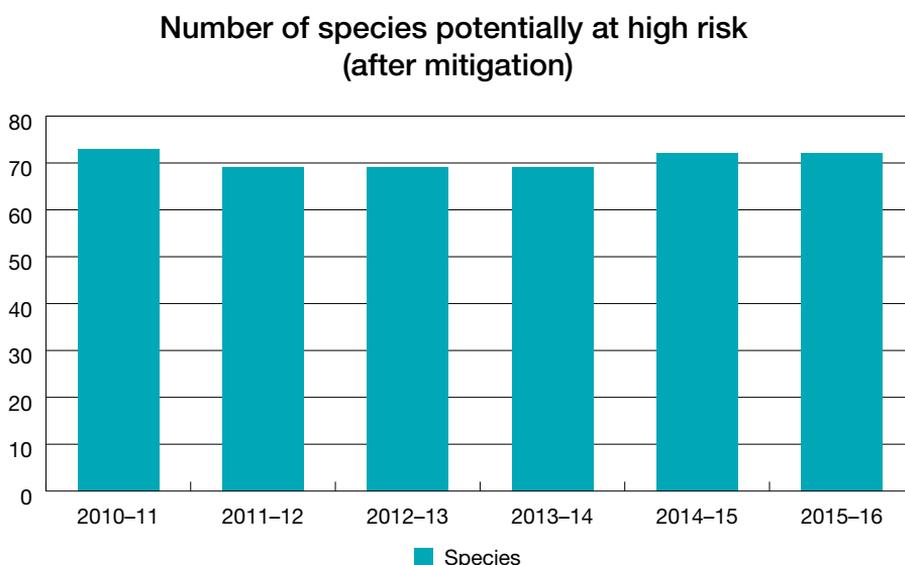
- For the third year there are no fish stocks in fisheries solely managed by AFMA where the mortality level is likely to result in the stock becoming overfished, or prevent the stock from rebuilding from an overfished state (referred to as ‘subject to overfishing’).
- There are seven stocks where biomass levels remain low enough to pose an unacceptable risk to the stock (referred to as ‘overfished’). Note that the rebuilding of fish stocks is a long term exercise, often taking decades to complete.

Section 3 of this annual report describes the fisheries management arrangements that operated in 2015–16 for each fishery managed solely or jointly by AFMA. It presents information on the status of the fish stocks in each fishery.

### Species potentially at high risk after mitigation

We use ecological risk assessments to quantify the level of possible risk each Commonwealth fishery poses to the ecosystem. These risk assessments help us prioritise which ecological impacts in each fishery require management attention first by identifying potential 'high risk' species from approximately twelve hundred species assessed. The results of recent assessments is shown in graph 1: Species potentially at high risk (after mitigation).

Graph 1: Species potentially at high risk (after mitigation)



The majority of species that potentially remain at high risk after mitigation are species protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. In most cases these species are impacted by a range of factors, of which commercial fishing in Commonwealth waters is just one, so the species are likely to remain at high risk even when the number of mortalities in Commonwealth fisheries is very low.

While all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the number of species at high risk, the number will vary from year to year due to additional information becoming available often through new technologies employed to monitor fisheries becoming more accurate. We also take a precautionary approach by retaining species on the 'high risk' list when evidence is absent as to whether the species may be high risk or not.

### *Recent ecological risk assessment*

In 2012, we commenced an ecological risk re-assessment in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. Due to changes in biological reference points for sharks and rays and teleosts (bony fish) used in the assessment, some species received different risk scores to the earlier (2007) assessment. The results of this assessment were finalised in 2015–16 after consultation with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, the relevant management advisory committee and resource assessment group. Some species were removed from and others added to the previous list of high risk species with the outcome being a rise in the number of high risk species from 69 to 72.



*Figure 6: A fur seal from the Southern Ocean resting – Photo courtesy of David Roberts, AFMA.*

### *Ecological risk assessment and risk management review*

For species with which Commonwealth fisheries interact, the primary ecological sustainability objectives that AFMA pursues through its Ecological Risk Management Framework are:

- to ensure that fishing by Commonwealth commercial fisheries does not reduce any species populations to/below a level at which the probability of recruitment failure is unacceptably high
- where such impacts have occurred, to recover populations to above that level.

These objectives are consistent with the objectives in existing fisheries and environmental legislation, policies, guidelines and international agreements. A similar intent is maintained with respect to ensuring the sustainability of habitats and communities.

We have developed ecological risk management reports for fisheries that have been assessed using the ecological risk management framework. These reports detail strategies to address species identified as being at high risk. The success of strategies to address these risks will be evaluated at the next reassessment. We are currently reviewing our ecological risk management system and intend to conduct a full reassessment of each fishery over the next five years (that is 2016–17 to 2020–21). The following table shows the categories of species assessed as ‘high risk’.

#### *Species at high risk in 2015–16*

Species at high risk in 2015–16	
Sharks/rays	22
Invertebrates	9
Marine reptiles	1
Bony fish	5
Marine birds	1
Marine mammals *	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

\* 29 whales/dolphins, 5 seals/sea lions

## IMPROVING NET ECONOMIC RETURNS FROM COMMONWEALTH FISHERIES

### Purpose

Objectives and related corporate goals in AFMA’s Corporate Plan 2015–18 and the Annual Operational Plan for 2015–16 focus on improving the net economic returns to the Australian community from fisheries. This includes effectively deterring illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, the Australian Fishing Zone and adjacent regions and ensuring domestic fishing arrangements meet international obligations.



Figure 7: AFMA domestic compliance officer conducting surveillance activity, Ulladulla NSW.

### Performance results

Criterion source: The performance indicators below are recorded in AFMA’s chapter in the Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio Budget Statements 2015–16 and in AFMA’s Corporate Plan for 2015–18.

Performance criteria	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Percentage of treatment targets met for all priority domestic compliance risks.	90%	94%
Percentage disposal rate of apprehended foreign illegal unregulated and unreported vessels and suspected illegal entry vessels.	100%	100%

## Assessment of performance against the purpose

Limiting the illegal exploitation of fishery resources supports the net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries and protect the marine environment. In 2015–16 our compliance and enforcement operations delivered a high rate of compliance by domestic operators (93 per cent of inspections required no further action). A larger number of foreign fishers were caught in Australian waters (in 2015–16, twenty up from six in 2014–15) but numbers remain well down on the hundreds of vessels detained each year a decade ago. The prosecution of crew members and the loss of their vessels deter other illegal foreign operators from attempting to fish illegally in Australian waters. Monitoring, control and surveillance capability building in neighbouring countries reinforces AFMA's effectiveness in safeguarding regional fish stocks for the benefit of the fishing industry and the Australian community.

## Analysis of performance against the purpose

Net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries are improved if AFMA:

- minimises unnecessary regulatory impediments to fishing operations.
- safeguards fishing stocks by ensuring compliance with necessary fishing rules. Reductions in fish stocks due to illegal fishing will increase the levels of effort and costs operators use to catch target species.
- deters illegal fishing to protect the value of assets.

These aims drive our domestic and foreign compliance activities.

## National (domestic) compliance

The aim of AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Program is to effectively deter illegal fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone. The rules and regulations of Commonwealth fisheries are designed to protect our fish for the future, the property rights of our fishers and the broader marine environment.

Each year we develop and implement a risk based compliance program to protect our fisheries. The 2015–16 program consisted of four key components: communication and education, general deterrence, targeted risk and maintenance.

## Communication and education

During 2015–16 we produced monthly, compliance focused, news items aimed at addressing both identified issues and any new emerging risks (see table *Summary of compliance news items*). Each news item was accompanied by SMS messaging to all fishing concession holders and industry bodies. A number of these items were picked up by media organisations and key industry associations. In addition to news items, fisheries officers undertook face to face education during every inspection as well as attending six pre-fishing-season briefings with fishers.

### *Summary of compliance news items*

Month	Title	Aim of Item
July 2015	'Fisherman Jack'.	Highlighted the release of the 'Fisherman Jack' video which was developed to raise awareness of the consequences of illegal fishing and quota evasion.
August 2015	'AFMA targets logbook accuracy this August'	Highlighted the issue of some fishermen not completing logbooks, the impacts that has and the possible offences.
September 2015	'Reminder to operators – reconcile quota within 28 days'	Highlighted the rules and requirements of the 28 day quota reconciliation rules.
October 2015	'AFMA compliance officers target the Northern Prawn Fishery during October'	Highlighted the rules and requirements relating to Turtle Excluder Devices in the Northern Prawn Fishery.
November 2015	'Fisheries officers are not just Cops on the Beat'	Highlighted the educational and advisory roles of Fisheries Officers.
December 2015 and January 2016	'Mind your Bycatch'	Highlighted fishers' obligations when handling bycatch.
February 2016	'Handle with Care'	Highlighted fishers' obligations when handling bycatch.
March 2016	'Stay in view this March'	Highlighted the rules and requirements relating to e-monitoring.
April 2016	'What do bananas and Turtle Excluder Devices have in common'	Highlighted the rules and requirements relating to Turtle Excluder Devices in the Northern Prawn Fishery.
May 2016	'Don't get caught in the rough'	Highlighted the rules and requirements relating to the Orange Roughy Management Areas
June 2016	'Changes to Southern Bluefin Tuna zone arrangements for the 2016 season'	Highlighted the rules and requirements relating to Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Through such effective engagement with stakeholders and the reinforcement with the industry of the risks being targeted in 2015–16, we have met the aims of the education and communication component of the National Compliance and Enforcement Program 2015–16.

### General deterrence program

In seeking to encourage compliance and deter non-compliance under the general domestic deterrence program, AFMA fisheries officers undertook 55 port visits and conducted 199 vessel inspections and 76 fish receiver inspections. In addition our fisheries officers undertook, or assisted in, five at-sea and 29 aerial patrols. The program saw a high level of compliance, with no breaches detected or no further action required in 93 per cent of the inspections.

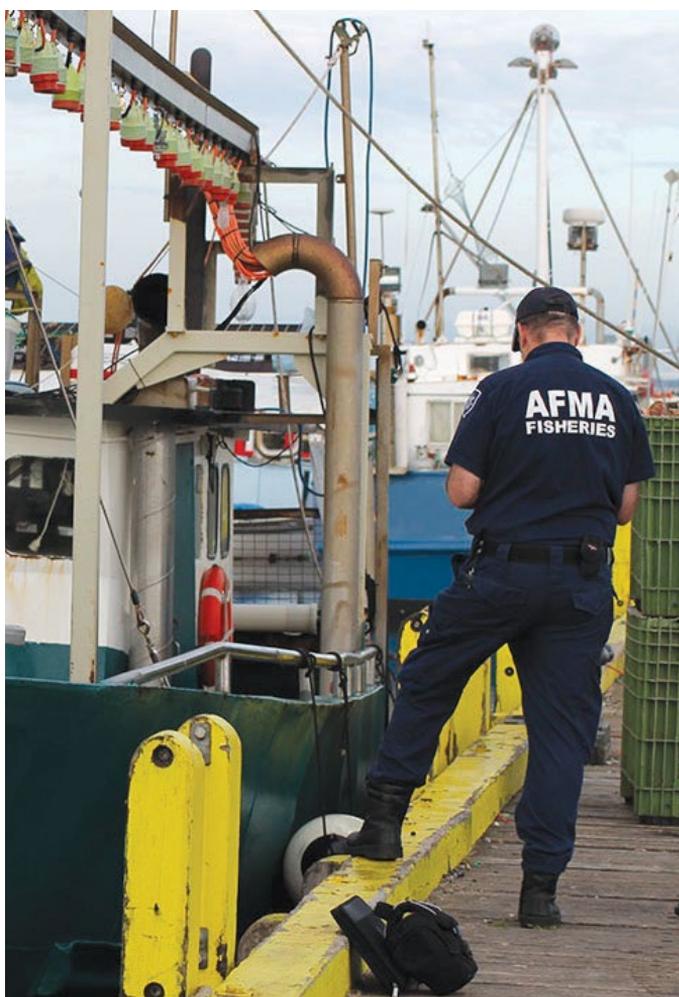


Figure 8: AFMA fisheries officer conducting an inspection.

## Targeted risk programs

Compliance with AFMA's Vessel Monitoring Systems, e-monitoring, and quota evasion were the identified prioritised risks in the 2015–16 program.

The Vessel Monitoring System compliance program saw compliance rates remain relatively steady at an average of 96.9 per cent over the year. All Commonwealth fishing vessels are required to have the Vessel Monitoring System fitted and operating at all times. Examples of non-compliant activity included the switching off of units without prior approval from AFMA and units not reporting at the required intervals. Only two vessels were required to be ordered to port for Vessel Monitoring System related issues during 2016.

There was also a high level of compliance in relation to the fitting and operating of e-monitoring systems, with only a relatively low number of issues detected. Currently 25 per cent of all Commonwealth fishing vessels (a total fleet of 304 fishing vessels in 2015–16) are now fitted with e-monitoring.

As a result of e-monitoring a new issue in relation to the inappropriate handling of bycatch has been identified, resulting in the establishment of a dedicated risk team to address the issue. This team has formed a targeted program which will be implemented in 2016–17.

Quota evasion can significantly impact the sustainability of fish stocks. We continue to target quota evasion through the further development and use of data analysis tools. In addition a dedicated taskforce continued to work with a range of Commonwealth and State agencies to investigate serious quota evasion.

## Maintenance programs

We also maintain a number of maintenance programs to control and monitor risks which require ongoing treatment despite action in previous years. These risks are failing to reconcile/balance quota (against operator's own catch entitlements), fishing in closed areas and failing to fit and use bycatch reduction devices to prevent or reduce interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.

The rate of quota reconciliation non-compliance increased during 2015–16 with the average rising from 1.5 incidents per month involving an average volume of catch not reconciled of 3 900kg in 2014–15 to 2.5 incidents per month involving an average of 8 000kg. However, it is clear the introduction of the 28 day quota reconciliation program has significantly reduced the seriousness of these matters with virtually all operators immediately reconciling once notified by fisheries officers. This removed the need for further enforcement action,

such as the suspension of fishing concessions or ordering vessels to remain in port, as had been the case in previous years.

The 'Show Cause' process (which requires operators identified through AFMA's Vessel Monitoring System as having potentially fished or navigated inside closed fishing areas to provide a satisfactory explanation) continues to be very effective. The level of non-compliance remains at all-time lows with an average rate of less than one per month during 2015–16.

In domestic compliance operations AFMA worked with Parks Australia (23 flights) and Maritime Border Command (five flights) who conducted flights over their areas of interest and provided advice to AFMA on any suspected breaches of fisheries legislation they observed and, in particular, compliance with the requirement to fit bycatch reduction devices to prevent bird interactions. AFMA also conducted its own flight in June 2016. Only one incident was detected as a result of these flights with investigations ongoing. The e-monitoring program has also detected only three incidents of suspected non-compliance with those investigations still continuing.

### *You will get caught*

In 2015–16 we finalised four prosecution matters resulting in a total of \$26 100 in fines being handed down. Offences included end of season over quota, logbook offences, contravening authorisations and fishing within the Dolphin Observation Zone without an AFMA observer or e-monitoring system on board. We issued media releases to broadcast these successful prosecutions to further improve the deterrence value of the sanctions imposed.

### Foreign Compliance

AFMA's foreign compliance activities ensure that Australia's fish stocks and the marine environment are not adversely affected by illegal foreign fishing. AFMA works closely with other Australian Government agencies in detecting and responding to incidents of illegal foreign fishing.

We also engage in international fora to ensure that Australia's fisheries management is consistent with actions taken regionally and internationally, particularly in relation to straddling or migratory stocks and in areas of water adjacent to the Australian Fishing Zone. Commonwealth fisheries whose species are also subject to measures adopted by a regional fisheries body include the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery, Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery, the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery. Our participation

in the work of these regional fishing bodies includes providing annual reports on the implementation of regional measures, sharing information on fisheries management approaches, developing proposals and taking action to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and chairing working groups.

## Northern Waters

AFMA supports the Maritime Border Command through the provision of specialist fisheries officers on board Australian Border Force and Royal Australian Navy patrol boats. AFMA's patrol efforts focused on high risk areas for incursions by illegal fishers and deterred fishers operating in close proximity to the Australian Fishing Zone from conducting illegal fishing operations.

During 2015–16, twenty illegal foreign fishing vessels were apprehended in the Australian Fishing Zone and the Torres Strait. Seven vessels were from Papua New Guinea, seven were from Indonesia and six were from Vietnam. Following investigation and prosecution by AFMA the penalties against convicted fishermen ranged from the release on good behaviour bonds through to fines totalling \$10 000 for an individual and suspended jail sentences of up to seven months. The maximum aggregate fine handed down for multiple crew from an individual boat was \$16 200. All boats were forfeited.

Of the twenty boats apprehended, one sank at sea and the remaining nineteen were delivered to our facilities. Twelve of the nineteen (63 per cent) were destroyed and the remaining seven (37 per cent) are currently being disposed of by sale by tender.

While the twenty foreign fishing vessels apprehended in 2015–16 is an increase over the six apprehended in 2014–15, apprehensions are well down on the record 367 apprehensions a decade ago. This long term decrease in incursions reflects the direct deterrence provided by prosecution of offenders and confiscation of their boats, 'in country' education and outreach programs led by AFMA and cooperative activities carried out with our international counterparts.



Figure 9: The destruction of a Vietnamese fishing vessel – Photo courtesy of Mick Munn, AFMA.

## ILLEGAL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS APPREHENDED IN THE CORAL SEA

During the year 20 illegal foreign fishing boats were apprehended. Although this number represents an increase over the six boats apprehended in 2014–15 the level of apprehensions is well down on the hundreds experienced in the mid-2000s. We continue to work with other government agencies to deliver the fisheries component of Australia's civil maritime surveillance program.

On 2 June 2016, two Vietnamese foreign fishing vessels were apprehended in waters off north Queensland for illegally fishing in Australian waters. Maritime Border Command within the Australian Border Force apprehended the vessels in the Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserve in cooperation with AFMA and Parks Australia. The vessels were first spotted by an Australian Border Force surveillance aircraft in the vicinity of Lihou Reef more than 600 kilometres to the northeast of Cairns, Queensland.

*HMAS Wollongong* with the Australian Defence Force, Australian Border Force and an AFMA officer embarked, responded and boarded the vessels. Officers found diving gear and approximately six tonnes of bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber) on board. The 30 crew members and the two vessels were escorted to Cairns where the vessels were destroyed. All 30 crew were transferred to Darwin where AFMA carried out further investigations. The fishermen subsequently pleaded guilty to charges under Australia's fisheries and environmental laws and received suspended jail sentences ranging from two months for the crew members to five and seven months each for the masters.

These apprehensions are a good example of Australian Government agencies working together to combat illegal fishing from foreign boats in our waters.

More information on how Australia is working to combat illegal fishing can be found at [afma.gov.au](http://afma.gov.au).

## Capacity building

Our regional cooperation and capacity building initiatives are directed towards assisting our neighbours strengthen their fisheries compliance frameworks. We assisted Samoa, the Cook Islands and Tuvalu to develop procedures to support cooperative surveillance and enforcement activities under the *Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement*.

We also completed a three year fisheries management and compliance program with Kiribati. AFMA Officers trained over 100 Kiribati Officers in fisheries management and compliance which strengthened Kiribati's capacity to sustainably manage their fish stocks and take enforcement action against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Our officers also assisted Kiribati fisheries officials to investigate a foreign fishing vessel in Kiribati waters which resulted in a \$165 000 settlement being paid by the offender.

In October 2015, we delivered training to 16 Pacific Islands Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Officers as part of the Forum Fisheries Agency Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Officer Foundation Course in Honiara, Solomon Islands. This course has better equipped officers to conduct enforcement operations in their respective islands.

## Multilateral patrols/operations

During 2015–16, we participated in seven operations, comprising six multilateral operations and one US Coastguard patrol, to detect and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Pacific. Over 240 international vessels were boarded and inspected with several boats found to be in breach of licence conditions and international obligations. Two unlicensed Vietnamese fishing vessels were also apprehended for suspected illegal activities in the Palauan Exclusive Economic Zone.

## Southern Ocean

Australia's toothfish fisheries (Heard Island and McDonald Islands and Macquarie Island Toothfish fisheries) are some of our most valuable fisheries. During 2015–16 we continued action against a remaining fleet of five boats (down from forty some years ago), listed by the Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources as undermining international conservation efforts. These boats had historically continued to operate periodically in the Southern Ocean targeting toothfish. Throughout the year we worked closely with other Australian Government agencies, including the Maritime Border Command to obtain surveillance information on the operations of these vessels. Sharing of this information with our international counterparts enables action to be taken when they enter foreign ports to unload catch or access facilities.

As a result of this coordinated action, of the five active Southern Ocean illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing vessels:

- two remain detained in Cabo Verde off the west coast of Central Africa
- one has been detained in the port of Dakar in Senegal after absconding from authorities in Thailand in September 2015
- one was apprehended by Indonesian authorities and subsequently destroyed at sea in March 2016
- one remains at large but is not believed to be fishing.

We continue to collaborate with Spanish authorities and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) on investigations into the Southern Ocean illegal, unreported and unregulated vessels and their beneficial owners.



Figure 10: Dylan Prendergast (Austral Fisheries) helps Janet Norenbergs (AFMA) to measure a turtle exclusion device.

## FEATURE STORY



Figure 11: FV Viking – Destroyed by Indonesian officials in March 2016.

### REGIONAL COOPERATION – KEY TO SUCCESS

AFMA works closely with Australia's neighbours as part of a multinational plan that encourages collaboration to detect and deter regional illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In 2015–16, action taken by southeast Asian countries against vessels on the Non-Contracting Party Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Vessel list of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources has effectively closed southeast Asian ports to these rogue vessels.

The Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) is a joint initiative of Australia and Indonesia and was endorsed by 11 Ministers in May 2007. The 11 countries (Australia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam) meet annually to discuss regional approaches to deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to report on their domestic fisheries management.

In April 2015, we provided information on the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel, *FV Perlon*, to RPOA-IUU countries, following the boarding of the vessel by Australian authorities in the Indian Ocean. The vessel was then detained by Malaysia, and the master and crew convicted in August 2015. The catch was auctioned with the proceeds forfeited to the Malaysian Government. The *FV Perlon* had a long history of fishing for Patagonian toothfish in Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources waters, operating under a number of different names and different flags, and in total disregard of the internationally agreed rules aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the fish stocks.

In September 2015, AFMA provided information on the illegal, unreported and unregulated vessel, *FV Viking*, with RPOA-IUU countries, following the boarding and inspection near Christmas Island by Maritime Border Command. AFMA requested port States to take action against the vessel in accordance with commitments made by these countries. In February 2016, AFMA wrote again to the RPOA-IUU countries, following receipt of information from Singapore and Indonesia. This led to Indonesia detaining and destroying the vessel in March 2016 after it had entered Indonesian waters.

These actions have made a significant contribution to eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean.

## DELIVERING EFFECTIVE, COST EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS

### Purpose

Objectives and related corporate goals presented in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2015–18 and the Annual Operational Plan for 2015–16 are directed at delivering efficient and cost effective Commonwealth fisheries management and being accountable to the fishing industry and to the Australian community for the management of fisheries resources.

### Results

Criteria sources: The performance measures described below are taken from commitments made to the Minister or other stakeholders in support of the above objectives.

Performance criteria	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Red tape reduction initiatives completed	n/a	15
Cost recovery commitment upheld	n/a	ü
Client Service Charter obligations met	100%	>95%

### Assessment of performance against the purpose

We delivered efficient and cost effective management and regulatory arrangements by introducing innovations, amending inefficient practices and ensuring operational costs were constrained. The red tape reduction initiatives completed in 2015–16 made it easier for fishery operators to meet our regulatory requirements. We continued to source advice from stakeholders to improve our operations and the regulatory arrangements applying to fisheries. Increases in the amount we cost recover from industry continued to remain below increases in the cumulative Consumer Price Index.

### Analysis of performance against the purpose

#### Red tape reduction initiatives

We realise that it is not just the cost of AFMA's research and management levies that may create a burden to industry. The costs involved in complying with regulation also influence the ability of industry to invest in new technology and science that may improve productivity. AFMA is committed to minimising both the amount and complexity of regulation through our red tape reduction agenda while maintaining effective fisheries management.

During 2015–16 our red tape reduction efforts focused on simplifying licensing arrangements, reviewing closure directions and simplifying management advisory committee and resource assessment group arrangements.

### *Licensing*

AFMA implemented several changes to the licensing regime, reducing its complexity and making it easier and more efficient for fishers to use by:

- adding new functionality to AFMA’s online licensing portal, GoFish, allowing fishers to apply for new permits online and removing the need to submit paper applications
- simplifying undercatch, the process where fishers can use some of their uncaught catch quota in the following season, making it easier for fishers to get their allocation
- removing, following the move to digital platforms for fishers and fisheries compliance officers, the requirement to carry copies of fishing concessions on board the boat
- assuming responsibility for licensing services for the Torres Strait Fisheries early in 2015–16. This harmonises licensing arrangements between the Torres Strait and Commonwealth fisheries leading to administrative efficiencies and reduced costs for both sectors.

### *Management advisory committee and resource assessment group processes*

Management advisory committees and resource assessment groups are a key source of independent advice on fisheries matters. AFMA provides secretariat support to these bodies. In 2015–16 we standardised the structure of committee minutes and developed an online collaboration area for committee members to conduct business more efficiently. This is being rolled out in 2016–17.

We also combined two resource assessment groups forming a joint resource assessment group for the south east fisheries, removing duplication and providing for more efficient and effective consideration of fisheries issues.

### *Fisheries closures*

In 2015–16 we reviewed several closures in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery to ensure they continued to meet their objectives.

Several closures of fishing areas were removed or rezoned, removing overlap and duplication. These revisions provided more opportunity for fishing operators to generate economic returns.

### *Electronic monitoring (e-monitoring)*

We implemented e-monitoring in three fisheries: the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery and the Gillnet Hook and Trap sector of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. E-monitoring is a data collection system consisting of on-board cameras and sensors that record fishing activity and report back to AFMA, providing an independently verified record of fishing activity. It provides a cost-effective alternative to placing observers on board commercial fishing vessels as well as an efficient and effective compliance management tool.

The use of e-monitoring supports the red tape reduction program by providing the flexibility for us to regulate the outcome being sought rather than a specific method on how it must be achieved. This allows individual fishers to implement practices that suit their business rather than having to comply with a one size fits all approach by the regulator.

Details of AFMA's red tape reduction program, including the status of our initiatives, can be found on AFMA's website [afma.gov.au](http://afma.gov.au).



Figure 12: Electronic monitoring equipment.

## Legislative review of penalty provisions

The existing offence and penalty regime has been the subject of both internal and external reviews as part of the *Review of Commonwealth Fisheries: Legislation, Policy and Management*. These reviews recommended the development of a wider range of enforcement tools and the strengthening of existing powers. AFMA and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have adopted a phased approach to amending the legislation to take into account the recommendations.

Phase one has involved AFMA working with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to prepare amendments to regulations which will increase penalty units for offences to a level that is consistent with other Commonwealth Departments and agencies and will provide a more effective deterrent to individuals seeking to illegally exploit our fisheries resources. Public consultation is yet to take place on these regulations.

Phase two includes amending the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, subject to consultation with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and public consultation to:

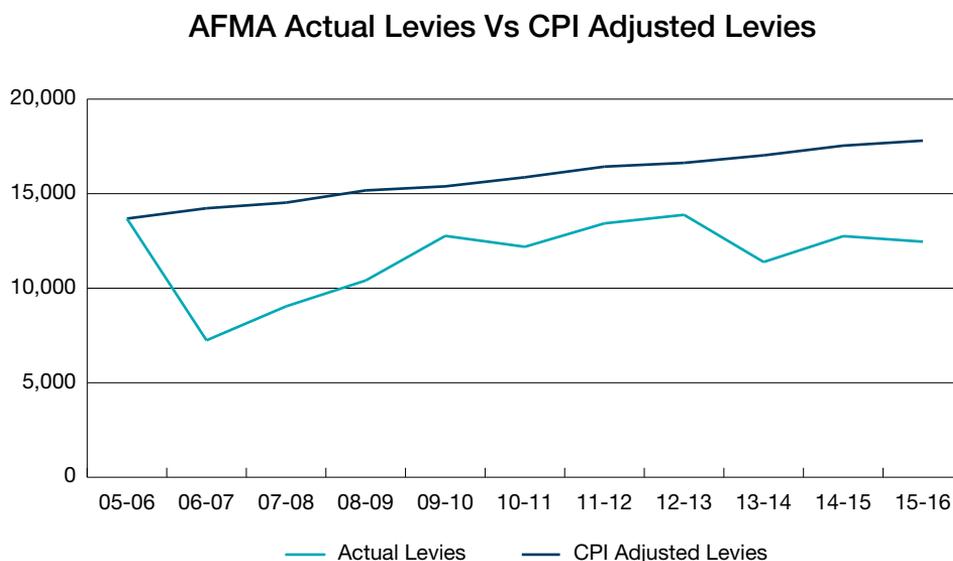
- modernise the penalty provisions in the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* by adopting the *Regulatory Powers (Standard Powers) Act 2014* and thus introducing civil penalties, enforceable undertakings and injunctions in addition to current criminal penalty provisions
- amend the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to strengthen AFMA's foreign compliance capability to permit the taking of enforcement action to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by stateless vessels.

## Cost recovery

AFMA is transitioning to the Australian Government's revised cost recovery approach with its requirements for a Cost Recovery Implementation Statement. As the new cost recovery arrangements have not yet been agreed by the government, we will continue to apply the 2010 Cost Recovery Impact Statement for the 2016–17 budget year.

In 2010 we made a commitment to industry that it would keep cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index changes. Since making this undertaking in 2010, AFMA has out-performed the cumulative Consumer Price Index by more than \$27.8 million (as at 2015–16).

Graph 2: AFMA actual levies compared with CPI adjusted levies



### Stakeholder engagement

We engage 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 and public meetings
- our online systems such as 'GoFish' and the Vessel Monitoring System
- SMS messaging
- our website (including 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.

Management advisory committees and resource assessment groups are a major source of advice to us, reflecting the experience and expertise of the range of stakeholders with an interest in the fishery or fisheries. As such they play a vital role in helping AFMA fulfil its legislative functions and effectively pursue its objectives.

Each management advisory committee has an independent chair, an AFMA member and a maximum of seven other members. Generally, membership is drawn from industry, management, research, conservation and recreational fishing but it can include broader community members who have relevant skills and expertise including traditional fishers, where appropriate. Appendix 3 explains the activities of the management advisory committees in 2015–16.

Stakeholders are consulted on issues that affect industry in a significant way. Policies on which we sought consultation in 2015–16 included:

- the amendment to the transfer and lease forms to record quota and gear statutory fishing rights
- quota overcatch and undercatch arrangements
- review of quota arrangements in overlapping fisheries
- publishing Commonwealth fishing data on the internet.

We provide a range of materials on AFMA's website about the approach we take to manage and regulate Commonwealth fisheries. These include, for example, our operating policies, our approach to monitoring compliance with fishery rules, performance measures (such as the status of fish stocks) and the status of our red tape reduction program.

Our internal auditors completed an audit of AFMA's stakeholder engagement in November 2015. The report recommended that we should develop our social media capacity and use this as a tool for communicating with stakeholders. It also recommended that staff receive training on the stakeholder and communications engagement strategy to achieve a consistent approach across the organisation. In response management has:

- recruited a new Senior Communications Officer
- developed a draft communications strategy including the use of social media
- identified the approach to raise awareness of staff once the new strategy is endorsed by the Commission.

## Client service charter

Our Client Service Charter establishes standards for our interactions with those we regulate and to whom we provide services. It applies to all of AFMA's fisheries administration and corporate services functions, including our licensing function. Our service charter is available on our website.

We use our licensing system to record the timeliness of responses for licensing transactions. During 2015–16 greater than 95 per cent of licensing transactions submitted by concession holders and responses to correspondence were dealt with in accordance with our Client Service Charter.

During 2015–16 we received one written complaint that was responded to in writing in line with the requirements of the Client Service Charter.



Figure 13: Mahi Mahi (dolphin fish) – Photo courtesy of Matthew Daniels, AFMA.

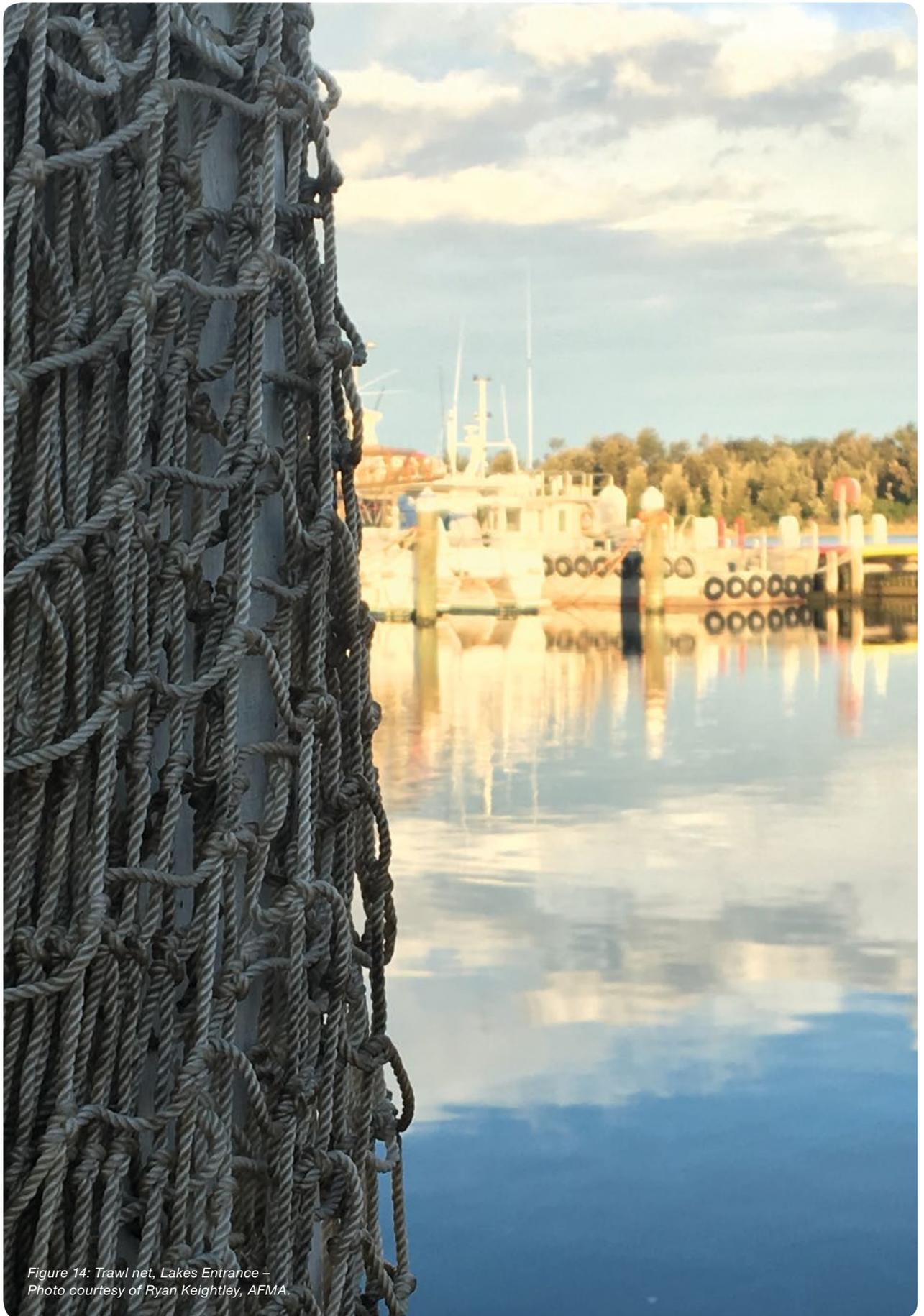


Figure 14: Trawl net, Lakes Entrance –  
Photo courtesy of Ryan Keightley, AFMA.

# Part 3

## Fishery reports

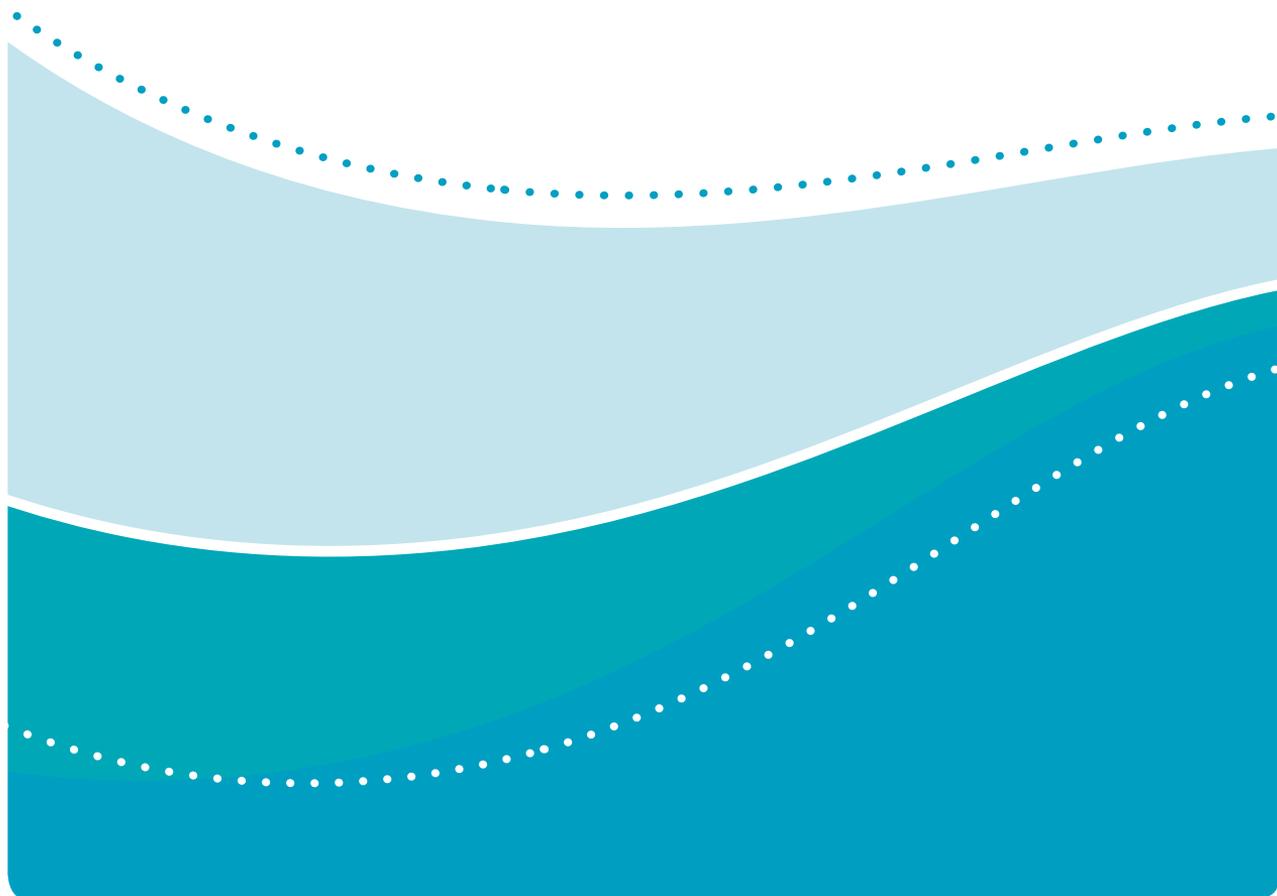
Introduction

AFMA managed fisheries

Jointly managed fisheries

High seas permits

Non-operational fisheries



## PART 3 - SUMMARY

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### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

All performance criteria for Commonwealth fisheries managed under statutory fishery Management Plans were met in 2015-16.

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### REDUCING BYCATCH

A bycatch and discards e-learning course was introduced to provide online education to fishers ensuring that fishing in Commonwealth waters is conducted in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

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### SEABIRD MITIGATION

**2** new seabird mitigation devices were approved following ongoing industry trials. The devices are expected to reduce the risk of seabird interactions.

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### SCIENTIFIC PANEL AND STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The AFMA Commission agreed to trial the use of an independent scientific panel and stakeholder forums to obtain scientific advice supporting management decisions for the Small Pelagic Fishery.

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### ELECTRONIC MONITORING

AFMA implemented electronic monitoring in three fisheries. E-monitoring is a data collection system consisting of on-board cameras and sensors that record fishing activity and report back to AFMA.

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## INTRODUCTION

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

For its *Fishery Status Reports 2016*, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences assessed sustainability performance of 93 fish stocks across 22 fisheries. Sixty-five stocks were assessed across nine fisheries that are managed solely by AFMA on behalf of the Australian Government, and 28 stocks were assessed across 13 fisheries that are managed jointly with other Australian jurisdictions or other countries. AFMA also manages many more species through fishery management plans, bycatch action plans and ecological risk assessments.

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

## GROSS VALUE OF PRODUCTION

The gross value of production is an indication of the economic value of fisheries. The estimated gross value of production for all Commonwealth fisheries is approximately \$400 million for 2015–16. This is an increase of approximately \$50 million on the total for 2014–15.

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS DISCUSSED IN FISHERY REPORTS

### Estimated catch totals for 2015–16

Estimated catch totals are taken from data compiled by AFMA from catch and effort logs and Catch Disposal Records sourced from fishers in Commonwealth managed or jointly managed fisheries. These catch totals represent ‘trunked’ (processed) weight for the financial year July 2015 to June 2016.

### Performance results

The sources of the information presented in the fishery performance results shown are:

- Maximum economic yield data presented in the reports on the Northern Prawn Fishery, the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and the Eastern Tuna and Billfish fishery are based on Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences’ gross value of production data for Commonwealth fisheries 2012–13 to 2014–15 and AFMA stock assessments.
- Data on fishing mortality and biomass are taken from *Fishery Status Reports 2016* prepared by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences.

# LIST OF FISHERY REPORTS

## **AFMA managed fisheries:**

- Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
- Coral Sea Fishery
- Northern Prawn Fishery
- North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries
- Small Pelagic Fishery
- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
- Southern Squid Jig Fishery

## **Jointly managed fisheries:**

- Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery
- Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

## **High seas permits**

## **Non-operational fisheries:**

- Norfolk Island Fishery
- Skipjack Tuna Fishery
- South Tasman Rise Fishery



# Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**2 260**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commercial Scallop ( <i>Pecten fumatus</i> )				

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

■ Uncertain

■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002*. The fishery is managed through open and closed seasons, area closures and catch limits. Fishers must hold statutory fishing rights to fish in the fishery.

The performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were all met in 2015–16. AFMA amended the management plan for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery removing the requirement for operators to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Performance – status of fish stocks

A 2015 pre-season survey was able to identify scallop biomass and density in several scallop beds. This allowed for closure of areas containing sufficient spawning stock to ensure ongoing sustainability as well as enabling the Commission to set the highest catch limit in the fishery since 2010. The season lived up to expectations with operators enjoying excellent catches and good quality scallops.

The pre-season survey undertaken in June 2016 indicated that good catches will continue for the 2016 season with biomass estimates exceeding those of the 2015 survey.

### Performance – economic returns

The 2014 revisions to the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy appear to have been successful in providing industry with increased flexibility to catch scallops, thereby improving economic returns while at the same time ensuring continued ecological sustainability.



# Coral Sea Fishery

## Sectors:

- Sea cucumber
- Aquarium
- Lobster and trochus
- Line and trap
- Trawl and trap



Estimated catch 2015–16

**58**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmaei</i>)</li> <li>• Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)</li> <li>• Surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)</li> <li>• Multiple species in the aquarium sector</li> <li>• Tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>, possibly other species)</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White teatfish</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other sea cucumber species (11 spp.)</li> <li>• Mixed reef fish and sharks</li> <li>• Numerous fish, shark and crustacean species in the trawl and trap sector</li> </ul>				

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing  
■ Uncertain  
■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

There is no statutory management plan for the Coral Sea Fishery. The fishery has five sectors that are managed through input and output controls including limited entry, catch limits, spatial closures, move-on provisions, size limits and catch and effort triggers that are used to initiate further analysis and assessment. Fishers must hold permits to fish in this fishery.

There were no changes to management arrangements in 2015–16.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

There has been little activity in the Coral Sea Fishery in 2015–16. To ensure the ecological sustainability of the fishery, AFMA continues to monitor trigger limits in the Coral Sea Fishery. These limits, described in the Coral Sea Fishery Harvest Strategy, will be reviewed by an expert panel meeting scheduled for September 2016.

## EXTERNAL REVIEWS

The Department of the Environment is undertaking a review of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves proclaimed in November 2012. Some of these reserves may impact on the Coral Sea Fishery. Outcomes of the review are anticipated in 2016–17.



Figure 15: Ornate lobster – Photo courtesy of Robert Kerton.



# Northern Prawn Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**6 864**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
For economically significant stocks managed solely by AFMA:	n/a	3
a) number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield or the best available proxy.		
b) number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on target.	n/a	1
c) for those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, the number that are heading towards their target reference point.	n/a	1
Stock not included in (b) and (c) The remaining stock (banana prawn) pursues maximum economic yield through dynamic fishery economics and a catch rate trigger rather than using the general biomass targets applied to other key Commonwealth stocks. This approach reflects the difficulty in estimating maximum economic yield for such highly variable and short lived species.	n/a	1
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (the number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished).	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable.	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red-legged banana prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus indicus</i>)</li> <li>White banana prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus merguianus</i>)</li> <li>Brown tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>)</li> <li>Grooved tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>)</li> <li>Blue endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus ensis</i>)</li> </ul>				

Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

Uncertain

Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The principal legal framework for the management of the fishery is specified in the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*. The Northern Prawn Fishery is a multi-species fishery managed through input controls including limited entry, season length and individual transferable effort units – based on fishing gear size. Seasonal closures are used to protect spawning prawns and to help pursue maximum economic yield. Spatial closures provide protection for juvenile prawns and other fish in seagrass meadows. There is also mandatory use of fishing gear technologies to protect marine turtles, other larger animals and generally reduce the incidental catch of other animals when fishing for prawns. Fishers must hold boat and fishing gear statutory fishing rights to fish in this fishery.

The fishery relies on a size-based stock assessment model for brown and grooved tiger prawns; a biomass dynamic assessment model for blue endeavour prawns; and a quarterly age-based biological stock assessment model for red-legged banana prawns. There is currently no formal stock assessment for the white banana prawn fishery as the species is short lived and its abundance is driven by environmental factors, principally rainfall. This level of variability means no clear stock-recruitment relationship can be developed and reliance on catch rate as an index of abundance is questionable.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Performance – status of fish stocks

In 2015 the stock abundance levels for grooved and brown tiger prawn remained high ranging from 151 per cent to 185 per cent of the spawning stock capable of generating maximum sustainable yield. All 52 boat statutory fishing rights were utilised during the 2015 tiger prawn season (1 August to 30 November 2015).

During 2015, fishing catch and effort in the red-legged banana prawn fishery was well below that of previous years, with catches being the lowest on record since the early 1980s. The most plausible reason for this was that alternative fishing options were more attractive – in particular, the consistent, unusually high catch rates of tiger prawns elsewhere in the Northern Prawn Fishery. The low effort level (79 boat days) was less than the trigger amount used in the harvest strategy and provided insufficient data for an indication of abundance. This will be reviewed, pending effort levels, in 2016.

As with the tiger prawn fishery, all 52 boat statutory fishing rights were utilised during the 2016 banana prawn season which started on 1 April 2016. Decision rules were applied during the season with average catch rates not meeting the required trigger points for the fishery to remain open for the maximum 12 week season and the fishery was closed on 9 June 2016. Total catch in the 2016 banana fishery was down on 2015 dropping to 2 835 tonnes which is consistent with average catch levels in the fishery.

### Performance – status of bycatch

The reduction of bycatch in the Northern Prawn Fishery has remained the focus for industry and AFMA during 2015–16 and resulted in the release of the Northern Prawn Fishery Bycatch Strategy 2015–18. Consistent with the objectives of this strategy, industry has trialled a number of experimental bycatch reduction devices with the aim of a 30 per cent reduction by 2018.

The Northern Prawn Fishery remains accredited under Part 13 and is approved as a wildlife trade operation under Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The fishery is also certified as a sustainable fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council, which is an independent global certifier of sustainable fisheries. The first review of its accreditation is currently being conducted.



Figure 16: Tiger prawns from the Northern Prawn Fishery.

### Performance – economic returns

In the 2015 calendar year the Northern Prawn Fishery was the highest valued Commonwealth managed fishery with a total value of \$98 million. This was around 10 per cent lower than the previous year, which is attributed to the drop in the first season banana prawn catch for 2016.

The management plan was reviewed by the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee during the period, primarily in relation to the Commission's decision that the management plan must contain a mechanism to ensure that the fishing fleet can autonomously adjust its size to maintain economic viability. Recommendations for improvements to the management plan were developed by the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee and accepted by the Commission. AFMA is working through legal aspects and legislative drafting of the proposed autonomous adjustment mechanism.

The fishery broadly (across the two key species groups – banana and tiger prawns) is managed to pursue maximum economic yield. Effort limits in the fishery have been set on the result of outputs from the bio-economic model for tiger and endeavour prawns and season length is controlled bycatch-rate triggers in the banana prawn fishery to keep the fleet

profitable. A recent assessment of economic performance by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences indicated the fishery is below maximum economic yield targets but is producing positive net economic returns – \$5.5 million in 2012–13. However, economic conditions have been favourable over the years since this assessment. For example, in 2015–16 the tiger prawn fishery successfully pursued maximum economic yield targets that saw a 91 per cent increase in catch (to a total of 3 258 tonnes) from only a 20 per cent increase in effort (boat days). This should lead to increased profitability for the fishery along with a drop in diesel costs and an increase in prawn prices.

## Innovations

The Northern Prawn Fishery industry works closely with AFMA and cooperates through co-management arrangements to assist AFMA with a range of key management functions. For example, the industry manages the collection and provision of catch and effort information, the quality control of the information and its dissemination to all users.

As part of these co-management arrangements, the industry undertakes additional crew-based observations of interactions with protected species and provides these records directly to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation for assessment. The industry also assists in facilitating annual, independent scientific monitoring of the fishery by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation scientists.

These co-management measures add value to the management of the fishery and are cost effective for industry and AFMA. They increase stewardship outcomes in the fishery and provide valuable information which will enhance future management decisions.

Other improvements to the management plan to pick up current government policies and strengthen links between management strategies and those policies have also been recommended. They will be included among the amendments made to the plan relating to autonomous adjustment. AFMA has focused on reducing red tape in the Northern Prawn Fishery by combining some fishery closure directions. We are also reviewing specifications for turtle exclusion devices to achieve consistency with adjoining fisheries while maintaining the accreditation standards.



Figure 17: Royal Australian Navy Officers working under the command of Maritime Border Command within the Australian Border Force retrieving the ghost net.

## REMOVAL OF 'GHOST NETS'

Ghost nets are a global issue and AFMA continued to work with other Australian Government agencies to ensure that these abandoned nets do not fish indiscriminately inside the Australian Fishing Zone. AFMA is committed to protecting Australia's natural wildlife and resources and during the year AFMA assisted in the recovery and disposal of five abandoned nets.

One such case involved an incident in May 2016 where AFMA was alerted to the presence of an abandoned gillnet approximately 135 nautical miles north-east of Darwin. It was believed to have drifted into the Australian Fishing Zone from waters immediately to our north in south east Asia. *HMAS Glenelg*, assigned to Maritime Border Command, responded and spent more than 24 hours retrieving the net from the water. One turtle was released unharmed and four sharks were found dead within the net. AFMA also arranged for the subsequent disposal of the two kilometre-long net after it had been brought to port.

More information on how Australia is working to combat illegal fishing can be found at [afma.gov.au](http://afma.gov.au).



# North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries



Estimated catch 2015–16  
**Confidential**

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
<b>North West Slope Trawl Fishery</b> • Scampi ( <i>Metanephrops australiensis</i> , <i>M. boschmai</i> , <i>M. velutinus</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
<b>Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery</b> • Bugs ( <i>Ibacus</i> spp.) • Ruby snapper ( <i>Etelis carbunculus</i> )	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow

- Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Uncertain
- Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

There are no statutory management plans for the North West Slope Trawl and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries. Both fisheries are managed via fishing permits consistent with the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*.

Entry is limited with 11 permits in the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and seven in the North West Slope Trawl Fishery all having a maximum duration of five years. Fishers are required to adhere to a number of permit conditions including move on provisions for interactions with coral and sponges in water shallower than 200 metres and specific gear limitations to reduce bycatch.

Permit holders generally access the fisheries on a part time or opportunistic basis as an adjunct to other fisheries.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

Overall, the North West Slope Trawl and the Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries have experienced very little effort during the 2015–16 season. This continues the trend of recent years for both fisheries and is due in part to the recent high effort levels in adjacent fisheries (eg. Northern Prawn Fishery) where the majority of permit holders also fish.

In November 2015 the North West Slope Trawl and the Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries were due for reassessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. A twelve month extension was granted for both fisheries to allow time to consider recent catch and effort data and evaluate the effectiveness of catch trigger limits for each fishery zone noting the potential overlap of some shared stocks with Western Australia.

The Commonwealth and Western Australia have agreed to amend the North West Slope Trawl and the Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries' boundaries to reflect the most recent 200 metre isobath data. This change is planned to be implemented through Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements shortly.

Under the harvest strategy, analysis of catch and effort data is conducted annually to assist in the management of the fisheries. A review of the current harvest strategy is expected to be undertaken in 2016–17 focusing on updating target and limit reference point triggers.



# Small Pelagic Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16  
**13 210**  
 tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
• Australian sardine ( <i>Sardinops sagax</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
• Blue mackerel, east/west ( <i>Scomber australasicus</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
• Jack mackerel, east/west ( <i>Trachurus declivis</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
• Redbait, east ( <i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
• Redbait, west ( <i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i> )	Green	Yellow	Green	Green

- Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Uncertain
- Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

### Management Plan

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009*. The management arrangements include the allocation of statutory fishing rights, rules governing gear that may be used and catch limits. There were no changes to the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009* in 2015–16.

The performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were all met in 2015–16.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Harvest strategy

Under the harvest strategy, analysis of catch and effort data is conducted annually to assist in the management of the fisheries. The Small Pelagic Fishery Scientific Panel, the South East Management Advisory Committee and the AFMA Commission started a review of the harvest strategy in 2015–16 which is expected to be completed in 2016–17. This review aims to ensure ongoing ecological sustainability and improved net economic returns from the fishery through setting appropriate reference points and harvest control rules for target species.

### Scientific panel and stakeholder forum

In October 2015 the AFMA Commission agreed to trial, for two years, the use of an independent Scientific Panel and ongoing stakeholder forums to obtain scientific advice to support management decisions for the Small Pelagic Fishery. The Small Pelagic Fishery Scientific Panel provides scientific and economic advice to the AFMA Commission on the status of fish stocks, target and non-target species, the impact of fishing on the marine environment and application of the harvest strategy and harvest control rules adopted by the Commission for this fishery. The Scientific Panel is expected to improve the efficiency of the preparation of scientific and economic advice to the AFMA Commission and improve the information used to determine appropriate management actions for the fishery.

AFMA's Small Pelagic Fishery Stakeholder Forum improves the transparency of the management of the fishery by providing interested stakeholders with the opportunity to consider and discuss outcomes of the Scientific Panel. The South East Management Advisory Committee continues to provide advice on fishery management issues.

## Performance – sustainability and economic returns

AFMA applied to the Department of the Environment for continued environmental approvals for the Small Pelagic Fishery under wildlife trade and protected species provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The approvals ensure ecological sustainability and, by allowing for exports, improve net economic returns from the fishery. The Small Pelagic Fishery was declared an approved Wildlife Trade Operation until October 2018.

## Performance – reducing regulatory burden

In May 2016 AFMA took the opportunity to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden on fishers by opening more than one million square kilometres of additional offshore waters near southern and eastern Australia to mid-water trawling in the Small Pelagic Fishery. Mid-water trawlers pose a low risk to deep water species and AFMA decided that many of the current closures were not required to protect these species during Small Pelagic Fishery trawler operations. This allows for potential improvements in environmental outcomes and economic returns through greater flexibility for operators to catch target species and avoid protected species bycatch.

## Performance – status of bycatch

All mid-water trawl vessels fishing in the Small Pelagic Fishery must have a Vessel Management Plan approved by AFMA before they start fishing. The Vessel Management Plan for the *FV Geelong Star* primarily outlines mitigation measures to minimise the risk of interactions with protected species and reporting requirements. The Vessel Management Plan for the *FV Geelong Star* was revised in 2015–16 to promote the ecological sustainability of the fishery through measures such as improved marine mammal mitigation options (such as top opening excluder devices that allow animals to escape the net or a barrier net) and additional seabird mitigation measures (such as tori lines or bird bafflers).



Figure 18: Bird scaring tori lines.

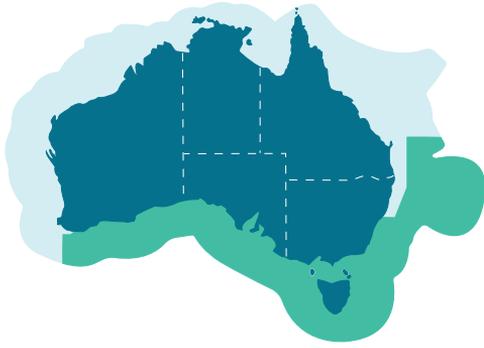
### *Technical workshop to explore options for mitigating marine mammal interactions in the Small Pelagic Fishery*

In June 2016, AFMA participated in a workshop to discuss options for mitigating marine mammal interactions in the Small Pelagic Fishery. The workshop developed several recommendations with relevant stakeholders aimed at mitigating marine mammal interactions with mid-water trawl gear in the Small Pelagic Fishery.

## EXTERNAL REVIEWS

### Senate Inquiry

On 7 September 2015, the Senate referred the following matter for inquiry: *‘Environmental, social and economic impacts of large-capacity fishing vessels commonly known as ‘supertrawlers’ operating in Australia’s marine jurisdiction’*. On the dissolution of the Senate on 9 May 2016 all proceedings of the Senate and its committees ceased. As such the Senate inquiry lapsed and will require a Senate decision if it is to be reinstated.



# Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

## Sectors:

- Commonwealth south east trawl
- East coast deepwater trawl
- Gillnet, hook and trap
- Great Australian Bight trawl
- Victorian inshore trawl



Estimated catch 2015–16

**16 111**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
For economically significant stocks managed solely by AFMA:	n/a	13
a) number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield or the best available proxy		
b) number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on target	n/a	3
c) for those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, the number that are heading towards their target reference point	n/a	5
Stocks not included in (b) and (c)	0	5
For the remaining five stocks:		
• three stocks are above the target and the limit reference point		
• one stock is between the target and the limit reference point		
• one stock (school shark) is estimated to be below the limit reference point and is subject to a recovery program		
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	7

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
• Alfonsino ( <i>Beryx splendens</i> )				
• Bight redfish ( <i>Centroberyx gerrardi</i> )				
• Blue grenadier ( <i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i> )				
• Deepwater flathead ( <i>Neoplatycephalus conatus</i> )				
• Eastern school whiting ( <i>Sillago flindersi</i> )				
• Elephantfish ( <i>Callorhynchus milii</i> )				
• Flathead ( <i>Neoplatycephalus richardsoni</i> and 4 other spp.)				
• Gemfish, western zone ( <i>Rexea solandri</i> )				
• Jackass morwong ( <i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i> )				
• Gummy shark ( <i>Mustelus antarcticus</i> )				
• John dory ( <i>Zeus faber</i> )				
• Mirror dory ( <i>Zenopsis nebulosa</i> )				
• Ocean jacket, eastern zone ( <i>Nelusetta ayraud</i> )				
• Ocean jacket, west ( <i>Nelusetta ayraud</i> )				
• Ocean perch ( <i>Helicolenus barathri</i> , <i>H. percoides</i> )				
• Orange roughy, Cascade Plateau, eastern zone ( <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i> )				
• Oreodory: 4 spp.				
• Ribaldo ( <i>Mora moro</i> )				
• Royal red prawn ( <i>Haliporoides sibogae</i> )				
• Sawshark ( <i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> , <i>P. nudipinnis</i> )				
• Silver trevally ( <i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i> )				
• Silver warehou ( <i>Seriolella punctata</i> )				
• Blue-eye trevalla ( <i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i> )				
• Pink ling ( <i>Genypterus blacodes</i> )				

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deepwater sharks, eastern and western zones (18 spp.)</li> <li>• Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)</li> </ul>	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orange roughy, southern zone and western zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)</li> </ul>	Green	Red	Green	Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue warehou (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)</li> <li>• Gemfish, eastern zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)</li> <li>• Gulper sharks (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i>, <i>C. moluccensis</i>, <i>C. zeehaani</i>)</li> <li>• Redfish, eastern (<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>)</li> <li>• School shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)</li> </ul>	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red

- Green: Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Yellow: Uncertain
- Red: Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*. The management arrangements include the allocation of statutory fishing rights, catch limits and rules governing gear that may be used.

The *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003* performance criteria were met, noting that no specific action was taken in 2015–16 in relation to addressing the performance criterion: ‘that stakeholders are satisfied with the level of accountability and communication regarding management of the fishery’.

In 2015–16 AFMA amended the management plans in several fisheries, removing redundant provisions and simplifying management arrangements. The management plan for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery was amended primarily to provide for the granting of statutory fishing rights to the holders of individually transferable quota units. Once enacted the granting of rights will see a single means by which catch quota is administered across all Commonwealth managed fisheries.

The amendments to the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Management Plan 2003* also:

- simplified undercatch provisions by removing the requirement to hold one quota unit on the relevant date in order to be eligible for undercatch
- updated the scientific names of several species
- removed redundant provisions relating to historic season dates and spent granting provisions.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Performance – status of fish stocks

In 2014 pink ling was assessed as uncertain as to whether overfishing was occurring. In 2015, following a new pink ling stock assessment, it was assessed as not subject to overfishing. The assessment estimated the pink ling:

- western stock as being above the target reference point, so not overfished or subject to overfishing
- eastern stock as ‘not overfished’ or subject to overfishing but requiring rebuilding to the target reference point.

Catches of eastern pink ling stock in 2015 were low enough to allow rebuilding to the target levels within a biologically reasonable timeframe. In 2016 the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association coordinated voluntary industry arrangements to continue to restrict catches of the eastern stock.

During 2015–16 AFMA continued to implement the stock rebuilding strategies for blue warehou, eastern gemfish, orange roughy and school shark as well as the two upper slope dogfish species. The rebuilding timeframes for these stocks remained unchanged – blue warehou by 2024, eastern gemfish by 2027, orange roughy (except the eastern zone and Cascade Plateau) by 2072, Southern deepwater sharks (dogfish) 2074, Harrison’s dogfish 2098 and school shark by 2074. Performance against the rebuilding strategies was reported to the relevant resource assessment groups, the Department of the Environment and the AFMA Commission.

During 2015–16 AFMA undertook stakeholder consultation on the draft Redfish Stock Rebuilding Strategy. The primary objective of the draft Strategy 2016 is to rebuild redfish stocks to ecologically sustainable levels and to manage them in a manner consistent with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines 2007. To achieve this, the

draft Strategy 2016 outlines measures including preventing targeted fishing for redfish. AFMA anticipates implementing the Strategy early in 2016–17.

Targeted fishing for orange roughy off eastern and southern Tasmania was allowed in 2015–16 for the first time in over a decade following the stock's recovery. Key orange roughy fishing grounds were reopened under strict monitoring and management arrangements including a sustainable total allowable catch based on an updated stock assessment model using the latest acoustic survey techniques. To minimise the risk of discarding, AFMA and the trawl industry developed and implemented comprehensive management arrangements including:

- real time monitoring of fishing on aggregations using 100 per cent observer coverage from 1 June to 31 August each year
- a requirement to cover all catch and discards with the amount they are eligible to catch (quota)
- a minimum amount of remaining eligible catch to enter and remain in the orange roughy management areas
- a requirement to stop fishing when approximately 80 per cent of the total allowable catch has been taken.



*Figure 19: Orange roughy – Photo courtesy of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.*

## Performance – economic returns

In December 2015, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics and Sciences published its fishery survey looking at the financial and economic performance of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery. In this survey financial and economic data were collected and analysed for the 2011–12 and 2012–13 financial years.

This analysis found that after being negative for much of the early 2000s, net economic return in the Commonwealth Trawl sector peaked at \$7.3 million in 2010–11 and then fell from \$4.5 million in 2011–12 to \$4.2 million in 2012–13. The net economic return in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector increased from -\$5.6 million to -\$2.9 million in 2012–13 but remained negative and well below the \$7.2 million net economic return in 2008–09.

Profit at full equity (a profit indicator that assumes that all assets are fully owned by operators) increased for the average boat in the Commonwealth Trawl sector between 2011–12 and 2012–13, from \$197 850 to \$205 283, but was lower than the peak of \$267 288 in 2008–09. In the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector, it improved from a loss of \$16 121 to a profit of \$15 134, but is also lower than its 2008–09 level of \$199 506.

In 2015 the AFMA Commission supported the removal of restrictions on net lengths in the shark gillnet sector. This will provide fishers with more flexibility to more efficiently catch the sustainable total allowable catch limits in the fishery.

## Improving the reliability of information – discard reporting

New logbook reporting arrangements were introduced in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery in May 2016 to improve reporting of discards by operators in the trawl sectors. The new arrangements simplify reporting by allowing for grouping of non-quota species that are discarded, rather than having to record each species. This should reduce operator workload and improve data quality to better understand the impact of fishing.

## Declaration of an approved wildlife trade operation

In December 2015, AFMA applied to the Department of the Environment for continued environmental approvals for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery under wildlife trade and protected species provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The approvals ensure ecological sustainability and, by allowing for exports, improve net economic returns from the fishery. The fishery was successful in obtaining the approvals until 21 February 2019. The approvals are subject to a number of conditions including continuing to:

- ensure that management measures are in place to meet the objectives of stock rebuilding strategies
- refine management measures to minimise the bycatch of dolphins in gillnets
- work with industry and experts to develop and implement management measures to minimise mortality of seals.

## Performance – status of bycatch

Work to reduce interactions with seabirds in the South East Trawl and Great Australian Bight Trawl sectors of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery continued during 2015–16. Since 2011, each trawl operator has been required to operate under a Seabird Management Plan. These plans are tailored to individual fishing boats to identify the main threats to seabirds by that boat as well as the mitigation measures the concession holder has agreed to implement to reduce the risk of seabird interactions. Ongoing industry trials of seabird mitigation measures saw two new devices approved in 2015–16: ‘bafflers’ (series of weighted lines providing a curtain around the warp) and sprayers (jets providing a curtain of water around warp). AFMA is working with industry to incorporate these devices into an overarching seabird strategy which is expected to be released for public consultation in 2016–17.



# Southern Squid Jig Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**385**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Gould's squid ( <i>Nototodarus gouldi</i> )				

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

■ Uncertain

■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

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. The management arrangements include restricting how many boats can fish in the area of the fishery and regulating the type and amount of fishing gear they can use. There were no changes to the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* in 2015–16.

The performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were all met in 2015–16 noting that a bycatch action plan is not in place for the Southern Squid Jig Fishery reflecting the low incidence of bycatch in the fishery. AFMA anticipates undertaking an ecological risk assessment for the Southern Squid Jig Fishery in 2016–17 which will ensure any bycatch issues are identified and addressed.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Status of stocks

Gould's squid (also known as arrow squid) is a highly productive and relatively short lived species, which allows it to be managed through limits on the total allowable fishing effort. Actual fishing effort within the fishery varies between seasons and has been relatively low in recent years. The stock status is not expected to change.

### Economic returns

In 2015–16 the AFMA Research Committee supported, for AFMA funding in 2016–17, the research proposal 'Improving the location and targeting of economically viable aggregations of squid available to the squid jigging method and the fleet's ability to catch squid'.



# Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**6 572**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
For economically significant stocks managed solely by AFMA:	n/a	1
a) number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield or the best available proxy		
b) number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on target	n/a	1
c) for those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, the number that are heading towards their target reference point	n/a	0
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	1

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Striped marlin ( <i>Tetrapturus audax</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green
Bigeye tuna ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> )	Red	Red	Red	Red

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing  
■ Uncertain  
■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The fishery is 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 of which Australia is a member.

AFMA amended the Management Plan for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery removing the requirement for operators to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan.



Figure 20: Albacore tuna.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Status of stocks

Overall, the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery had a successful fishing season in 2015, particularly for yellowfin tuna. At the end of the 2015–16 season, the total allowable commercial catch limits for broadbill swordfish, striped marlin and yellowfin tuna were between 80 and 100 per cent caught and feedback from industry indicated that they received relatively high prices for their catch.

Domestically, the total allowable commercial catches of all the key commercial species are currently considered to be appropriate and of no concern to the stock status. However, as the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery target species are managed internationally there are concerns regarding the stock status of bigeye tuna in particular, as it is currently assessed to be overfished and subject to overfishing within the western and central Pacific Ocean. Updated stock assessments for both bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean are due in 2017.

## Fishery management arrangements

A major management change in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery in July 2015 was the implementation of electronic monitoring (e-monitoring). All boats that fish for more than 30 days per season in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery now have a system of cameras and sensors installed to monitor all fishing operations and this has replaced human observer coverage. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring and this footage is used to verify the logbook records for the corresponding trips. All fishing operations in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery are now monitored. Ten per cent of all longline shots (minimum of one shot per boat per month) are reviewed and compared to the logbook reports. Regular feedback reports are provided to Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators to inform them of their reporting performance. Since the implementation of e-monitoring, preliminary analysis has indicated an improvement in logbook reporting by Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators.

During May to November 2015, AFMA also implemented the southern bluefin tuna annual core and buffer zones in the fishery to ensure that any southern bluefin tuna caught were covered by quota. To enter the core and buffer zones, Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators were required to hold a minimum amount of southern bluefin tuna quota and meet a certain level of observer coverage. The southern bluefin tuna zone locations were updated weekly using a model produced by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, sea surface temperature maps and industry catch information.

In 2015, silky sharks were listed as a migratory species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, meaning that they are now listed as a protected species and not allowed to be retained in Commonwealth fisheries. AFMA has banned the retention of silky sharks in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery.



Figure 21: Shy Albatross – Photo courtesy of Will Hansen, AFMA.

## BYCATCH AND DISCARDS E-LEARNING PROGRAM

Collaboration between AFMA's Bycatch and Discards team and the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association has seen the development of an e-learning course focused on reducing the impact of fishing operations on the environment. The course is made up of a number of modules on mitigation strategies for protected species such as seabirds and various marine mammals. The course also provides information on rebuilding strategies for at-risk stocks.

AFMA's on-site industry liaison officer assisted in administering enrolments and developing course content.

One of the great difficulties of providing education to fishers is the actual impact on their fishing time by requiring them to attend formal classroom type training. The e-learning program was developed so that fishers are able to access the modules online, thus giving them flexibility in where they conduct the training. They can even do the training modules while sitting in the wheelhouse of their boat!

Another fantastic outcome of conducting this training is that the modules count towards a Nationally Accredited Certificate III in Fishing Operations. This ensures there are formal learning pathways for fishers to become better educated, ensuring longevity for a career in the fishing industry.

As at 30 June 2016, 50 people have completed the training with another 14 currently enrolled. This is a multi-year project with the long term goal of having all South East Trawl boat skippers and crew accredited through this program.

This e-learning initiative is another example of how the Bycatch and Discards Program is proactively working with fishers and industry groups to ensure that fishing in Commonwealth waters is conducted in the most environmentally friendly way possible.



# Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**5 508**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	1

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Southern Bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i> )				

- Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Uncertain
- Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, Fishery status reports 2016, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The principal legal framework for the management of the fishery is the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. The fishery is managed through a system of output controls in the form of individually transferrable quotas which are allocated as statutory fishing rights under the Plan.

AFMA also amended the formal management plan for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery removing the requirement for operators to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

Prior to the commencement of each season (1 December to 30 November), AFMA determines a total allowable catch of southern bluefin tuna for the domestic fishery based on Australia's national allocation from the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna. Each statutory fishing right entitles the holder to receive an equal portion of the total allowable catch set by AFMA for this period.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

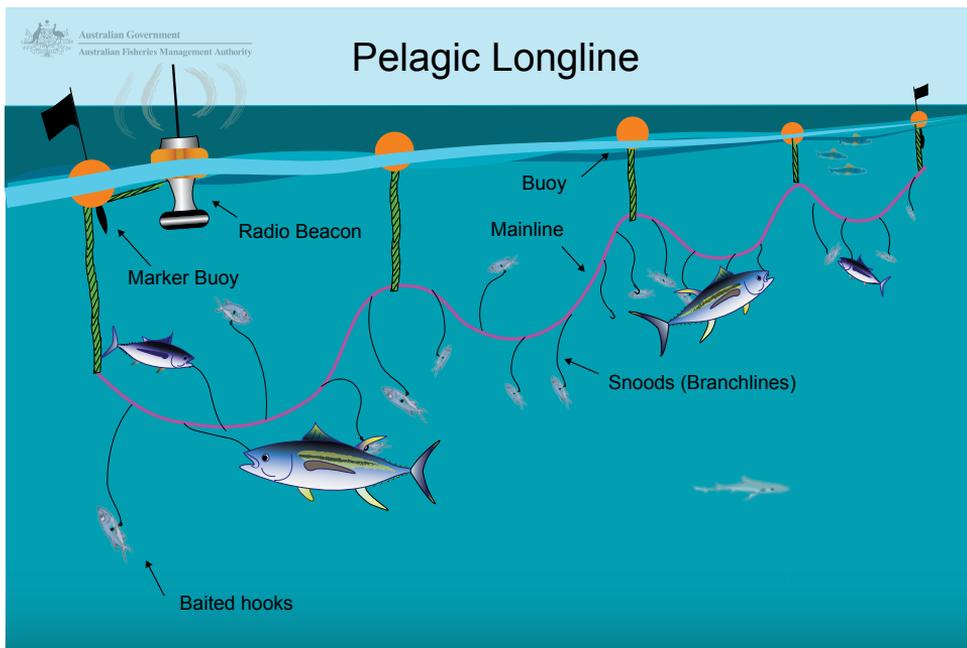
### Performance – status of fish stocks

The 2014 stock assessment conducted by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Scientific Committee suggested that the southern bluefin tuna stock remains at a very low state, estimated to be nine per cent of the initial spawning stock biomass, and below the level to produce maximum sustainable yield. However, there had been some improvement since the 2011 stock assessment estimate of five per cent of the initial stock. The next full stock assessment will be conducted in 2017.

The domestic total allowable catch for the 2014–15 southern bluefin tuna fishing season was 5 665 tonnes. Concession holders caught approximately ninety nine per cent of the total allowable catch for the season. In accordance with the undercatch provisions of the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995* the remaining 35 tonnes of uncaught quota is available to operators to take in the following season.

## Performance – economic returns

In Australia, commercial fishers mainly use the purse seine fishing method to catch southern bluefin tuna. After being caught, these fish are towed closer inshore and transferred to permanent floating farms called pontoons. They stay in these pontoons for several months, where they grow bigger before being harvested and sold. This is referred to as ‘ranching’. This accounts for the majority of the southern bluefin tuna total allowable catch. However, in recent years an increasing amount has been taken by pelagic longline vessels operating in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery. The following diagram describes the pelagic longline method of fishing.



The longline catch of southern bluefin tuna in 2014–15 was approximately 580 tonnes, up from 380 tonnes the previous season. The amount taken by longliners on the east coast depends primarily on access to available quota from the ranching sector and the seasonal availability of fish.

The *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995* is accredited under part 13 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as an approved Wildlife Trade Operation until 22 July 2016.



# Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**378**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	n/a	2
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Albacore ( <i>Thunnus alalunga</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Bigeye tuna ( <i>Thunnus obesus</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Swordfish ( <i>Xiphias gladius</i> )	Green	Green	Green	Green
Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )	Green	Green	Red	Green
Striped marlin ( <i>Tetrapturus audax</i> )	Red	Red	Red	Green

Green Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

Yellow Uncertain

Red Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* and resolutions of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission of which Australia is a member.

AFMA also amended the Management Plan for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery removing the requirement for fishers to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Fishery management arrangements

AFMA implemented e-monitoring in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery in July 2015. All boats that fish for more than 30 days per season in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery now have a system of cameras and sensors installed to monitor all fishing operations. This will provide a more efficient means of oversight than using human observers. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring and this footage is used to verify the logbook records for the associated trips. Regular feedback reports are provided to Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators to inform them of their reporting performance. Since the implementation of e-monitoring, preliminary analysis has indicated an improvement in logbook reporting by Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators.

A further, more recent, management change in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery has been the implementation of a 200 fish trip catch limit for mahi mahi (commonly referred to as dolphinfish). Previously this species was under a combined trip limit of 10 fish. The new trip limit enables Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery operators to retain and land the valuable and marketable mahi mahi they catch, increasing economic returns and significantly reducing the risk of this species being discarded.



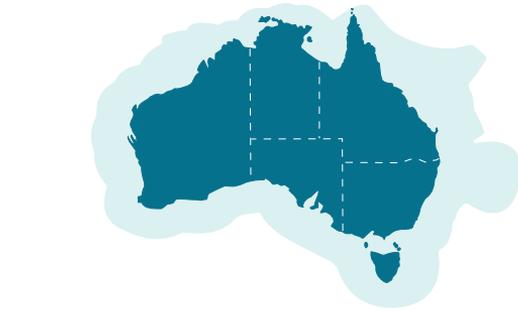
Figure 22: Striped marlin.

### Performance – status of fish stocks

The Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery has continued to operate at low levels of effort, largely due to economic conditions. Catch levels have remained relatively stable. For the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery, the total allowable commercial catch limits have been set for a three year period and for the 2015–16 season, these remained as follows:

- bigeye tuna: 2 000 tonnes
- yellowfin tuna: 5 000 tonnes
- broadbill swordfish: 3 000 tonnes
- striped marlin: 125 tonnes.

Domestically, the total allowable commercial catches for all the key commercial species are currently considered to be appropriate and of no concern to the stock status. However, as the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery target species are managed internationally there are concerns regarding the stock status of striped marlin and yellowfin tuna. Yellowfin tuna in particular has recently been assessed to be overfished and subject to overfishing within the wider Indian Ocean. Updated stock assessments for both striped marlin and yellowfin tuna are scheduled in 2018.



# Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16  
**4 098**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Mackerel icefish ( <i>Champscephalus gunnari</i> )				
Patagonian toothfish ( <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> )				

- Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Uncertain
- Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery is 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 of which Australia is a member country. As at June 2016, four vessels had operated in the fishery during the 2015–16 fishing season. Three vessels were longliners and one vessel was both a trawler and longliner.

AFMA also amended the Management Plan for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery removing the requirement for operators to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Performance – status of fish stocks

As the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery lies within the area of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, management of this fishery is reviewed on an international scale. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources meets each year and, among other things, considers catch limits and bycatch management for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery.

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery stock assessment for patagonian toothfish is considered and endorsed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

In November 2015, the AFMA Commission set the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery total allowable catches at 3 405 tonnes for patagonian toothfish and 482 tonnes for mackerel icefish for the 2015–16 fishing year. The AFMA Commission set increased catch limits for bycatch species from the genus *Macrourus*, commonly known as grenadiers, following updated scientific assessments conducted by the Australian Antarctic Division and accepted by Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group and Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee supported the updated assessments for the grenadier bycatch species.

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery follows decision rules that are set by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, of which Australia is a member country. The agreed total allowable catches for 2015–16 are consistent with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources decision rules.

### Performance – status of bycatch

To allow vessels access to more fishing time, the 2015–16 Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery longline fishing season was extended under a trial arrangement. The core longline fishing season extends from 1 May to 14 September. Under the trial, longlining can occur from 1 April 2016 to 30 November 2016 for approved vessels. Strict rules are in place around interactions with seabirds during the autumn and spring extension periods, when seabird activity increases in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery. If three or more seabirds are caught and killed by a vessel's fishing gear during the trial extension periods, the vessel can no longer fish in the extension periods. To date, no vessels have been required to cease fishing.



Figure 23: Patagonian toothfish.



# Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery



Estimated catch 2015–16

**383**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Patagonian toothfish ( <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> )				

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

■ Uncertain

■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

## MANAGEMENT PLANS/ARRANGEMENTS

The Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006*. As at June 2016, one vessel had operated in the fishery during the 2016–17 fishing season. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the Management Plan.

AFMA amended the Management Plan for the fishery removing the requirement for fishers to carry copies of their fishing concession on board the boat. The amendment follows the introduction of remote access technologies for fisheries compliance officers allowing them to confirm if a boat is authorised to fish, including the conditions they must comply with, from the field.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

### Performance – status of fish stocks

In March 2016, the AFMA Commission set the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery total allowable catch for patagonian toothfish at 450 tonnes. Catch limits for bycatch species were set at 50 tonnes for each other species, consistent with previous years.

Given the stability of the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery, in March 2016 the AFMA Commission also agreed the fishery should move to a two-yearly stock assessment. This is consistent with the management of other toothfish fisheries both in Australia and elsewhere in the world.

The Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery has been divided into three regions, noting that toothfish within these three regions are considered to be a single stock. Industry has agreed to, as far as possible, adopt a fishing strategy, endorsed by the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Resource Assessment Group, which spreads fishing effort across the three regions. The voluntary strategy allows more tags to be deployed in the Northern Macquarie Region where the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Resource Assessment Group agreed tagging would be most useful in improving scientific knowledge.

# High Seas Permits



Estimated catch 2015–16

**368**  
tonnes

## PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Performance criteria (AFMA Corporate Plan 2015–18)	2015–16 Target	2015–16 Actual
Number of fish stocks subject to overfishing (The number of stocks where the level of catches by fishery operators is likely to result in stock becoming overfished)	0	0
The number of stocks that are assessed as overfished and, unless effectively managed, may lead to the stock not being sustainable	n/a	0

## Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment	
	2012	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)</li> <li>Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>)</li> <li>Blue-eye trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>)</li> <li>Jackass morwong (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)</li> <li>Yellowtail kingfish (<i>Seriola lalandi</i>)</li> <li>Smooth oreodory (<i>Pseudocyttus maculates</i>)</li> <li>Spikey oreodory (<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i>)</li> <li>Redthroat emperor (<i>Lethrinus miniatus</i>)</li> <li>Boarfish (<i>Pentacerothidae spp.</i>)</li> <li>Cardinal fish (<i>Apogonidae, Dinolestidae</i>)</li> </ul>		

■ Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

■ Uncertain

■ Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Fishery Status Reports 2015, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences

## Management plans/arrangements

High seas permits continue to be managed consistent with conservation and management measures applying under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and measures applied by AFMA for Australian flagged boats operating in the area of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement. Operational requirements are implemented through conditions on high seas permits.

High seas permits allow Australian flagged vessels to fish for non-highly migratory species outside the Australian Fishing Zone in the Southern Indian and South Pacific Oceans. The fishing areas are designated through the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, to which the Australian Government is a party.

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

The first Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Scientific Committee meeting was held in March 2016. At this meeting the Scientific Committee adopted a Work Plan, a Research Priorities Plan and an Operational Work Plan. New conservation and management measures relating to the prohibition of deepwater gillnets and large-scale pelagic driftnets, the management of bottom fishing and data standards were also discussed and will be considered by the meeting of the parties in July 2016. These measures are important to ensure the ecological sustainability of fisheries in this area of the high seas.

A meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Commission was held in Valdivia, Chile from 25 to 29 January 2016. Two Australian proposals were adopted at this meeting with a view to ensuring ongoing sustainability and promoting efficient and transparent management – a conservation and management measure for the management of new and exploratory fisheries and a conservation and management measure declaring vessels without nationality that are fishing in the convention area to be fishing illegally and encouraging members, cooperating non-contracting parties, and non-parties to take action against such vessels.

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation Commission has called for proposals, a tender evaluation process and a work plan for a vessel monitoring system in 2016.

Australia agreed to host the 2017 Commission meeting in Adelaide, South Australia from 18 to 22 January 2017, preceded by a meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee from 14 to 16 January 2017.



Figure 24: Southern Bluefin Tuna.

# NON-OPERATIONAL FISHERIES

Commercial operators were not working in the following Commonwealth fisheries during 2015–16.

## NORFOLK ISLAND FISHERY

The Norfolk Island Fishery has no statutory management plan and there are currently no commercial fishing concessions in the fishery. In 2015–16 the fishery was overseen by the Norfolk Island Fishing Association in accordance with the *Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery Policy 2009*. AFMA is working with the Norfolk Island Fishing Association and other government agencies on future management arrangements following the announcement of reforms to the governance of Norfolk Island in 2015.

No stock assessments or biomass estimates for species taken within the Norfolk Island Fishery have been made. No stock status classifications have been given to this fishery as there are no defined stocks for management purposes.

## SKIPJACK TUNA FISHERY

### Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Indian Ocean skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )				
Western and central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna ( <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i> )				

- Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing
- Uncertain
- Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

The fishery is managed in accordance with the Skipjack Tuna Harvest Strategy, the statement of fishery management arrangements, fishing concession conditions and any conservation measures or resolutions mandated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission or the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

In the 2015–16 fishing season, effort within the fishery remained at very low levels. While there are 19 Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits and 14 Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits, no Australian vessels are currently targeting skipjack tuna.

Stock assessments for skipjack tuna are conducted internationally and are assessed as not subject to overfishing in the western and central Pacific Ocean or the Indian Ocean.

## SOUTH TASMAN RISE FISHERY

### Stock status of target species

Common name ( <i>scientific name</i> )	Latest available status assessment			
	2014		2015	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Orange roughy ( <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i> )				

 Biomass – Not overfished / Fishing Mortality – not subject to overfishing

 Uncertain

 Biomass – Overfished / Fishing Mortality – subject to overfishing

Source: Patterson, H, Noriega, R, Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R, 2016, *Fishery status reports 2016*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 3.0.

The South Tasman Rise Fishery forms part of Australia's fishing footprint under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation but has been closed to fishing since 2007. The area is also subject to a memorandum of understanding for cooperative management between Australia and New Zealand established in 1998. New Zealand has not fished the South Tasman Rise since the end of the 2000–01 fishing season.

Resumption of fishing will require prior agreement between Australia and New Zealand on issues such as an appropriate total allowable catch setting and a new harvest strategy.



Figure 25: Red fish – Photo courtesy of Alex Illes, AFMA.

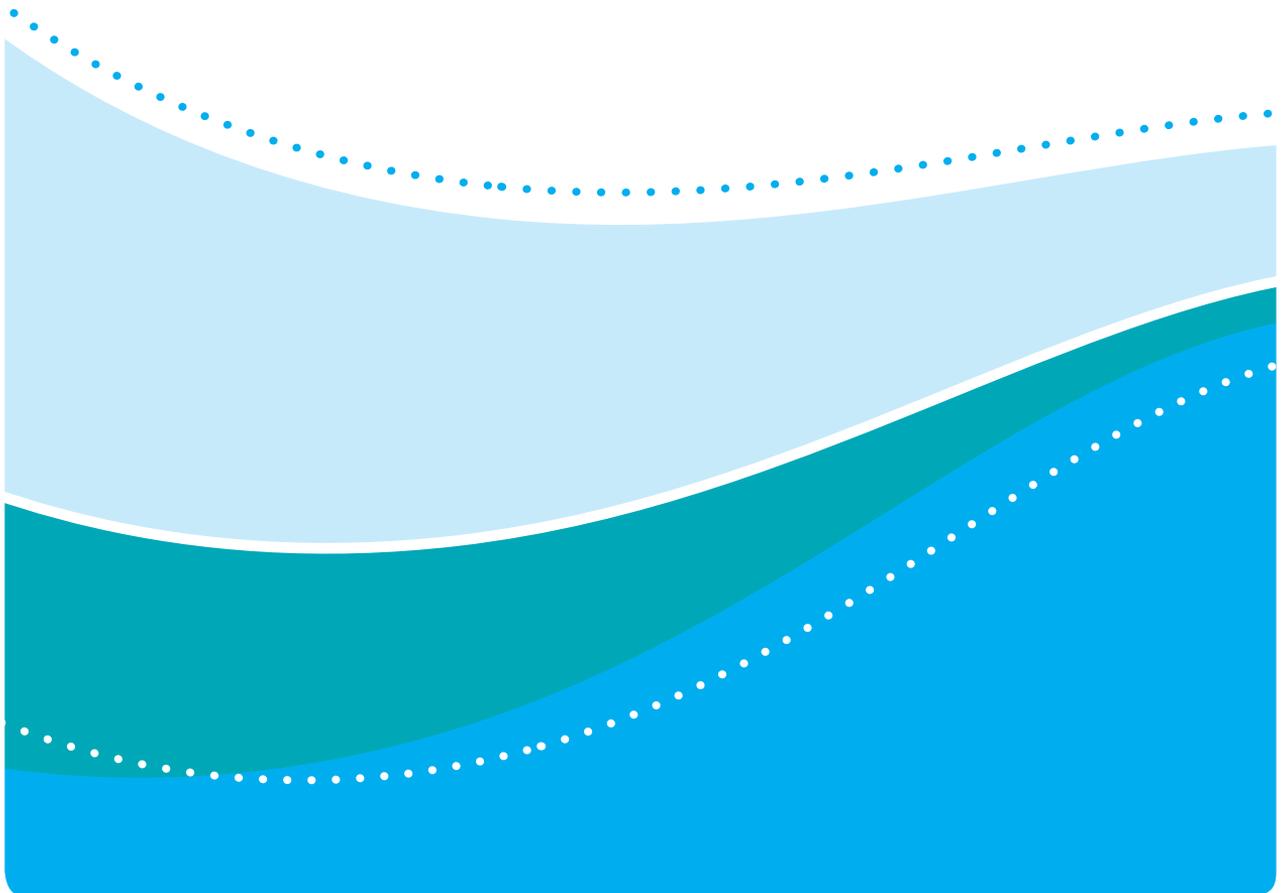
# Part 4

## Management and Accountability

Corporate governance practices

Purchasing

People management



## PART 4 - SUMMARY

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### OUR STAFF

**181** staff were employed in 2015-16.

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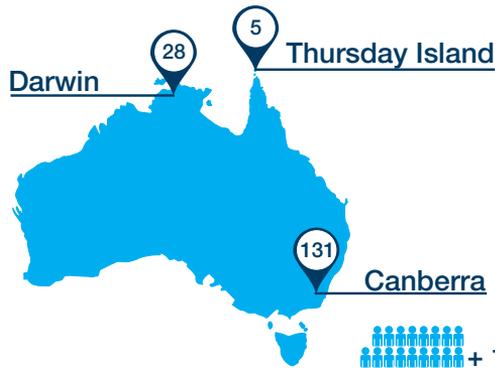
### STAFF BY GENDER

**112** men

**69** women

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### STAFF BY LOCATION



### AFMA'S ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT FOR 2016-19

AFMA's new enterprise agreement came into effect on 23 June 2016.

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### BUILDING STRONG LEADERSHIP

40 EL and 20 APS 1-6 staff completed AFMA's Leadership and Talent Management Program focusing on building strong leadership and responding to change.

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### COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCE LAW

No significant matters reported under finance law.

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# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

## GOVERNING BODY

AFMA's domestic fisheries management functions and powers are the responsibility of the AFMA Commission. AFMA's Chief Executive Officer, who is also an appointed Commissioner, is responsible for assisting the Commission by giving effect to its decisions.

The Chief Executive Officer is separately responsible for exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers and also has responsibilities as the Accountable Authority under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and *Public Service Act 1999*.

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources appoints the chairman, the other part-time commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer. Following advice from the chairman, the minister appoints a part-time commissioner as deputy-chairperson.

The Commission is subject to limited government direction under section 91 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*. All Fishery Management Plans are determined by AFMA.

The Chief Executive Officer is subject to ministerial direction with regard to AFMA'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 our commissioners, see Appendix 1 to this report.

## Disclosure of interests

Commissioners must disclose to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources 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. Where a commissioner declares they have an interest in a matter for consideration by the Commission it will initiate a procedure to determine the action required to safeguard the integrity of the Commission's decisions.

## Performance review

The Commission reviews its performance at each Commission meeting. Matters reviewed address the effectiveness of the Commission in its decision making, corporate governance and maintenance of stakeholder relationships.

## INTERNAL SCRUTINY

Internal audits are an essential tool for us to independently identify deficiencies and provide opportunities to deliver better practices that will improve the efficiency, cost effectiveness and transparency of our management and regulatory arrangements.

To this end we engage the services of an independent internal auditor to review financial and non-financial policies and operations. This ensures AFMA's financial and operational controls are operating in an efficient, effective, economical and ethical manner. Such reviews also assist AFMA management to improve business performance.

During 2015–16, all three of the planned audits from the internal audit plan were completed as follows:

- stakeholder engagement
- contract procurement and review
- compliance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

As a result of these audits we:

- have increased resources to more effectively engage with stakeholders
- have reviewed and updated our communication strategy and are developing a social media strategy to be more effective in engaging with our stakeholders as well as providing media awareness training for staff
- have provided a suite of procurement and contract management guidance to staff and conducted related training for staff
- have upgraded our internal systems to capture and report on contract procurements
- are updating our fraud control plan to ensure our approach to managing incidents is defensible, effective and compliant with government policy

- have improved our guidance and training for staff on the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- have developed performance indicators and measurements for 2015–16 and established templates for their collection. Associated standard operating procedures will be prepared to support the development and collection of future performance measures.

In addition we have established a number of standing committees which provide oversight and governance over key operational activities. These committees include the Project Governance Committee and the Information Governance Committee. The Chief Executive Officer has maintained the Audit and Risk Committee to also provide internal scrutiny of AFMA operations. Descriptions of these committees are provided in Appendix 1.

## EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

Our financial statements are audited annually by the Australian National Audit Office (the Audit Office). The 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 results of their audit are presented in their report on the financial statements in Part 5 of this report.

The Audit Office obtains and updates its understanding of AFMA, the environment in which we operate, our objectives and strategies and internal controls. This includes gaining 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 Audit Office performance audits or internal audit activity are considered as part of this process.

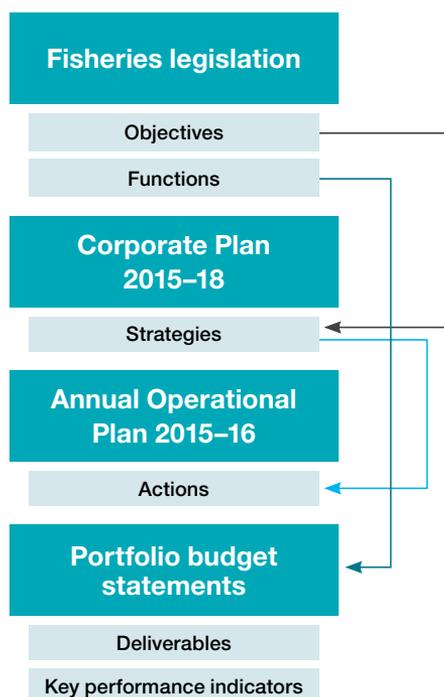
Our performance is subject to review through Senate Estimates. Parliament may also review and disallow legislative instruments proposed by AFMA as part of its delegated functions.

Outcomes of judicial and administrative tribunals are referenced at Appendix 2: 'Civil Litigation Outcomes'.

AFMA made a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture, which is looking at ways to improve the regulation of Australia's marine fisheries so as to enhance their productivity. The Productivity Commission is scheduled to table its final report in December 2016.

## CORPORATE PLANNING AND REPORTING

AFMA's planning and reporting framework consists of obligations under the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, whole-of-government requirements under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* and internal documents we produce for the purpose of good governance. The key elements are described below.



### Portfolio budget statements

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

### 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. We have reported against the key result areas identified in our Corporate Plan 2015-18 in Part 2 (the Annual Performance Statement) of this report.

## Annual operational plan

This plan details particular activities and actions that we intend to take during the year in order to further the goals set out in the corporate plan.

## Internal reporting

Each quarter, we report to our Chief Executive Officer and the Commission against our goals and strategies, key result areas and key performance indicators identified in our annual operational plan. This ensures that progress is monitored and actions are taken to rectify underperformance throughout the financial year.

## Section plans

Every business unit within AFMA is required to develop section plans. These plans ensure that our business activity across the agency is both coordinated and focused on delivering directly to the objectives identified in our annual operational plan. These plans form the basis of allocating our resources to the various business activities and/or specific projects that directly support the outcomes of the annual operational plan. Section plans also inform individual staff performance plans against which our staff are assessed throughout the reporting period.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

AFMA's corporate risk management procedures have been in place since 2008 and necessary processes are embedded in our planning, project management and fraud control procedures. AFMA's risk management framework and risk register are regularly reviewed, and in 2015 a comprehensive review of our overall risk management practices was undertaken.

The review found that while we have robust risk management processes in place, the introduction of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and the *Commonwealth Risk Management Policy* had resulted in some of these processes becoming redundant. The Audit and Risk Committee considered a new risk management policy and risk management framework.

The new policy alters the focus of AFMA's risk management to a more streamlined 'what must go right' philosophy. This will make risk management more tangible to our staff and provide clearer oversight for the Executive. Staff at all levels are responsible for participating in the risk management process through staff-directed risk assessments across the agency.

An appointed Risk Manager oversees the risk management process and it is monitored by AFMA's Risk Management Committee and our Audit and Risk Committee. 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 business continuity plan was established in 2010 and is tested, reviewed and updated annually, and monitored by the Audit and Risk Committee. An incident at our Canberra office on 29 January 2016 in which paint solvent fumes polluted the air-conditioning system throughout the building, forcing staff to evacuate the premises, provided an opportunity to test preparedness. Assessment following this incident identified several areas for enhancement including the mobility of information and communications technology equipment, evacuation procedures and communications and availability of appropriate offsite work space.

## Fraud control

As required under section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*, we have prepared a fraud risk assessment and a fraud control plan, and have in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting mechanisms that meet the specific needs of AFMA. We have also engaged an external consultant to assist in the review of our fraud control, the drafting of a new fraud control plan for the period 2017–19, an update of the fraud risk assessment and the creation and delivery of a fraud awareness and education package for staff.

AFMA investigated 109 new external fraud related matters during 2015–16. These were primarily associated with breaches of the domestic quota management arrangements, failure to fit AFMA's Vessel Monitoring System or have it operating at all times, unauthorised and unlicensed fishing,

breaching management plan arrangements, fishing/navigating in closed areas and breaching trip species limits. An additional 25 external fraud matters were carried over from the previous year.

We finalised 109 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.

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance and advice to the Chief Executive Officer and the AFMA Commission on AFMA's financial reporting, performance monitoring, systems of risk oversight and management and systems of internal control.

For further information on the Audit and Risk Committee see Appendix 1.

## COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCE LAW

Under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* AFMA must include a statement in the annual report of any significant issues reported to the responsible minister that relate to non-compliance with the finance law in relation to the entity. If such a statement has been included in the annual report the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* also requires the annual report to include an outline of the actions taken to remedy the non-compliance.

AFMA's review of compliance for 2015–16 with finance law (the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and associated rules and instruments) indicates that there are no significant matters that warrant reporting to the minister.

# PURCHASING

There has been a concerted effort during the year to review and update AFMA's policies and procedures for procurement and contract management to drive improved performance with respect to AFMA's responsibilities under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.

AFMA's approach to procurement and contract management is based on a self-service model enabling staff at all levels within the organisation to undertake procurement and contract management activities within a clearly defined framework.

The relevant policies, procedures, tools and process maps are all easily accessible on AFMA's intranet for staff to use. Importantly, a procurement and contract management training package has been developed and delivered across AFMA. To further support procurement and contract management capabilities within AFMA, a community of practice has been fostered so that experience can be shared across the organisation.

## CONTRACTS

### Australian National Audit Office access clauses

All contracts valued at \$100 000 or more (GST inclusive) let during the year allow the Auditor-General to have access to the contractor's premises.

### Exempt contracts

The Chief Executive Officer did not exempt any contracts let during 2015–16 from being published on AusTender on the basis that publication would disclose exempt matters under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

## ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

AFMA did not conduct any advertising campaigns during the year.

## DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

AFMA did not administer any grants during the year.

# PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

## OUR STAFF

As at 30 June 2016, we employed 181 staff (based on head count): 157 were ongoing and 24 were non-ongoing. There were 131 staff located in our Canberra office, 28 staff located in our Darwin office and five staff on Thursday Island. A further 17 casual field observers undertake duties on commercial fishing vessels around Australia. These numbers do not include four employees on long-term leave or two employees on temporary transfer to other Australian Public Service agencies.

Our employment profile has not significantly changed from 2014–15. The proportion of part-time staff has decreased slightly to 11.6 per cent in 2015–16 compared to 12 per cent in 2014–15.

The proportion of females has increased to 38 per cent from 34 per cent in the previous financial year. The percentage of women at EL1–2 levels for 2015–16 has increased to 27 per cent from 25 per cent in the previous year.

There has been an increase in the number of staff from non-English speaking backgrounds with seven staff in 2015–16, up from four in 2014–15.

As a comparison with the 2014–15 financial year, the number of staff whose parents come from a non-English speaking background has increased from 24 to 29 with the number of staff members identifying as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decreasing from five employees to four. In addition, employees who identified themselves as having a disability decreased from four to one in 2015–16.

### *Equal opportunity profile of AFMA staff as at 30 June 2016*

Level	NESB1	NESB2	People with disability	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Women	Men	Total staff at level
APS 2–4	1	10	0	4	21	32	53
APS 5–6	6	15	1	0	34	38	72
EL1	0	3	0	0	10	27	37
EL2	0	0	0	0	4	12	16
SES	0	1	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>181</b>

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

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

*Non-ongoing staff employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2016*

Level	Location	Women		Men		Total staff at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1–2	Canberra	0	0	12	0	12
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	1	0	0	0	1
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	1	0	0	1
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
EL1	Canberra	0	1	0	1	2
	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>

\* These figures include 17 observers who are engaged as APS 2/3 casual employees and are reported in the Canberra 'part time' figures.

*Ongoing staff employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2016*

Level	Location	Female		Male		Total staff at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1–2	Canberra	1	1	0	1	3
	Darwin	1	0	0	0	1
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3–4	Canberra	2	10	0	7	19
	Darwin	0	4	0	5	9
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
APS 5–6	Canberra	11	19	0	27	57
	Darwin	0	3	0	10	13
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL1	Canberra	4	5	1	21	31
	Darwin	0	0	0	3	3
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL2	Canberra	0	3	0	10	13
	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>157</b>

*This table does not include four staff on long term leave or two 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 2016. This SES figure also includes AFMA's Chief Executive Officer.*

## OUR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Australian Public Service Employee Census

In 2016 we again participated in the Australian Public Service Employee Census. The census allows AFMA to collect feedback, address specific issues and shape future priorities. This year saw staff participation exceeding the previous 2015 census with 79 per cent of our staff engaged in the process. This was above the average of the Australian Public Service which saw an overall participation rate of 69 per cent.

Results from the 2015 census (the latest available) indicated AFMA performed well against areas of agency engagement, learning and development and work-life balance. The results showed the majority of staff surveyed were proud to work for us.

While these were positive results, staff did indicate they would like to see improved internal communication, better change management and more opportunities for career progression. We have an ongoing commitment to improve in these areas and over the past 12 months we have made significant progress through the following initiatives:

- implementing an AFMA specific Leadership and Talent Management program focusing on building strong leadership and responding to change
- Chief Executive Officer meetings with APS 1–6 and EL1 staff and fortnightly managers meetings, which have significantly improved internal communication
- increasing staff awareness to utilise AFMA's intranet as both a communication tool and a training and resource centre for staff.

### AFMA rewards and recognition program

We recognise high performance by individual employees and teams. Our annual achievement awards are hosted by the Chief Executive Officer and are a formal way to celebrate outstanding contributions to AFMA and acknowledge employee performance. We recognise that building a culture that values its employees and recognises performance is critical to retaining the best people. The 2015 achievement awards were presented at an all staff meeting in December 2015. A total of 12 nominations were received with six individual and six team nominations.

The individual achievement recipient was Ms Danielle Kuhn. Ms Kuhn, AFMA's Communications Manager, was recognised for her exceptional commitment to delivering effective communications for AFMA.

During 2015 Ms Kuhn demonstrated dedication to ensure that the AFMA brand was appropriately represented in the media. The brand had also been widely recognised both domestically and internationally.

The team award recipient was the National Surveillance and Response Team. This team demonstrated their high level of commitment to AFMA's mission and purpose. The team's successful interactions and negotiations with supporting agencies ensured AFMA's efforts relating to the protection of fish stocks and marine resources were widely acknowledged and supported.



*Figure 26: The National Surveillance and Response Team – From the left: A.Gerner, P.Spinney, J.Findlay (CEO), G.Salmon, A.Beckmann, D.Quinn, I.McNaughton.*

Highly commended award recipients were Mr Andrew Trappett and the Demersal and Midwater Team.

The AFMA achievement awards are supported by our reward and recognition program. The program recognises individual and team achievements throughout the year and is determined by the Chief Executive Officer and branch heads on the recommendation of any member of staff. A total of 64 recognition awards were awarded across various branches and sections of AFMA.

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. We awarded development awards which supported staff to attend the World Fisheries Congress (South Korea) and the Species on the Move International Conference (Hobart).

## Performance management

All employees are required to participate in AFMA's Performance and Development Scheme. This scheme provides a structured way for employees and managers to review performance and develop a future work program. The focus of the scheme is on development and support and, where necessary, management of underperformance.

We encourage employee participation in the performance management process. The Workplace Group (Human Resources) actively supports and assists employees and managers to resolve conflict and maintain productive working relationships.



*Figure 27: Processing flathead – Photo courtesy of Mathew Daniels, AFMA.*

## Employment programs

This year we again partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources through the Graduate Development Program. AFMA engaged a graduate in 2015 who joined the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources graduate cohort by undertaking a combination of on-the-job-training, mentoring, a one week industry visit and a formal training program.

We also continued to focus on building a more diverse workforce and participated in the Australian Public Service Commission Pathways Program which resulted in AFMA welcoming an indigenous trainee in February 2016.

## Stepping Into program

The 'Stepping Into' Program is an internship designed specifically for university students with a disability. We hosted one university student for paid work experience during the winter university break. The internship was undertaken within AFMA's Policy, Environment, Economic and Research Section. The project involved researching AFMA's historic databases to produce findings to inform the review of undercatch and overcatch components of AFMA's quota management system.

The program is coordinated through the Australian Network on Disability and has been well received within AFMA.

## Women in AFMA

We also continued our commitment to build and provide opportunities for women as future leaders within the agency. The Women in AFMA Group is championed and chaired by Dr Nick Rayns, Executive Manager Fisheries Management Branch and includes 13 members from a range of classification levels. In April 2016 the group organised an all staff event in recognition of International Women's Day. The event welcomed Jo Schumann (Murray Darling Basin Authority) and Emily Canning (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) who shared their stories and insights into having a successful and effective career in the Australian Public Service.

## Australian National University Internships Program

The Australian National Internships Program gives undergraduate and postgraduate students an opportunity to work with Commonwealth agencies. During 2015–16, we hosted two students who contributed to the following projects:

- Assessing the trade-offs between protected species conservation and fisheries production. The project involved undertaking a literature review evaluating how fisheries can operate sustainably in an era of increasing public scrutiny and how society accepts the impacts of food harvesting.
- Stakeholder perspectives on the impacts of climate change on Commonwealth fisheries. The study was based on relevant literature and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders from a range of backgrounds. The study also covered the impact of climate change on fisheries management and adaptation of fisheries management to climate change.

## OUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

### AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2015–16

The conditions of employment for all AFMA staff, excluding Senior Executive Service officers, are covered by an enterprise agreement and associated policies.

AFMA continued negotiations for a new enterprise agreement during the financial year. A total of 19 meetings were held since negotiations commenced on 22 July 2014.

The Chief Executive Officer announced on 12 May 2016 that the proposed enterprise agreement was agreed by the majority of our staff who participated in voting (88 per cent). The percentage of staff who voted indicates significant engagement in the process by our staff with the number voting being one of the highest in AFMA's history.

Following approval from the Fair Work Commission, the new enterprise agreement came into effect on 23 June 2016 and has a nominal expiry date of 22 June 2019. This agreement replaced AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2011.

AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016–19 has a provision whereby the Chief Executive Officer and an employee covered by the agreement may enter into an individual flexibility arrangement to vary the effect of terms of the agreement.

AFMA entered into 42 individual flexibility agreements for 35 staff during 2015–16. The number of agreements is higher than the number of staff outlined in the table below. This is due to six staff having more than one agreement approved within the financial year. The details of the agreements made in 2015–16 are shown in the table below.

#### *Individual flexibility agreements for 2015–16*

Classification	Number
APS 1	0
APS 2	6
APS 3	0
APS 4	2
APS 5	5
APS 6	11
EL1	15
EL2	3

## REMUNERATION

AFMA's salary ranges are contained in AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016. The salary minimum and maximum amounts at each classification as at 30 June 2016 are shown in the table below.

*Enterprise agreement salary ranges as at 30 June 2016*

Classification	Minimum	Maximum
APS 1	\$42 138	\$49 244
APS 2	\$52 794	\$56 350
APS 3	\$57 789	\$62 805
APS 4	\$65 313	\$69 829
APS 5	\$71 979	\$76 236
APS 6	\$80 490	\$89 008
EL1	\$99 014	\$110 049
EL2	\$116 164	\$135 431

AFMA does not have performance bonuses.

AFMA's salary ranges for Senior Executive Service staff (three) are contained in AFMA's Executive Remuneration Policy. The salary range amounts as at 30 June 2016 are shown in the table below.

*Salary ranges for Senior Executive Service staff*

Classification	Minimum	Maximum
SES Bands 1 and 2	\$165 529	\$232 529

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 other 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 make use of any non-salary benefits in 2015–16.

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2015–16 we continued to invest in the development of our staff, with an emphasis on strong leadership and talent management. A training plan was developed for the 2015–16 financial year taking into consideration staff capability plans and AFMA's results from the 2015 Australian Public Service census. The training plan clearly articulated AFMA's approach to learning and development and identified six capability development priorities – leadership, change management, resilience, negotiation and influencing, emotional intelligence and communication.

An AFMA Leadership and Talent Management Program was developed in conjunction with the Centre for Public Management and commenced in March 2016. The year's program involved 40 Executive Level staff and 20 APS 1–6 staff. The program was specifically designed for us and focused on strengthening the capability and confidence of managers and developing future leaders. As part of the program, all participants took part in personal profiling. The Executive Level training program also included a formal 360 degree feedback component. The program saw a significant increase in the rate of employee participation and engagement in our learning and development activities. Participants have provided positive reviews, gaining insight and self-awareness. The program will continue to boost our leadership capability and become a platform for future talent development within AFMA.



Figure 28: Safety training, Jervis Bay – Photo courtesy of Rebecca Atkins, AFMA.

### Study Assistance Program

We continue to support employees who choose to study at tertiary level 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 2015–16, seven employees were granted study assistance for studies in various areas including environmental science, communications, applied science (focusing on fisheries management) and bookkeeping qualifications.

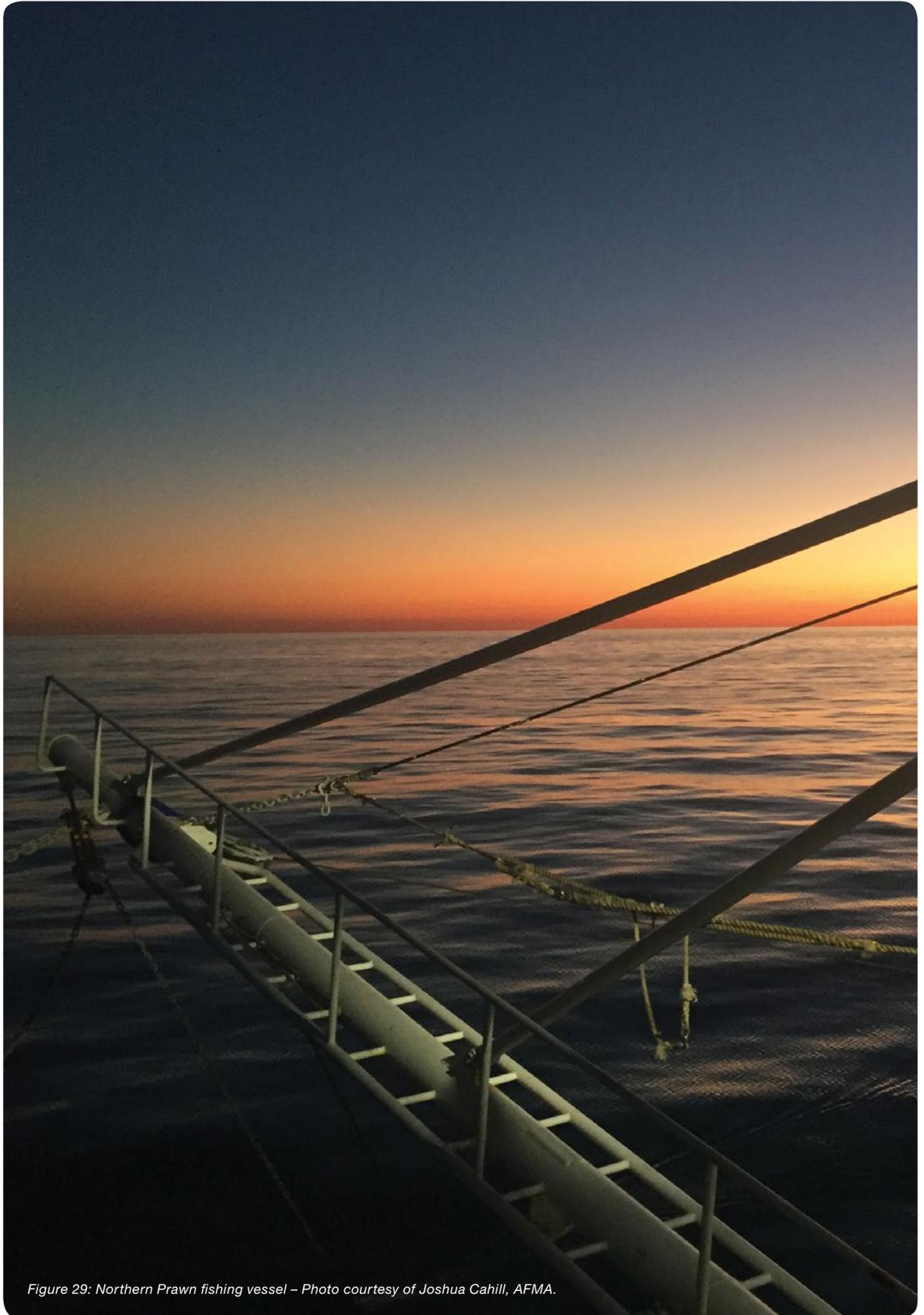


Figure 29: Northern Prawn fishing vessel – Photo courtesy of Joshua Cahill, AFMA.

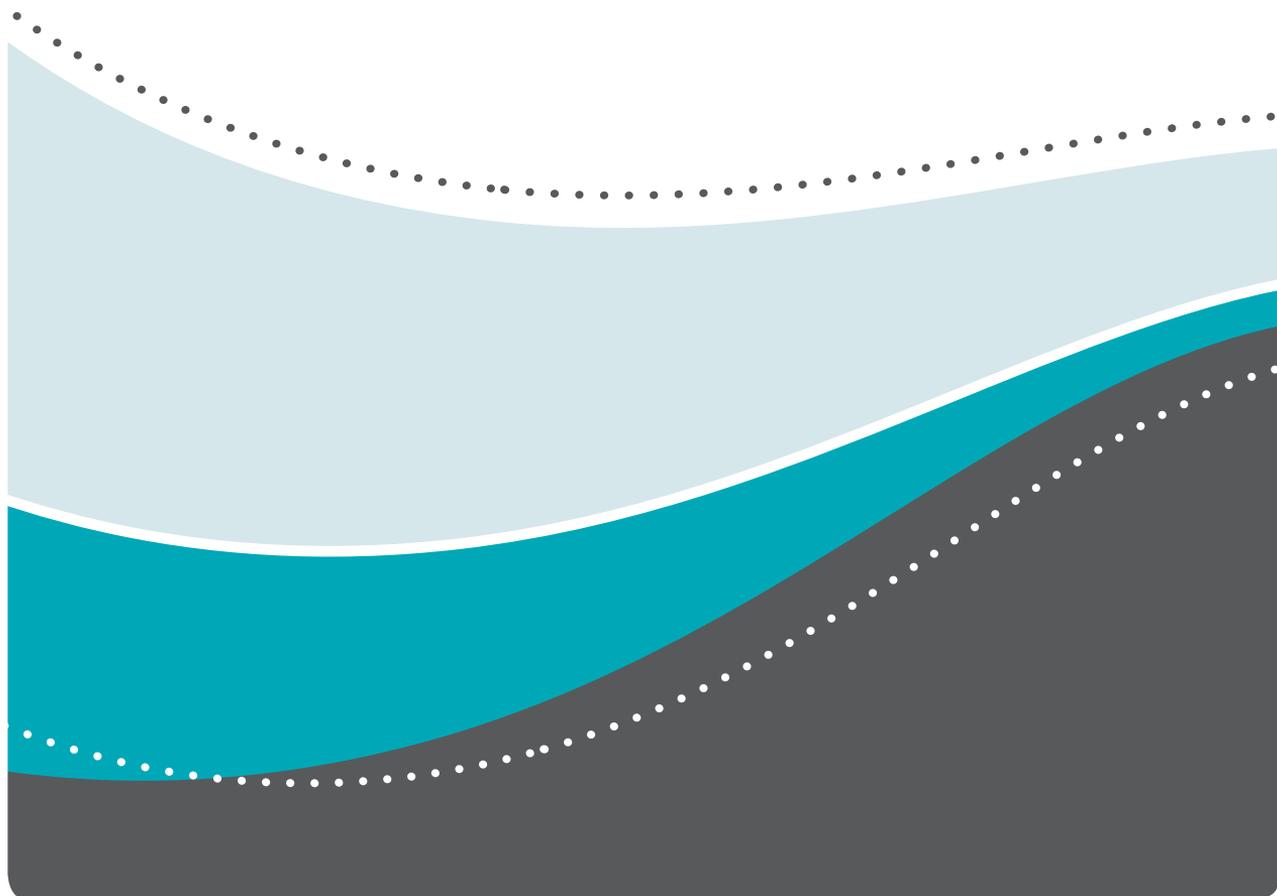
# Part 5

## Financial performance report and statements

Statement of financial performance

Australian National Audit Office report

Financial statements



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

AFMA reported a deficit of \$0.6 million for the 2015–16 financial year, well within the approved operating loss of \$2.2 million for the year. AFMA's total departmental expenditure was \$38.3 million against budget expenditure of \$39.9 million or \$1.6 million lower than budget. Expenditure on employee benefits was some \$3.3 million lower, reflecting lower average staffing levels and the later implementation of the enterprise agreement. Supplier expenditure was \$1.4 million higher than budget mainly resulting from higher expenditure for contractors and consultants.

The increased expenditure on outsourced expertise mainly reflects increased expenditure associated with the roll-out of the electronic monitoring programme during the year and for additional temporary and contract staff. Depreciation and amortisation expenditure was \$0.3 million higher than budget due to the reassessment of asset useful lives and depreciation rates earlier in the year. AFMA's approved operating loss was increased to reflect the changes.

AFMA's administered expenditure was \$2.1 million, relating to the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels. This was some \$0.2 million lower than the previous year. However, there was considerable interception activity in the latter part of the year.

## FINANCIAL PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS

AFMA has an ongoing focus on cost-effective delivery of its activities and strives to ensure the most efficient and effective allocation of resources in the delivery of its activities. During 2015–16 AFMA reviewed its budget and planning processes to ensure a stronger alignment of AFMA's resources to priorities identified in the corporate plan and annual operational plan consequently enabling a more efficient and effective allocation of resources.

We applied a revised activity based costing methodology and AFMA's planning and budgeting tools were augmented to better integrate the organisation's planning, budgeting and reporting processes.

Key improvements include:

- Internal budgets and section plans were integrated into a single system-generated template with final agreed budgets automatically populating into section templates.
- Section plans provide a clear outline of section-level resources (staffing levels and other key cost categories) which are then allocated to activities in the agreed activity based costing hierarchy and aligned to actions in the annual operational plan and to major projects.
- Cost-recovered budgets for Commonwealth fisheries are developed based on the internal budget and section plans. The budgets issued for industry consultation apply the principles outlined in AFMA's Cost Recovery Impact Statement.

AFMA's input to the portfolio budget statements is based on the internal budget, section plans and cost-recovered budgets.



*Figure 30: Albacore Tuna – Photo courtesy of Natalie Rivero, AFMA.*

# **Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

## **Financial Statements**

**for the period ended 30 June 2016**



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

I have audited the accompanying annual financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority for the year ended 30 June 2016, 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;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

### *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 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

### *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 and is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Executive determines 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.

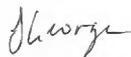
An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or 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.

Australian National Audit Office



Jodi George  
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
6 September 2016

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

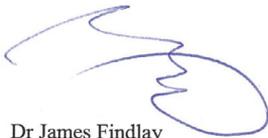
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

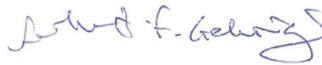
In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsections 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

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



Dr James Findlay  
Chief Executive Officer

6 September 2016



Robert Gehrig  
Chief Finance Officer

6 September 2016

# AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the period ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 Original Budget \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee benefits	5.1A	20,321	21,715	23,657
Supplier	1.1A	15,831	15,224	14,397
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,060	2,568	1,798
Write-down and impairment of assets	1.1B	41	456	-
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>38,253</b>	<b>39,963</b>	<b>39,852</b>
<b>Own-Source Income</b>				
<b>Own-source revenue</b>				
Sale of goods and rendering of services	1.2A	3,561	1,872	2,527
Rental income	1.2B	693	693	588
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>4,254</b>	<b>2,565</b>	<b>3,115</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>				
Resources received free of charge		43	43	34
<b>Total other revenue</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>4,297</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>3,149</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>(33,956)</b>	<b>(37,355)</b>	<b>(36,703)</b>
Revenue from Government	1.3A	33,383	33,924	34,905
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(573)</b>	<b>(3,431)</b>	<b>(1,798)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		-	(18)	-
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(573)</b>	<b>(3,449)</b>	<b>(1,798)</b>

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

### Budget Variances Commentary

The financial statements provide a comparison of the original budget as presented in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2015-16 final outcome as presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for the Authority. The Budget is not audited. Variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:

- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of total expenses; or
- the variance between budget and actual is below this threshold but is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of the Authority.

In some instances, a budget has not been provided for in the PBS, for example non-cash items such as asset revaluations, foreign exchange and sale of asset adjustments. Unless the variance is considered 'major' no explanation has been provided.

Employee benefits were \$3.3 million lower than Original Budget due to:

- increased staff departure rates;
- the later implementation of the Enterprise Agreement which commenced in June 2016; and
- lower superannuation costs due to less defined benefit scheme members than previously estimated.

Supplier expenditure was \$1.4 million higher than Original Budget mainly due to higher contract expenses associated with the roll-out of the electronic monitoring programme and increased temporary contract staff.

Own-source revenue was \$1.1 million higher than Original Budget mainly due to higher Observer fee-for-service revenue and some additional revenue for projects in the Torres Strait and for capacity-building projects.

Revenue from Government was \$1.5 million lower than budget, mainly due to lower levy and licence fee revenues. Industry consultation on cost recovery and final acquittal of budgets occurred after the Original Budget was finalised.

## AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 Original Budget \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	273	1,027	475
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	14,920	14,635	16,509
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>15,193</b>	<b>15,662</b>	<b>16,984</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>				
Land and buildings	2.2A	3,570	4,458	4,449
Property, plant and equipment	2.2A	834	1,085	1,695
Intangibles	2.2A	1,087	1,755	1,347
Other non-financial assets	2.2B	614	458	149
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>6,105</b>	<b>7,756</b>	<b>7,640</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>21,298</b>	<b>23,418</b>	<b>24,624</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Payables</b>				
Suppliers		-	1	519
Other payables	2.3A	4,148	6,308	5,338
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>4,148</b>	<b>6,309</b>	<b>5,857</b>
<b>Provisions</b>				
Employee provisions	5.1B	5,259	5,115	6,377
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>6,377</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>9,407</b>	<b>11,424</b>	<b>12,234</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>11,891</b>	<b>11,994</b>	<b>12,390</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Contributed equity		11,122	10,652	11,120
Reserves		4,624	4,624	4,644
Retained surplus/(Accumulated deficit)		(3,855)	(3,282)	(3,374)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>11,891</b>	<b>11,994</b>	<b>12,390</b>

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

Financial assets, comprised primarily of appropriation receivable and cash, were \$1.8 million lower than Original Budget. Much of this variance is explained by the timing of creditor payments.

Non-financial assets were \$1.5 million lower than budget due to the increase in depreciation/amortisation expenditure coupled with lower capital expenditure than budgeted. The reassessment of asset useful lives and depreciation/amortisation rates at the end of 2014-15 was not factored into the 2015-16 budget estimates.

Payables were \$1.2 million lower than Original Budget due to lower accrued expenditure and unearned revenue balances at 30 June 2016.

# AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the period ended 30 June 2016

	2016	2015	2016 Original Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>CONTRIBUTED EQUITY</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	10,652	10,182	10,651
<b>Transactions with owners</b>			
<b>Contributions by owners</b>			
Departmental capital budget	470	470	470
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>11,122</b>	<b>10,652</b>	<b>11,121</b>
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(3,282)	149	(2,255)
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(573)	(3,431)	(1,798)
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>(3,855)</b>	<b>(3,282)</b>	<b>(4,053)</b>
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	4,624	4,642	4,644
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Other comprehensive income	-	(18)	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>4,624</b>	<b>4,624</b>	<b>4,644</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>			
<b>Opening balance</b>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	11,994	14,973	13,040
<b>Comprehensive income</b>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(573)	(3,431)	(1,798)
Other comprehensive income	-	(18)	678
<b>Transactions with owners</b>			
<b>Contributions by owners</b>			
Departmental capital budget	470	470	470
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>11,891</b>	<b>11,994</b>	<b>12,390</b>

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

### Accounting Policy

#### 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.

## AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2016

		2016	2015	2016
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	Original Budget \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash received</b>				
Appropriations		32,456	35,870	34,823
Sales of goods and rendering of services		4,041	3,308	3,115
Net GST received		11	217	312
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>36,508</b>	<b>39,395</b>	<b>38,250</b>
<b>Cash used</b>				
Employees		20,869	20,962	23,795
Suppliers		16,565	17,440	14,094
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>37,434</b>	<b>38,402</b>	<b>37,889</b>
<b>Net cash used by operating activities</b>	4.4A	<b>(926)</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash used</b>				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		298	911	831
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>		<b>(298)</b>	<b>(911)</b>	<b>(831)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash received</b>				
Contributed equity - departmental capital budget		470	470	470
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>470</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>470</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(754)</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>-</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,027	475	475
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	2.1A	<b>273</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>475</b>

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

Net cash used by operating activities was \$1.3 million higher than budget mainly reflecting the lower operating result.  
Net cash used by investing activities was \$0.5 million lower than budget due to lower capital expenditure during the year.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

for the period ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 Original Budget \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<b>Expenses</b>				
Suppliers		2,140	1,835	5,392
Depreciation and amortisation		-	34	63
Write-down and impairment of assets		-	421	-
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>2,140</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>5,455</b>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>Non-taxation revenue</b>				
Sale of goods and rendering of services		-	-	742
Fees and fines		23	77	-
Other revenue		41	81	-
<b>Total non-taxation revenue</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>742</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>742</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>2,076</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>(4,713)</b>
<b>Deficit</b>		<b>(2,076)</b>	<b>(2,132)</b>	<b>(4,713)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>				
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		-	(138)	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss</b>		<b>(2,076)</b>	<b>(2,270)</b>	<b>-</b>

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

The financial statements provide a comparison of the original budget as presented in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2015-16 final outcome as presented in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for the Authority. The Budget is not audited.

Variances are considered to be 'major' based on the following criteria:

- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 10%; and
- the variance between budget and actual is greater than 2% of total expenses; or
- the variance between budget and actual is below this threshold but is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the discharge of accountability and to an analysis of performance of the Authority.

In some instances, a budget has not been provided for in the PBS, for example non-cash items such as asset revaluations, foreign exchange and sale of asset adjustments. Unless the variance is considered 'major' no explanation has been provided.

Supplier expenditure was \$3.3 million below budget due to lower levels of caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels.

The budget estimate of \$0.7 million for sale of goods and rendering of services revenue relates to the collection of levies on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (FRDC levies) which are not recognised as revenue for AFMA.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**ADMINISTERED SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

	Notes	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 Original Budget \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	-	14	-
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	328	264	256
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>328</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>				
Land and buildings		-	-	467
Other non-financial assets	3.2B	267	-	-
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>467</b>
<b>Total assets administered on behalf of Government</b>		<b>595</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>723</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Payables</b>				
Other	3.3A	348	138	487
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>487</b>
<b>Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>487</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>247</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>236</b>

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

Non-financial assets are \$0.2 million below budget due to asset write-downs as at 30 June 2015 that were not factored into the Original Budget.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**ADMINISTERED RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July</b>	<b>140</b>	380
<b>Net (cost of)/contribution by services</b>		
Income	<b>64</b>	158
Expenses	<b>(2,140)</b>	(2,290)
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		
Revaluations taken to/from reserves	-	(138)
<b>Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government:</b>		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Annual appropriations	<b>2,242</b>	2,134
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to OPA	<b>(59)</b>	(104)
<b>Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June</b>	<b>247</b>	140

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 2016*

	Notes	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 Original Budget \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Cash received</b>				
Levies and charges		-	-	742
Fees		41	81	-
Fines		23	7	-
Net GST received		-	226	-
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>742</b>
<b>Cash used</b>				
Net GST paid		16	-	-
Suppliers		2,245	2,347	5,392
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>2,261</b>	<b>2,347</b>	<b>5,392</b>
<b>Net cash flows used by operating activities</b>	4.4B	<b>(2,197)</b>	<b>(2,033)</b>	<b>(4,650)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		14	17	17
<b>Cash from Official Public Account</b>				
Appropriations		2,242	2,134	5,375
		<b>2,242</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>5,375</b>
<b>Cash to Official Public Account for:</b>				
Appropriations		(59)	(104)	742
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	4.4B	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>

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

**Budget Variances Commentary**

Cash used by operating activities are lower than budget as a result of lower supplier expenditure as explained under the Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income

## AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY****NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**OVERVIEW****Objectives 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. All of the financial information contained in these financial statements were incurred in pursuit of this outcome. The net cost of outcome delivery for 2015-16 was \$36,032,000 (2014-15: \$39,487,000).

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.

**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 2015; 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 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 2015-16 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 2016*

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**New Australian Accounting Standards***Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements*

AFMA has elected to apply *AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* for this financial year, even though the Standard is not required to be applied until annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2016. This Standard relieves not-for-profit public sector entities from the following disclosures specified in AASB 13 for assets within the scope of AASB 116 *Property Plant and Equipment* that are held primarily for their current service potential rather than to generate future net cash inflows.

*Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements*

As a not-for-profit public sector entity, AFMA is currently exempt from the requirements of *AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures*. For reporting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2016, AASB 124 will be extended to apply to all not-for-profit public sector entities. From 1 July 2016, AFMA will be required to disclose any related party transactions for parties including key management personnel and their close family members, cabinet ministers and their close family members and all other Commonwealth-controlled entities.

The final version of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* was issued in December 2015, to apply in reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. AFMA will apply AASB 15 from 1 July 2018. Changes which will be introduced by the application of AASB 15 include new principles for reporting information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as 'performance obligations' are satisfied.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board issued the final version of *AASB 16 Leases* in February 2016, to apply in reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. AFMA will apply AASB 16 from 1 July 2019 onwards. Application of AASB 16 will result in bringing all leases onto the balance sheet of lessees, thereby increasing the transparency surrounding such arrangements and making the lessee's balance sheet better reflect the economics of its transactions.

**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.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY****NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***for the period ended 30 June 2016***OVERVIEW (continued)****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 in the schedule of administered items and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

*Revenue*

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

**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 2016.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

*This section analysis AFMA's financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2016. Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships Section.*

**Note 1.1: Expenses**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 1.1A: Suppliers</b>		
<b>Goods and services</b>		
Research	2,828	3,622
Surveillance and compliance	528	729
Consultants and contractors	4,776	3,192
Travel and meetings	1,886	1,950
Information technology and communications	1,288	1,045
Training and development	455	322
Building repairs and outgoings	473	427
General administrative	1,013	1,127
<b>Total goods and services</b>	<b>13,247</b>	<b>12,414</b>
Goods supplied	230	-
Services rendered	13,017	12,414
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>13,247</b>	<b>12,414</b>
<b>Other suppliers</b>		
<b>Operating lease rentals in connection with</b>		
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	2,214	2,228
Workers compensation expenses	370	582
<b>Total other suppliers</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>2,810</b>
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>15,831</b>	<b>15,224</b>
<b>Leasing commitments</b>		
AFMA leases office accommodation in Canberra and Darwin. Lease payments are subject to fixed annual increases. The initial lease term in Canberra is still current and the Darwin lease was entered into for 3.5 years. The Canberra lease may be renewed for up to three years.		
<b>Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:</b>		
Within 1 year	2,529	2,108
Between 1 to 5 years	3,618	5,314
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>7,422</b>
<b>Note 1.1B: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets</b>		
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Bad and doubtful debt expense	(4)	-
Write-down of property, plant and equipment	44	456
Other	1	-
<b>Total write-down and impairment of assets</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>456</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**Note 1.2: Own Source Income and Other Revenue**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 1.2A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services</b>		
Rendering of services	3,561	1,872
<b>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</b>	<b>3,561</b>	<b>1,872</b>
<b>Note 1.2B: Rental Income</b>		
Operating lease:		
Sublease - Canberra office	454	471
Sublease - Thursday Island office	127	124
Employee car parking	112	98
<b>Total rental income</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>693</b>

**Leasing commitments receivable**

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

**Commitments for minimum lease receipts in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are receivable as follows:**

Within 1 year	469	453
Between 1 to 5 years	733	1,202
<b>Total sub-lease commitments receivable</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,655</b>

**Note 1.3: Revenue from Government**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 1.3A: Revenue from Government</b>		
Appropriations:		
Departmental appropriation	20,445	20,725
Special Appropriation (Levies and licensing charges) <sup>1</sup>	12,938	13,199
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>	<b>33,383</b>	<b>33,924</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 2016*

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**Accounting Policies – Departmental Financial Performance**

**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.

**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.

**Other Revenue**

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.

**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.

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.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**FINANCIAL POSITION**

*This section analyses AFMA's assets used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result. Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships Section*

**Note 2.1: Financial Assets**

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Note 2.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand or on deposit	273	1,027
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1,027</b>
<b>Note 2.1B: Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Good and services receivables</b>		
Good and Services	805	1,447
<b>Total goods and services receivables</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>1,447</b>
<b>Appropriations receivables</b>		
Departmental Capital Budget	172	-
Existing programs - AFMA Special Account	13,590	12,835
<b>Total appropriations receivables</b>	<b>13,762</b>	<b>12,835</b>
<b>Other receivables</b>		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	353	364
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>14,920</b>	<b>14,646</b>
<b>Less impairment allowance</b>		
Goods and services	-	(11)
<b>Total impairment allowance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11)</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>14,920</b>	<b>14,635</b>
<b>Trade and other receivables (net) expected to be recovered</b>		
No more than 12 months	1,330	1,800
More than 12 months	13,590	12,835
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>14,920</b>	<b>14,635</b>
<b>Trade and other receivables (gross) aged as follows</b>		
Not overdue	14,701	13,199
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	32	810
31 to 60 days	10	358
More than 90 days	177	279
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>14,920</b>	<b>14,646</b>
<b>Impairment allowance aged as follows</b>		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	-	(11)
<b>Total impairment allowance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11)</b>

Credit terms for Goods and Services were within 30 days for 2016 (2015: 30 days)

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**Note 2.1: Financial Assets (continued)**

<b>Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance:</b>	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>Goods and services \$'000</b>	Goods and services \$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>11</b>	11
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	<b>(11)</b>	-
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-</b>	11

**Note 2.1C Assets Held in Trust**

**Monetary assets**

Financial assets held in trust are also disclosed in Note 4.2: Special Accounts in the table titled AFMA Service for Other Entities and Trust Monies.

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000
<b>Cash at bank - monetary asset</b>		
<b>As at 1 July</b>	<b>113</b>	135
Receipts	<b>1</b>	1
Payments	<b>(78)</b>	(23)
<b>As at 30 June</b>	<b>36</b>	113

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

**Note 2.1D 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.

**Fair Value Measurements, Valuation Techniques and Inputs Used**

	<b>Fair value measurements</b>			<b>Valuation technique(s) and Inputs used</b>
	<b>2016</b>	2015	<b>Category (Level 1, 2 or 3<sup>2</sup>)</b>	
	<b>\$'000</b>	\$'000		
<b>Non-financial assets<sup>1</sup></b>				
Land	1,075	1,075		Level 2 Market valuation. Non-specialised assets
Buildings	887	916		Level 2 assessed by observable market evidence.
Leasehold improvements	1,608	2,467		Level 3 Cost valuation. Not traded in the market and,
Property, plant and equipment	834	1,085		Level 3 in some instances, specialised assets. Depreciated replacement cost assessment.
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>	<b>4,404</b>	<b>5,543</b>		

- 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.
- Recurring and non-recurring Level 3 fair value measurements - valuation processes

AFMA used valuers and relies on valuation models provided. AFMA tests the assumptions of the valuation model at least once every 12 months. The valuers provided written assurance to AFMA that valuation techniques used are compliant with AASB 13.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 2.2: Non-Financial Assets**

Note 2.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Land and Buildings, Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangibles for 2016

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total land and buildings \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2015</b>								
Gross book value	1,075	974	4,175	6,224	1,817	4,331	1,648	14,020
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(58)	(1,708)	(1,766)	(732)	(3,195)	(1,029)	(6,722)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2015</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>7,298</b>
Additions:								
By purchase	-	-	22	22	180	-	96	298
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-	(29)	(876)	(905)	(392)	(361)	(402)	(2,060)
Disposals	-	-	(633)	(633)	(98)	-	(37)	(768)
Accumulated amortisation of disposed assets	-	-	628	628	59	-	36	723
<b>Net book value 30 June 2016</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>5,491</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2016 represented by:</b>								
Gross book value	1,075	974	3,564	5,613	1,899	4,331	1,707	13,550
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(87)	(1,956)	(2,043)	(1,065)	(3,556)	(1,395)	(8,059)
<b>Total as at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>5,491</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 2.2: Non-Financial Assets (continued)**

Note 2.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Land and Buildings, Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangibles for 2015

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total land and buildings \$'000	Property, plant & equipment \$'000	Computer software internally developed \$'000	Computer software purchased \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2014</b>								
Gross book value	1,075	1,266	3,883	6,224	1,513	4,756	1,093	13,586
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(29)	(311)	(340)	(314)	(2,803)	(699)	(4,156)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2014</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>5,884</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>1,953</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>9,430</b>
<b>Additions:</b>								
By purchase	-	-	-	-	778	-	133	911
Reclassification of assets	-	(292)	292	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(18)	-	-	(18)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	-	-	-	-	(44)	-	-	(44)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-	(29)	(1,397)	(1,426)	(418)	(392)	(332)	(2,568)
Other movements	-	-	-	-	-	(425)	425	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(412)	-	(3)	(415)
Accumulated amortisation of disposed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
<b>Net book value 30 June 2015</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>7,298</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:</b>								
Gross book value	1,075	974	4,175	6,224	1,817	4,331	1,648	14,020
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(58)	(1,708)	(1,766)	(732)	(3,195)	(1,029)	(6,722)
<b>Total as at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>7,298</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 2.2: Non-Financial Assets (continued)**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 2.2B Other Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Prepayments	262	285
Accrued revenue	352	173
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>458</b>

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

**Note 2.3: Payables**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 2.3A: Other Payables</b>		
Accrued expenses	2,288	2,926
Lease incentives	52	73
Operating lease rentals	640	784
Wages and salaries	92	784
Unearned revenue	1,076	1,741
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>6,308</b>

Total other payables are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	3,498	6,148
More than 12 months	650	940
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>6,308</b>

**Accounting Policies – Departmental Financial Position**

**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.

**Financial Assets**

Please refer to Note 6 Managing Uncertainty for accounting policies for financial assets.

**Receivables**

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 2016

#### Accounting Policies – Departmental Financial Position (continued)

##### 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.

##### 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).

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.

All AFMA land, buildings, software and leasehold improvement assets including property, plant and equipment were assessed as at 31 April 2014 at fair value.

###### 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:

	2016	2015
Buildings on freehold land	40 to 45	40 to 45
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and Equipment	4 to 13 years	4 to 13

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY****NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***for the period ended 30 June 2016***Accounting Policies – Departmental Financial Position (continued)****Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)***Impairment*

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2016. 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.

**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 (2015: 3 to 10 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2016.

**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 2015-16.

**Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates**

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements with respect to the fair value of land and buildings. 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.

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.

**Financial Liabilities**

Please refer to Note 6 Managing Uncertainty for accounting policies for financial liabilities.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT**

*This section analyses assets used to conduct operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result AFMA does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.*

**Note 3.1: Administered – Financial Assets**

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Note 3.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand or on deposit	-	14
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Note 3.1B: Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Fees and charges</b>		
Fees and charges receivable - external parties	677	677
<b>Total fees and charges receivable</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>677</b>
<b>Other receivables</b>		
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	81	17
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>694</b>
<b>Less impairment allowance</b>		
Fees and charges	(430)	(430)
<b>Total impairment allowance account</b>	<b>(430)</b>	<b>(430)</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>264</b>
Receivables are expected to be recovered within 12 months.		
<b>Receivables were aged as follows</b>		
Not overdue	81	5
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	-	15
31 to 60 days	-	5
More than 90 days	677	669
<b>Total receivables (gross)</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>694</b>
<b>Impairment allowance aged as follows</b>		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(430)	(430)
<b>Total impairment allowance</b>	<b>(430)</b>	<b>(430)</b>
Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2015: 30 days).		
<b>Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Fees and charges</b>	<b>Fees and charges</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>(430)</b>	<b>(418)</b>
Amounts written off	-	409
Movement recognised in net surplus	-	(421)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>(430)</b>	<b>(430)</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED ITEMS**

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**Note 3.2: Administered – Non-Financial Assets**

**3.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment**

**Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2016**

AFMA held no administered property, plant and equipment for 2016.

**Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment for 2015**

	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2014		
Gross book value	630	630
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	(37)	(37)
<b>Total as at 1 July 2014</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>593</b>
Revaluations recognised in the operating result	(138)	(138)
Impairments recognised in the operating result	(421)	(421)
Depreciation	(34)	(34)
<b>Total as at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Note 3.2B: Other Non-Financial Assets**

Accrued Revenue	267	-
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>-</b>

**Note 3.3: Administered – Liabilities**

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Note 3.3A: Suppliers</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	294	132
GST payable	54	6
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Suppliers expected to be settled</b>		
No more than 12 months	348	138
<b>Total suppliers</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>138</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**FUNDING**

*This section identifies AFMA's funding structure.*

**Note 4.1: Appropriations**

Note 4.1A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')

**Annual Appropriations for 2016**

	Appropriation Act		PGPA Act		Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2016 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance <sup>1</sup> \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	AFM \$'000	Section 74 \$'000	Section 75 \$'000			
<b>Departmental</b>							
Ordinary annual services	20,485	-	-	-	20,485	20,445	40
Departmental Capital Budget <sup>2</sup>	470	-	-	-	470	298	172
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>20,955</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,955</b>	<b>20,743</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Administered</b>							
Ordinary annual services Administered items <sup>1</sup>	5,375	-	-	-	5,375	1,853	3,522
<b>Total administered</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>3,522</b>

**Notes:**

1. The variance of \$40,000 relates to the section 51 withholding of 2015-16 Appropriation. For Administered funds \$3,522,101 remained as unspent and will be returned to consolidated revenue.
2. Departmental 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.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 4.1: Appropriations (continued)**

	Appropriation Act		PGPA Act		Appropriation applied in 2015 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance <sup>1</sup> \$'000
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	AFM \$'000	Section 74 \$'000	Section 75 \$'000		
<b>Departmental</b>						
Ordinary annual services	21,199	-	-	-	21,199	4
Departmental capital budget	470	-	-	-	470	-
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>21,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,669</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Administered</b>						
Ordinary annual services	5,309	-	-	-	5,309	3,594
Administered items	<b>5,309</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,309</b>	<b>3,594</b>

**Notes:**

1. 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 \$3,594 million remained as unspent.

**Note 4.1B: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Departmental</b>		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2015-16	-	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2014-15	-	4
<b>Total departmental</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Administered</b>		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2015-16	<b>3,522</b>	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2014-15	-	3,594
<b>Total administered</b>	<b>3,522</b>	<b>3,594</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 4.1: Appropriations**

**Note 4.1C: Special Appropriations (Recoverable GST exclusive)**

		Appropriation applied	
Authority	Type	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991; Section 94C, Departmental</i>	Unlimited Amount	12,938	13,199
	<i>To provide an appropriation for adjusted levy amounts and other receipts specified by s94C of the Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,938</b>	<b>13,199</b>

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

**Note 4.2: Special Accounts**

	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) <sup>1</sup>		Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money) <sup>2</sup>	
	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
<b>Balance brought forward from previous period</b>	<b>13,862</b>	<b>15,256</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Increases:</b>				
Appropriation for reporting period	20,743	21,195	-	-
Special appropriation ( <i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i> - Section 94C)	12,938	15,145	-	-
Other receipts	4,052	3,525	1	1
<b>Total increases</b>	<b>51,595</b>	<b>55,121</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>				
Employee payments	(20,869)	(20,962)	-	-
Supplier payments	(16,505)	(19,386)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(298)	(911)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	(78)	(23)
<b>Total decrease</b>	<b>(37,732)</b>	<b>(41,259)</b>	<b>(78)</b>	<b>(23)</b>
<b>Total balance carried to the next period:</b>	<b>13,863</b>	<b>13,862</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>113</b>

1. Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* ; section 80.

Establishing Instrument: *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* ; 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 Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money)*

Establishing Instrument: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* ; 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 2016*

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**Note 4.3: Regulatory Charging Summary**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Amounts applied</b>		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	14,399	13,552
<b>Total amounts applied</b>	14,399	13,552
<b>Expenses</b>		
Departmental	14,109	13,827
<b>Total expenses</b>	14,109	13,827
<b>Revenue</b>		
Departmental	14,399	13,552
<b>Total revenue</b>	14,399	13,552

**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](http://www.afma.gov.au)

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**Note 4.4: Cash Flow Reconciliation**

**Note 4.4A Departmental Cash Flow Reconciliation**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per statement of financial position to cash flow statement</b>		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as per</b>		
Cash flow statement	273	1,027
Statement of financial position	273	1,027
<b>Discrepancy</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities:</b>		
Net cost of services	(33,956)	(37,355)
Revenue from Government	33,383	33,924
<b>Adjustments for non-cash items</b>		
Depreciation / amortisation	2,060	2,568
Net write down of non-financial assets	44	456
<b>Movements in assets / liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(464)	1,699
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	23	(134)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue	(665)	1,207
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	144	613
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(638)	(2,021)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	(857)	36
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<u>(926)</u>	<u>993</u>

**Note 4.4B Administered Cash Flow Reconciliation**

**Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities to Administered Cash Flow Statement**

<b>Cash and cash equivalents as per:</b>		
Schedule of administered cash flows	-	14
Schedule of administered assets and liabilities	-	14
<b>Discrepancy</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from / (used by) operating activities:</b>		
Net (cost of)/ contribution by services	(2,076)	(2,132)
<b>Adjustments for non-cash items</b>		
Depreciation / amortisation	-	34
Net write down of non-financial assets	-	421
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(64)	(8)
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	(105)	-
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	48	(348)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<u>(2,197)</u>	<u>(2,033)</u>

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the period ended 30 June 2016

**PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS**

*This section provides a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.*

**Note 5.1: Employees**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 5.1A Employee benefits</b>		
Wages and salaries	15,839	16,550
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,656	1,660
Defined benefit plans	1,234	1,352
Leave and other entitlements	1,592	2,153
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>20,321</b>	<b>21,715</b>
<b>Note 5.1B: Employee Provisions</b>		
Leave	5,259	5,115
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,115</b>
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	3,556	1,576
More than 12 months	1,703	3,539
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,115</b>

**Note 5.2 Senior Management Personnel Remuneration**

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<b>Short-term employee benefits:</b>		
Salary and other allowances	990,318	1,025,561
<b>Total short-term employee benefits</b>	<b>990,318</b>	<b>1,025,561</b>
<b>Post-employment benefits:</b>		
Superannuation	170,975	164,335
<b>Total post-employment benefits</b>	<b>170,975</b>	<b>164,335</b>
<b>Other long-term benefits:</b>		
Annual leave accrued	75,626	64,138
Long-service leave	34,032	28,862
<b>Total other long-term benefits</b>	<b>109,658</b>	<b>93,000</b>
<b>Total senior executive remuneration expenses</b>	<b>1,270,951</b>	<b>1,282,896</b>

The total number of senior management personnel that are included in the above table are 4 (2015: 4).

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY****NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**Accounting Policies – People and Relationships**

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits wholly settled due 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.

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.

**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.

**Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates**

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made the judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements with respect to the liability for employee provisions. 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.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**MANAGING UNCERTAINTY**

*This section analyses how AFMA manages financial risks within its operating environment.*

**Note 6.1: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

AFMA has no quantifiable contingent liabilities or contingent assets for departmental or administered.

**Note 6.2: Financial Instruments**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b><u>Note 6.2A Categories of Financial Instruments</u></b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Loans and receivables</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	273	1,027
Receivables for goods and services	805	1,436
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>2,463</b>

**Note 6.2B Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The fair value of financial instruments approximates their carrying amounts.

**Note 6.2C 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 2016, reported at Note 2.1A. AFMA has assessed the risk of default, reported as impairment of receivables in Note 2.1A.

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.

Trade receivables were neither past due nor impaired. Please refer to Note 2.1A for ageing of receivables for goods and services.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**Note 6.2: Financial Instruments****Note 6.2D 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 (e.g. 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 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.

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

**Note 6.2E Market Risk**

AFMA does not have the authority to invest surplus funds or hold financial instruments

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**Note 6.3: Administered – Financial Instruments**

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Note 6.3A Categories of Financial Instruments</b>		
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Loans and Receivables:		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	14
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>	-	14
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
At amortised cost:		
Trade creditors	294	-
<b>Carrying amount of financial liabilities</b>	294	-

The fair value of financial instruments approximates their carrying amounts.

**Note 6.3B 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 2016.

**Note 6.3C 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 (e.g. 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 2016 are all within one year.

**Note 6.3D 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 2016*

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**Accounting Policies – Financial Instruments****Financial Assets**

AFMA classifies its financial assets as loans and 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 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.

**AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2016*

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**Accounting Policies – Financial Instruments (continued)**

**Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities or other financial liabilities.

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

*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.

**Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the balance sheet but are reported in the relevant 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.



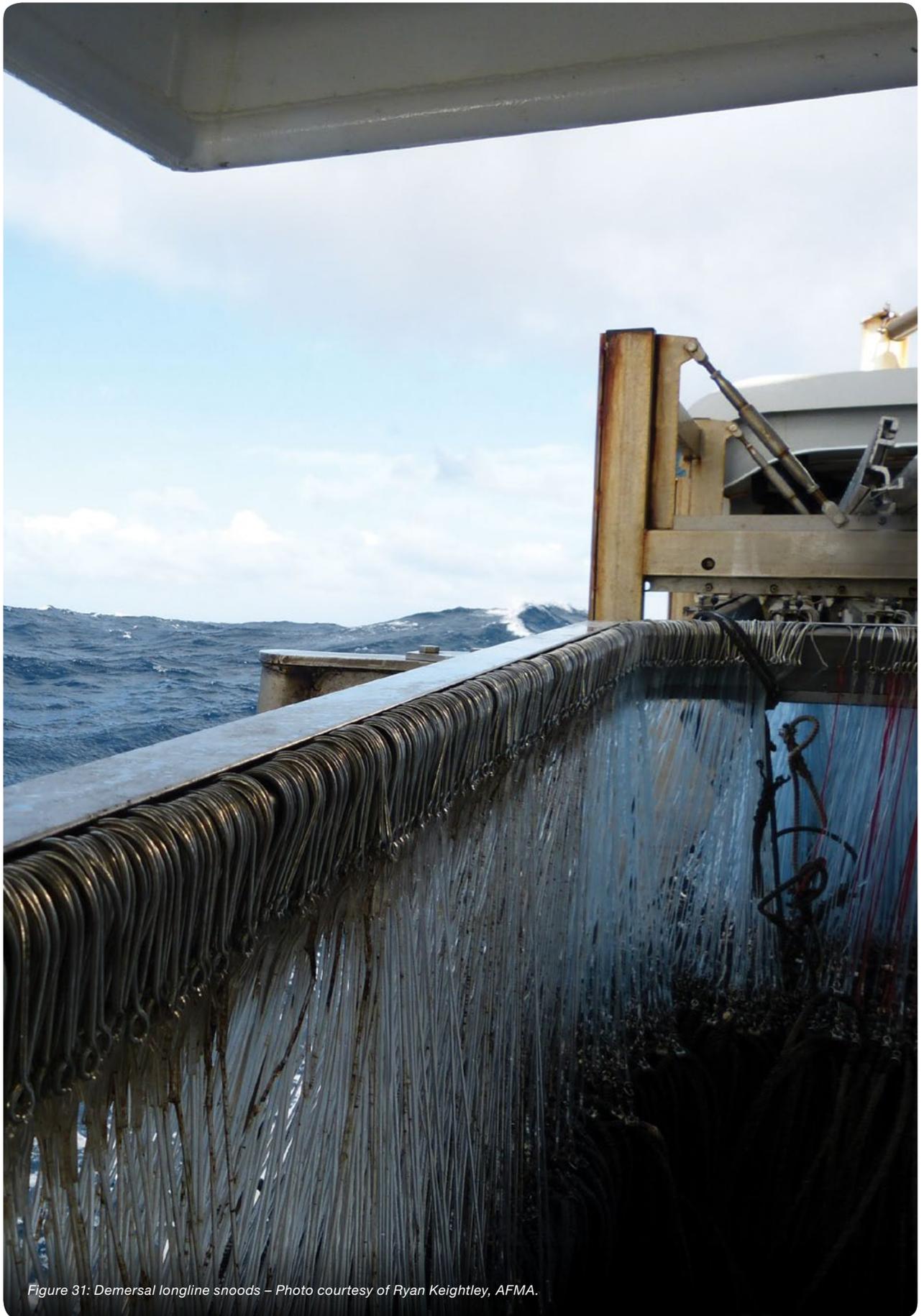
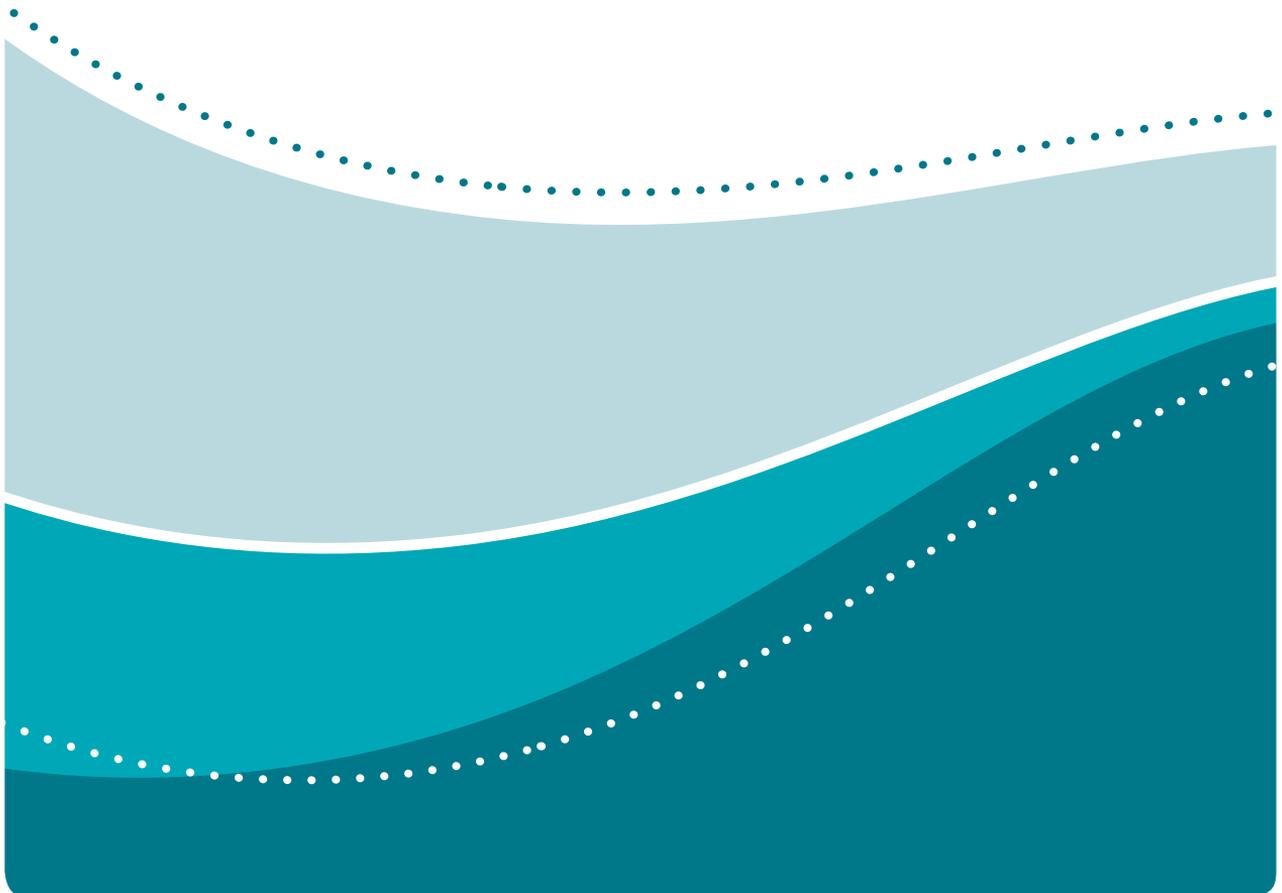


Figure 31: Demersal longline snoods – Photo courtesy of Ryan Keightley, AFMA.

# Part 6

## Appendices

- 1: Commission and Executive
- 2: Civil litigation outcomes
- 3: Management advisory committee memberships and meetings
- 4: Freedom of information
- 5: Work health and safety
- 6: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance
- 7: Disability reporting
- 8: Consultancy services
- 9: Procurement initiatives to support small business
- 10: Total resources and total payments
- 11: Expenses by outcomes



# APPENDIX 1

## Commission and Executive

The 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 2015–16.



*Figure 32: AFMA Commissioners from left to right: Dr James Findlay (CEO), Mr Ian Cartwright, Mr David Hall, Hon. Norman Moore AM (Chairman), Mr Richard Stevens OAM (Deputy Chair), Ms Catherine Cooper, Prof Keith Sainsbury.*

### Hon. Norman Moore AM – 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 – Chief Executive Officer**

James is an AFMA Commissioner and AFMA Chief Executive Officer. He 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 involved in the Australian seafood industry since 1977, holding senior executive positions at both the State and Commonwealth level. Since 2001, he has undertaken numerous reviews of fisheries management arrangements, including in South Australia, New South Wales, and the Torres Strait, and currently chairs a number of fishery related committees, including the New South Wales Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council and the Northern Territory Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. Richard's expertise covers natural resource management, policy and planning, 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.

### **Professor 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 tag 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 commission meetings

Four Commission meetings were held in 2015–16. The table below shows the number of meetings Commissioners attended in 2015–16.

### *AFMA commissioners – attendance at Commission meetings*

Commissioner	Meetings
Hon Norman Moore (Chairman)	4
Dr James Findlay (CEO)	4
Mr Richard Stevens (Deputy Chairman)	4
Mr Ian Cartwright	4
Prof Keith Sainsbury	4
Ms Catherine Cooper	4
Mr David Hall	3

## EXECUTIVE

### Role and function

The Executive is AFMA's senior management team responsible to the Chief Executive Officer for the effective operation and performance of the agency.

### Membership

- Dr James Findlay – Chief Executive Officer
- Dr Nick Rayns – Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch
- Mr Peter Venslovas – General Manager, Operations Branch
- Mr John Andersen – acting General Manager, Corporate Services Branch
- Mr Andrew Pearson – Executive Secretary
- Mr Robert Gehrig – Chief Finance Officer
- Ms Danielle Kuhn – Communications Manager.

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

### Role and function

During 2015–16 the Audit and Risk Committee operated in line with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The current committee met three times during the financial year. The main items considered by the committee during the year were:

- the committee’s charter and relationship to the Commission
- a review of the 2014–15 financial statements and preparations for the 2015–16 financial statements
- review of the internal audit program and internal audit reports
- AFMA’s implementation of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
- review of governance arrangements
- the risk management framework and business continuity plan.

### Membership

The current committee comprises one AFMA Commissioner and three independent members. These members are:

- Ms Catherine Cooper – Chair (Commissioner)
- Ms Mary Harwood
- Mr Geoff Knuckey
- Ms Kate Freebody

A number of observers and advisers attended meetings during the year, including AFMA’s Chief Executive Officer, Chief Finance Officer, acting General Manager of Corporate Services Branch and audit representatives from Oakton Consulting Technology (internal audit providers), KPMG (contracted external auditors) and the Australian National Audit Office.

AFMA’s Executive Secretary provides secretariat support for the Audit and Risk Committee.

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

### Role and function

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 two face-to-face meetings and one out-of-session meeting in the 2015–16 financial year.

### Membership

- Mr Ian Cartwright (Chair and Commissioner)
- Prof Keith Sainsbury (Commissioner)
- Mr David Hall (Commissioner)
- Dr James Findlay (Chief Executive Officer)
- Dr Nick Rayns (Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch)
- Ms Kerrie Bennetts (acting Secretary to the Committee).

### Permanent advisors

- Ms Beth Gibson (Senior Manager, Policy, Environment, Economics and Research)
- Ms Yvonne Zunic (Manager, Research).

## Regular observers

The committee also invited 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 and Water Resources.

## PROJECT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AFMA's Projects and Governance Committee considers business cases and project plans for approval, oversees the management of these projects and provides guidance to manage each project's risk, budget, timeframes, expectations and impact.

The committee's membership comprises the Chief Executive Officer (as Chair), all General Managers and the Senior Manager, Service Delivery. The Senior Manager Business and Senior Manager Workplace – Property, Risk and Security attend when required.

## INFORMATION GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The AFMA Information Governance Committee is responsible for ensuring that information governance addresses how information assets are managed to support organisational outcomes. It ensures that risk and compliance issues are identified and addressed for as long as the information is required. The committee provides a strategic approach to managing information and records to reduce business risk, increase accountability and improve operational efficiencies. It ensures that information has integrity and reliability, is searchable and accessible while ensuring appropriate controls.

The committee also ensures that the requirements of the AFMA Records and Information Management Framework, the Government's Digital Transition Policy and Digital Continuity Policy 2020, related standards and legislative requirements are met.

The members of the committee include the acting General Manager Corporate Services Branch, the Security Advisor, and a representative from both the Fisheries Operations Branch and the Fisheries Management Branch. The Senior Legal Officer and any subject matter experts attend as required.

## APPENDIX 2

### Civil litigation outcomes

The following table identifies civil litigation outcomes for matters open in 2015–16.

#### *Civil litigation outcomes*

Matter	Fishery	Outcome/Status
<b>Federal Court</b>		
Sahring and OHRS v Commonwealth of Australia and Anor	Foreign	This matter is ongoing in relation to the third applicant.
Aregar and Damaryanta v the Commonwealth and AFMA	Foreign	The matter is ongoing.
<b>Office of the Australian Information Commissioner</b>		
Peter Whish-Wilson and Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Small Pelagic Fishery	The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner handed down its decision on 27 May 2016. The Office affirmed AFMA's decision.
Seafish Tasmania and Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Small Pelagic Fishery	The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner handed down its decision on 27 May 2016. The Office affirmed AFMA's decision.

### SIGNIFICANT MATTERS

Sahring and OHRS v Commonwealth of Australia and Anor – This matter relates to an attempt to challenge a foreign fishing vessel apprehension, and on behalf of one applicant unlawful detention.

Aregar and Damaryanta v the Commonwealth and AFMA – This is a further attempt to challenge a foreign fishing vessel apprehension.

Peter Whish-Wilson and Australian Fisheries Management Authority/ Seafish Tasmania and Australian Fisheries Management Authority – These are decisions by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner reviewing a decision by AFMA under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

## 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 is required to 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 in Commonwealth fisheries.

The membership of management advisory committees is available on AFMA's website: [afma.gov.au/fisheries/committees/](http://afma.gov.au/fisheries/committees/).

### Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice in Sydney during 2015–16. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on total allowable commercial catch limits for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery species. The committee also discussed the rules that could be simplified following the implementation of e-monitoring, the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery over/undercatch Determination and the outcomes of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission meetings.

### Great Australian Bight Trawl Management Advisory Committee

The committee met once during 2015–16. It made recommendations to the AFMA Commission in relation to total allowable catches for quota species. In addition, the committee discussed research into western orange roughy stocks and future co-management arrangements for the fishery.

### Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice in Brisbane during 2015–16. At both meetings the committee discussed and made recommendations about improving management arrangements for the Northern Prawn Fishery. In particular the committee recommended changes to the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995* to provide an autonomous mechanism for fishery

restructure if fishing capacity becomes excessive through effort creep. The committee also made recommendations for minor improvements to the Plan that will simplify and bring it more in line with other fishery management plans.

During its second meeting for the period the committee also considered the current arrangements in place to manage the collection of prawn broodstock in the fishery and made recommendations about improving this process. At this meeting there was also discussion about the development of future co-management arrangements.

### **Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee**

The committee met once in 2015–16 and discussed the outcomes of the 2015 meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Scientific Committee.

The committee also discussed monitoring arrangements in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery, the proposed 2015–16 observer program and the status of the 2015–16 Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery budget.

The committee held an out-of-session teleconference in 2015 to discuss the research outcomes from the 2015 Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Commission meeting and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery research priorities for 2016–17 to 2018–19.

### **Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee**

The committee met twice during 2015–16. It discussed and made recommendations to the AFMA Commission for the 2016 total allowable catch for commercial scallops in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery. In the last few years the commercial fishery has operated between July to December, requiring decisions on total allowable catches to be made in the preceding financial year.

The committee also discussed closures to protect juvenile beds, holding an industry workshop to plan the annual biomass surveys, procedures to test for paralytic shellfish toxin and the 2016–17 budget.

## South East Management Advisory Committee

The committee met seven times in 2015–16. It held four face-to-face meetings in Canberra, one face-to-face meeting in Melbourne and two teleconferences.

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 annual and strategic research plan, the review of trawl closures with respect to mid-water trawl fishing in the Small Pelagic Fishery, simplifying access arrangements in the Gillnet, Hook and Trap Sector, vessel management plans for boats in the Small Pelagic Fishery and a review of how the committee provides advice to AFMA.

## Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee

The committee held two meetings in 2015–16, one in Hobart and one teleconference. It made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on total allowable catches for patagonian toothfish and mackerel icefish and catch limits for bycatch species in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery. The Committee made total allowable catch recommendations for patagonian toothfish in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery.

The committee also discussed the outcomes of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources meeting and expressions of interest for exploratory fisheries for 2016–17.

## 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](http://afma.gov.au)**



Figure 33: Trawl net.

## APPENDIX 5

### Work health and safety

#### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

AFMA is committed to fostering a proactive and collaborative approach to the management of work health and safety in the workplace.

AFMA's Work Health and Safety Committee comprises staff and management representatives. The committee focuses on continuous improvement in the management of workplace health and safety issues and provides a consultative mechanism for employees and their representatives to raise and address workplace health and safety concerns.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

AFMA is dedicated to promoting a healthy workplace including mental health and general wellbeing. Health and safety initiatives during 2015–16 included:

- annual health checks
- influenza vaccinations
- early intervention services to prevent or mitigate development of chronic injury or illness
- regular workplace inspections, risk assessments and monitoring by the Work Health and Safety Committee representatives
- providing work, health and safety information including policies and factsheets
- mental health first aid training
- accidental counsellor training
- lunch time seminars on health and wellbeing.

AFMA has also introduced a Work Health and Safety and Rehabilitation Management System Commitment Statement. The statement outlines AFMA's commitment to ensuring compliance with, and implementation of, the rehabilitation management system. The system is the framework of processes and procedures used to ensure that AFMA can achieve its rehabilitation objectives. AFMA's rehabilitation management system:

- provides for effective rehabilitation arrangements
- ensures early intervention best practices

- provides training and tools to assist managers and employees
- assists injured employees achieve a durable return to work
- identifies and provides suitable duties for ill and injured employees
- promotes continuous improvement
- promotes communication with employees
- provides for internal and external accountability
- puts in place adequate control structures to manage risk
- recognises compliance obligations.

AFMA's policies and procedures seek to protect all our employees. Promoting safe practices is a fundamental and inherent part of how we think about our operations and procedures. AFMA has developed and implemented a series of work health and safety fact sheets as part of our long term commitment to improving the physical and mental health of staff. These fact sheets included:

- work health and safety responsibilities of an employee
- work health and safety responsibilities of a manager
- role of a rehabilitation provider
- having a conversation about health
- early intervention – helping an employee before a symptom develops into injury
- improving attendance in the workplace
- psychological illness
- identify the early warning signs – physical, psychological and emotional
- implementing positive changes
- building resilience
- my manager is asking questions about health
- why am I being asked to attend a medical assessment?
- looking after yourself and carers.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

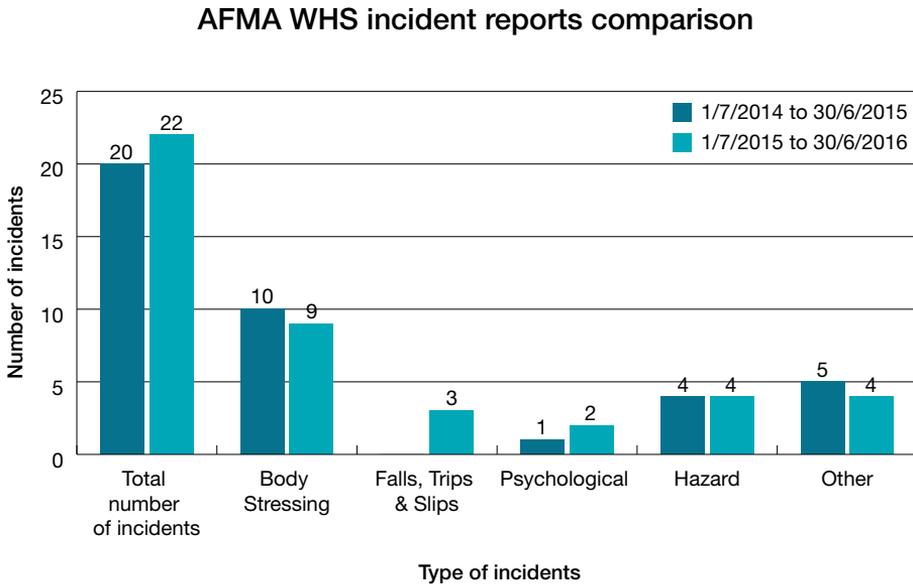
AFMA continued to provide high quality and timely rehabilitation assistance and support to employees with an injury or illness.

Our commitment to promoting and monitoring a strong health and safety culture within our workforce coupled with our proactive management of injury or illness cases has seen AFMA's workers compensation premiums for 2015–16 decrease by 31 per cent from the previous financial year.

## ACCIDENT OR DANGEROUS OCCURRENCE STATISTICS

Graph 3 compares work health and safety statistics from 2014–15 to 2015–16. A total of 22 incidents were reported in 2015–16, with 'body stressing' accounting for the highest proportion (41 per cent) of all reported incidents. The total number of reported incidents has increased slightly compared to those reported in 2014–15.

Graph 3: AFMA work health and safety incident reports comparison



## INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED DURING THE YEAR

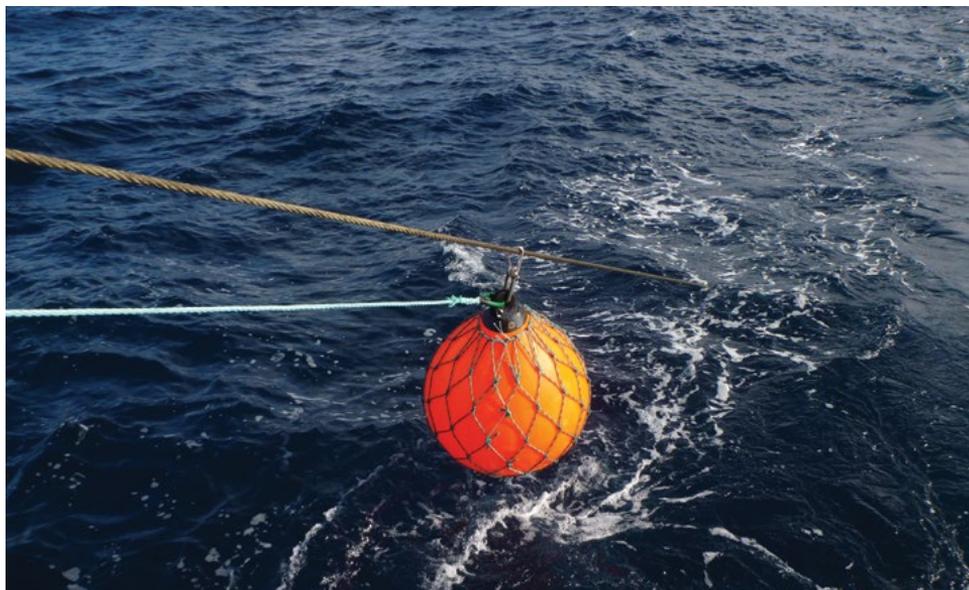
Under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* AFMA is required to report 'notifiable incidents' to Comcare where the incident results in:

- a) the death of a person;
- b) serious injury or illness; or
- c) a dangerous incident which arises out of the agency conducting its business.

There was one notifiable incident reported to Comcare for 2015–16, relating to an at-sea boarding activity. This incident was subsequently investigated by Comcare along with the owner/operator of the vessel with AFMA being advised by Comcare that the matter was finalised with no further action being required from AFMA.

This incident resulted in an increase in our 'notifiable incident' reporting to Comcare from last year where there were no notifiable incidents reported.

There were no notices issued by work health and safety representatives and no compliance actions such as improvement or prohibition notices issued by Comcare.



*Figure 34: Warp deflectors are used to scare birds away from fishing gear – Photo courtesy of Will Hansen, AFMA.*

# APPENDIX 6

## Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

### ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

AFMA's implementation of the ecological component of ecologically sustainable development is based on ecosystem elements relating to:

- target and byproduct species
- bycatch
- threatened, endangered and protected species
- habitats and ecological communities.

To support and implement an ecologically sustainable development approach in our fisheries, AFMA draws 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, focusing 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 2007
- 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.

AFMA has completed and published ecological risk management reports for all Commonwealth fisheries where risks have been identified. The number of species remaining at high potential risk across all Commonwealth fisheries is 72, which is 3.6 per cent of all species assessed. It is expected that this will reduce as the mitigation measures outlined in ecological risk management reports are implemented.

## OUTCOME CONTRIBUTING TO ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AFMA's outcomes are directed at Commonwealth fisheries being both ecologically sustainable and economically efficient.

This approach reflects AFMA's 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 ACTIONS 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, and also 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 IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

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 AFMA focuses its ecological risk management activity. Risk management strategies addressing species identified as at medium or low risk will be implemented at a later date.

Research has been commissioned to extend the ecological risk assessment methodology to habitats and communities. Extension to managing the impact of fishing on marine wildlife with a focus on sea birds and mammals has been identified as a priority for future research.

## MECHANISMS FOR REVIEWING

A number of mechanisms exist for reviewing the effect of fishing on the environment.

AFMA is currently reviewing its ecological risk management framework and intends to carry out a full reassessment of each fishery over the next five years (that is 2016–17 to 2020–21). We also regularly review individual 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 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Fisheries granted exemptions are usually reassessed every five years. However, the Department of the Environment has announced that fisheries that are considered low risk will be reassessed every ten years. Fisheries granted wildlife trade operations are reassessed prior to the wildlife trade operations' expiry.

## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Consistent with our legislative objectives, we also promote a clean and green operating environment when conducting our operations to minimise our impact on the environment. To achieve this we are constantly reviewing our operational activities to look for opportunities to minimise waste and limit the impact of our environmental footprint.

AFMA currently purchases approximately 25 per cent of green electricity for our Canberra office as part of the Commonwealth energy contract, and our Thursday Island office uses 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.

Our Canberra office has an overall 4.5 star energy rating; our Darwin office has a 5.5 star National Australian Built Environment Rating System energy rating and a five star Green Star rating. AFMA buildings include 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 currently use 100 per cent recycled paper in our printers, copiers and fax machines at all AFMA sites. In 2015–16 we undertook a refresh of our printer and copiers resulting in a 55 per cent drop in paper consumption and our recent introduction of portable technology for staff to access documents via portable devices such as iPads has further reduced the reliance on paper documents.

Nationwide we have five motor vehicles. We have recently changed internal policy allowing staff to use our energy efficient vehicles on more extended trips.

AFMA continued to make other changes around its offices that have important impacts in reducing AFMA's environmental footprint. For example a composting system is in place for the Canberra office which reduces general office waste and is proving successful.



Figure 35: Secondary search – Photo courtesy of John Jones, AFMA.

## APPENDIX 7

### Disability reporting

Since 1994, Commonwealth non-corporate entities 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 Australian Public Service Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at [apsc.gov.au](http://apsc.gov.au). From 2010–11, entities 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. Details of the strategy and associated reports can be found at [dss.gov.au](http://dss.gov.au).



Figure 36: Offshore ocean perch – Photo courtesy of Ryan Keightley, AFMA.

## APPENDIX 8

### Consultancy services

During 2015–16, 29 new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$1.498 million expenditure for the period. In addition, 23 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during 2015–16 involving total actual expenditure of \$1.644 million.

All consultancy contracts entered into by AFMA above the value of \$10 000 are available via the AusTender website **tenders.gov.au**.

#### THE SELECTION AND ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS

The majority of consultancy services engaged during the 2015–16 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 initiatives to support small business

AFMA supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and medium-sized enterprise and small enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website at **[www.finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts/](http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts/)**.

AFMA's procurement practices support small and medium enterprises including the use of:

- the Commonwealth Contracting Suite for low risk procurements valued under \$200 000
- the Small Business Engagement Principles (outlined in the government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda), such as communicating in clear, simple language and presenting information in an accessible format
- electronic systems or other processes used to facilitate on-time payment performance, including the use of payment cards.

# APPENDIX 10

## Total resources and total payments

### Australian Fisheries Management Authority Resource Statement 2015–16

		Actual available appropriation 2015–16 \$'000	Payments made 2015–16 \$'000	Balance remaining 2015–16 \$'000
<b>Ordinary annual services</b>				
<b>Departmental appropriation</b>				
Departmental appropriation		20,955	20,743	212
s. 74 Retained revenue receipts		4,052	4,052	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,007</b>	<b>24,795</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Administered expenses</b>				
Outcome 1		5,375	1,853	3,522
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,375</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>3,522</b>
<b>Total ordinary annual services</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>30,382</b>	<b>26,648</b>	<b>3,734</b>
<b>Special Accounts</b>				
Opening balance		13,862		
Appropriation receipts		33,681		
Non-appropriation receipts to				
Special Accounts		4,052		
Payments made			37,732	
<b>Total Special Accounts</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>51,595</b>	<b>37,732</b>	<b>13,863</b>
<b>Total resourcing and payments (A+B)</b>		<b>81,977</b>	<b>64,380</b>	<b>17,597</b>
Less appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts and/or payments to corporate entities through annual appropriations		(25,007)	(24,795)	(212)
<b>Total net resourcing for AFMA</b>		<b>56,970</b>	<b>39,585</b>	<b>17,385</b>

Reader note: All figures are goods and services tax exclusive.

# APPENDIX 11

## Expenses by outcomes

Expenses for Outcome 1			
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.	2015–16 Budget	2015–16 Actual expenses	2015–16 Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Programme 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,392	1,853	3,539
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation <sup>1</sup>	23,600	24,497	(897)
Special accounts	14,420	12,938	1,482
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year 2	1,895	2,103	(208)
<b>Total for Programme 1.1</b>	<b>45,307</b>	<b>41,391</b>	<b>3,916</b>
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,392	1,853	3,539
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation <sup>1</sup>	23,600	24,497	(897)
Special accounts	14,420	12,938	1,482
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year <sup>2</sup>	1,895	2,103	(208)
<b>Total expenses for Outcome 1</b>	<b>45,307</b>	<b>41,391</b>	<b>3,916</b>
<b>Average staffing level (number)</b>	<b>185.0</b>	<b>172.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>

1. Departmental appropriation combines "Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)" "Retained Revenue Receipts under s74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*".
2. Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year<sup>2</sup> is made up of depreciation expense and amortisation expense for both Departmental and Administered items.

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

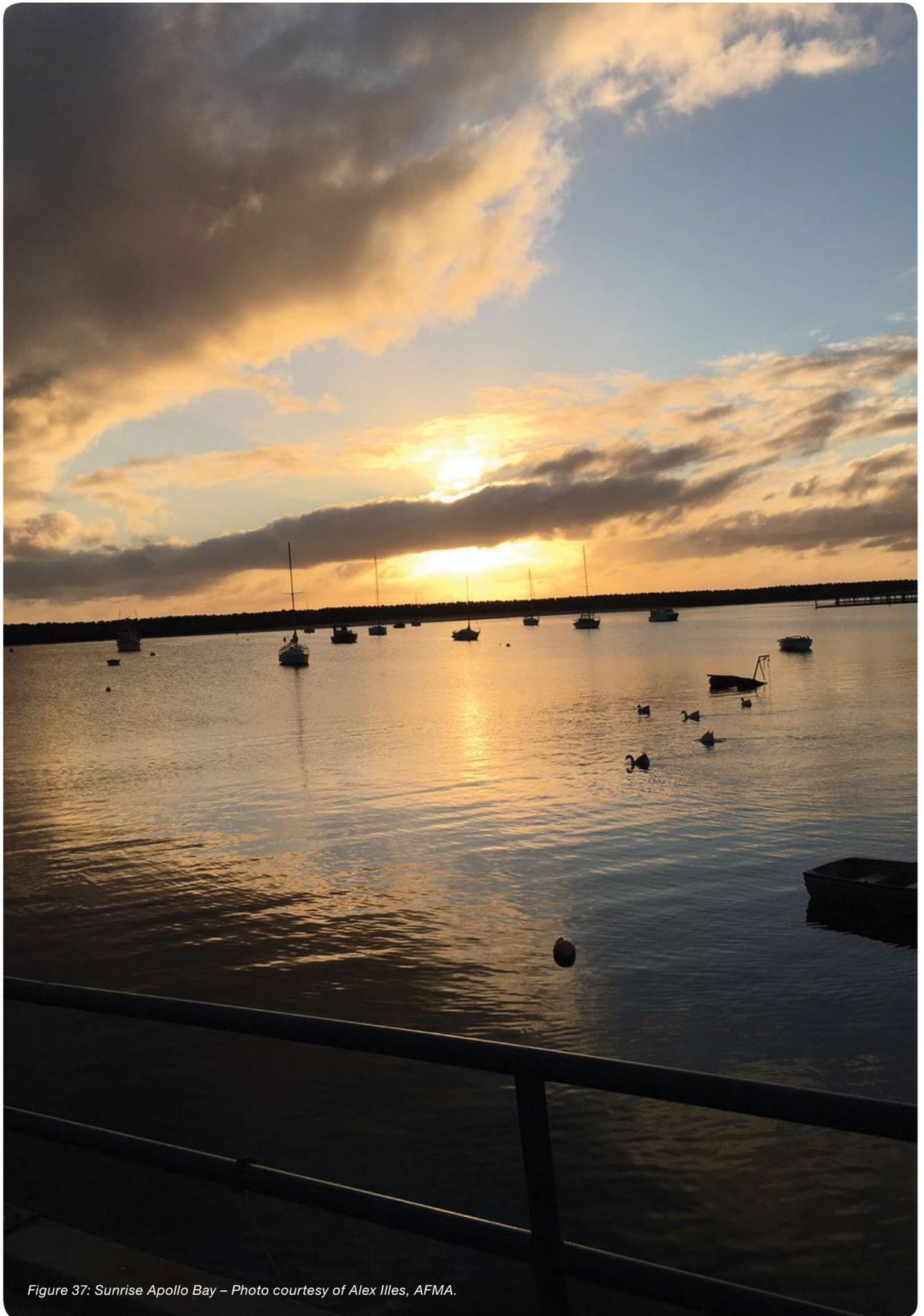


Figure 37: Sunrise Apollo Bay – Photo courtesy of Alex Illies, AFMA.

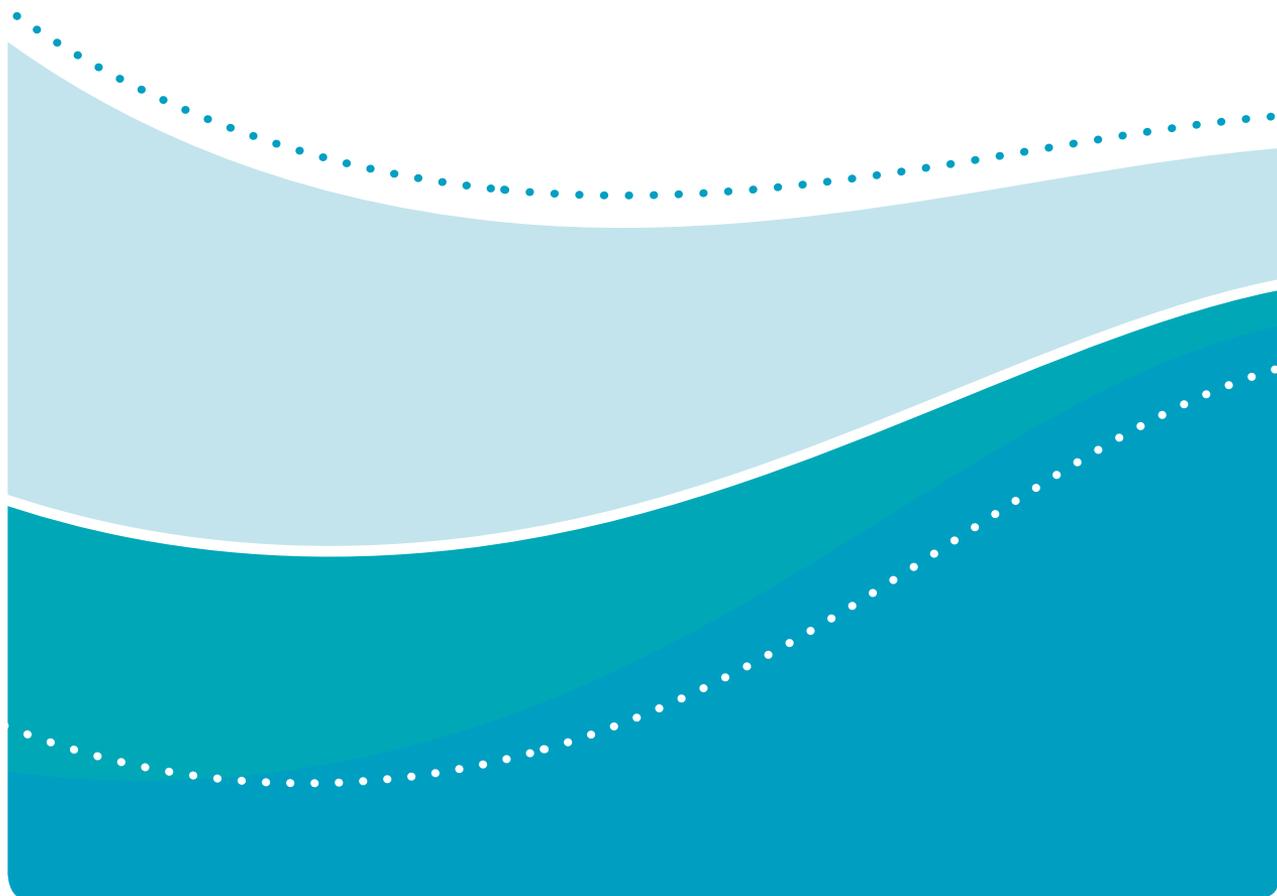
# Part 7

## Glossary and indexes

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# 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:

- coastal waters of, or waters within the limits of, a State or internal Territory; or
- 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 usually 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.

## 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 (e-monitoring)

E-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 byproduct.

## 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 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's 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.

## Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreement

An agreement between one or more States and the Australian Government giving individual or joint jurisdiction for a particular fishery that is in both coastal waters and the Australian Fishing Zone.

When no Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreement has been reached, 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.

### Recruitment failure

A situation in which a population is not able to naturally produce viable offspring as a consequence of physical factors (for example, damaged spawning areas) or biological factors (for example, inadequate numbers of fish).

### Reference point

An indicator of the level of fishing (or stock size), used as a benchmark for interpreting the results of an assessment.

### Snood

A short line attaching a hook to a main line.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 (for example, southern bluefin tuna) while others form several stocks (for example, 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 Assistant Minister to the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources (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.

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