



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Annual Report

2021–22



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Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Letter of transmittal

4 November 2022

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

We have much pleasure in presenting to you the annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2022. This report also includes AFMA's Annual Performance Statement for 2021–22.

This is the first year in nine years that a fishery stock has been assessed by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) as subject to overfishing. The estimate of spawning biomass for eastern jackass morwong was updated in 2021 and showed the stock is below the limit reference point. For the 2021–22 fishing season, fishing mortality was above the level estimated to allow the stock to rebuild to above the limit reference point in a timeframe consistent with the requirements of the Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP). In response AFMA has significantly reduced the TAC and will implement a series of closures to limit catch and allow rebuilding for this species.

During 2021–22 AFMA commenced a program of work to integrate climate impacts more strategically into the management of Commonwealth fisheries. This will include structured integration of information, data and research on climate impacts into AFMA's decision making processes and pursuing climate adaptive management across Commonwealth fisheries.

Over the past year, there have been several key initiatives undertaken across the agency to drive efficient, cost effective and service delivery excellence such as the move to offering services digitally. Now all fisheries have access to electronic logbooks (eLogs), electronic catch documentation records (eCDRs) and electronic observer data collection (eObserver). This investment supports a digital first approach to service delivery providing timely data to fisheries managers in support of science-based decision making.

This report has been prepared in accordance with 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 2014*, approved by the Minister for Finance under the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) (PGPA Act).

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

- prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- put 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 PGPA Act.

Yours sincerely



Helen Kroger
Chairman



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

User guide

This report provides details of the operations and performance of AFMA for the financial year ending 30 June 2022, as forecast in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio Budget Statements 2021–22 and the AFMA Corporate Plan 2021–22.

It has been prepared in accordance with Australian Government and legislative requirements, including the PGPA Act.

The Annual Report is primarily a mechanism of accountability to the Australian Government. It also provides a valuable resource for AFMA's clients, government at all levels, industry and the general community.

Chairman's and CEO review

Provides the Chairman's and Chief Executive Officer's review, looking at AFMA's key achievements in 2021–22, against the continuing impacts of COVID-19 and an outlook for 2022–23.

Part 1 – Overview

Explains our role and functions, stakeholders and our organisational structure.

Part 2 – Performance

Details AFMA's Annual Performance Statement 2021–22 explaining our major objectives, performance results and an analysis of those results.

Part 3 – Fishery Reports

Describes each fishery's contribution to the performance results for the year, any significant changes to management arrangements and highlights the opportunities and challenges faced in meeting our objectives as described in the Annual Performance Statement.

Part 4 – Management and accountability

Covers AFMA's governance arrangements and practices, including financial management, human resource management activities, risk management practices and monitoring and review mechanisms.

Part 5 – Financial performance

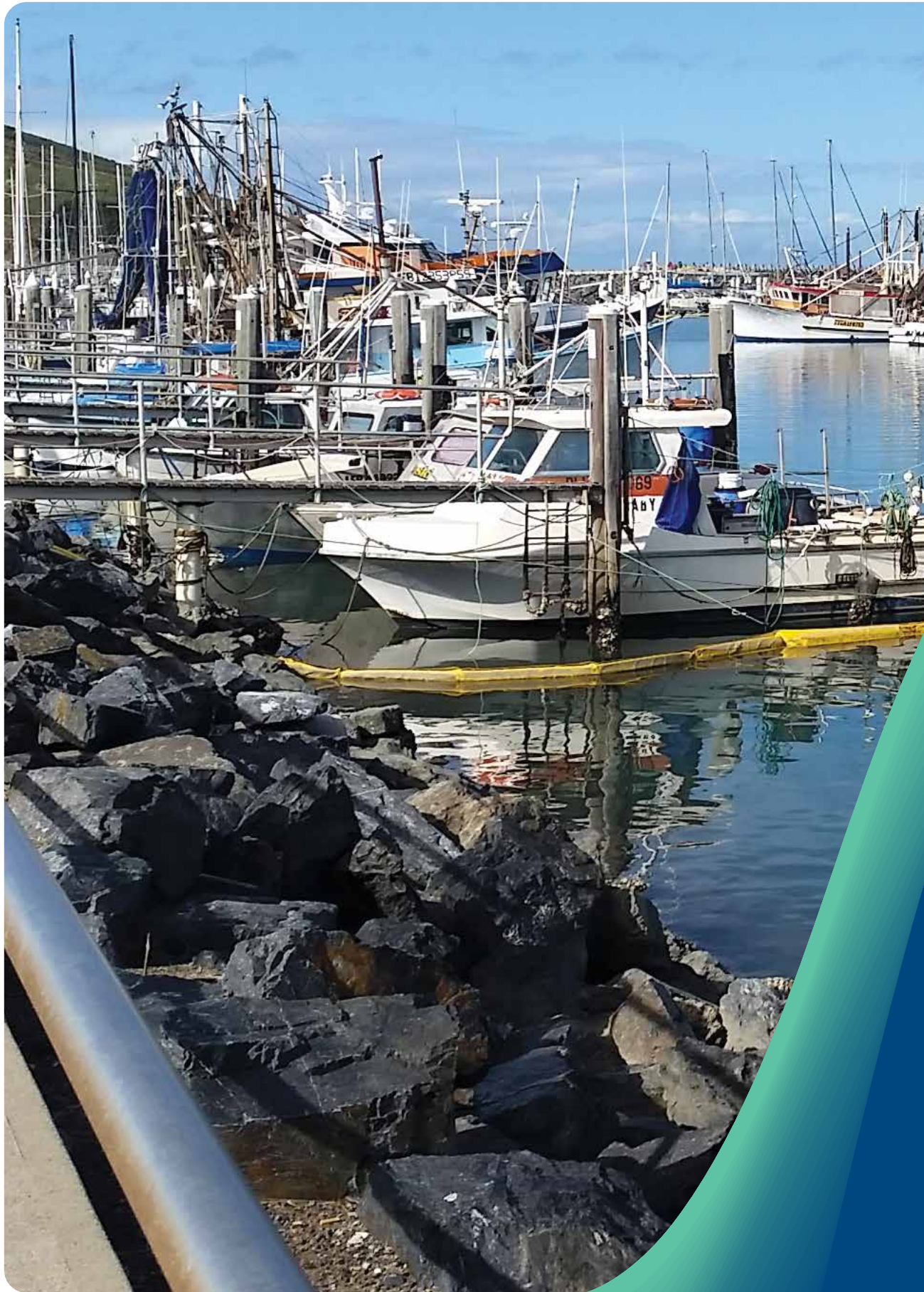
Consists of AFMA's financial statement for the 2021–22 financial year, as independently audited by the Australian National Audit Office. These statements include financial performance, SES remuneration, financial status and cash flows during 2021–22.

Part 6 – Appendices

The appendices include reporting requirements such as details of AFMA's Commission, Executive and committees, 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, a statement of expenses by outcomes, key management personnel remuneration report.

Part 7 – Glossary and indexes

Provides a list of requirements as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity Annual Reporting) Rule 2014* 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, list of abbreviations and index are included in this section.





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Chairman's and CEO review

Our performance and achievements

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of production (GVP) of Commonwealth fisheries, that is the landed value of product has been maintained at around \$400 million despite continued operational disruptions and value-chain collapse across a number of fisheries in the latter half of the financial year due to COVID-19. Our fisheries make a valuable contribution to the broader Australian community, such as through providing employment, supporting economic development in regional areas and generating export earnings.

AFMA remains front footed with its management of fisheries, and continues to manage challenges in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). For some time, AFMA has noted the likely influence of external drivers such as climate impacts that change the productivity and status of important stocks. For the first time in nine years, ABARES Fishery Status Reports 2022 has classified a Commonwealth-managed stock, eastern jackass morwong in the SESSF, as subject to overfishing. AFMA's performance in this fishery and how we are responding to these issues is discussed below.

As part of this Annual Report, we have included an Annual Performance Statement (Part 2 of the Annual Report) in accordance with the requirements of the PGPA Act and we have reviewed fishery by fishery outcomes of AFMA's management (Part 3 of the Annual Report). Highlights of our activities and impacts under each of our corporate goals include:



Ecological Sustainability

During 2021–22 AFMA noted, with industry and other Government agencies, a number of declining and non-rebuilding fish stocks in the SESSF. AFMA management and Commissioners, have worked to address issues of fishing mortality, including reducing total allowable catches. However, additional management measures will be required in the SESSF that will have significant impacts on industry. In addition to new management measures, AFMA has been working with science providers and industry to both improve data inputs to stock assessments and to develop innovative approaches to such assessments that better account for the multi-species nature of this fishery and the broader ecosystem.

In addition to the focused work in the SESSF, in 2021–22 AFMA commenced a program of work to more strategically integrate climate impacts into the management of Commonwealth fisheries. This will include structured integration of information, data and research on climate impacts into AFMA's decision making processes, and pursuing climate adaptive management across Commonwealth fisheries.



Maximise the net economic returns

AFMA continued to pursue its economic objective through implementing the requirements of the Commonwealth fisheries HSP, which requires AFMA to maximise net economic returns (NER) to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth fisheries.

We achieved this by specifying an appropriate catch or effort target for each of the key commercial stocks taken in that fishery, where feasible; and implementing management measures that provide incentives for cost minimisation and revenue maximisation for the commercial sector.

AFMA has delivered on its commitment to clarify how we report on economic performance by developing a Commission statement that details how AFMA monitors and reports its performance against the NER objectives of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and [Fisheries Management Act 1991](#).

This statement clarifies how AFMA currently reports on economic performance and importantly, improves the understanding of economic risk to fisheries from management of Commonwealth fisheries. The statement is an interim paper that will be replaced by a more comprehensive Fishery Management Paper once the current Review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 and Guidelines is complete.



Compliance

AFMA has dedicated teams that monitor and investigate non-compliance by Australian fishers, whether they are licensed or not to participate in a specific fishery. The Domestic Compliance and Enforcement Program sets out AFMA's risk based, intelligence led compliance program targeting key threats to the sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries.

The International Compliance and Engagement Program (ICEP) sets out Australia's multifaceted approach to responding to non-compliance by vessels from other countries that fish adjacent to Australia and those operating without authorisation inside Australian waters. Actions include:

- understanding the drivers in order to formulate an appropriate response, applying effective enforcement actions including the confiscation of fish, fishing equipment and boats
- working cooperatively and collaboratively with regional partners in strengthening global frameworks
- exchanging information and delivering targeted programs to support implementation of international fisheries instruments
- improving regional legislative and governance arrangements.

During 2021–22, AFMA continued to apply COVID-19 safe protocols and methods to minimise the risk of exposure to fisheries officers while ensuring that outcomes were achieved in relation to the management of key fisheries risks being targeted. An analysis is outlined in Part 2 of the report.



Effective, Cost Efficient and Transparent Management and Regulator Arrangements

AFMA continues to meet its commitment to industry that it would keep the costs recovered at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases in the 2021–22 financial year. The actual levies recovered from the eligible fisheries was \$5.8 million lower than the CPI adjusted 2005–06 base levies. The cumulative savings to industry since the commitment was made in 2009–10 is \$57.7 million.

Over the past year, AFMA has moved to offering services digitally. Now all fisheries have access to eLogs, eCDRs and eObserver. This investment supports a digital first approach to service delivery providing timely data to fisheries managers in support of science-based decision making. AFMA has also been working to support the digitisation of industry data collection programs to streamline this data collection and enable it to be combined with other AFMA data sets more easily. This investment and improved service delivery has been made possible through the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program (DTEMP).

Impact of COVID-19 on operational delivery

The start of 2021–22 saw AFMA operating in a similar posture as previous COVID-19 affected years. AFMA offices and staff were subject to health directives from relevant State and Territory Governments, with AFMA staff following these directions. On occasion, this necessitated compliance with mandatory vaccinations and the evidencing of vaccinations, such as in the Northern Territory. AFMA staff transitioned from working from home to returning to offices in accordance with operational needs relative to health directions. By the end of the 2022 financial year, AFMA staff were working in ways that reflected the pre-COVID world, noting that the COVID-19 experience also led AFMA to introduce a flexible working policy that allows staff to work from home up to two days a week. Staff continued to be productive, advance programs and maintain business as usual operations. COVID-19 risks continue to be managed across all four office locations in accordance with health directions from the relevant State and Territory Government authorities, and adhering to officers' duties under the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#).

AFMA continues to deliver the full range of regulatory services to the Commonwealth fishing industry. As the international movement of people, and trade more generally, continues to increase, AFMA anticipates activities related to observer coverage and foreign compliance will also increase.

Observer Program

The easing of Australian and global public health measures has enabled AFMA's observer program to largely resume deployments across Commonwealth fisheries similar to pre-COVID years. AFMA's observer program administration team, together with fisheries management teams, continues to collaborate closely with industry to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission and exposure while meeting the observer coverage requirements.

The return of consistent international travel routes, along with abating restrictions, has reduced the need for observers to complete back-to-back voyages to meet coverage requirements for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in the Southern Ocean.

The opening of domestic borders has enabled the observer program to largely meet the coverage levels required by each of the fisheries. Where coverage rates are lower, and where it is possible, alternative monitoring measures such as port sampling have been used to supplement the observer coverage.

Domestic Compliance

With the easing of COVID-19 travel restrictions, officers were able to return to field duties as normal. Occasional restriction periods, along with the impact of COVID-19 affected officers, were managed through the use of mechanisms instituted in 2020–2021.

These mechanisms included desktop audits/inspections (in place of in-field inspections), use of methodologies to monitor and detect quota evasion, using CCTV capabilities to monitor vessel offloads in key ports, and engagement with State agencies for assistance in completing essential inspections on Commonwealth and foreign vessels.

International Compliance

Various factors have resulted in increased illegal foreign fishing activities in Australia’s northern waters, continuing the upward trend from last year and reversing the downward trend from the decade prior to that. In conjunction with other Commonwealth agencies, AFMA has implemented a range of approaches to increase deterrence and reduce the number of illegal incursions within the Australian exclusive economic zone in accordance with Australia’s multifaceted approach to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. These approaches have included surge operations involving surface and aerial assets, increased bilateral engagement and the delivery of targeted education and communication campaigns in collaboration with partner countries.

Travel restrictions remained in place for part of the year, affecting AFMA’s in-person collaboration with international partners and requiring participation in regional fisheries bodies and the delivery of capacity building activities via virtual formats. A resumption of ‘in-country’ scoping visits to explore opportunities to conduct information campaigns and provide assistance occurred later in the year following the lifting of travel restrictions.



*Fish processing back deck
Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library*

Outlook

Ecological sustainability

During 2022–23 AFMA will continue to develop and implement management arrangements that enables the sustainable harvest of fish resources by:

- updating and implementing AFMA's revised Ecological Risk Management Framework to reflect improvements in supporting risk assessment processes and improve efficient application across fisheries
- reviewing the assessment approach to incorporate risks associated with climate variability in a multi-species fishery context
- adapting management arrangements to respond to environmentally driven changes in multi-species fisheries
- continuing development of new cost effective methods and innovative approaches to inform decision making, including methods to account for climate variability.

Compliance – Domestic

AFMA's risk based National Compliance Program has four major components planned in 2022–23:

- Communication and Education
- General Deterrence
- Targeted Risks
- Maintenance.

A key component of the 2022–23 compliance and enforcement program is the development and delivery of the National Compliance Education and Engagement Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to establish AFMA's approach to industry engagement, assist industry in understanding their obligations and demonstrate to the general public the actions taken by AFMA to protect Australia's fisheries resources.

Compliance – International

AFMA will continue to increase its in-person engagement with international partners to deliver AFMA's International Compliance and Engagement Program following the resumption of international travel. This engagement will be critical to redress any IUU fishing activities that have benefited from the COVID-19 operational environment.

Corporate Activities

AFMA will increase performance, accountability and stakeholder engagement in 2022–23 by:

- engaging with consultative forums and conducting a review of management advisory committees (MACs) and resource assessment groups (RAGs)
- implementing a co-management policy framework to help fishing industry groups engage with AFMA in sharing responsibilities for the sustainable management of Commonwealth fisheries
- implementing AFMA's Stakeholder Engagement Framework and Communications Plan and participating in the development of an Indigenous Australian fishing engagement strategy.

We wish to acknowledge and thank all AFMA staff for their unwavering commitment and constant professionalism in delivering on the priorities and achievements outlined in this report.



Helen Kroger

Chairman



Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer

AFMA at a glance



Staff



Observer

24 DAYS
North West Slope Trawl Fishery

11 STAFF
Darwin

113 DAYS
Northern Prawn Fishery

7 STAFF
Thursday Island

21 DAYS
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

160 EMPLOYEES

88 MEN

72 WOMEN



21 OBSERVERS

1953

TOTAL DAYS
OBTAINED BY THE
OBSERVER PROGRAM

73 DAYS
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

114 STAFF
Canberra

7 STAFF
Lakes Entrance

15 DAYS
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector

12 DAYS
Small Pelagic Fishery

403 DAYS
South East Trawl

48 DAYS
High Seas Non Trawl Fishery

990 DAYS
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

4 DAYS
Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector

114 DAYS
Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

136 DAYS
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

AFMA fisheries officers activities included...

18 AT-SEA PATROLS

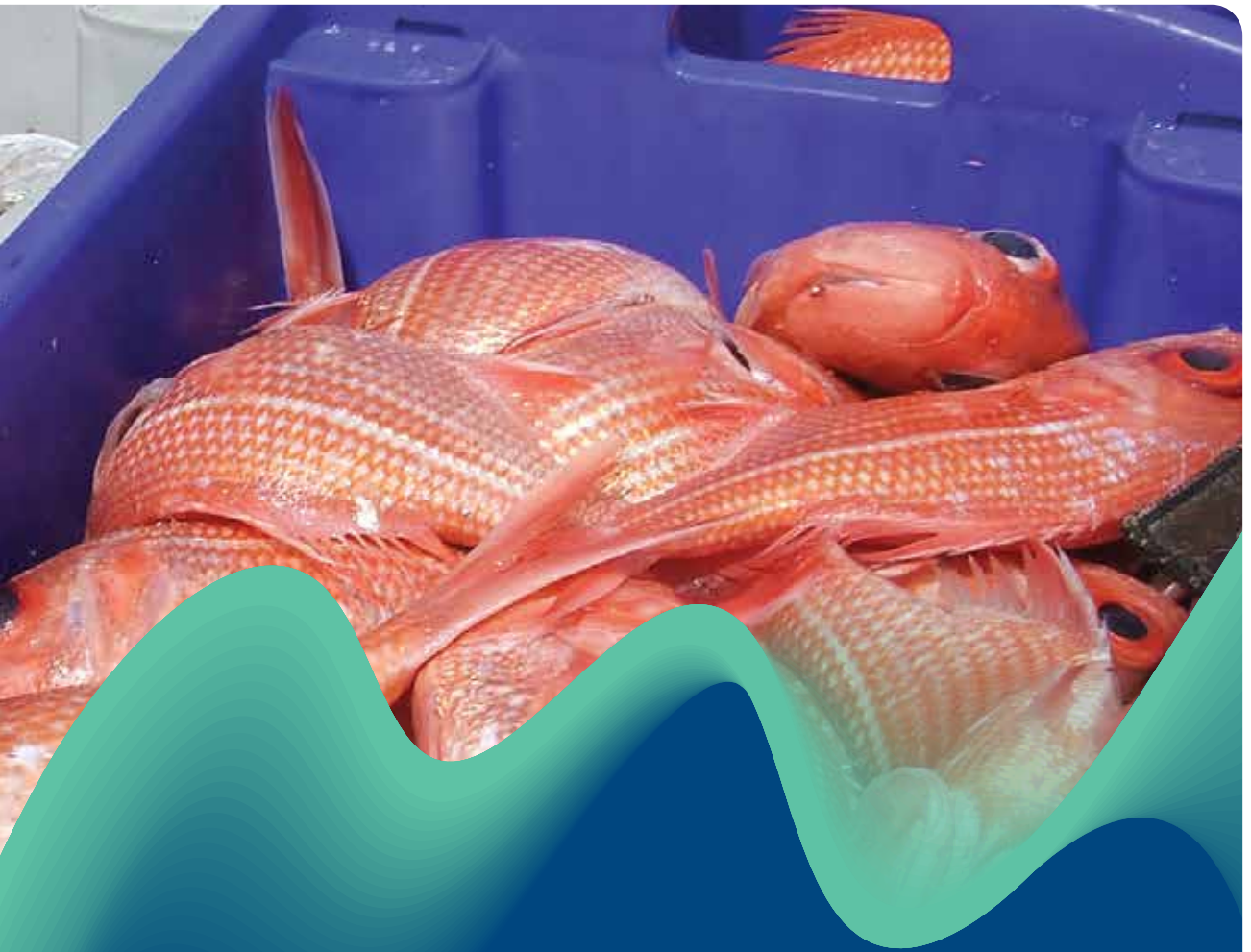
130 COMMONWEALTH PORT VISITS

100 FISH RECEIVER INSPECTIONS

201 BOAT INSPECTIONS

Of these, **37** were desktop inspections





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Overview



Authority

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

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry retains responsibility for strategic fisheries policy advice, legislative development and leading international negotiations and fisheries assessments. During the reporting period the Department was responsible for the [Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (EPBC Act).

The AFMA Commission is responsible for domestic fisheries management, and the CEO, who is also a Commissioner, is responsible for foreign compliance outcomes and assisting the Commission to implement its decisions. The CEO is also responsible for assisting the Minister in managing Torres Strait Fisheries under the [Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984](#). AFMA is governed by the PGPA Act and the [Public Service Act 1999](#).

AFMA's Ministers were the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia – the Hon David Littleproud MP and the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries – Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam from 1 July 2021 until 23 May 2022. Senator the Hon Murray Watt took on responsibility as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry from 1 June 2022.

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 fisheries on behalf of the Australian community. The challenge in delivering these services is to find the right balance between managing fishing of Australia's marine ecosystems within sustainable and acceptable risk levels and competitive and profitable seafood production.

AFMA's purpose is to pursue the ecologically sustainable development (ESD) of Commonwealth fisheries for the benefit of the Australian community. This is achieved by understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources through regulating Commonwealth commercial fishing and deterring illegal foreign fishing. As part of our application of ESD, AFMA is also increasing consideration of the interests of recreational and Indigenous Australian stakeholders.

AFMA's legislated functions and objectives require the pursuit of efficient and cost-effective fisheries management consistent with the principles of ESD, including the precautionary principle, and maximising the net economic returns to the Australian community from the optimum utilisation and management of Commonwealth fisheries. Collectively, the FAA and the FMA include 10 objectives that AFMA is required to pursue or have regard to (see table below). We generally manage commercial fisheries from three nautical miles offshore to the boundary of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) (200 nautical miles offshore), as well as Australian boats fishing on the high seas outside the AFZ. State and territory governments generally manage fisheries within their borders and inside three nautical miles from shore, except where Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) agreements exist for the management of fish species between the Commonwealth and state/territory governments.

The Commonwealth is also responsible for international fisheries matters, including preventing illegal foreign fishing in the AFZ. Since ratifying the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in 1999, Australia has been actively involved in negotiating regional arrangements to manage a range of highly migratory, straddling stocks and international stocks that are targeted by Australian operators. AFMA participates in management, monitoring, control and surveillance activities as well as developing capacity building activities, providing advice and training to countries in our region.

As a regulator we pursue efficient and cost-effective fisheries management in a way that accounts for the effects of fishing and ensures ecologically sustainable development. We also regulate the harvest of fisheries resources with the aim of maximising net economic returns to the Australian community.

Australia's Commonwealth commercial fisheries are managed in accordance with the government's cost recovery policy. The Commonwealth 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.

Act and section	Summary of objective ¹
FAA – section 6	Implement efficient and cost-effective fisheries management.
FMA – section 3	Ensure the exploitation of fisheries and related activities is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. ²
	Where Australia has obligations under international agreements, ensure the exploitation of fish stocks and related activities in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) and the high seas are carried out consistently with those obligations.
	To the extent that Australia has obligations under international law or agreements, ensure that fishing activities by Australian flagged vessels on the high seas are conducted consistently with those obligations. ³
	Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries.
	Ensure accountability to the fishing industry and the Australian community in the management of fisheries resources.
	Achieve government targets in relation to the recovery of AFMA's costs.
	Ensure that the interests of commercial, recreational and Indigenous Australian fishers are taken into account.
FMA – section 3	Ensure, through proper conservation and management measures, that the living resources of the AFZ are not endangered by over-exploitation.
	Achieve optimum utilisation of the living resources of the Australian fishing zone.

AFMA is also required to ensure, as far as practicable, that measures adopted must not be inconsistent with the preservation, conservation and protection of whales.

1 Objectives that AFMA must pursue are shaded. Objectives that AFMA must have regard to, are unshaded.
2 The principles of ecologically sustainable development are defined in the FAA.
3 This objective is listed as one that AFMA must pursue in the FAA and as one that AFMA is to have regard to in the FMA.

Stakeholders

AFMA works in partnership with the public and key stakeholders, including commercial fishing operators, Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) – the prescribed peak industry body, sectoral industry associations, Indigenous Australian communities, recreational and charter fishing representatives, researchers, environment/conservation organisations, state and territory agencies and others with an interest in Commonwealth fisheries management. We engage with stakeholder groups through management advisory committees (MACs), resource assessment groups (RAGs), scientific panels, working groups, liaison meetings, port visits, and electronic newsletters to concession holders in Commonwealth fisheries. We also communicate and consult with the public using contemporary digital, web and social media communication channels.

We also provide fisheries management services to Joint Authorities of the Commonwealth and state governments, including the Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) under the [Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984](#). The status of these fisheries and AFMA's activities in managing them are reported separately through the PZJA annual report and relevant Joint Authority reports between the States/Northern Territory and the Commonwealth.

During 2021 AFMA's final Stakeholder Perceptions Survey was undertaken to measure current perceptions of AFMA's performance as part of our ongoing commitment to service improvement (see Case Study on page 46).

Our values

AFMA individually and collectively underpins 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. The Client Service Charter is available at our website at afma.gov.au.

Organisational structure

During 2021–22 a new AFMA branch, the Fisheries and Information Services Branch, was established to implement the Australian Government initiative into leading edge data integration, monitoring and artificial intelligence to reduce regulatory burden, increase productivity, support new export opportunities, and improve environmental outcomes for Australia’s Commonwealth fishers.

Our organisational structure as at 30 June 2022 is presented below.

Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry			
AFMA Commission			
AFMA Chief Executive Officer Mr Wez Norris			
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ms Anna Willock			
Fisheries Management Branch	Fisheries and Information Services Branch	Corporate Services Branch	Fisheries Operations Branch
	General Manager Ms Claire van der Geest	Chief Operating Officer Mr John Andersen	General Manager Mr Peter Venslovas
Northern Fisheries & Co-management Senior Manager Mr Brodie Macdonald	Innovation and Data Transformation Senior Manager Mr Andrew Powell	Legal and Parliamentary Services General Counsel Mr Angus Tye	National Compliance Strategy Senior Manager Mr Tod Spencer
Northern Fisheries Torres Strait Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Emma Freeman	E-monitoring Senior Manager Ms Lynelle Miles	Business Partnership & Strategy Chief Finance Officer Ms Jo Hobson	Compliance Operations (Darwin) Senior Manager Mr Brendan Rayner
Demersal and Midwater Fisheries Senior Manager Mr Dan Corrie		People, Capability & Engagement Senior Manager Ms Corinne Fox	International Compliance Policy Senior Manager Mr Viv Fernandes
Tuna and International Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Fiona Hill		Business Operational Support Senior Manager Mr Scott Connors	
Policy, Environment, Economics and Research Senior Manager Mr Ryan Murphy		Technology and Digital Services Chief Information Officer Mr Peter Mann	
Climate Adaptation Senior Program Manager Ms Alice McDonald		Projects Senior Manager Mr Andrew Pearson	

Where AFMA operates

AFMA has offices at four locations: Canberra, Darwin, Thursday Island and Lakes Entrance. Details of our office locations are provided below.

Location	Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
Canberra office	Level 3 15 Lancaster Place MAJURA PARK ACT 2609	PO BOX 7051 Canberra Business Centre CANBERRA ACT 2610	Ph: (02) 6225 5555 Fax: (02) 6225 5500 AFMA Direct: 1300 723 621
Darwin office	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
Thursday Island office	Level 1 Pearls Building 38 Victoria Parade THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875	PO Box 376 THURSDAY ISLAND QLD 4875	Ph: (07) 4069 1990 Fax: (07) 4069 1277
Lakes Entrance office	Seamec Building Bullock Island Road LAKES ENTRANCE VIC 3909	PO Box 408 LAKES ENTRANCE VIC 3909	Ph: 0447 019 916



Canberra



Thursday Island



Darwin



Lakes Entrance





PART 2

Performance

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Performance

Introductory Statement

I, as the accountable authority of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, present the 2021–2022 annual performance statements of AFMA, as required under paragraph 39(1) (a) of the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) (PGPA Act) and under paragraph 87 of the [Fisheries Administration Act 1991](#). In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.



Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer & Accountable Authority of AFMA

Purpose

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority operates within the Australian Government's outcome and performance frameworks. The outcome for each agency articulates the government's objectives for the agency and provides a basis for budgeting and reporting the use of funds appropriated by government. The agency's purpose, as stated in its corporate plan, sets out why it exists, and identifies the strategic objectives that it intends to pursue.

Outcome and Program

AFMA's purpose is:

'The ecologically sustainable development of Commonwealth fisheries for the benefit of the Australian community.'

AFMA's goals and strategies are aimed at continuing to deliver ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries over the current and forecast period. In the Portfolio Budget Statements for 2021–22, AFMA is responsible for a single government program: Program 1.1 Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The performance of this program is measured by a number of deliverables and key performance measures as outlined in the 2021–22 Corporate Plan. Our performance against these targets, as well as other actions, provide an indication of our success in fulfilling our purpose, and in achieving our outcome for the benefit of the Australian community.

The Annual Performance Statement is structured to highlight the major elements of AFMA's corporate goals:

1. Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development

AFMA will integrate long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations, apply the precautionary principle and minimise the impacts on biological diversity. In doing so, we will also work with commercial, recreational and Indigenous Australian fishers.

2. Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth fisheries

AFMA will review and, where relevant, develop management arrangements that facilitate and encourage maximisation of net economic returns in Commonwealth fisheries.

3. Compliance with Commonwealth fisheries laws and policies and relevant international fishing obligations and standards

AFMA will cooperate with a range of domestic and international agencies to maintain effective monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities in the AFZ and adjacent waters.

4. Deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources

AFMA will develop and invest in business processes and technologies in consultation with its stakeholders to deliver efficient and cost-effective management that ensures accountability to the fishing industry and the Australian community.

Overview of Performance

The following outcomes will mark AFMA's success:

- AFMA-managed fisheries are accepted as sustainable with a fully developed and integrated Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)/Ecological Risk Management (ERM) systems, government harvest strategy and bycatch policies and based on science that is publicly available.
- Fisheries are preferably managed by individually transferable statutory fishing rights (SFRs) with enabling regulation that fosters whole of fishery stewardship and provides incentives for cost minimisation and revenue maximisation for the commercial sector.
- Fisheries regulation is focused on 'harms', by removing unnecessary regulation and making it easier to comply, backed by a proportionate penalties regime and incentives that reward compliant fishers.
- Stakeholders are confident in AFMA's performance with alignment of AFMA and stakeholder expectations through the use of broad engagement systems and shared objectives.



Grey-headed albatross

Photo courtesy AFMA media library

In 2021–22 AFMA successfully delivered outcomes across all four of its goals as set out in the table below. AFMA set 13 performance measures for 2021–22. Some of our performance measures/targets were designed to be implemented over a longer timeframe than the current reporting period. We consider these to be on track. Of the 13 targets, seven were fully met, two were on track and three targets were not met. The target for performance measure 8 has 37 elements measured of which 22 were met, 13 targets on track or within threshold and two targets were not met. Detailed analysis is provided on pages 24 to 45.

Performance Measures	Target met	Target on track	Target not met
1. The number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment	✓		
2. The percentage of species assessed as 'residual High Risk' under Ecological Risk Assessment	✓		
3. The number of AFMA-only stocks assessed as 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report			✓
4. AFMA advocates measures in relevant negotiations to address stocks shared with states and territories that are assessed as 'overfished' or 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	✓		
5. Status of Wildlife Trade Operations (WTOs) under the EPBC Act	✓		
6. The number of stocks with target reference points based on MEY, an agreed proxy thereof or a multi-stock harvest strategy	✓		
7. Net Economic Return, as assessed in the ABARES Status of Fish Stocks Report		✓	
8. Treatment of identified domestic compliance risks as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP)	22	13 within threshold	2
9. Incidence level of illegal foreign fishing vessels operating in the AFZ			✓
10. Compliance rate with international obligations as assessed in Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (implemented by AFMA)	✓		
11. Cost recovery budget	✓		
12. Corporate overheads compared to total budget			✓
13. Engagement with legislated peak body		✓	

1. Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with principles of ecological sustainable development

Purpose

AFMA manages Commonwealth fisheries on the basis that minimising the impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and ensuring sustainable harvesting leads to better economic and social outcomes from those fisheries for the Australian community.

To achieve this AFMA uses sound science and close engagement with stakeholders in accordance with AFMA's Strategic Research Plan 2017–2022 as well as through our MACs, RAGs, stakeholder forums, and specialist working groups, workshops and other advisory bodies and forums.

Result

Performance Measure	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual
1. The number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment	No change or increase	No change
2. The percentage of species assessed as 'residual High Risk' under Ecological Risk Assessment	No change or decrease	No Change
3. The number of AFMA-only stocks assessed as 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Zero	One
4. AFMA advocates measures in relevant negotiations to address stocks shared with states and territories that are assessed as 'overfished' or 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Qualitative assessment	Achieved
5. Status of Wildlife Trade Operations (WTOs) under the EPBC Act	All WTOs maintained	Achieved

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements* p.131 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2021–22* p.15.

Methods for measuring performance

All AFMA managed fisheries are subject to a strict regime of legislative requirements and continual assessment, with agreed exploitation levels set at sustainable limits through consultative, science-based processes. These include:

- legislative Management Plans with requirements to pursue the objectives of the FMA

- ERA and ERM Framework to scientifically assess each fishery's impact on the environment and identify high risks and develop responses to those risks
- the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy and Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy
- Strategic assessment under the EPBC Act.

This management regime is underpinned by independent, peer-reviewed scientific assessment and advice. Science-based management is a key demonstrator against ESD principles and directly reflect the HSP, as well as contemporary best practice fisheries management.

Data on completed elements of the Fisheries Management framework are held by AFMA. The data will be reported in a variety of ways such as number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment, proportion of high risk species identified through ERAs and status of WTO assessments under the EPBC Act.

In addition, ABARES' assessment of stock status/economic and environmental performance provides an independent assessment of stock status and overall fishery performance.

Analysis

All major Commonwealth fisheries have management regimes and settings in place based on appropriate scientific assessments. When setting TACs and effort restriction in fisheries the AFMA Commission is made aware of any constraints or limitation of the harvest strategies and applies a precautionary approach in setting harvest limits which is also noted and reflected in the ABARES fishery status report assessment of stock status.

This is the first year in nine years that a fishery stock has been assessed by ABARES as subject to overfishing. The most recent estimate of spawning biomass for eastern jackass morwong is below the limited reference point (LRP). For the 2021–22 fishing season, fishing mortality was above the level estimated to allow the stock to rebuild to above the LRP in a timeframe consistent with the requirements of the HSP. In response AFMA has significantly reduced the TAC and will implement a series of closures to limit catch and allow rebuilding for this species.

The ERA performance indicator has been noted as 'no change' because it is the first year this indicator is in place so there is no relevant base case to refer to. Every Commonwealth Fishery has ERA and ERM responses in place or under development through bycatch plans, data plans, harvest strategies and research plans. To support the ERA/ERM framework AFMA continued work on updating and streamlining the ERM framework to ensure that more ERAs are updated and ERM responses are put in place in a more timely fashion. Updated ERAs were also completed for a number of major Commonwealth Fisheries during the reporting period, namely Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF).

Only one negotiation with a state authority related to an overfished stock was commenced in the reporting period. This was related to bycatch arrangements for school shark in fisheries managed by South Australia. That negotiation is ongoing, and AFMA has advocated that any revised arrangements would be predicated on not increasing the catch of school shark or providing any opportunity for relevant fishers to target the stock.

CASE STUDY

AFMA's 30th Anniversary



Australian Fisheries Management Authority Board of Directors, 1992. © AFMA



Australian Fisheries Management Authority Board of Directors, 1998. © AFMA



Australian Fisheries Management Authority Darwin Office staff, 2006. © AFMA

In February 2022 AFMA marked its 30th anniversary and management would like to thank everyone who has contributed to AFMA's success since February 1992.



AFMA staff member reviewing Northern Prawn Fishery, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) footage. © AFMA

AFMA is responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Australia's Commonwealth fisheries resources on behalf of the Australian community. This currently includes 22 commercial fisheries within the 8 million square kilometres of the AFZ, spanning geographical zones from tropical northern waters to the icy Southern Ocean.

AFMA is ranked as world leader in sustainable fisheries management by independent experts. Working closely with industry, scientists and environment non-government organisations to develop management arrangements and innovations is fundamental to AFMA's success.

Australian fisheries continue to be managed under strict rules to reduce the environmental impacts of fishing and to ensure that stocks remain strong into the future. This means that consumers can be confident that by eating Australian seafood, they are supporting sustainable fishing practices as well as a local industry.

2. Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth fisheries

Purpose

AFMA pursues its economic objective by setting harvest level targets for key commercial stocks, which contribute to meeting maximum economic yield (MEY) for the fishery, as set out in the HSP. MEY for a stock is pursued by setting catch or effort levels that are sustainable and best enable NER to be maximised. In some cases, alternative targets to MEY may be used by AFMA to meet international arrangements, achieve ecological or stock recovery objectives or seek fishery-wide (rather than species-specific) MEY. In these cases, AFMA aims to maximise economic yields within that context.

In seeking to maximise economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth commercial fisheries, AFMA reviews management arrangements through broad consultative processes to take into consideration all fishing interests.

Result

Performance Measure	2021-22 Target	2021-22 Actual
6. The number of stocks with target reference points based on MEY, an agreed proxy thereof or a multi-stock harvest strategy	No change or increase	No Change
7. Net Economic Return, as assessed in the ABARES Status of Fish Stocks Report	Positive trend over previous 3 years	No Change

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021-22 Portfolio Budget Statements p.131 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2021-22 p.33.

Methods for measuring performance

The target reference point specified in the Commonwealth HSP is the stock biomass required to produce maximum economic yield from the fishery (B_{MEY}). Where stock-specific B_{MEY} is unknown, a proxy of 0.48 times the unfished biomass, or 1.2 times the biomass at maximum sustainable yield (B_{MSY}), should be used.

Analysis

There are sixteen key commercial stocks that continue to have MEY targets:

- endeavour prawns, red-leg banana prawns, brown tiger prawns and grooved tiger prawns in the NPF
- bight redfish, blue eye trevalla, blue grenadier, deepwater flathead, eastern school whiting, gummy shark, orange roughy east, pink ling west, pink ling east, school shark and tiger flathead in the SESSF
- swordfish in the Eastern Tuna Billfish Fishery (ETBF).

The six stocks on target are deepwater flathead, eastern school whiting, tiger flathead (all SESSF), swordfish (ETBF) and brown tiger prawns and grooved tiger prawns (NPF).

The five stocks that are heading towards the target are orange roughy east, gummy shark, endeavour prawns, red-leg banana prawns and pink ling east. Banana prawns caught in the NPF are managed in accordance with an economic trigger to ensure that levels of catch below MEY levels do not take place.

The remaining five stocks that are assessed as not on target and not heading towards target are: Bight redfish, blue grenadier, blue eye trevalla, pink ling west and school shark. One stock – blue-eye trevalla – is assessed as being between the limit and target reference point but not heading towards the target. School shark is assessed as being below the limit reference point; however, the latest assessment using Close-Kin Mark-Recapture genetic methods indicates that the stock had recovered slightly during the period from 2000–2017.

Out of those fisheries with NER commentary from ABARES (16) there are 14 with positive NER. As this is the first year of this indicator there is not enough data points to fully assess this criterion and it has been marked as on track. Further specific details of each fishery NER are available in the ABARES Fishery Status Report 2022. This performance measure, and the way it is assessed will evolve over time as additional data becomes available and the AFMA Commission finalises a policy on how AFMA seeks to achieve its economic objective. That policy will be developed following review of the Commonwealth Fisheries HSP in 2023.

3. Compliance with Commonwealth fisheries laws and policies and relevant international fishing obligations and standards

Purpose

Non-compliance with AFMA's domestic management rules and regulations undermines ecological sustainability, diminishes the net economic returns to the Australian public and ultimately affects the value and viability of Australia's fishing industry.

AFMA focuses on approaches encouraging voluntary compliance⁴ by domestic fishers while maintaining an enforcement capability and taking deterrence action against conscious non-compliance.

AFMA also leads responses and coordinates action with other government agencies to address threats caused by illegal foreign fishing in the AFZ. AFMA engages with counterpart international agencies and actively participates in international forums to combat foreign IUU fishing in areas on the high seas where Australia has an interest. We work alongside partners in building regional capacity and capabilities to combat IUU fishing.

Our international compliance activities ensure that Australia's fish stocks and the marine environment are not adversely affected by illegal foreign fishing.

4 Voluntary compliance is the idea that compliance is achieved as a result of the community (or individuals) choosing to willingly or voluntarily comply with rules, regulations or even general philosophies. Voluntary compliance is not compliance due to an understanding and/or fear of the consequences of not complying; that is deterrence. In essence voluntary compliance is the act of complying regardless of (or without) any possible repercussions.

National Compliance (Domestic)

Result

Performance Measure	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual
8. Treatment of identified domestic compliance risks as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP)	>90 percent of NCEP performance targets met	59.5 per cent of NCEP performance targets met with a further 35% within threshold

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements* p.131 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2021–22* p.23.

Methods for measuring performance

The Policy, Risk Assessment and Program reviews for Commonwealth fisheries are scheduled core functions within the Fisheries Operations Branch (FOB). Policy reviews are undertaken within FOB through the Operational Management Committee (OMC) and approved by the AFMA CEO and endorsed by the Commission.

Risk assessments are conducted biennially, utilising published methodology and input from stakeholder groups. The results of the risk assessment are used to inform the development of the annual NCEP, in particular the priority risks. This NCEP is developed by the National Compliance Strategy team, considered by the OMC and approved by the AFMA CEO.

Due to the nature of compliance programs, it is inherently difficult to assess their effectiveness only in terms of outcomes. As a result, the effectiveness of the program (i.e. how well the NCEP is meeting its aims and objectives) is assessed through the use of 'outcome targets' wherever possible, as well as input and output targets where suitable 'outcome targets' are not able to be identified. In addition to this assessment of compliance effectiveness, one internal review was conducted in the reporting year, examining the design, intent and effectiveness of the desktop audit program. AFMA Management recognises that not all performance targets will be met due to the changing nature of risks and changes in fisheries practices.

In addition, and in recognition of the flexibility required to ensure effective targeting of prioritised risks (and the impact that required flexibility has on the resources available for other programs), an acceptable 'threshold band' has also been set for each target.

The NCEP contains these performance targets across each activity area, including the prioritised risks. The activities and outcomes against these targets are routinely monitored and reported monthly and annually.

In 2021–22, 22 of the 37 performance targets were met, 13 were within the threshold level and two targets were not met.

Analysis

AFMA's National Compliance Operations and Enforcement Policy (the policy) aims to effectively deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries and the AFZ.

In order to achieve the policy objective, the risk based 2021–22 NCEP consisted of four main components:

- Communication and Education
- Targeted Risk
- General Deterrence
- Maintenance

Communication and Education

As part of our strategy to promote voluntary compliance our fisheries officers conducted in-field education sessions and pre-season briefings in a variety of ports. These were to inform Commonwealth fishers of their conditions and obligations and how to comply with them, as well as the principles of the compliance and enforcement program including the potential consequences of being caught committing offences.

Specific in-field education programs were provided in the NPF in relation to pre-season openings and AFMA fisheries officers also conducted pre-season boat inspections to check the required bycatch reduction devices, including the mandatory turtle excluder devices.

Officers in the Torres Strait also conducted awareness sessions in relation to the Tropical Rock Lobster season closures, CDR completion and the Black Teatfish fishery trial opening. This included 'one-on-one' education and awareness sessions with stakeholders on Murray, Coconut, Yorke, Burke and Mimi Islands. Officers also conducted a community meeting on Masig Island in relation to the finfish boundary line including reminders on licence conditions.

Monthly compliance articles were posted on AFMA's website and Facebook pages with messages being sent to fishers on a regular basis. These included articles relating to:

- the 2021–22 NCEP
- removal of ghost nets and marine debris from Australian Marine Parks (joint media release with Parks Australia)
- new seabird interaction mitigation rules and reporting requirements in the ETBF
- reminders to fishers on their electronic monitoring (EM) and vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements
- opening of the Finfish (Reef Line) fishery in Guda Maluilgal waters
- the trial opening of the Torres Strait Black Teatfish fishery.

Four of the six Communication and Education performance targets were met in 2021–22 with the remaining two performance targets within acceptable thresholds.

General Deterrence Program

AFMA fisheries officers operate in Commonwealth ports and at sea to conduct boat and fish receiver premises inspections as part of their regular duties. AFMA's presence acts as a deterrent to non-compliant activity. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for fishers to seek assistance with understanding and clarity around the rules in place, when and where they apply and how fishers can best comply.

During 2021–22, AFMA fisheries officers visited fishing ports on 130 occasions where they conducted 201⁵ boat inspections (including 18 at-sea) and 100 fish receiver premises inspections. Officers also undertook 37⁶ desktop inspections giving a total of 338 inspections in 2021–22.

Travel restrictions COVID-19 lockdowns and COVID-19 impacts on fisheries officers, saw the number of inspections in 2021–22 drop when compared to previous years. The 338 total inspections in 2021–22 was significantly lower than the 484 inspections in 2020–21, 377 inspections in 2019–20, and 502 inspections in 2018–19.

High levels of compliance were observed with 95.2 per cent of inspections requiring no further action. This was just above the program target rate for voluntary compliance of 95 per cent.

During 2021–22, 194 investigations were commenced and 18 matters carried over from the 2020–21 financial year. A total of 193 matters were closed and 19 matters requiring further investigation are still open. Of the 193 matters closed, 21 warnings and 23 cautions were issued, nil Commonwealth Fisheries Infringement Notices issued, one court action – conviction, one return to port order and 147 matters required no further action.

Nine of the ten performance targets for the general deterrence program were met in 2021–22 with the remaining one being within the threshold limit.

Targeted Risk Program

The prioritised risks identified in the 2021–22 domestic compliance risk assessment and the focus of the 2021–22 program are:

- Torres Strait Fisheries
- failing to record bycatch discards
- quota evasion
- domestic vessels landing catch in foreign ports.

Six of the 12 performance targets for the Targeted Risk Program were met in 2021–22, one target was not met and the remaining five were within threshold tolerance.

5 AFMA officers also conducted additional 9 PSMA inspections of foreign boats in Australian ports.

6 AFMA officers also conducted additional 8 desktop inspections of Australian boats landing in foreign ports

Torres Strait Fishery

In the Torres Strait Fishery, fisheries officers participated in 17 joint 'at-sea' patrols, alongside agencies such as the Australian Border Force and Queensland Water Police (QWP).

AFMA officers conducted 37 boat inspections, 64 fish receiver premises inspections and visited ports/freight hubs on 34 occasions. AFMA officers also participated in multiple stakeholder/community meetings to deliver information sessions on compliance related matters.

'One-on-one' education and awareness sessions with fishermen and fish receivers were undertaken at every opportunity to encourage voluntary compliance in the Torres Strait Fisheries. Whilst compliance rates were generally high, a number of matters resulted in formal warnings being issued or further investigation conducted.

Three of the five Torres Strait Fishery performance targets were met and two were within threshold tolerance in 2021–22.

Failing to record bycatch discards

Commercial fishing may result in incidental catch or interaction with species that are not retained for sale or are not able to be sold (non-commercial). Discards are any part of the catch, which is returned to the sea, whether dead or alive. Failing to report bycatch discards places constraints on data, therefore presenting significant challenges to bycatch management. Left unmanaged, unaccounted bycatch discards may have a negative impact on the status of marine life including mammals, reptiles, seabirds, sharks, and bony fishes.

In 2021–22 the National Compliance Strategy Section aim was to decrease the incidence of, and therefore the risk associated with non-reporting of bycatch in all Commonwealth fisheries through a targeted education, monitoring and enforcement program.

In 2021–22 the National Compliance Strategy Section continued its communication program with industry that reinforces operators' requirements to report all bycatch and discard interactions and report discarded quota species.

Both bycatch discards target were met with no incidences of confirmed non-reporting of bycatch discards.

Quota evasion

Quota evasion is the deliberate misreporting, or non-reporting, of the volume and/or species of catch caught in Commonwealth waters. All Commonwealth fishers are required to accurately report their catch to AFMA through CDRs.

In 2021–22 the National Compliance Strategy Section continued with the covert video surveillance program(s) to provide an indicative measure on the level of quota evasion. This surveillance focused on identifying discrepancies in reported landings by Commonwealth endorsed boats, with specific focus on identified ‘high risk’ vessels. The recorded footage is analysed and compared against that trip’s corresponding catch disposal record. In addition to identifying boat level breaches relating to quota, this data is extrapolated and used broadly to estimate what level quota evasion may be present on a fleet-wide level.

The three quota evasion performance targets were not met in 2021–22 and all were within threshold tolerances.

Australian Fishing Vessels (AFVs) landing in foreign ports

Australian Fishing Vessels (AFVs), particularly those fishing in Australia’s Antarctic Territories, routinely land their (domestic) catch in foreign ports such as Mauritius and New Zealand.

Due to this, these vessels are not regularly inspected by Australian (AFMA’s) fisheries officers, instead Australia relies on foreign officials to undertake these inspections on Australia’s behalf, and in accordance with international agreements such as; Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), and CCAMLR Conservation Measures (10-2, 10-3).

National Compliance Strategy Unit aims to ensure all catch landed in foreign ports by AFVs meets Australian and International inspection, audit, and documentation requirements and that Australia implements its flag State responsibilities effectively by monitoring the activities of AFVs to the point where product enters the market.

In order to ensure appropriately robust inspection regimes for AFVs landing catch in Foreign Ports the National Compliance Strategy Unit:

- continues to establish closer working relationships with officials in the key foreign ports of landing for AFVs (Mauritius and New Zealand)
- there were no joint inspections of AFVs with foreign officials (in the foreign) ports of landing due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- undertook eight desktop Audits of the 11 AFV landing in the ports of Nelson and Dunedin, New Zealand and Port Louis, Mauritius.

One of the two performance targets was met. The other involving the conduct of joint inspections in foreign ports was not met.

Maintenance Programs

Since the establishment of the risk-based program in 2009, there have been a number of identified risks which were prioritised for treatment (in previous years) and addressed through specific risk treatment programs. These risks are considered to have been addressed to a manageable level but warrant ongoing monitoring:

- VMS and EM
- quota reconciliation
- closure monitoring
- failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species
- bycatch mishandling.

Three of the nine performance targets for the Maintenance Treatment Program were met in 2021–22, five were within threshold tolerance and one was not met.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

VMS compliance rates remained high with an average of 98.2 per cent of all Commonwealth vessels reporting to AFMA via their VMS at any one time. This is the highest average annual VMS compliance rate achieved since VMS became compulsory in 2007, slightly above the average target of 98 per cent for the year.

There were 13 incidents of VMS non-compliance investigated in 2021–22. The main reasons for non-compliance were unit failures or switching off units without seeking a Temporary Switch Off approval beforehand. Most fishers were educated with respect to their obligations and one vessel was ordered to port.

The VMS performance target was met in 2021–22.

E-Monitoring

There were 21 incidents of non-compliance with EM requirements. Most offences were of a minor nature, these included dirty cameras as a result of elements expected to be experienced at sea and cameras not functioning due to age/wear and tear. All operators assisted with AFMA's investigations and rectified the issues accordingly. Seventeen operators were educated with regard to their obligations, three operators were issued with a warning and one operator issued with a caution.

The EM performance target was not met during 2021–22.

Quota Reconciliation

A total of nine fishers failed to reconcile their over catches by the due date in 2021–22, lower than the 12 instances in 2020–21 and the 13 instances in 2019–20, but up on the six instances in 2018–19. However, it is down significantly from 2017–18 with 29 instances and 2016–17 with 30 instances. AFMA worked with the nine fishers to resolve most of the matters, with three fishers issued with Official Cautions and one fisher issued with a warning and one matter is still being investigated to determine further action.

The quota reconciliation performance target was within threshold tolerance.

Fishery Closure Monitoring

AFMA undertakes closure monitoring through automated alerts using VMS data to ascertain if a boat has reported its position from within any of the approximately one hundred closures in force. The alerts are triggered when a vessel is detected within the closure and travelling at less than five knots.

There were five detected closure breaches during 2021–22. These breaches were investigated, resulting in three operators being educated due to very small incursions into the closures. There were two operators that received official cautions, one operator had drifted into a closure because of weather and currents and one operator mistakenly entered a closure due to fishing in a new area. No further incidents of closure incursions by any of the five operators have been detected.

The closure monitoring performance target was within threshold tolerance during 2021–22.

Failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species

During 2021–22, there were 23 incidents of non-reporting of threatened, endangered and protected (TEP) species interactions detected, nine of which did not require further investigation. For the remaining 14 matters, eight operators were educated, three operators were issued with Official Cautions, two matters are under investigation, one matter was finalised with no further action (no offence).

The 14 matters requiring investigation in 2021–22 was a decrease from the 20 matters requiring investigation in 2020–21, 11 in 2019–20, seven in 2018–19, ten in 2017–18 and 13 in 2016–17.

Each of the 2021–22 matters was dealt with by way of education, warnings or referred to another agency for further action.

One of the three failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species performance targets was met and two were within threshold tolerance in 2021–22.

Bycatch mishandling

In 2021–22 we continued our education and communication programs with industry to outline the risk of bycatch mishandling.

There were 15 reports of alleged bycatch mishandling during 2021–22, nine matters did not require further investigation, two operators were educated and four matters required no further action. The overall instances of bycatch mishandling reports (requiring investigation) during 2021–22 averaged 0.5 reports per month, below the 2020–21 average of 0.75 reports and the long-term average of 1.49 per month. It is also well down on the 4.2 per month which

occurred prior to new rules being implemented and targeted education campaigns being launched in October 2016. Bycatch mishandling incidents were principally dealt with by way of education sessions, cautions and warnings.

The bycatch mishandling performance measure was met during 2021–22.

Internal review and audit program

AFMA undertakes internal reviews and audits each year. In 2021–22 a review was conducted examining the design, intent and effectiveness of the desktop inspection program implemented principally in response to COVID-19 restrictions. The review found the intent of the desktop inspection regime met the broad vision of the NCEP, but that more work was needed to be done to increase the efficiency of the process.

The internal review and audit program performance measure was within threshold tolerance in 2021–22.

AFMA domestic prosecutions for 2021–2022

Torres Strait Fishery – prosecution

One conviction was recorded for the 2021–22 financial year. This matter was detected in 2018, with multiple adjournments sought by the defendant and disruptions related to COVID-19 restrictions to the court process. A breach of s45(1)(f) licence conditions (towing tenders and accommodating fishermen) and s44(1)(a) breach of a management instrument (possession of hookah gear), under the [Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984](#) resulting in a \$500 fine for breach one and \$1000 for breach two.

Costs and fines to the account of the Defendant.

International Compliance

Result

Performance Measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual
9. Incidence level of illegal foreign fishing vessels operating in the Australian Fishing Zone	Lower than previous 10 year average (20.4 vessels)	337 vessels
10. Compliance rate with international obligations as assessed in Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (implemented by AFMA)	>90 per cent	98 per cent

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements p.131 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2021–22 p.23.

Methods for measuring performance

AFMA is responsible for ensuring that international fisheries obligations are implemented via domestic fisheries management arrangements. Non-compliance with international obligations is independently assessed by international fisheries management organisations (IFMOs) annually. AFMA participates in annual assessment processes for all IFMOs Australia is a party to and utilises them to calculate Australia's compliance with international obligations as a percentage per financial year. This percentage relates only to obligations that AFMA is responsible for implementing. The target of greater than 90 per cent compliance with international obligations is designed to take into account the changing number of obligations from year to year as well as the different mandate, compliance scheme and governance framework of each IFMO.

AFMA continued to deliver a risk-based ICEP. The five components of the ICEP are communications, enforcement operations, strategic engagement, capacity development and targeted threat response for enforcement operations. AFMA continues to collaborate with a wide range of international partners to deliver more effective outcomes and responses to IUU fishing. This includes working with counterparts from flag States, port States, market States and States with nationals involved in IUU fishing to ensure AFMA's responses are targeted and effective.

Working in concert, a multifaceted strategy ensures Australia can readily respond to threats in an efficient and cost-effective manner. AFMA leads investigations and responses into IUU fishing by foreign fishing vessels in Australian waters and in waters where Australia has an interest, and works closely with partner agencies, contributing the fisheries component to Australia's civil maritime security strategy.

The ICEP clearly outlines key performance assessment targets that are used to measure AFMA's ongoing performance. These key performance assessment targets are reported on quarterly to the International Operations Management Committee (a committee within the FOB) and annually to the AFMA Executive.

Analysis

During 2021–22 there was a significant increase in illegal foreign fishing vessel activity within the AFZ. There were 337 legislative forfeitures conducted in 2021–22, including the disposal of 44 foreign fishing vessels at sea. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no apprehensions were conducted in 2021–22.

This is a significant increase on the previous 10-year average number of apprehensions and legislative forfeitures of foreign fishing vessels (20.4). Economic pressures in Indonesia resulting from impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters, such as Cyclone Seroja, coupled with high market value for targeted marine species (sea cucumber) are believed to be driving factors.

COVID-19 also changed Australia's enforcement posture as the standard practice of boarding vessels, detaining crew, prosecuting them on land and repatriating them had to be significantly modified. Complementary actions to on-the-water enforcement actions were undertaken to stop the issue at its source. These included increased bilateral engagement and the distribution of education material in key ports and through social media. Australian officials also worked with their regional counterparts to share information and elevate the messaging.

AFMA contributes to the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU by implementing effective port State measures. Under the [Maritime Powers Act 2013](#), AFMA officers may be authorised to board and inspect foreign fishing vessels issued a permit to enter an Australia port under the FMA. The inspections are undertaken to assess compliance with the FMA and to monitor compliance with international fishery agreements. AFMA fisheries officers conducted nine PSMA inspections on foreign vessels entering Australian Ports between 1 July 2021 and 1 June 2022.

As part of a whole of government response, AFMA worked with Maritime Border Command, Parks Australia and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to track and recover abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in Australia's waters. Eleven ghost nets and 30 fish aggregating devices (FADs) were recovered and disposed of in accordance with biosecurity regulations in 2021–22.

During 2021–22, AFMA participated in a range of international meetings including those held by IFMOs, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Regional Plan of Action on Responsible Fishing Practices, including Combatting IUU Fishing and various sub committees. AFMA also participated in various bilateral meetings throughout 2021–2022 to progress Australia's interests and provided capacity support.

AFMA maintained a greater than 90 per cent compliance rate with its international obligations implemented by AFMA as assessed by IFMOs. AFMA participated in the compliance process and relevant meetings for all IFMOs it is a party to, with only very minimal and minor non-compliances. AFMA is only responsible for implementing a subset of Australia's IFMO obligations. Further, each IFMO has a different mandate, compliance scheme and governance framework, therefore making holistic compliance assessment difficult to calculate.

AFMA participated in multilateral surveillance operations via virtual platforms and was able to meet the majority of capacity building delivery commitments including fisheries specific monitoring, control and surveillance skills training in the Pacific and South East Asia. These activities included collaborations with Registered Training Organisations as well as ad hoc presentations. Additionally, as part of a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded program, AFMA officers assisted in the delivery (through the University of South Pacific) of the Certificate IV in Fisheries Compliance and Enforcement to Pacific Island participants.

CASE STUDY

Illegal Indonesian fishing within the Australia-Indonesia MoU Box



An increase of foreign fishing vessels (FFVs) within the Australia-Indonesia MoU Box has highlighted a need to raise awareness and educate targeted fishers and fishing communities on the rules for fishing within the MoU Box and biodiversity importance of Ashmore and Cartier marine parks.

Compliance activities conducted by Maritime Border Command (MBC) have expanded through Operation JAWLINE patrols and actions taken at sea to combating illegal fishing activities of illegal FFVs.

AFMA produced animated videos targeting Indonesia fishers, Indonesia (West Timorese) fishing communities to inform, educate and deter illegal fishing in Australian waters.

These animated videos (produced in Bahasa Indonesia) will support a range of tactical communications and international engagement communication objectives to discourage illegal FFVs from Indonesia entering Australian waters for the purpose of fishing. They are designed to influence Indonesian fishers to stop illegal fishing within the Australia and Indonesia MoU Box.

In addition to continued social media posts and selected post promotion, AFMA published a bilingual webpage to inform Indonesian fishers about the risks associated with illegal fishing in the AFZ. The new AFMA webpage includes animated educational videos and translated chartlets which complements on water enforcement action against Indonesian FFVs operating unlawfully within the AFZ.

The chartlets, images and links to videos are available on the AFMA webpage <https://www.afma.gov.au/traditional-indonesian-fishing-mou-box> and information in Bahasa is <https://www.afma.gov.au/kegiatan-memancing-tradisional-warga-indonesia-di-dalam-mou-box>

4. Deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources

Purpose

Minimising cost recovery charges to Commonwealth concession holders through the efficient implementation of cost recovered activities remains a key AFMA commitment. 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 CPI increases.

Pursuing initiatives to reduce regulation and administrative burden on those we regulate and applying the data we collect to better inform our stakeholders and support our science-based fisheries management decisions will provide further opportunities to improve transparency and accountability. Government investment of \$10.6 million over four years commenced in 2021–22, to deliver a more cost-effective, simplified approach to vessel management and reporting through electronic monitoring will underpin AFMA's delivery against this performance measure.

AFMA continues to explore co-management approaches with key stakeholders where such an approach is appropriate and desirable to enhance accountability and broaden stakeholder engagement and consultation particularly with recreational and Indigenous Australian fishers. Enhancing our stakeholder engagement, including through meaningful consultation processes with the CFA, applying appropriate communication tools and increasing the level of public reporting supports accountability to our stakeholders.

Results

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual
11. Cost recovery budget	At or below 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI	Achieved
12. Corporate overheads compared to total budget	<20 per cent	21.4 per cent

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements* p.131 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2021–22* p.27.

Methods for measuring performance

AFMA has implemented robust business process and systems, and financial management arrangements, to ensure AFMA's cost recovery framework is underpinned by the principles of efficiency and effectiveness, transparency and accountability, and stakeholder engagement.

Efficiency and effectiveness can be impacted by the use of improved business processes and technologies which increase productivity for both the fishing industry and AFMA.

Key performance indicators include:

- a.** cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI increases
- b.** the percentage of overhead costs in total cost recovery expenditure as detailed in the AFMA Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS).

Transparency and accountability are achieved by ensuring the AFMA CRIS clearly articulates the activities undertaken by AFMA, what activities are cost recoverable and how they are implemented in managing Commonwealth fisheries. Key performance activity metrics to deliver include:

- c.** an annual internal review of the CRIS prior to providing the Commonwealth fishing industry with a draft CRIS for their review and feedback
- d.** providing financial reports to the Commonwealth fishing industry of budgeted and actual cost recovery expenditure by AFMA CRIS activity groups and by individual fishery.

Stakeholder engagement ensures that the CRIS, its activities and the formulation of activity costs is clearly understood, and that stakeholder feedback is taken on board.

Key performance activity metrics to deliver include:

- e.** information sessions with the fishing industry to step them through the CRIS document and the formulation of activity costs
- f.** making details of industry feedback on the draft budget and CRIS available to industry in the form of a change request register.

Analysis

AFMA continues to meet its commitment to industry that it would keep the costs recovered at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI increases in the 2021–22 financial year. The actual levies recovered from the eligible fisheries was \$5.8 million lower than the CPI adjusted 2005–06 base levies. The cumulative savings to industry since 2009–10 is \$57.7 million.

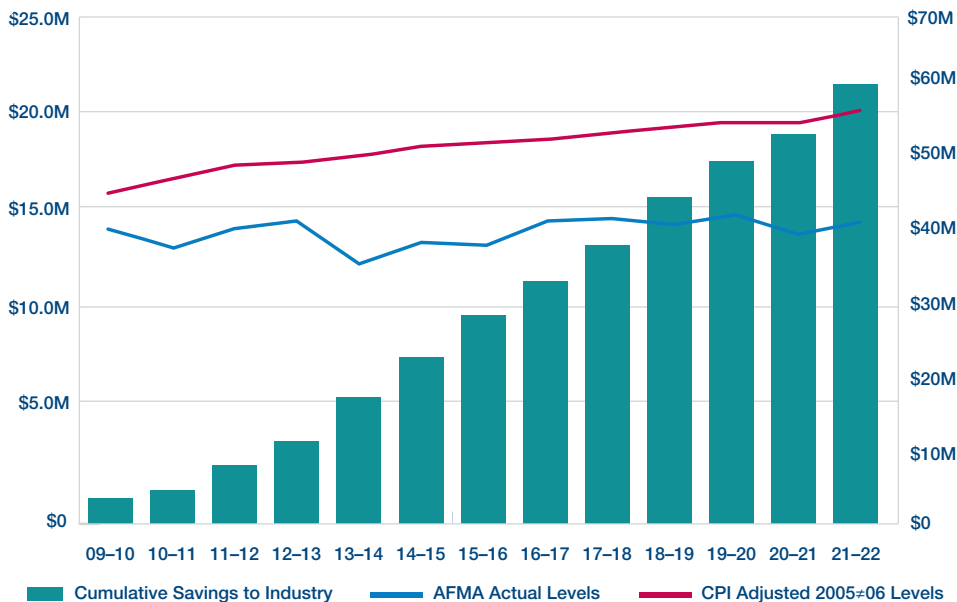


Figure 1: AFMA actual levies vs CPI adjusted 2005–06 levies

The corporate overhead cost exceeded the performance measure target of 20 per cent of the total cost recovery expenses by 1.4 per cent in the 2021–22 financial year, driven by the continuous demand for improved ICT infrastructure, cybersecurity and enabling support.

Results

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual
13. Engagement with legislated peak body	CFA is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery and reporting	see narrative

Source: AFMA’s chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2021–22 Portfolio Budget Statements p.131 and in AFMA’s Corporate Plan for 2021–22 p.27.

Methods for measuring performance

AFMA has identified and implemented a number of formal and ad hoc opportunities for engagement with the peak industry body, including:

- CFA is invited to provide a written update to every Commission meeting, although this opportunity has not been taken up in recent years.
- the CFA Chair and CEO meet with the AFMA Commission on an as needs basis.
- the AFMA Chair (or proxy) and CEO attended CFA member biannual roundtables in October 2021 and April 2022. AFMA adopted the practice of providing a written update

to those roundtables in order to maximise the value of the opportunities, particularly when it comes to planning and responding to emerging issues.

- AFMA sought formal comments through CFA on our key planning and reporting documents throughout the financial year, including:
 - 2020–21 budget acquittal in September 2021
 - 2022–23 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement and associated budget in April 2022
 - 2022–25 Corporate Plan and 2022–23 Annual Operating Plan in May 2022.

More importantly, the opportunities to engage as described above played a strong role in shaping those documents ahead of formal consultation.

- Throughout the year AFMA sought CFA input and comment on a proposed new Fisheries Management Policies on:
 - how we seek to maximise and measure NER to the Australian Community from our management of fisheries resources
 - co-management – a specific opportunity under our legislation to devolve some management functions to key stakeholders.
- CFA holds membership on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program and observer status to the AFMA Research Committee to provide further opportunities for the two-way sharing of information to contribute to planning and execution of critical AFMA programs.

In addition to those formal avenues, we have maintained regular contact with the CFA on an *ad hoc* basis to discuss important issues as well as opportunities such as our meeting in March 2022. Lastly, we have contact with CFA members on a daily basis.

Analysis

The information above on engagement opportunities was sent to the CFA seeking its commentary and a statement of its level of satisfaction. In response, the CFA advised that it has appreciated and welcomed the opportunities to contribute to AFMA's planning, delivery and reporting. The CFA advised that this engagement is an improvement from 2020–21 and reflects the continuous improvement in this area over multiple years. The CFA provided additional comments to improve engagement, including:

- an ongoing desire for AFMA to structure key consultation around the biannual CFA Roundtable meetings
- more regular engagement with CFA without a specific issue to 'resolve'
- a need to develop a more direct measure of engagement successes
- a need for more timely communication from AFMA once CFA provides feedback or comments on key policy proposals.

Client Service Charter

[AFMA's Client Service Charter](#) sets out the services and standards that all clients and stakeholders can expect from us. It applies to all our fisheries administration and corporate services functions, including our licensing function.

We use our licensing system, GoFish, to record the timeliness of responses for licensing transactions. During 2021–22 more than 99 per cent of licensing correspondence and transactions submitted by concession holders were dealt with in accordance with our Client Services Charter. No formal client service complaints were received by AFMA during 2021–22.



Wandering albatross
Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library

CASE STUDY

Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey

Stakeholders' satisfaction with AFMA's current performance has grown substantially since 2019, with a mean score of 3.5 recorded, and over three in five stakeholders (62 per cent) either satisfied or very satisfied with AFMA. Over this time dissatisfaction has decreased, with under one in four reporting they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied in 2021.

- **Communication:** Almost 3 in 4 (72 per cent) of stakeholders are satisfied with AFMA's performance in this area. Three in four agree they would benefit from port visits & community meetings (76 per cent) and from industry-related conferences (72 per cent). Half of stakeholders find the AFMA website content accurate and relevant (52 per cent). Moving forward, the majority (84 per cent) would prefer to receive news and info from AFMA via email, followed by a newsletter (33 per cent) and the website (28 per cent).
- **Compliance Program:** Confidence in AFMA's ability to detect instances of noncompliance significantly increased and returned to 2017 levels at 3.5 mean score (out of 5) after a dip in 2019 (3.1). Stakeholders estimate that 13 per cent of fish are taken illegally on average, with the majority (91 per cent) agreeing that they would personally report illegal activity. They are also supportive of AFMA, with four in five (82 per cent) agreeing they support AFMA with detection and compliance activities.
- **Service Delivery:** Over four in five (84 per cent) stakeholders have had direct contact with AFMA staff in the last 12 months. Ratings for these interactions remained high in 2021 and marginally increased on some 2019 scores – particularly for AFMA staffs background knowledge and timeliness in responding. Moving forward, stakeholders would prefer to use email (81 per cent) or phone (72 per cent).
- **Decision Making:** Encouragingly, there has been significant improvement in satisfaction with this area since 2019. Almost half (49 per cent) were satisfied with AFMA's decision making in 2021. Areas within decision making with lower levels of satisfaction include openness, transparency and consistency around making decisions. However, two in three (65 per cent) are satisfied that decisions are made in accordance with relevant legislative framework.



Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program

Introduction

AFMA was provided \$20.1 million dollars over the forward estimates in the 2021 Budget to reduce regulatory burden, increase productivity and improve environmental outcomes across Commonwealth fisheries. The Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring (DTEMP) Program combines two inter-related data programs:

- Data Transformation – combines leading edge data integration and access
- Electronic Monitoring – to be expanded across Commonwealth fisheries to collect fine-scale at-sea fishing data.

AFMA is solely responsible for implementing the Program and reporting to Government through the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Data Transformation

AFMA's Data Strategy, delivered in June 2021, forms the genesis of the Data Transformation Project. The Data Strategy supports AFMA through the development and implementation of common methods, practices, tools, and processes to manage, manipulate and share data within and outside the organisation while providing flexibility to business areas with unique needs. The Data Strategy also establishes a framework to increase the ease, robustness, and repeatability of reporting on AFMA's data holdings while ensuring AFMA staff have the skillsets needed to provide analysis that can support the direction of the agency now and into the future.

The following principles in the Data Strategy are guiding the Data Transformation project: linked data, modern data sharing, ensure data integrity, standardise data collection, fit for purpose system capability, skilled teams, effective governance, and continuity. These principles guide the five key areas of work: analytics and business intelligence, governance, skills, architecture and platforms, access and sharing.

In 2021–22 the key focus of the Data Transformation project, in partnership with AFMA's Technology and Digital Services team, was to modernise the capture of AFMA's data through the Agency Data Capture platform. The Data Transformation project has invested in the digitisation of the following services for all fisheries:

- Logbook data – eLogs
- Observer data – eObserver
- Catch disposal record data – eCDRs
- Industry collected data programs.

This investment enables timely access to critical data in support of AFMA's fisheries management and compliance activities and ensure that AFMA is collecting more accurate data. Bringing all of AFMA's data into the Agency Data Capture platform is also a critical step in delivering AFMA's data strategy, specifically improving AFMA's ability to link these data sets, ensure data integrity and standardise data collection. In addition, this foundational work will also enable AFMA to implement modern data sharing and to undertake business intelligence garnering better insights from all of AFMA's data.

Electronic Monitoring

AFMA's EM program became fully operational and functional delivered under an end-to-end contract with Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP) in 2015. In 2020 AFMA undertook a strategic review of the program generally and the mode of delivery specifically to ensure that it remained fit for purpose. The review comprehensively considered and provided options for alternative modes for delivering the EM program in Commonwealth fisheries.

The review highlighted that a one-size fits all approach to an independent monitoring is not going to meet the requirements of Commonwealth fisheries now or into the future. Moreover, it is critical that EM be considered one of a range of possible data collection and monitoring tools available to AFMA, alongside for example, the observer program, port monitoring, logbooks and VMS. AFMA considered that it would be wise to build a flexible EM program that allows the program to realise any advancements in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning together with any growth in EM domestically or in our region. The objective for the next iteration of EM program is to:

Provide a reliable, flexible, adaptable, interoperable and cost-effective EM program that is responsive to the specific data needs and management objectives of individual fisheries and to independently verify fishing activities and monitor compliance.

To achieve this objective, AFMA has opted for the development of a standards based electronic monitoring program. This option requires AFMA to develop, adopt and implement minimum standards and/or specifications for the EM hardware, including the control centre, cameras, hard drives etc., with a type approval process for their use (similar to the approach used for VMS).

In this option, AFMA will assume full responsibility for the EM footage analysis, internalising the review and utilising the skills and on-board experience of AFMA's existing observers or EM analysis to undertake this review. The benefit of using the observers is that observers are an existing highly skilled component of AFMA's workforce.

In 2021–22 the EM project delivered the following:

- legal review of the basis for the program
- preparation of a Privacy Impact Assessment
- development of technical and maintenance for the electronic monitoring equipment
- development of fishery specific performance standards for the existing fisheries to guide the installation of the electronic monitoring equipment
- commenced planning trials in fisheries not currently utilising electronic monitoring
- replaced the aging infrastructure for the copying of the hard drives from the vessels.





PART 3

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Fishery Reports



Introduction

Australia's Commonwealth fisheries are recovering from the direct impacts of COVID-19; however, both residual and significant new challenges were faced by industry during 2021–22. These included high freight prices, access to labour, transport logistics and, more recently, high fuel prices. AFMA's management systems gradually returned to pre-COVID settings over this period, with increasing face-to-face meetings of advisory committees and *ad hoc* visits to ports to re-establish connections with stakeholders and enhance technical discussions.

Gross Value of Production

The GVP is an indication of the economic value of fisheries. ABARES' most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production, that is the landed value of product, for 2021–22 has been maintained at around \$400 million.

Performance results discussed in fishery reports

Estimated Catch Totals for 2021–22

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 2021 to June 2022.

Performance Results

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

- Economic data presented in the reports are based on ABARES GVP data for Commonwealth fisheries and AFMA stock assessments.
- Data on fishing mortality and biomass are taken from Fishery Status Reports 2022 prepared by ABARES.

List of Fishery Reports

AFMA managed fisheries:

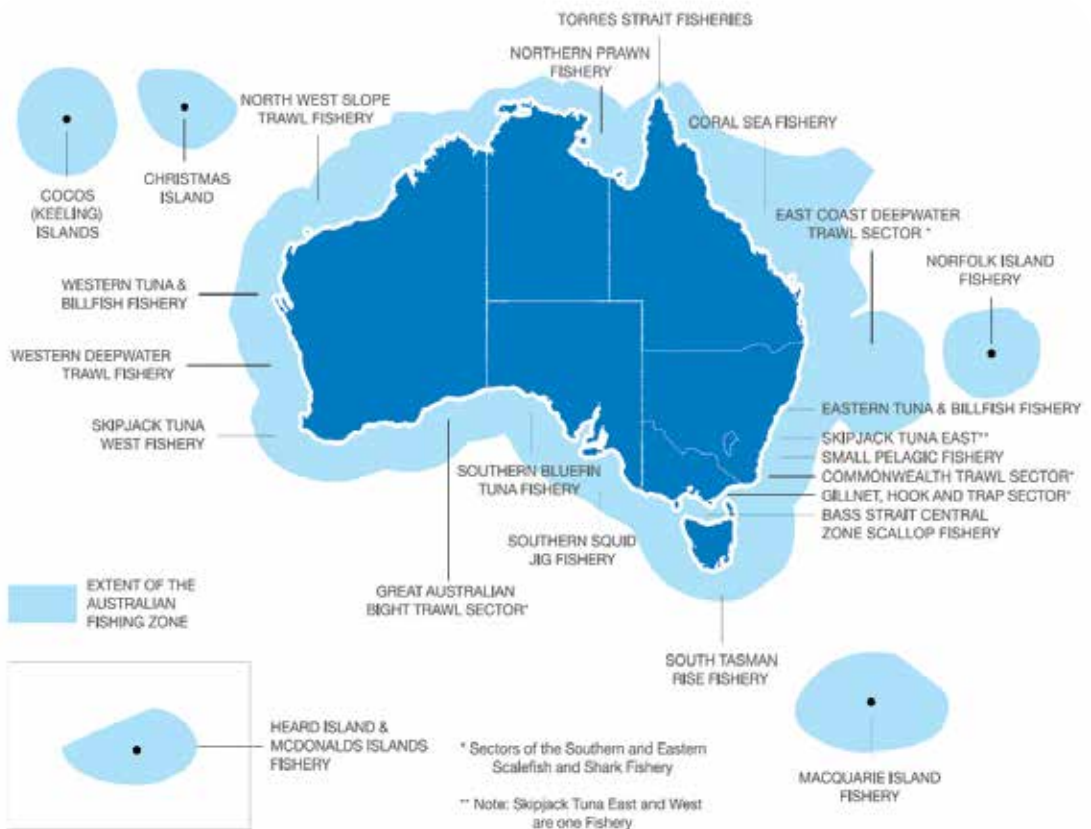
- Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
- Coral Sea Fishery
- Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery
- Northern Prawn Fishery
- North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries
- Small Pelagic Fishery
- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
- Southern Squid Jig Fishery

Joint managed fisheries:

- Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery
- Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery
- High seas permits

Non-operational fisheries:

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



Map of Commonwealth Fisheries
 Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
2,344 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commercial Scallop (<i>Pecten fumatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

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* and the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy. The management arrangements include open and closed seasons, area closures, catch limits and size limits. There were no changes to the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* in 2021–22.

AFMA, in consultation with the Scallop RAG and Scallop MAC, is undertaking a review of the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy. The review is focused on developing a strategy that better reflects the current state of the fishery, with decision rules that are scalable and can respond to changes in biomass, sustainability and economic factors over time.

There are two species of scallop for which quota SFRs have been granted, the commercial scallop (*Pecten fumatus*), which is the main target species; and the doughboy scallop (*Chlamys (Mimachlamys) asperimus*), which is common throughout Bass Strait but is rarely retained.

The 2021 fishing season opened on 12 July and closed on 31 December 2021.

Analysis of Performance

Status of fish stocks

Commercial scallop abundance and recruitment is naturally variable and consequently they are not managed to a specific biomass target. Instead, the operational objectives of the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy are to:

- keep stocks at ecologically sustainable levels and, within that context, maximise the economic returns to the Australian community
- pursue efficient and cost-effective management.

The intent of the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy is to maintain stocks at sustainable levels by closing sufficient areas of the fishery that contain a high density of spawning size scallops (greater than 85 mm) to promote recruitment and allows for the remaining areas to be fished within a total allowable catch (TAC) that represents a sustainable harvest. With the pre-season biomass survey being the primary source of information to inform catch limits and closures.

A 4,000 tonnes TAC for commercial scallop was set for the 2021 fishing season, of which 2,344 tonnes were caught. Six area closures were implemented to protect adult and juvenile commercial scallops, based on the outputs of the 2021 biomass survey and management arrangements within the fishery.

The TAC of 100 tonnes was set for doughboy scallop for the 2021, of which 40 kilograms was landed, the first landing of the species since 2017.

Economic returns

The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy focuses on ensuring the sustainability of the stock by protecting areas of spawning biomass each season. This approach allows industry the flexibility to catch scallops from open beds, thereby improving economic returns while ensuring continued ecological sustainability.

To assist with the review of the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy, AFMA are considering options to allow for economic information to be integrated into the commercial scallop TAC setting process, that align with the Commonwealth fisheries HSP.

Stable catches and beach prices were maintained throughout the 2021 fishing season. The number of boats operating increased from nine during the 2020 fishing season to ten during the 2021 season.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2021–22.

Coral Sea Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:

6.3 tonnes

(excluding aquarium sector)

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Sea cucumber sector: Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmael</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Sea cucumber sector: Surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Sea cucumber sector: White teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Sea cucumber sector: Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Sea cucumber sector: Other sea cucumber species (11 spp.)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Line Sector: Mixed reef fish and sharks	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Aquarium sector: Multiple species	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Lobster and Trochus sector: Tropical rock lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>) possibly other species	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

There is no statutory management plan for the Coral Sea Fishery. The Coral Sea Fishery is a multi-sector, multi-species fishery with four sectors: Sea cucumber, Aquarium, Lobster and Trochus, and Line. These sectors are managed through input and output controls including limited entry, catch limits, spatial closures, move on provisions, size limits and catch-and-effort triggers. Fishers must hold permits to fish in the fishery. In January 2021, the Coral Sea Fishery was reaccredited under parts 13 and 13A of the EPBC Act until 6 January 2024.

Analysis of Performance

Catch and effort in the Coral Sea Fishery remains relatively low. In the 2021–22 fishing season, vessels were active in the fishery: one in the Line Sector, one in the Sea Cucumber Sector and in the Aquarium Sector. No effort was recorded for the lobster and trochus sector.

In the Aquarium Sector, there was a total of dive-hours recorded in 2021–22, which was from 2,184 dive hours in 2020–21. In the Line Sector, there was a total of 58,400 hooks set in 2021–22, which was a decrease from 84,825 hooks set in 2020–21. In the Sea Cucumber Sector there was a total of 41 dive hours, which was an increase from zero effort in 2020–21.

Catch in the Coral Sea Fishery (excluding the Aquarium Sector which records number of individuals) decreased from 10.5 tonnes of fish products in the 2020–21 season to 6.3 tonnes of fish products in the 2021–22 season. Of this catch, 50 per cent was finfish and 50 per cent was sea cucumber. Catches in the Aquarium Sector were aquarium species individuals in the 2021–22 season, and from the previous 33,652 individuals taken in 2020–21.

There are changes of stocks status for all sea cucumber species which are classified as not subject to overfishing. This change was based on the most recent ABARES fishery status report assessments and reflects the zero effort in the Sea Cucumber Sector in 2020–21.

External Reviews

The Coral Sea Fishery is an approved wildlife trade operation for the purposes of Parts 13 and 13A of the EPBC Act until 7 January 2024.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:

371 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Patagonian toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006*. It is managed through a system of output controls in the form of individually transferable quotas, which are allocated as SFRs under the management plan. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. There were no changes to the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006* during the 2021–22 fishing season.

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

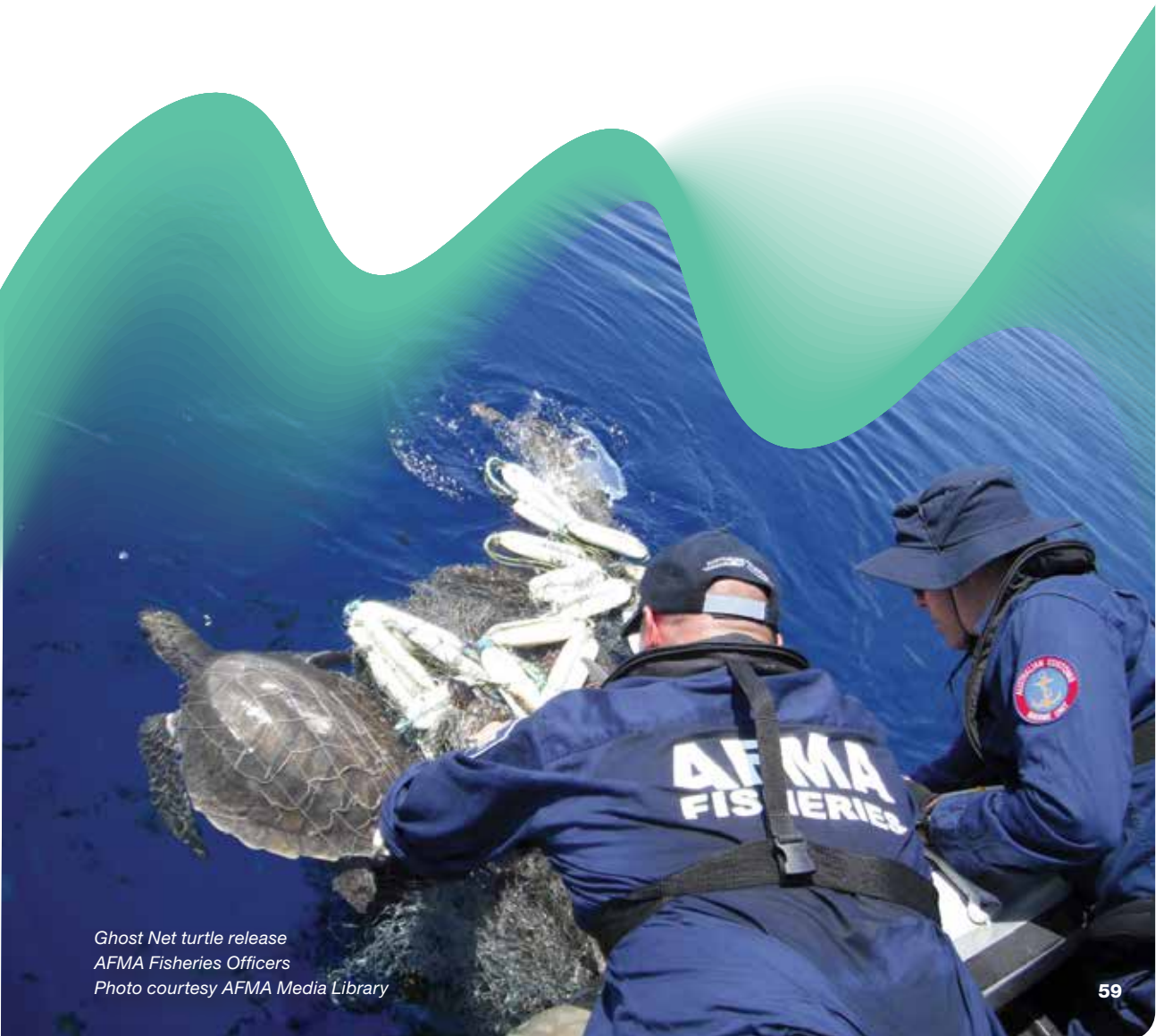
In March 2020, the AFMA Commission set the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery TAC for Patagonian toothfish at 555 tonnes for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 fishing seasons. The Macquarie Island Toothfish stock assessment has been divided into three regions, noting that the toothfish within these three regions are considered to be a single stock. Industry agreed to, as far as possible, adopt a fishing strategy endorsed by the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries RAG, which spreads fishing effort across the three regions.

Performance – status of bycatch

Bycatch is generally low in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery. Catch limits of 50 tonnes for any one bycatch species were set for 2021–22, consistent with previous years. These catch limits were not exceeded in 2021–22 and have never been exceeded for any one species in a season.

External Reviews

The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. A surveillance audit was conducted in May 2022 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard. The fishery also commenced reassessment under the Marine Stewardship Council's new more rigorous standard in 2022.



*Ghost Net turtle release
AFMA Fisheries Officers
Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library*

Northern Prawn Fishery




ESTIMATED CATCH:
5,371 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
White banana prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus merguianus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Brown tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Grooved tiger prawn (<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Red endeavour prawn (<i>Metapenaeus ensis</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Red-leg banana prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus indicus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The fishery continues to be managed through the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995*. The NPF is a multi-species fishery managed through input controls including limited entry, season length and individual transferable effort units – limiting the amount of fishing gear.

The fishery relies on: a size and sex-based stock assessment model for brown and grooved tiger prawns; a biomass dynamic assessment model for blue endeavour prawns; a quarterly age based biological stock assessment model for red-leg banana prawns; and the white banana prawn Harvest Strategy, for which the operational objective is to allow sufficient escapement to ensure an adequate spawning biomass and achieve MEY from the fishery. There is no formal stock assessment for the white banana prawn fishery.

A planned update of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995* to reflect the revised Commonwealth HSP and Bycatch Policy was commenced during 2020–21 and will be finalised in the coming period. Further reviews of the NPF Harvest Strategy, will also occur in the coming period.

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

The assessment of prawn stock health is based on a five-year moving average of spawning stock abundance relative to a spawning stock abundance that produces maximum sustainable yield, which should not fall below the limit reference point of 50 per cent of B_{MSY} .

All 52 boat SFRs were utilised during the 2021 tiger prawn season. The last stock assessment for brown and grooved tiger prawns was completed in 2020 and determined that the stocks are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The management objective of MEY is also assessed against an annual target reference point, which is a spawning stock size equal to that which is estimated to produce MEY. Both brown and grooved tiger prawn spawning stocks were assessed as being close to or above the target in the 2020 assessment at 125 per cent and 99 per cent, respectively. An additional in-season catch-rate trigger for pursuing MEY is also used in the fishery. The catch rate dropped below the trigger in the 2021 tiger prawn season (1 August to 30 November) and the fishery closed early on 20 November 2021.

All 52 boat SFRs were utilised during the 2022 banana prawn season (1 April to 15 June 2022). The total catch of banana prawns increased from 2,969 tonnes in 2020 to 3,661 tonnes in 2021. These catch levels are below average and were most likely impacted by lower rainfall across key catchments. The in-season catch-rate trigger for banana prawn season was breached this year prompting the early closure of the fishery on 10 June 2021. This trigger is designed to pursue MEY within a season by triggering an early closure when catch rates drop below the annually agreed level.

The harvest strategy for red-leg banana prawns was reviewed in 2021 and includes the closure of the first season in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf each year. This was implemented in the 2021 fishing season. Fishing catch and effort in the red-leg banana prawn fishery increased to 479 tonnes across 415 boat days, compared with 133 tonnes across 195 boat days in 2020. The stock assessment suggests an increase in the stock to around 93 per cent of the B_{MSY} level, although the Spawning Biomass the target B_{MEY} level. Variability about B_{MSY} is to be expected for a variable stock, but the biomass levels are estimated to have been below the target level for a number of recent years, hence it is encouraging that the stock appears to be trending back up again.

Performance – status of bycatch

An updated Bycatch Strategy for the NPF was finalised in early 2021. The new strategy builds on previous achievements with bycatch reduction and responds to the updated guidance

from the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018. The strategy focuses on improving information on interactions with sawfish species, including identifying how sawfish interact with the fishing gear, particularly around the Turtle Excluder Devices used in all fishing nets.

Performance – economic returns

During the most recent financial year (2020–21) the NPF GVP was \$76.6 million making it one of the highest valued Commonwealth managed fisheries. The fishery is broadly (across the two key species groups – banana and tiger prawns) managed to pursue MEY. Overall fishing effort limits (fishing gear and season lengths) are set on the result of outputs from the bio-economic model for tiger and endeavour prawns. Additionally, the normal season length may be reduced using catch-rate triggers in the banana and tiger prawn sub-fisheries to account for annual variability in these stocks.

Based on previous economic analysis, it is anticipated that economic returns from the NPF will have remained positive in recent years. While further economic assessment has been undertaken, results are not available for this report.

Priority Issues

A key priority over the next few years is for the NPF to find ways to reduce the impact of fishing on the sawfish species, specifically narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*). Recent studies have shown that the populations of a number of sawfish species are under threat. The NPF interactions with sawfish species are predominantly with narrow sawfish (more than 90 per cent based on data from the ongoing NPF Bycatch Monitoring project). Further research and fieldwork is currently underway with cooperation from NPF operators, including using net mounted cameras to characterise the interaction between the animals and the fishing gear and population analysis through close kin mark recapture techniques. It is hoped that this research can lead to fishing gear modification to prevent these animals from being caught and contribute to population estimates of the species.

Throughout 2021–22, the NPF has continued to play a key role as a source of black tiger prawn (*P. monodon*) for aquaculture broodstock. Due to limited data covering black tiger prawn catches historically there is a low level of confidence in the stock assessment outcomes for this species. AFMA has agreed to continue collecting high quality data for a further assessment in 2024. Considering this uncertainty, no changes were made to the management arrangements for 2022.

External Reviews

The NPF has held Marine Stewardship Council certification since 2012, with the most recent reassessment occurring in 2016 (the fishery is currently certified until mid-2023). A surveillance audit was completed in April 2020 which confirmed that the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standards.

North West Slope and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries



Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
North West Slope Trawl Fishery Scampi (<i>Metanephrops australiensis</i> , <i>M. boschmai</i> , <i>M. velutinus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery Bugs (<i>Ibacus</i> spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery Ruby snapper (<i>Etelis carbunculus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

There is no formal management plan for the North West Slope Trawl Fishery (NWSTF) or the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery (WDTF). The fisheries are managed by granting a limited number of fishing permits under the FMA and the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*.

There are 11 permits allowed in the WDTF and seven in the NWSTF, all of which are valid for a maximum of five years. Fishers must adhere to a number of permit conditions aimed at protecting stocks and ecosystems. The permit conditions include move on provisions if fishing gear interacts with sponges or corals. The permit conditions in both fisheries were reviewed at the end of 2018–19 and permits re-granted for a further five years.

Analysis of Performance

During the past five years, North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries have generally experienced relatively low levels of fishing effort. In the 2021–22 fishing season the NWSTF experienced a decrease in effort and total catch from 2020–21. However, the WDWTF experienced a slight increase in effort and total catch in the 2021–22 season compared to 2020–21. The relatively limited levels of effort are due in part to permit holders accessing more lucrative fisheries in adjacent fishery areas.

Stakeholders in the North West Slope and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries last met in October 2018 to consider management arrangements. Key recommendations emerging from the meeting included support for reviewing the harvest strategy and updating the statement of management arrangements. Updates to the harvest strategy and management arrangements will be considered further during 2022–23.

External Reviews

The North West Slope and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries were approved as a wildlife trade operation for the purposes of Parts 13 and 13A of the EPBC Act on 15 December 2020 until 30 November 2023.



*NPF Inspections AFMA
Fisheries Officers
Photo courtesy AFMA
Media Library*

Small Pelagic Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
19,916 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Australian sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue mackerel, east/west (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Jack mackerel, east/west (<i>Trachurus declivis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Redbait, east/west (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) is managed in accordance with the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009*. The management arrangements include SFRs, area based catch limits and rules governing the gear that may be used. There were no changes to the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009* in 2021–22.

Analysis of Performance

Harvest Strategy

The Small Pelagic Fishery Harvest Strategy was last reviewed in 2017, updating reference points and exploitation rates that are designed to meet the biological, ecological and economic requirements of the fishery.

The harvest strategy uses Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) surveys to estimate biomass for each of the seven SPF stocks. These surveys, along with an annual review of catch and effort data, are used to inform the catch limits set for commercially caught species in the fishery.

The Harvest Strategy is currently being reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with the HSP.

Performance – sustainability and economic returns

DEPM surveys continue to be updated for the eastern zone stocks, enabling TAC determinations to remain at maximum levels. Results of the 2019–20 survey for Australian sardines and blue mackerel (east) were used to inform the 2021–22 TAC for these stocks. TAC determinations for other stocks were informed by previous survey results.

Fishing effort in 2021–22 was focussed in the eastern area of the fishery and was greater than the previous year, with catches of jack mackerel (east) and blue mackerel (east) contributing to most of the increase in catch from the 2020–21 fishing season. Notwithstanding these increases, the TACs for each of the seven target stocks remain undercaught. Over the last three seasons, catches have been between 14,000 and 20,000 tonne, indicating the incentives to fish in the SPF remain good.

Performance – status of bycatch

Dolphin interactions are managed under the SPF Dolphin Mitigation Strategy. The strategy aims to mitigate the impacts of the midwater trawl sector of the fishery and minimise dolphin interactions by creating incentives for fishers to innovate and adopt best practice to minimise interactions.

The number of dolphin interactions in the 2021–22 fishing season were more than in 2020–21, though less than in 2019–20. AFMA funded a pilot project using underwater cameras to observe dolphin behaviour around trawl gear in the SPF. This project finished in July 2021, and the report provides recommendations on improvements to mitigation measures and continued research.

AFMA is currently reviewing the SPF Dolphin Strategy and has implemented interim management arrangements while this review is underway. As part of the interim management arrangements, AFMA is changing the way that the maximum interaction rate is implemented. The interaction rate will be used as a performance indicator only while the SPF Dolphin Strategy is under review. The existing management arrangements associated with the number of dolphin interactions remain in place.

External Reviews

The SPF remains accredited and is approved as a wildlife trade operation under Part 13A of the EPBC Act.

The midwater trawl sector of the SPF has held Marine Stewardship Council Certification since 2019. The fishery is currently certified until 2025.

Southern and Eastern Scalegfish and Shark Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
23,270 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commonwealth Trawl and Scalegfish Hook sectors				
Blue grenadier (<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue warehou (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Blue-eye trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Gemfish, eastern zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Gemfish, western zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Gulper sharks (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i> , <i>C. moluccensis</i> , <i>C. zeehaani</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Jackass morwong, western zone (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Jackass morwong, eastern zone (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished
Ocean perch (<i>Helicolenus barathri</i> , <i>H. percoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Subject to overfishing	Overfished
Pink ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ribaldo (<i>Mora moro</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Silver trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commonwealth Trawl Sector				
Deepwater sharks, western zone (multiple spp.)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Deepwater sharks, eastern zone (multiple spp.)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Eastern school whiting (<i>Sillago flindersi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Flathead (<i>Neoplatycephalus richardsoni</i> and 4 other spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
John dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Overfished
Mirror dory (<i>Zenopsis nebulosa</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean jacket, eastern zone (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange roughy, Cascade Plateau (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange roughy, eastern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange roughy, southern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Orange roughy, western zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Oreodory – other; 3spp. (<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i> , <i>Allocyttusniger</i> , <i>A. verrucous</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Oreodory: smooth: (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>) Cascade Plateau	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Oreodory: smooth: (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>) Non-Cascade Plateau	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Redfish, eastern (<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished
Royal red prawn (<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Silver warehou (<i>Seriola punctata</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector				
Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector				
Bight redfish (<i>Centroberyx gerrardi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Deepwater flathead (<i>Neoplatycephalus conatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean jacket, western (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors				
Elephantfish (<i>Callorhynchus milii</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Gummy shark (<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Sawshark (<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> , <i>P. nudipinnis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
School shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The SESSF continues to be managed in accordance with the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*. The fishery has seven sectors that are managed through a combination of input and output controls including limited entry, catch limits, spatial closures, size limits and catch-and-effort triggers that are used to initiate further analysis and assessment. The SESSF sectors include:

- Commonwealth South East Trawl Sector
- East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector
- Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector
- Scalefish Hook Sector*
- Shark Hook Sector*
- Shark Gillnet Sector*
- Trap Sector*

*collectively called the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector (GHAT).

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

The table above shows that there are several SESSF stocks considered to be overfished. Most of these stocks overlap jurisdictional boundaries, meaning they are caught in a combination of Commonwealth and state fisheries, complicating management. AFMA continues to work with State agencies to pursue complementary arrangements in overlapping fisheries.

Stock assessments were updated in 2021 for a number of SESSF species. Assessments for blue grenadier estimated the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, to be above the target reference point. Assessments for pink ling, silver warehou, orange roughy (east), blue eye trevalla (slope), blue eye trevalla (seamount), silver trevally, mirror dory (east), and mirror dory (west) estimated that the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, is between the limit reference point and the target reference point. For species assessed as being between the limit and target reference points, catches are set at a level that will allow the stock to build to the target. Smooth oreo (other) continues to be assessed based on the outputs of the 2019 ERA, as well as recent catch and effort data, which shows recent fishing mortality is sustainable.

Commonwealth rebuilding strategies are in place for blue warehou, eastern gemfish, redfish, school shark and orange roughy. Each of these strategies implement incidental TACs and management arrangements to prevent targeting and promote recovery of the stock to the limit reference point. The performance of the strategies is reviewed annually by the relevant RAG, and each undergoes a thorough review every five years. Five-year reviews of the orange roughy and blue warehou rebuilding strategies were completed in 2021, and the revised rebuilding plans are expected to be published in 2022.

Assessments in late 2021 for jackass morwong and John dory estimated the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, to be below the limit reference point. The 2021–22 fishing season TAC for jackass morwong was undercaught and was set based on the outputs of the 2018 stock assessment. However, the revised December 2021 assessment showed that catches in 2021–22 were above the revised estimate of catch that would allow the stock to rebuild in a timeframe consistent with the requirements of the HSP. This has resulted in a 'subject to overfishing status' in the 2022 ABARES Status Report. TACs have been set for the 2022–23 fishing season at a level that the assessment indicates should allow the stocks to rebuild to the limit reference point. Additionally, to further reduce incidental bycatch of jackass morwong to a level which allows for the stock to rebuild, AFMA has consulted on additional management arrangements including significant spatial closures and gear restrictions. These measures are expected to reduce incidental catch and promote rebuilding of other depleted species. In doing so, however, the closures will prevent access to significant important fishing grounds for target species. If implemented alone, these conservation measures will severely threaten commercial viability of the fishery by concentrating fishing in remaining areas. In May 2022 the Government announced a structural adjustment package of \$24 million to reduce the number of trawl boat concessions to manage the transfer of effort and ensure that a viable fleet remains after introduction of the regulatory measures. The current Government is expected to make an announcement regarding the ongoing commitment to the structural adjustment package as part of the Federal budget in late October 2022.

AFMA commenced a five-year review of the eastern gemfish rebuilding strategy in 2020, and was scheduled to commence a review of the redfish rebuilding strategy in 2021. However, significant changes to management arrangements in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector are expected to be implemented during the 2022–23 fishing season to ensure fishing mortality of at-risk species is substantially reduced. AFMA will reconsider the timing for the substantive reviews of the eastern gemfish and redfish rebuilding strategies, subject to implementation of these management arrangements. AFMA will continue to review the relevant data for all rebuilding species on an annual basis to ensure the objectives of the strategies continue to be met.

Performance – reliability of information

Logbook reporting of retained and discarded catch by shark gillnet, shark hook and scalefish hook boats continues to be monitored by comparing logbook recorded catch and discards against EM reviews.

In June 2021, AFMA engaged ABARES to undertake an independent analysis comparing logbook data with EM collected data for retained and discarded commercial and bycatch as well as protected species interactions in the GHAT. The analysis showed that the congruence between logbook data and EM is good for retained catches of the main target species, but there was lower congruence for discarded catch. There remains some vessel-level variability and species identification issues were flagged as a possible driver for lower congruence. The analysis has provided AFMA a better understanding of the reliability of both sources of information as an accurate representation of commercial fishing operations and will inform consideration of EM program audit rates.

A trial was completed to better understand the ability of EM to provide information on catch and effort data in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector. The final report, which is available on the AFMA website, concludes that based on the configuration of cameras during the trial, EM is capable of detecting interactions with large TEPs, presence/absence of discarded catch and whether mitigation devices are being deployed, however was unable to identify species composition or provide weight estimates for retained and discarded catch. Given the Government's funding to enhance and expand the EM program across Commonwealth fisheries, the utility of EM in Commonwealth trawl fisheries will be considered amongst a suite of other data collection and monitoring options to ensure a cost-effective approach for the fishery.

Biological data collection across the various sectors of the SESSF has improved since the second half of 2020, when AFMA on board observers and industry sampling programs were impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions. The SESSF Resource Assessment Group (SESSFrag) continues to review the available data in August each year, prior to stock assessments being undertaken.

Performance – status of bycatch

The ERAs undertaken for the following methods and sectors of the SESSF were considered and accepted by the relevant resource assessment groups and management advisory committees in between 2019 and 2021:

- Otter board trawl method in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- Danish seine method in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- Otter board trawl method in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector
- Shark gillnet method in the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
- Scalefish automatic longline
- Various shark and scalefish hook methods in the GHAT.

Under the recently finalised ERAs there were 21 individual species assessed across the sectors as potentially being at high risk for the period 2012–2016. These consisted of 14 species in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector (otter board trawl and Danish seine), one species in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (also high risk in the CTS), and seven species in the gillnet sector of the GHAT. There were no high-risk species identified for any of the hook methods in the GHAT.

A bycatch and discarding workplan has been developed for the Commonwealth Trawl Sector to mitigate the impact to species identified as high risk in this sector. AFMA will begin drafting bycatch and discarding workplans for the Great Australian Bight and GHAT sectors in 2022.

Industry is currently coordinating a project to develop a seal mitigation device for otter board trawl boats that will close the trawl net to stop the ingress of seals when the net is being hauled. To date, a half-scale prototype has been developed and tested in a flume tank, and further development including full-scale design for extensive at-sea trials planned for 2022.

AFMA continues to focus on minimising seabird interactions in the SESSF by monitoring compliance with boat-specific Seabird Management Plans. AFMA worked closely with the trawl industry to develop mitigation options to further reduce seabird interactions with otter board trawl boats by providing feedback on designs and ultimately assessing whether proposed approaches meet the requirements for an exemption to the biological material retention requirements introduced in 2019–20. To date, five boats in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector have successfully implemented alternative mitigation and were provided exemptions.

A comprehensive review of the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy was completed in 2020–21. The strategy was finalised in late 2021 and a monitoring program has commenced that will establish the baseline relative abundance of dogfish and support monitoring through time.

Internal Reviews

No internal reviews were completed during 2021–22.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2021–22.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
463 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Gould's squid (<i>Nototodarus gouldi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Southern Squid Jig Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* and the Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy. The management arrangements include regulating the type and amount of fishing gear able to be used. There were no changes to the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* in 2021–22.

The Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy is currently being reviewed to simplify and include an additional catch and effort trigger that more closely reflects the current state of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery. A broader, more holistic review of the Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy will be considered once additional data has been collected to inform appropriate analyses.

Analysis of Performance

Status of fish stocks

Gould's squid (also known as arrow squid) is a highly productive and relatively short-lived species. It is not managed to a target reference point; the Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy is based on a series of catch and effort triggers which, if reached, will trigger further analyses and management responses.

Effort and catch in the Southern Squid Jig Fishery continues to vary between seasons and has been relatively low in recent years. Estimated catch for 2021–22 was 463 tonnes and high compared to previous years; however, did not trigger any management response under the Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy.

An ongoing challenge for the squid fishery is locating commercially viable aggregations of squid, an issue exacerbated by a small fleet size. Despite low catches, the price received remains high.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2021–22.

*Lakes Entrance
Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library*



Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
6,347 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Striped marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010* and conservation and management measures mandated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of which Australia is a member. The fishery is managed through output controls (total allowable commercial catches and individually transferable quotas) and input controls (e.g. limited entry). The AFMA Commission agreed in 2020–21 to manage striped marlin through a constant catch approach. This approach was used to inform the AFMA Commission when setting the 2022 striped marlin total allowable commercial catch (TACC). Performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were met in 2021–22.

Analysis of Performance

Status of stocks

Overall, ETBF catches of key commercial species increased from 3,778 tonnes in 2020 compared to 5,148 tonnes in 2021. A relatively high proportion of the TACC were caught for yellowfin tuna and striped marlin but less so for swordfish. Less than half the catch limits set for albacore tuna and bigeye tuna were caught.

The ETBF is part of the broader Western and Central Pacific tuna fishery managed under the WCPFC. The most recent WCPFC assessments for each of the four target stocks indicate that none of these stocks are overfished or subject to overfishing and one species striped marlin is likely overfished, but not subject to overfishing.

There are two major research projects underway in the fishery. The first is a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) funded tori line project (2020-041) with the objective to trial several new and/or modified protected species mitigation tools and processes to further reduce the rate of protected species interactions. The project has a dual focus of reducing TEP species interaction rates improving workplace health and safety conditions on boats.

The second FRDC project (2021-078) aims to conduct research into the spatial and temporal variation of TEP species interactions with a view to improving the management of wildlife interactions in pelagic longline fisheries.

Fishery management arrangements

All boats in the ETBF are required to have a system of cameras and sensors installed to monitor all fishing operations. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring to verify the logbook records. 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 ETBF operators to inform them of their reporting performance. Since the implementation of EM, analyses conducted by ABARES has indicated an improvement in logbook reporting. The improved logbook reporting will enable AFMA to make better risk assessments and better focus resources to minimise the impact of fishing on the marine environment.


Between May and November each year a southern bluefin tuna (SBT) zone is implemented in the fishery to help ensure that any SBT caught is covered by quota and to minimise discarding. To enter the zone, ETBF operators are required to hold a minimum amount of SBT quota and maintain an operational electronic monitoring system on board. The SBT zone location is reviewed weekly using sea surface temperature maps and industry catch information.

External Reviews

The ETBF has certification from the Marine Stewardship Council for catches of yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, swordfish and albacore.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
5,959 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. It is managed through a system of output controls in the form of individually transferable quotas, which are allocated as SFRs under the management plan.

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) sets an annual global TAC. From the global TAC national allocations are provided to all members. Prior to the commencement of the fishing season (1 December to 30 November), AFMA determines a TAC of SBT for the domestic fishery based upon Australia's national allocation.

The CCSBT used a new management procedure to set global TACs for 2021–23 in October 2020. Australia's share of the global TAC was 6,238.4 tonnes. The domestic TAC for the 2021–22 SBT fishing season was 5,926.5 tonnes, with 311.9 tonnes set aside to account for recreational fishing mortality.

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

The CCSBT accepted a revised stock assessment for SBT in October 2020. All the key stock status statistics from the 2020 stock assessment are more optimistic than when the last assessment was completed in 2017 and it is estimated that the stock has continued to increase.

The results of the 2020 assessment were consistent with projections from the 2017 assessment. The relative Total Reproductive Output is estimated to be 20 per cent with an 80 per cent confidence interval between 16 to 24 per cent. The next full stock assessment will be undertaken in 2023.

The current estimated trends indicate that the stock has been rebuilding by approximately five per cent per year since the low point in 2009, and the Management Procedure to rebuild SBT stock to 30 per cent of unfished levels by 2035 appears to be on track.

Performance – economic returns

The majority of the SBT TAC continues to be taken by the purse seine sector in South Australia, for subsequent grow out. In the 2020–21 fishing season 4,592 tonnes were taken by the purse seine sector compared to 4,568 tonnes in the previous season.

The amount of SBT taken by longliners on the east coast depends primarily on access to available quota and the seasonal availability of fish. In the 2020–21 fishing season 1,052 tonnes was caught compared to 861 tonnes in the previous season. The catch taken by the longline sector was the largest in that sector since the 1994–95 season.

Economic performance continues to be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated logistical and marketing issues.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2021–22.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:

431 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Yellowfin tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Bigeye tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Striped marlin (<i>Kajikia audax</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Overfished	Subject to overfishing	Overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The fishery continued to be managed in accordance with the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* and resolutions mandated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) of which Australia is a member. The performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were all met in 2021–22.

Analysis of Performance

Status of fish stocks

The Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) has continued to operate at low levels of effort, largely due to economic conditions. In 2021–22, catch levels for the main target species were slightly higher than those in 2020–21. Domestically, the TACC for all the key commercial species are not considered to be a concern to the regional stock status. However, the WTBF target species are managed internationally and there are concerns regarding the stock status of striped marlin and yellowfin tuna. Both are considered to be overfished and subject to overfishing within the wider Indian Ocean. In June 2021, the IOTC made an interim conservation and management measure (CMM) designed to reduce mortality on yellowfin tuna. This will reduce the catch limit available to the WTBF from 2022. Updated stock assessments for both striped marlin and yellowfin tuna were completed in 2021. AFMA cooperates with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to encourage the IOTC to implement robust catch controls and country-specific allocations to rebuild overfished stocks and manage all stocks into the future.

Fishery management arrangements

Since July 2015 active boats in the WTBF have been required to have EM installed to monitor all fishing operations. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring to verify logbook records. All fishing operations on active boats are now monitored, with ten per cent of all longline shots (minimum of one shot per boat, per month) reviewed and compared to the logbook reports. Regular feedback reports are provided to WTBF operators to inform them of their reporting performance. Since the implementation of EM, preliminary analysis has indicated an improvement in logbook reporting. Improved logbook reporting in fisheries with EM has enabled us to make better risk assessments and better focus resources to minimise the impact of fishing on the marine environment. AFMA continues to monitor protected species interactions in the fishery but these occur at a very low level, in part due to the low level of fishing effort.


External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2021–22.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
3,413 tonnes
(Patagonian toothfish)

 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
1,051 tonnes
(Mackerel icefish)

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Mackerel icefish (<i>Champscephalus gunnari</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Patagonian toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Lacombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the conservation measures mandated by CCAMLR. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. There were no changes to the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* during 2021–22.

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

The AFMA Commission set the HIMI Fishery TAC at 3,030 tonnes for Patagonian toothfish and 406 tonnes for Mackerel icefish for the 2020–21 fishing year based on the stock assessments results.

Performance – status of bycatch

The core longline fishing season extends from 1 May to 14 September. Longline fishing to target Patagonian Toothfish is permitted during the longline season extension period 1 April to 30 April and 15 September to 30 November with additional seabird measures applying to the extension period. If three or more seabirds are caught and killed by fishing gear during the extension periods, that vessel can no longer fish by longline in the extension periods. These strict rules are in place around interactions with seabirds during the autumn and spring extension periods, when seabird activity is known to increase around the HIMI.

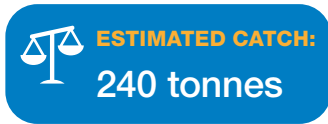
External Reviews

The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. A surveillance audit was conducted in August 2021 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard. The fishery also commenced reassessment under the Marine Stewardship Council's new more rigorous standard in 2022.



Iceberg ahead, photo courtesy AFMA Media Library

High Sea Permits



Major species:

- Redthroat emperor
- Hapuku
- Flame snapper
- Sea bream snapper
- Jackass morwong
- Bass groper
- Yellowtail kingfish
- Blue-eye trevalla
- Alfonsino
- Orange Roughy

Management Plans/Arrangements

High Seas Permits allow Australian flagged vessels to fish for non-highly migratory species in the areas of water covered under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). High Seas Permits are granted for up to five years, with a season running from 1 January to 31 December. There are currently nine High Seas Permits. Eight vessels are permitted to fish in the SPRFMO area and seven vessels are permitted to fish in the SIOFA area. The main gears used by High Seas Permit holders are midwater trawl, demersal trawl and automatic longline (demersal longline).

In 2020–21, a number of amendments to SPRFMO and SIOFA CMMs were adopted. These amendments were implemented domestically through changes to permit conditions. With regards to SPRFMO, in May 2020 some bycatch limits were reduced (CMM 03-2021 Bottom Fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area) and reporting requirements were updated to include daily reporting of orange roughy for Tasman Sea stocks and a requirement to close parts of the fishery upon reaching certain catch triggers (CMM 03a-2021a Deepwater Species in the SPRFMO Convention Area). With regards to SIOFA, permit conditions were last amended in November 2020 to allow fishing on Williams Ridge for Patagonian toothfish (SIOFA CMM2020/15 Management of Demersal Stocks) and to allow trap fishing for lobsters in accordance with Australia's updated Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment.

Strict fishing conditions area in place whilst fishing for Toothfish on Williams Ridge including seabird mitigation measures, fishing in areas shallower than 500 metres is prohibited, fishing in 15' x 15' grid cell areas that have not been previously fishing in the season by another vessel and various other gear, catch and effort limitations.

Analysis of Performance

High Seas Permits continue to be managed consistent with SPRFMO and SIOFA CMMs.

Non-operational fisheries

Commercial operators did not operate in the following Commonwealth fisheries during 2021–22.

Norfolk Island Fishery

The Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery and the Norfolk Island Offshore Demersal Finfish Fishery do not have formal management plans and there are no current commercial fishing concessions. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with AFMA, the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery is managed by the Norfolk Island Regional Council in accordance with the Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery Policy 2009.

In 2018, AFMA and the Norfolk Island Fishing Association, in collaboration with the Norfolk Island Regional Council, commenced a review of the Policy that is still ongoing.

No stock assessments or biomass estimates for species taken within the Norfolk Island fisheries 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			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Indian Ocean skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Western and Central Pacific Ocean skipjack tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

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

There has been little or no annual effort in the fishery effort for Western skipjack tuna fishery since 2008 for economic reasons. There were no new management arrangements implemented in the fishery in 2021–22. There are 17 Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits and 14 Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits, however no Australian vessels are currently targeting skipjack tuna.

South Tasman Rise Fishery

Stock status of target species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2020		2021	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2022, Fishery status reports 2022, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

The South Tasman Rise Fishery forms part of Australia's fishing footprint under the SPRFMO. New Zealand has not fished the South Tasman Rise since the end of the 2000–01 fishing season, and the area has been closed from 2007. The area was previously subject to a memorandum of understanding for cooperative management between Australia and New Zealand established in 1998, which was terminated in 2020. In 2019 the SPRFMO adopted revised conservation and management measures concerning bottom fishing in the Convention Area, which imported a number of the elements contained within the memorandum of understanding, including a zero tonnes TAC for orange roughy in the South Tasman Rise area, which will remain in place until the SPRFMO determines otherwise on the basis of scientific advice.

The South Tasman Rise orange roughy stock is the only high-seas stock that has been assigned a status classification by ABARES. Insufficient information is available to enable the fishery-wide determination of stock status for any of the high-seas demersal fish stocks in the SPRFMO and SIOFA areas of competence.

A number of stock assessments were undertaken for orange roughy stocks in the SPRFMO and SIOFA areas of competence. These assessments have been accepted by both regional fisheries management organisations.





PART 4

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Management and accountability

Corporate governance

Governing Body

AFMA as a non-corporate statutory body forms part of the Commonwealth government. It is governed by a Commission which is responsible for exercising functions and powers in relation to domestic fisheries management.

The CEO is the Accountable Authority under the PGPA Act as well as the Agency Head under the [Public Service Act 1999](#) and is also appointed as an AFMA Commissioner.

The CEO is responsible for assisting the Commission, in giving effect to its decisions. In addition, the CEO is separately responsible for exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers, and for functions under the [Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984](#).

The Commission is subject to limited government policy direction as stated in section 91 of the FAA.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry appoints the chairperson, part-time Commissioners and the CEO. Following advice from the chairperson, the minister appoints a part-time commissioner as deputy-chairperson. The minister is also the approving authority for AFMA's Corporate Plan, Annual Operational Plan and all Fishery Management Plans determined by AFMA.

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

For more information about AFMA's Commissioners, see [Appendix 1](#).

Disclosure of interests

Commissioners must disclose any pecuniary or other interest to the Minister that may relate to their AFMA functions, both prior to appointment and if such interests arise during their terms of office. Disclosures are kept on a register of interests held by AFMA's General Counsel. Where a Commissioner declares they have an interest in a matter under consideration by the Commission it will initiate procedures to safeguard the integrity of the Commission's decisions.

Further information is available in the [Commission's charter](#).

Performance review

The Commission conducts a documented review of its performance at each Commission meeting. These reviews address the effectiveness of the Commission in its decision making, corporate governance and maintenance of stakeholder relationships. This assessment also evaluates whether the agenda moved smoothly and, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions requiring a number of the meetings to be held with the assistance of virtual technology, the performance matrix now includes whether there were any significant IT issues.

Internal Scrutiny

AFMA strives to achieve governance arrangements, together with the associated systems and processes used, that are best practice. To this end we utilise internal audits as an essential tool to independently identify any deficiencies in these processes and control systems whilst at the same time providing opportunities to deliver better practices that will improve the efficiency, cost effectiveness and transparency of our management and regulatory arrangements.

Bellchambers Barrett were re-appointed as internal auditors for three years commencing in January 2020. The internal auditor in collaboration with AFMA Management and the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee established a Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2020–22. The Strategic Internal Audit Plan outlines the intended audits that will be conducted over the three-year period. These proposed audits are intended to address high level risks that have been identified as part of our Risk Management Framework.

Drawing on the 2020–22 plan, the independent auditors completed or commenced four audits during 2021–22 on the following areas of AFMA's business operations:

Annual Performance Statements quality assurance

This audit focused on reviewing the accuracy and validity of information supporting the AFMA 2020–21 performance report. Additionally, the audit also assessed progress achieved relating to the three recommendations made in the AFMA Performance Statement internal audit (August 2020).

Review of AFMA Risk Management framework audit

This audit focused on the review of AFMA's Risk Management Framework and identified tools and practical measures that further assist with improving existing approaches and ensure alignment with the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy requirements under the PGPA Act.

Business Continuity Plan (including COVID-19 response) audit

This audit focused on the progress of AFMA projects and management-led initiatives for improving business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements at AFMA, including the remediation of issues identified in the Business Continuity Plan – February 2018 internal audit and COVID-19 response.

Research Programs follow-up audit

The focus of this audit was to assess the processes and procedures around the management of contracted research. The audit included a follow-up review of progress relating to four audit recommendations made in the AFMA Research Program internal audit (May 2017).

AFMA Management has endorsed and implemented the majority of the recommendations from these audits. Work on outstanding endorsed recommendations will be undertaken during 2022–23 and monitored by the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee.

We have also established a number of standing committees which provide oversight and governance over our other key business operational activities.

These committees include:

- **Strategic Delivery Committee** – oversees the delivery of all key project works that directly align with AFMA's Strategic goals and/or Annual Operational Plan objectives.
- **Information Governance Committee** – provides a strategic approach to managing data, information and records to reduce business risk, increase accountability, and improve operational efficiencies.
- **Security Governance Committee** – reviews and monitors AFMA's security governance arrangements against the security threats and vulnerabilities identified by the Australian government and faced by AFMA in delivering its objectives.
- **Risk Management Committee** – provides oversight from a cross-agency perspective on the management and control of AFMA's business risks and to support the implementation of the agencies risk management framework.

The CEO, as required under the PGPA Act, has maintained the **Audit and Risk Committee** to also provide independent internal scrutiny of AFMA business operations. Further details of these committees are provided in Appendix 1.

External Scrutiny

AFMA's financial statements are audited annually by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The ANAO examines the strength of our internal controls to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether our 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 accessible in Part 5 of this report.

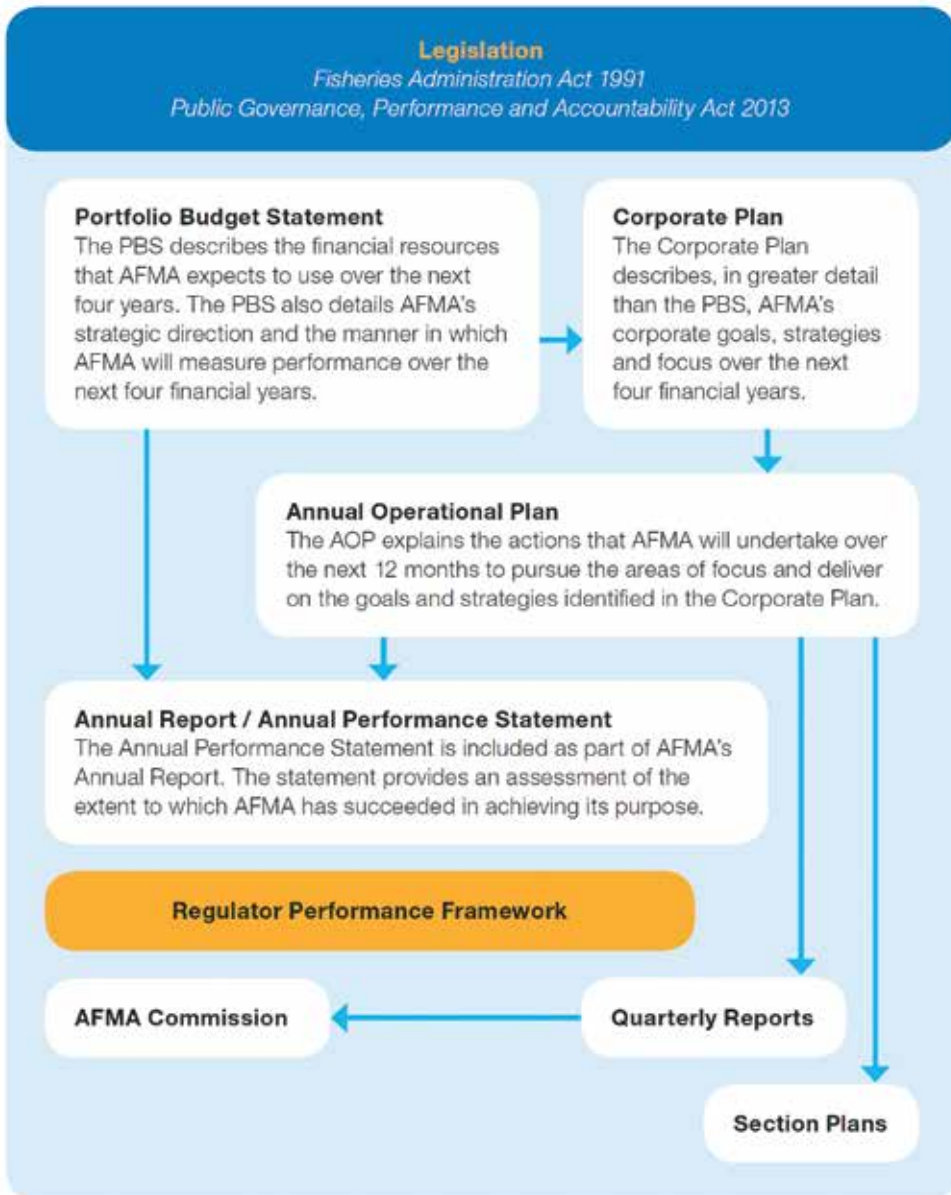
The ANAO retains an understanding of our business, the environment in which we operate, our objectives and strategies and internal controls. This includes acquiring an understanding of the information systems and related business processes relevant to our financial reporting objectives (including the accounting system) and how we have responded to any related financial reporting risks. Relevant ANAO performance audits or internal audit activity are considered as part of this process.

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

There was one civil litigation outcome during 2021–22 and the outcomes of judicial and administrative tribunals are referenced at Appendix 2.

Corporate Planning and Reporting

AFMA's Planning and Reporting Framework is consistent with the obligations under the FAA, whole-of-government requirements under the PGPA Act and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*. These obligations together with our own internal documents support effective governance. The key elements are:



Performance monitoring

AFMA prepares three planning documents and a performance reporting document each year. In addition, we undertake an annual self-assessment of our regulatory operations and performance. Monitoring progress and accountability for delivering outputs is a key responsibility for all our staff. Individual performance agreements and reviews of periodic reports by managers, committees, Senior Executives, the Commission and stakeholders all help ensure that we remain on target. Each quarter the AFMA Commission receives a report on progress against the strategic actions contained in the Annual Operational Plan for 2021–22.

Section Plans

Every business unit within AFMA is required to develop section plans. These plans ensure that business activity across the agency is both coordinated and focused on delivering directly to our objectives as outlined in our Annual Operational Plan. These plans form the basis of allocating resources to the various business activities and/or specific projects that directly support the outcomes of the Annual Operational Plan. The section plans also inform individual staff performance plans against which our staff are assessed throughout the reporting period in accordance with our performance development scheme.

Risk

The AFMA Risk Management Framework incorporates a Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Guidelines that are consistent with the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and international standards (ISO 31000:2018).

To support the framework, AFMA has developed a statement of Risk Appetite. This internal document was developed to support staff in assessing and monitoring risks. The Risk Appetite Statement articulates AFMA's position with regards to specific risk categories.

The framework is aligned with our corporate goals to ensure all our staff remain focused on achieving those goals while managing the identified risks associated with them. This approach ensures that our staff at all levels of the agency are responsible for participating in risk management processes. It also delivers cost-efficient fisheries management by allowing our managers to make informed decisions and assign resources effectively.

Oversight of risk management activities is provided by the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee who provide independent external advice to the AFMA CEO and the Risk Management Committee which is comprised of representatives from across AFMA. AFMA supports staff to manage risk by providing tools and advice on risk management practices.

We maintain operational, enterprise and strategic risk monitoring and reporting processes in accordance with our Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Guidelines.

AFMA's Risk Management Framework assists in the identification, management and escalation of operational risks and a consolidated view of entity risks at the Enterprise and Strategic levels.

Our Risk Management Framework incorporates reporting, assessment and business process; aligned with both the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and relevant standards.

Key organisational risks are detailed in the Enterprise and Strategic Risk registers, and include staff safety and wellbeing, cybersecurity as well as strategic risks in relation to fisheries management and compliance.

Throughout 2021–22, AFMA has maintained a strong focus on managing the impact of COVID-19 on our business operations, strategic planning and organisational risk profile. The safety and wellbeing of staff is a priority and AFMA will continue to monitor these risks and the implications for our staff, business operations and stakeholders in 2022–23.

AFMA's risk management process is illustrated below:



Business Continuity

AFMA's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is a living document and requires updating after each walkthrough, bench or live exercise to incorporate the results of these activities. The Plan provides guidance to AFMA Management in establishing alternative arrangements and enables the priority allocation of resources to critical business processes to ensure that we are able to continue to function effectively during and following a significant disruption.

The Plan includes emergency contacts, cyclone response procedures for our Darwin and Thursday Island offices and information and communications technology disaster recovery protocols. The BCP includes procedures for all phases of recovery as defined in the Business Continuity Strategy document. This plan is separate from AFMA ICT Disaster Recovery Plan, which focuses on the recovery of our technology facilities and platforms, such as critical applications, databases, servers or other required technology infrastructure. The BCP is tested, reviewed and updated annually, and monitored by the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee.

The BCP (supplemented by our Pandemic Response Plan) was implemented in 2020–21 in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business activities and delivery of services to the Commonwealth fishing industry.

Fraud Control

The AFMA Fraud Control Framework is designed to address any internal fraud perpetrated within AFMA. The AFMA Fraud Policy applies to all our staff (and contractors) and outlines our zero-tolerance to any type of fraud. We have in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation and reporting procedures that meet the specific needs of the organisation. These mechanisms and procedures are regularly tested to ensure that they remain relevant and fit for purpose for AFMA.

Both the Fraud Policy and Fraud Control Plan meet AFMA's requirements under section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*. To support the system of internal control, AFMA recognises the importance of being vigilant in relation to fraud risk and communicate expectations of fraud awareness and prevention to all our staff.

The Fraud Policy does not apply to fraud committed by parties external to AFMA, such as domestic or foreign fishers operating in the AFZ. The investigation of such fraud is undertaken by investigating officials within our Fisheries Operations Branch, or in some cases the Australian Federal Police.

Project Management Framework

AFMA's Strategic Delivery Framework supports the planning and delivery of key projects across the organisation. The framework has been developed to support improved governance and oversight of all key projects required to be delivered to meet AFMA's Annual Operational and/or Corporate Plans. The framework provides increased accuracy in allocating, resourcing and managing project deliverables.

The Strategic Delivery Committee, made up of AFMA's Executive, oversees the delivery of relevant key project work. Major projects reviewed by the Strategic Delivery Committee in 2021–22 included the implementation of ICT Infrastructure Refresh, Torres Strait Legal Project, Redesign and rebuild of the AFMA and PZJA websites and the Workforce Plan.

The Strategic Delivery Framework provides defined project management processes, coordination and systematic reporting. For further information on the Strategic Delivery Committee see Appendix 1.

Technology and Digital Services

There have been impacts to AFMA's TDS support team as a result of key people with critical responsibilities pursuing other employment opportunities. This is a reported phenomenon across the public service and reflects the skills shortage in this area. However, an effective recruitment process is beginning to fill vacant TDS positions.

AFMA commenced a review of existing core ICT infrastructure and will develop a plan to uplift and refresh our current technology platforms that ensures replacement technologies are implemented consistent with business expectations. This design and delivery activity will support the data transformation and electronic monitoring projects by replacing aging and outdated infrastructure.

To maintain support and improve security, TDS Service desk developed a new updated Windows 10 operating system that has been deployed on all our new office laptops for all staff, across all AFMA sites.

Protecting AFMA from global cyber security threats is an ongoing and necessary activity. To enhance our cyber security posture AFMA has recently implemented a number of online technical security solutions that relate to Security Operations Centre as a Service, and real time vulnerability scanning on all devices.

AFMA continues to review and refresh its Information Governance Committee, whose remit is to provide AFMA with a mechanism to develop a consistent, systematic, and enterprise-wide approach to managing its information as a critical asset. AFMA is also reviewing its Governance working groups to be inclusive of both business and technical priorities and considerations. This will ensure that data architecture, modelling and design at a technical level, is designed to support AFMA's data, business intelligence and reporting requirements.

Audit and Risk Committee

AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance and advice to the CEO on AFMA's financial reporting, performance monitoring, systems of risk oversight and management and systems of internal control. The Committee's role in reviewing AFMA's treatment of strategic risks is also directly relevant to the work of the AFMA Commission. For further information on the Audit and Risk Committee see Appendix 1.

Legislation Update

In October 2021, the *Fisheries Management Amendment (Infringement Notices) Regulations 2021* were introduced to bring AFMA's arrangements for issuing infringement notices into line with revised whole of Government practice in accordance with the *Regulatory Powers (Standardisation Reform) Act 2021*.

In November 2021, the *Fisheries Management Amendment (Scientific Research) Regulations 2021* (Research Regulations) were introduced to allow Commonwealth, State and Territory government research vessels, including vessels that would otherwise be prohibited by their size to engage in of scientific research fishing in the AFZ.

Compliance with Finance Law

In accordance with paragraph 19(1)(e) of the PGPA Act, AFMA must include a statement in the annual report on 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 2021–22 with finance law (the PGPA Act and associated rules and instruments) indicates that there are no significant matters that warrant reporting to the Minister.

Purchasing

During 2021–22 AFMA continued to improve performance with respect to our responsibilities under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Our staff were kept well informed of any changes in procurement rules through our internal communication such as intranet news stories, revised templates and targeted training sessions.

Our approach to procurement and contract management is based on a self-service model enabling our 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 our intranet for our staff to utilise. Importantly, training in procurement and contract management was available to all staff across the organisation in 2021–22. To further support procurement and contract management capabilities within AFMA, a Community of Practice has been fostered so that experience can be shared with all our staff across the agency.

Contracts

Australian National Audit Office Access clauses

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

Exempt Contracts

The CEO did not exempt any contracts let during 2021–22 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 2021–22.

Discretionary Grants

AFMA did not administer any grants during 2021–22.

AFMA's environmental footprint

Environmental performance

Section 516A of the EPBC Act requires that Australian Government entities include a section detailing their environmental performance and contribution to ecologically sustainable development in their annual report. The EPBC Act requires Commonwealth agencies to report against two core criteria:

- how the agency accords with and contributes to the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- environmental performance of the agency, including the impact of its activities on the natural environment, how these are mitigated and how they will be further mitigated.

Contribution to ecologically sustainable development

AFMA supports the contribution to environmentally sustainable development by actively taking steps to reduce our environmental impact and adopting environmentally friendly options where practical.

In 2021–22, AFMA continued to improve its environmental performance and mitigate the effects of our impact on the environment through:

- better utilisation of space in our locations, reducing the footprint in our Darwin office
- premises with a higher National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) rating
- procuring energy-efficient equipment and lighting solutions, including sensor-controlled lighting
- energy-efficient power management settings on office equipment
- updated videoconferencing facilities to reduce the need for local, interstate and international travel
- ensuring that new leases entered into comply with the Australian Government's energy policy
- recycling of paper, cardboard, office furniture, batteries and printer cartridges
- fostering employee awareness of environmental issues, including reconsidering the need to print documents in line with 'paper-lite' principles.

The integration of energy-efficient practices into our organisation and planning processes allows us to reduce our energy costs and decrease the consumption of resources.

Effect of activities on the environment

AFMA promotes a clean and green operating environment when conducting its business operations to minimise our impact on the environment. To achieve this, we are continually reviewing our operational activities to look for opportunities to minimise waste and limit the impact of our environmental footprint.

AFMA currently uses 100 per cent recycled paper in printers and copiers at all AFMA sites. In addition, we make use of portable technology for staff to access documents via portable laptop computers to further reduce the reliance on paper documents, in line with the Commonwealth's *Digital 2020 Policy*.

In 2018, we chose a building engineered to include significant measures to enhance its environmental performance. The building uses tri-generation technology, black water recycling, rainwater collection and solar powered hot water as well as being modelled to exceed a 4.5 star NABERS energy rating when fully occupied. The Canberra Office is certified as a five star Green Star building and registered with the Green Building Council of Australia. Our Darwin office also has a 5.5-star NABERS energy rating and a five star Green Star rating.

In addition, all our offices include zoned air-conditioning and lighting as well as automatic light dimming sensors that respond to the level of daylight. Additionally, intermittently used rooms and spaces are motion sensor activated to reduce energy consumption.

We currently purchase approximately 25 per cent of green electricity for our Canberra office as part of the Commonwealth energy contract, and our Thursday Island office utilises a mixture of wind and diesel power.

We continue to review and implement regular energy improvements across our Canberra, Darwin, Lakes Entrance and Thursday Island sites. This has included purchasing more energy efficient equipment when and where required.

AFMA has implemented flexible working arrangements that allow staff to work up to two days per week from home, resulting in a significant decrease in commuting.

Nationwide AFMA leases four motor vehicles. We have changed our internal policy allowing staff to use our energy efficient vehicles on more extended trips. As these leases fall due for renewal, we will look for more energy efficient vehicles including the utilisation of Vehicle Telematics, a comprehensive reporting suite that captures daily activity, mileage, odometer reading and unauthorised vehicle use.

We will continue to improve our collection and monitoring of data on energy use, water consumption and waste management in our office building.

People Management

Employment Profile

As at 30 June 2022, AFMA employed 160 employees. Of these 130 were ongoing and 30 were non-ongoing employees. These numbers do not include five employees on long-term leave.

The agency had 114 employees located in Canberra, 11 employees located in Darwin, seven employees located in Thursday Island and seven employees in Lakes Entrance. A further 21 staff were engaged as casual field observers who undertake duties on Commonwealth commercial fishing vessels and are based at various locations around Australia. One third of AFMA's workforce is representative of employees at the classification APS6 level, followed by employees at the Executive Level 1 classification and casual field Observers (13 per cent).

AFMA's employment profile has not significantly changed since 2021–22. The proportion of part-time employees (excluding casual observers) has remained constant at five per cent. The proportion of females has remained consist at 45 per cent in the previous financial year. However, the percentage of women at EL1–2 levels for 2021–22 has decreased to 33.3 per cent from 39.1 per cent in the previous year.

As a comparison with the 2020–21 financial year, the number of employees who have at least one parent from a non-English speaking background has significantly decreased by 24 to 10. The number of employees identifying as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander has decreased slightly from nine to eight. In addition, employees who identified themselves as having a disability remain constant at two in 2021–22.

Tables 2–5 on pages 108–111 outline workforce statistics by employment status, location, gender, diversity, disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity. It also sets out salary range and employment arrangements.

AFMA's Strategic Workforce Plan

The 2021–22 financial year saw the launch of the AFMA Strategic Workforce Plan.

The plan identifies the current workforce strengths, risks areas and the future workforce needs of the agency with a focus on ensuring AFMA has a workforce with the right skills, who are engaged and motivated, and made up of the right composition to meet the future demands of the agency. The plan was developed using a range of inputs including stakeholder consultation, census and HR data, and best practice external research.

Implementation of the Action Items outlined in the plan has commenced with a focus on:

- Job design – ensuring roles are designed in a way that reflects the ways of working and skills required for the future.
- Recruitment – strategically approaching hiring activities through the use of an Employee Value Proposition, streamlined processes and the introduction of new ways of sourcing candidates.
- Talent and succession management – implementation of a succession planning model that identifies and develops employees for critical and leadership roles within AFMA.
- New ways of working – enhancing AFMA’s existing flexible working arrangements and ensuring managers and team members are supported to operate effectively in a hybrid work environment.
- Strategic workforce analysis and reporting – introducing a program of strategic workforce analysis and reporting that captures and reports on workforce data that is relevant to business delivery.

COVID-19

During the year, AFMA continued to take evidence-based approach to the agency response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure our employees are well informed, supported and safe. This was achieved by:

- weekly Chief Operating Officer status updates with a focus on health and wellbeing, including promotion of the Employee Assistance Program
- continuous update of a dedicated COVID-19 intranet portal to ensure clear communication to staff
- offering staff Flexible Working Arrangement (3:2); which allows staff to attend the office 3 days a week and work from home 2 days per week
- delivering national influenza vaccination program
- regularly reviewing COVID-19 procedures set by each local government and making appropriate adjustments in response.

Staff Engagement

APS Employee Census

The 2021–22 financial year saw AFMA staff participate in the Australian Public Service Employee Census survey (the Census). The 2021 Census opened 10 May 2021 and closed on 11 June 2021 with a 74 per cent AFMA staff response rate was achieved. Compared to the 2020 Census results, AFMA's employee engagement index decreased by three points, and one point below the whole of APS engagement level. AFMA's engagement levels results showed that 88 per cent of staff believe strongly in the purpose of AFMA, with 90 per cent willing to go the extra mile for the agency and 84 per cent feel committed to their agency's goals. Similar to the 2020 Census results, employee perception of supervisors also drove positive engagement results for 2021.

The agency's wellbeing index slightly decreased by three points from the previous year's census to 64 per cent, along with the agency's innovation index score.

Staff responses to the survey indicated that further work needs to be done in relation to internal communication, health and wellbeing, inclusion, leadership, creativity and innovation

The following were identified as the areas of key focus for the agency:

- Ability to Innovate
- Priority Setting
- Simplification of processes/ approvals
- Internal Communication
- Diversity and Inclusion

AFMA staff participated in the 2022 Employee Census which was launched by the APSC in May 2022. The results were not available in the current reporting period and will be reported on in the 2022–23 annual report.

Terms and Conditions of Employment

AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016

AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016 (the Agreement) contains employment terms and conditions for all employees (excluding Senior Executive Service Officers). A Section 24(1) Determination was made on 4 April 2022 which provides details of increases to existing salaries and allowances effective on 23 June 2022, 23 June 2023 and 23 June 2024.

Individual Flexibility Arrangements

The Agreement provides for the CEO and an employee covered by the agreement, to enter into an individual flexibility arrangement. The terms of employment that may be varied under the Enterprise Agreement include (but are not limited to) hours of work, overtime rates, penalty rates, allowances, remuneration and leave. AFMA entered into 27 individual flexibility arrangements with employees during 2021–2022.

Table 1: Individual Flexibility Arrangements as at 30 June 2022

Classification	Number
APS 1	0
APS 2	0
APS 3	1
APS 4	2
APS 5	1
APS 6	7
EL1	9
EL2	7

Flexible Working Arrangements

AFMA implemented a Flexible Working Arrangement Policy whereby staff can work three days per week in the office and two days per week at home. This initiative was designed to create a good balance between the mental health, work-life, and the need for face-to-face contact within and between teams to maintain relationships and strengthen workplace culture. In addition efficiency gains were generally experienced by most staff when offices were shut down as a result of COVID-19. The uptake of staff opting in this flexible arrangement is 70.6 per cent across the agency.

Standards of Behaviour

Ethical Standards

All AFMA staff are required to comply with the APS Values and Code of Conduct as set out in the [*Public Service Act 1999*](#). AFMA employees are expected to maintain the highest standards of business and personal ethics. The agency has in place compulsory annual training, staff policies and guidelines to help staff to understand their obligations and support good workplace behaviour.

Performance Management

The work that all AFMA employees do is crucial to the achievement of the agency's goals.

AFMA undertook an initial review of the entire AFMA Performance Development Scheme during 2021–22, with a view to shifting performance appraisals from a process driven scheme to a genuine two-way conversation between managers and staff at all levels.

Following approval from AFMA Executive, the following recommendations, have now been actioned and implemented:

- Review and streamlining of AFMA's performance and development scheme and associated documentation including the creation of new templates for Start-Cycle, Mid-term and End-Cycle conversation.
- Reduction of formal performance reviews to two annual reviews, along with the reduction of the approval process to first level manager sign off only.
- Reduction of the performance rating scale from seven to three criteria.
- Simplified the professional development plan, to identify the career goals and development needs for current role and future career pathway.
- Developed guidance and delivered information sessions aimed to further help and assist managers and senior managers in holding performance conversations.
- Continue to build manager capability in managing underperformance.

Rewards and Recognition

AFMA recognises building a culture that values its employees, recognises performance, and celebrates the achievements and success of its employees is critical to employee engagement and retaining the best people.

Achievement Awards

In December 2021, AFMA CEO presented the annual AFMA Achievement Awards to forty employees over five award categories:

- Individual
- Group/Team
- Unsung hero
- Collaboration/Mentoring; and
- Innovation

AFMA also provided awards to six employees in recognition of 10 years' service and to two employees in recognition of 20 years' service.

Recognition awards

Recognition awards provide formal appreciation to AFMA employees on a regular basis during monthly branch meetings. Recipients receive a certificate and gift voucher.

Awards can be presented for, but not limited to:

- Demonstrable outstanding performance that month
- Positive attitude and generally cheerful disposition
- Dedication and willingness to assist in problem solving beyond job requirements.

Professional Development

AFMA continues to invest in ongoing professional development, leadership skills and professionalisation of its workforce to foster a high-performance culture. All employees are encouraged to engage in regular discussions about their development throughout the year via the AFMA's Performance and Development scheme.

During 2021–22, AFMA invested in:

- Access to an online eLearning management system to support ongoing professional and personal development for all employees.
- Annual training program which included mandatory and encouraged eLearning training courses to ensure all employees are informed of their key obligations, responsibilities, and duties within the organisation, and as part of the Australian Public Service; and to support the health and wellbeing of employees and to respect the cultural diversity of the organisation.
- Sponsorship of one employee on the Professional Foundations program, targeted at APS 5 – Executive Level 1 Staff.
- Staff attendance at the Women in Leadership Summit held in Sydney in February 2022.
- Successful sponsorship of three employees into the National Seafood Industry Leadership program.
- Supporting seven employees through the studies assistance scheme, which includes paid study leave and/or financial assistance to undertake tertiary education in subject areas such as environment, marine science, project management, communications, and economics.

Employment Programs

Graduate Development Program

AFMA partnered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the recruitment and delivery of the annual Graduate Development Program. The program includes a combination of on-the-job-training, mentoring, an industry visit and a formal training program. We engaged two graduates in the 2020 and 2021 intakes. As part of the program, each graduate is required to complete three rotations with two completed in AFMA and the third rotation undertaken at the department. AFMA also hosted two graduates from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry during the third rotation.

Australian National Internship Program

In 2021–22 AFMA participated in hosting two interns as part of the Australian National Intern Program with Australian National University students.

Diversity and Inclusion

AFMA is committed to fostering a diverse workplace free from discrimination and harassment, an environment that recognises and values the individual differences of employees, and fosters the contributions of people with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

The commitment extends to attracting and recruiting people from diverse backgrounds and wherever possible, participation in whole of APS programs.

In 2021–22 AFMA supported several initiatives to improve its diversity outcomes, including:

- Hosting various events to raise awareness of diversity, such as National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day, Wear it Purple and International Day of People with Disability.
- AFMA Enterprise Agreement (EA) and Flexible Working Arrangements policy provides flexible working and leave arrangements to support employee's caring responsibilities, religious commitments and attendance at cultural events.
- Establishing a staff-based Diversity and Inclusivity Standing Committee.

During 2021–22 AFMA launched its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Within its inaugural year, AFMA's RAP is advancing our commitment to reconciliation by:

- Increasing understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.
- Demonstrating respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols with the launch of AFMA's First People Acknowledgement guide.
- Promoting reconciliation through our sphere of influence and building respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories through engagement with RAG and MACs and by celebrating NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Weeks.

Workforce Statistics

Table 2: Ongoing employees employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2022

Level	Location	Female		Male		Total employees at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1-2	Canberra	0	1	0	0	1
	Canberra	1	9	0	3	13
APS 3-4	Darwin	0	0	0	2	2
	Lakes Entrance	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	1	0	0	1
APS 5-6	Canberra	6	22	0	22	50
	Darwin	0	0	0	5	5
	Lakes Entrance	1	3	0	1	5
	Thursday Island	0	2	0	2	4
EL1	Canberra	1	13	0	10	24
	Darwin	0	2	0	0	2
	Lakes Entrance	0	0	0	2	2
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL2	Canberra	0	4	0	10	14
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
	Thursday Island	0	1	0	0	1
SES	Canberra	0	1	0	2	3
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
Total		8	59	0	63	130

This table excludes five employees who were on long-term leave as at 30 June 2022. These figures relate to the nominal occupants of the position and not employees who may be acting at a higher classification as at 30 June 2022. This SES figure also includes AFMA's CEO.

Table 3: Non-ongoing employees employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2022

Level	Location	Women		Men		Total employees at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1-2	Millner, NT			1		1
	Nightcliff, NT			1		1
	North Wollongong, NSW			1		1
	Woolner, NT			1		1
	Cudgera Creek, NSW			1		1
	Orange, NSW			1		1
	Port Lincoln, SA			2		2
	Toormina, NSW			1		1
	Georgica, NSW			1		1
	Lakes Entrance, VIC			2		2
	Windera, NSW			1		1
	West Hobart, TAS			1		1
	APS 3-4	ACT		1	1	1
Adelaide, SA				1		1
Labrador, QLD				1		1
Kirwan, QLD				1		1
Minyama, QLD				1		1
Southport, QLD				1		1
Tuncurry, NSW				1		1
APS 5-6	ACT		2		2	4
EL 1	ACT				1	1
EL 2	ACT		1		1	2
Total			4	21	5	30

These figures include 21 observers who are engaged as APS 2/3 casual employees.



Observer Henry Wilson at work, photo courtesy AFMA Media Library

Table 4: Diversity profile of AFMA employees as at 30 June 2022

Level	NESB1	NESB2	People with disability	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Women	Men	Total employees at level
APS 2-4	1	3	0	4	13	27	40
APS 5-6	2	5	2	3	35	32	67
EL1	1	1	0	1	17	14	31
EL2	1	1	0	0	6	12	18
SES	0		0	0	1	3	4
Total	5	10	2	8	72	88	160

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.

Total SES includes AFMA CEO

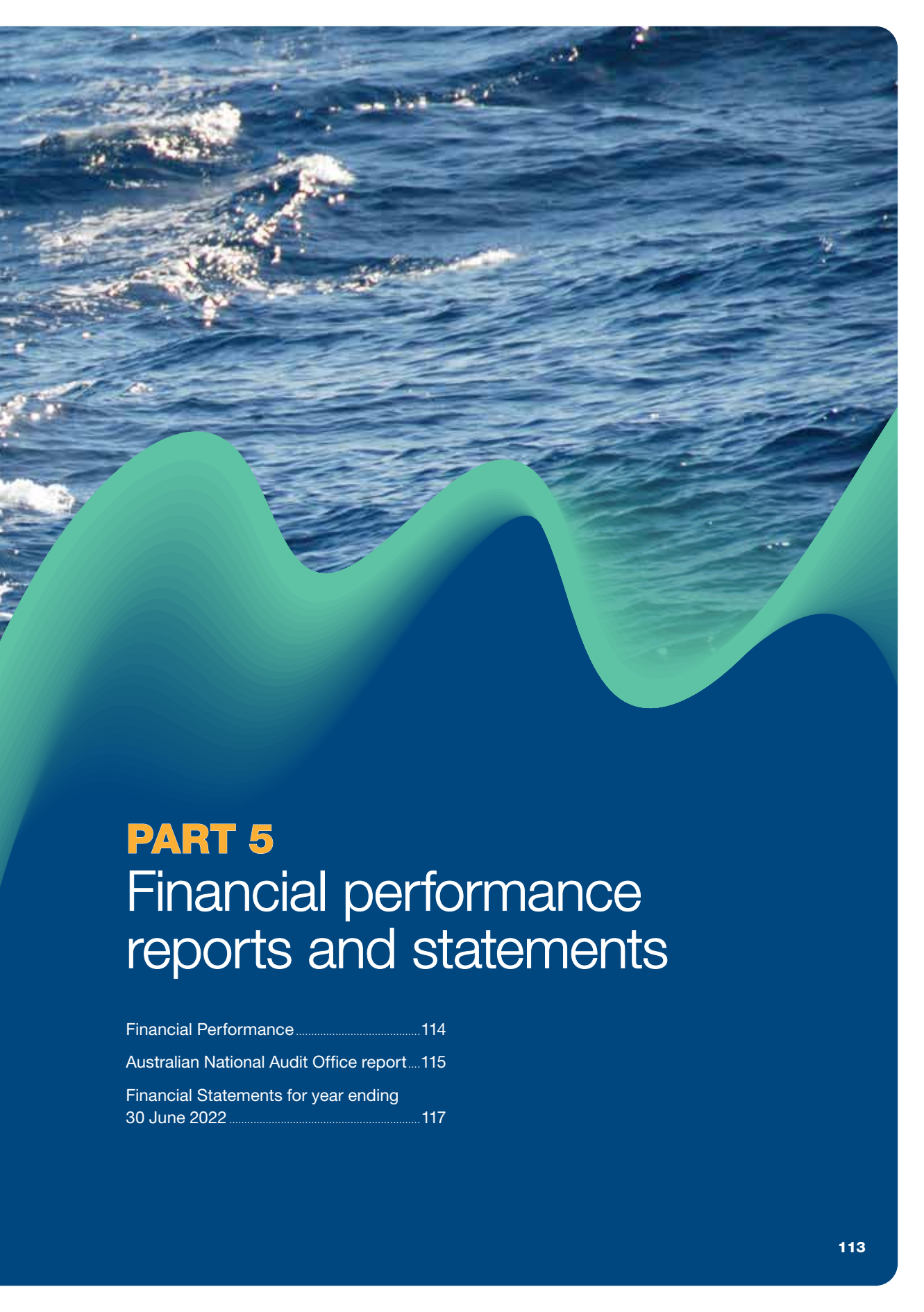
Information (except gender data sourced from AFMA's HR management system) has been sourced from a diversity report where individuals volunteer to provide diversity information to the Agency.

Table 5: Salary ranges by non-Senior Executive classification level as at 30 June 20 22

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
APS 1	\$47 408	\$55 402
APS 2	\$59 396	\$63 396
APS 3	\$65 016	\$70 661
APS 4	\$73 480	\$78 562
APS 5	\$80 981	\$85 770
APS 6	\$90 556	\$100 139
EL1	\$111 397	\$123 812
EL2	\$130 692	\$152 367

In 2021–22 AFMA did not provide performance pay to any employees.





PART 5

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Financial Performance

Departmental Operating Results

For the year ended 30 June 2022, the overall financial result for AFMA is a surplus of \$1.5 million which is \$3.1 million better than the budgeted deficit of \$1.5 million.

During 2021–22, revenue from government increased by 5 per cent to \$21.0 million (\$20.0 million in 2020–21) due to the 2021–22 Budget measure “Commonwealth’s Deregulation Agenda”. Revenue from levies and licensing charges increased by 5 per cent to \$14.0 million (\$13.3 million in 2020–21) for supporting management and research priorities for each fishery and adjustments for prior year over/under collections. Revenue from contracts with customers increased by 17 per cent to \$3.5 million from \$3.0 million in 2020–21 primarily for technical assistance to Pacific Island countries.

During 2021–22, AFMA operating expenses increased slightly to \$37.2 million (from \$37.1 million in 2020–21). Employee expenses decreased by \$0.6 million to \$19.3 million mainly due to technical reduction in leave entitlement from the impact of bond rate increase offsetting by a slight increase of six Average Staffing Levels (ASL) to 151 ASL (145 ASL in 2020–21). Supplier expenses increased by \$0.4 million, including an increase in consultant and contractor services to support DTEMP, and an increase in surveillance and compliance activities.

Departmental Assets and Liabilities

As at 30 June 2022, AFMA’s total assets increased by \$5.2 million to \$35.2 million (\$30.0 million in 2020–21). Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$2.0 million to \$14.1 million (\$12.1 million in 2020–21), reflecting the operating surplus. Trade and other receivables increased by \$3.7 million to \$4.8 million (\$1.1 million in 2020–21) primarily due to underspend of the Departmental Capital Budget from the delay in commencement of the DTEMP. Non-financial assets decreased by \$0.5 million to \$16.3 million (\$16.8 million in 2020–21) as a result of depreciation and amortisation of AFMA’s assets offsetting an increase in internally developed software and computer equipment.

Total liabilities decreased by \$0.7 million to \$16.3 million (\$17.0 million in 2020–21) that primarily related to the technical reduction in the leave provision from the impact of the increase in the bond rate.

Administered Income and Expenses

During 2021–22, AFMA administered expenses on behalf of the Commonwealth Government amounted to \$1.3 million, an increase of \$1.1 million from the prior year reflecting increased disposals of illegal foreign fishing vessels. This result was \$4.5 million lower than budget due to lower vessel apprehensions than expected.

Australian National Audit Office report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2022:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2022 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Chief Executive Officer 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 the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

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

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Bradley Medina
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
6 September 2022

Financial Statements for year ending 30 June 2022

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Certification

Primary financial statements

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
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Administered Cash Flow Statement

Overview

Notes to the financial statements:

1. Departmental Financial performance

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1.2: Own Source Revenue
1.3: Revenue from Government

2. Departmental Financial position

2.1: Financial assets
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2.3: Payables
2.4: Leases
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3. Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government

3.1: Administered – financial assets

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4.3: Regulatory charging summary

4.4: Net cash appropriation arrangements

5. People and relationships

5.1: Employee Provisions

5.2: Key management personnel remuneration

5.3: Related party disclosures

6. Managing uncertainty

6.1: Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

6.2: Financial instruments

7. Other Information

7.1: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

7.2: Assets held in Trust

Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Finance Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsections 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

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



Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer
6 September 2022



Fei Xia

Acting Chief Finance Officer
6 September 2022

Statement of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	19,283	19,865	22,043
Suppliers	1.1B	15,255	14,840	15,163
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,565	2,260	2,557
Finance costs	1.1C	90	100	87
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	2	41	-
Impairment loss on financial instruments	1.1E	7	6	-
Foreign exchange losses		27	3	-
Total expenses		37,229	37,115	39,850
Own-Source Income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	3,494	2,976	2,281
Rental income	1.2B	161	160	135
Interest	1.2C	5	7	-
Levies and licence fees	1.2D	14,004	13,322	14,812
Total own-source revenue		17,664	16,465	17,228
Gains				
Resources received free of charge		45	44	45
Total gains		45	44	45
Total own-source income		17,709	16,509	17,273
Net (cost of) / contribution by services		(19,520)	(20,606)	(22,577)
Revenue from Government	1.3A	21,035	19,973	21,035
Surplus / (deficit) on continuing operations		1,515	(633)	(1,542)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(17)	-	-
Total Comprehensive income / (loss)		1,498	(633)	(1,542)

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Employee expenses were lower than the Original Budget by \$2.8 million due to lower average staffing levels throughout 2021–22 and a reduction in employee leave provision expenses arising from 10-years bond rate increases.

Own-source revenues were higher than the Original Budget by \$0.4 million due to higher services income for Vessel Monitoring Systems for States & Territory Governments partially offset by lower than forecast levy revenues.

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	14,054	12,066	10,606
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	4,845	1,111	1,269
Total financial assets		18,899	13,177	11,875
Non-Financial Assets				
Land	2.2A	1,775	1,775	1,775
Buildings	2.2A	11,594	12,704	11,056
Plant and equipment	2.2A	1,416	1,216	1,212
Computer software	2.2A	1,208	611	4,171
Other non-financial assets	2.2B	301	473	538
Total non-financial assets		16,294	16,779	18,752
Total assets		35,193	29,956	30,627
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	3,000	2,783	2,839
Other payables	2.3B	470	413	649
Total payables		3,470	3,196	3,488
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4A	7,537	7,936	6,845
Total interest bearing liabilities		7,537	7,936	6,845
Provisions				
Employee provisions	5.1A	5,174	5,730	5,474
Other provisions	2.5A	185	183	181
Total provisions		5,359	5,913	5,655
Total liabilities		16,366	17,045	15,988
Net assets		18,827	12,911	14,639
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		18,138	13,720	18,139
Reserves		3,564	3,581	3,581
(Accumulated deficit)		(2,875)	(4,390)	(7,081)
Total equity		18,827	12,911	14,639

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Cash at end of the reporting period was \$3.5 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to lower than anticipated employee expenditure in 2021–22. This underspend was also the primary driver in lower than budgeted accumulated deficit of \$4.3 million

Trade and other receivables were \$3.6 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to delays in major capital projects and associated Departmental Capital Budget appropriation receivable. This was also the primary driver in lower than budgeted computer software assets of \$3.0 million.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of changes in equity

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	13,720	13,263	13,721
Transactions with owners			
Departmental capital budget	4,418	457	4,418
Total transactions with owners	4,418	457	4,418
Closing balance as at 30 June	18,138	13,720	18,139
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(4,390)	(3,757)	(5,539)
Adjusted opening balance	(4,390)	(3,757)	(5,539)
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	1,515	(633)	(1,542)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	1,515	(633)	(1,542)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(2,875)	(4,390)	(7,081)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	3,581	3,581	3,581
Adjusted opening balance	3,581	3,581	3,581
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	(17)	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(17)	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	3,564	3,581	3,581
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	12,911	13,087	11,763
Adjusted opening balance	12,911	13,087	11,763

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
Comprehensive income/(loss)			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	1,515	(633)	(1,542)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	(17)	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	1,498	(633)	(1,542)
Transactions with owners			
Departmental capital budget	4,418	457	4,418
Total transactions with owners	4,418	457	4,418
Closing balance as at 30 June	18,827	12,911	14,639

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.

Budget Variances Commentary

The closing balance of equity is \$4.3 million higher than the Original Budget. The variance is due to the better than budgeted operating results of \$3.1 million in 2021–22 and the PBS did not reflect the better operating results from 2020–21.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Cash flow statement

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		21,035	19,912	21,035
Sales of goods and rendering of services		3,360	4,073	2,416
Net GST received		1,300	1,195	-
Levies and licence fees		13,998	13,239	14,812
Total cash received		39,693	38,419	38,263
Cash used				
Employees		19,782	19,199	22,043
Suppliers		16,075	16,501	14,736
Interest payments on lease liabilities		88	98	87
Total cash used		35,945	35,798	36,866
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities		3,748	2,621	1,397

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		1,394	548	4,800
Total cash used		1,394	548	4,800
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(1,394)	(548)	(4,800)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed equity – departmental capital budget		910	457	4,418
Total cash received		910	457	4,418
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,276	1,070	1,015
Total cash used		1,276	1,070	1,015
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		(366)	(613)	3,403
Net increase in cash held		1,988	1,460	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		12,066	10,606	10,606
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2.1A	14,054	12,066	10,606

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Operating Activities

Sales of goods and services were \$0.9 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to higher vessel monitoring services income. Net GST received of \$1.3 million was not reflected in the Original Budget.

Levy and Licence fee receipts were \$0.8 million lower than the Original Budget due to subsequent 2020–21 annual levy acquittal was not reflected in the Original Budget at the time.

Employee payments were lower than the Original Budget by \$2.3 million due to lower average staffing levels in 2021–22.

Supplier cash used was \$1.3 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to gross up of GST payments of \$1.5 million which was not budgeted for.

Investing Activities and Financing Activities

Total cash used was \$3.4 million lower than estimated in the Original Budget primarily as a result of the delay in the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring project.

Administered schedule of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Suppliers		1,267	184	5,792
Total expenses		1,267	184	5,792
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fees and fines		99	167	-
Total non-taxation revenue		99	167	-
Total revenue		99	167	-
Gains				
Reversal of write-downs and impairments		-	2	-
Total gains		-	2	-
Total income		99	169	-
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		(1,168)	(15)	(5,792)
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,168)	(15)	(5,792)

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Expenses

Suppliers expenses were \$4.5 million lower than the Original Budget. Costs for the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels were lower due to lower vessel apprehensions than budgeted.

Administered schedule of assets and liabilities

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Trade and other receivables	3.1A	185	21	34
Total financial assets		185	21	34
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		185	21	34
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.2A	254	5	3
Total payables		254	5	3
Liabilities included in disposal groups held for sale				
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		254	5	3
Net assets/(liabilities)		(69)	16	31

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Administered net assets are comparable to the Original Budget

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered reconciliation schedule

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	16	31
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		
Income	99	169
Expenses	(1,267)	(184)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government:		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Annual appropriations	1,148	184
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to OPA	(65)	(184)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	(69)	16

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

Accounting policies

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.

Administered cash flow statement

for the period ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Fees		-	184	-
Net GST received		99	17	-
Total cash received		99	201	-
Cash used				
Suppliers		1,182	199	5,792
Total cash used		1,182	199	5,792
Net cash flows from/(used by) operating activities		(1,083)	2	(5,792)
Cash from Official Public Account				
Appropriations		1,148	182	5,792
		1,148	182	5,792
Cash to Official Public Account for:				
Appropriations		(65)	(184)	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		-	-	-

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Cash used by operating activities are \$4.7 million lower than budget as a result of lower supplier expenditure as explained under the Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

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 are 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: The ecologically sustainable development of Commonwealth fisheries for the benefit of the Australian community, 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 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 AFMA involve the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels on behalf of the government.

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is located at Level 3, 15 Lancaster Place, Majura Park, ACT 2609.

Basis of Preparation

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) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR); and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 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.

Cost recovery

Each financial year AFMA, in accordance with the Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines, prepares a cost recovery budget to recover the costs of Commonwealth fisheries management from fishing concession holders through the imposition of levies. AFMA's Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) outlines what cost recoverable activities AFMA provides and how those activities are implemented in managing Commonwealth fisheries. AFMA levies are calculated based on the cost recovered budget for the coming financial year, plus or minus any under or over spend in the previous financial year and take into account any revenue collected through fee-for-service charges.

AFMA collects levy amounts prescribed under the *Fishing Levy Amendment (2021–22 Levy Amounts) Regulations 2021* (Fishing Levy) and the *Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment (Levy Amount) Regulations 2021* (TSPF Levy). Amounts prescribed in the Fishing Levy are collected in three equal instalments in January, April and May, whilst amounts prescribed in the TSPF levy is collected in one instalment in April.

Overview (continued)

New Accounting Standards

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

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions, and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities	AASB 1060 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021 and replaces the reduced disclosure requirements (RDR) framework.

The application of AASB 1060 involves some reduction in disclosure compared to the RDR with no impact on the reported financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity.

Taxation

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

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, 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.

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 2022.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

Financial performance

This section analyses AFMA's financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Note 1.1 Expenses

Note 1.1A Employee benefits	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Wages and salaries	15,869	15,362
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,917	1,774
Defined benefit plans	849	915
Leave and other entitlements	648	1,814
Total employee benefits	19,283	19,865

Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in the People and relationships section.

Note 1.1B: Suppliers	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Research	4,466	4,449
Surveillance and compliance	1,867	1,750
Consultants and contractors	4,438	4,163
Travel and meetings	863	904
Information technology and communications	1,557	1,618
Training and development	256	161
Building repairs and outgoings	367	451
External audit fees provided free of charge	45	44
General administrative	1,095	809
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	14,954	14,349
Goods supplied	245	193
Services rendered	14,709	14,156
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	14,954	14,349
Other suppliers		
Workers compensation expenses	292	293
Short-term leases	9	198
Total other suppliers	301	491
Total suppliers	15,255	14,840

AFMA does not have any short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2022.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1C, 1.2B, 2.2A and 2.4A.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

AFMA has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). AFMA recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Note 1.1C: Finance Costs	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Interest on lease liabilities	88	98
Unwinding of discount	2	2
Total finance costs	90	100

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1B, 1.2B, 2.2A and 2.4A.

Accounting Policy

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Note 1.1D: Write-Down and Impairment of Other Assets	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	2	41
Total write-down and impairment of assets	2	41

Note 1.1E: Impairment Loss on Financial Instruments	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Impairment on trade and other receivables	7	6
Total impairment on financial instruments	7	6

Note 1.2 Own Source Revenue

Note 1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Rendering of services	3,494	2,976
Total revenue from contracts with customers	3,494	2,976

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Major product / service line:		
Regulatory Services	2,751	2,800
Other revenue	743	176
Total revenue from contracts with customers	3,494	2,976

Accounting Policy

Revenue from contracts with customers

The following is a description of principal activities from which the AFMA generates its revenue:

- Regulatory services which primarily consists of fees for services for observers, logbooks and licensing, vessel monitoring services provided to both industry and State Governments and other regulatory compliance services. Fees for services and compliance services are recognised over time based on actual costs incurred.
- Other revenues which primarily consist of service contracts with related Commonwealth Government entities for enforcement and research activities. Other revenue enforcement activities are recognised

either over time as expenses are incurred for each project. Research services are recognised at a point in time when milestones have been met.

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 the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Note 1.2B: Rental Income	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Operating lease:		
Thursday Island office	161	159
Sub-leasing right of use assets:		
Employee car parking	-	1
Total rental income	161	160

Leasing commitments receivable

AFMA in its capacity as a lessor sub-leases office accommodation on Thursday Island. As at 30 June 2022 one of the sub-lease arrangements is on a month-to-month basis, and the other one expires in February 2023 and rental has been paid in advance, therefore no commitment is applicable. This note should be read in conjunction with the Note 2.2.

Note 1.2C: Interest	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Interest	5	7
Total interest	5	7

Note 1.2D: Levies and licence charges	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Levies and licencing charges ¹	14,004	13,322
Total levies and licence charges	14,004	13,322

1 Levies and licensing charges comprise of cost recovered amounts credited to the AFMA Special Account in accordance with s94C of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*. For further information on AFMA's cost recovery arrangements refer to Note 4.3.

Note 1.3 Revenue from Government

Note 1.3A: Revenue from Government	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Appropriations:		
Departmental appropriation	21,035	19,973
Total revenue from Government	21,035	19,973

Accounting Policy

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.

Resources received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue 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.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

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

Note 2.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash in special accounts	13,035	11,481
Cash on hand or on deposit	1,019	585
Total cash and cash equivalents	14,054	12,066

The closing balance of cash in special accounts does not include amounts held in Trust: \$55,000 in 2022 (\$13,000 in 2021). See Note 4.2 Special Accounts and Note 7.2 Assets held in Trust for more information.

Accounting Policy

Cash and cash equivalents

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

- cash on hand;
- funds in bank accounts; and
- cash in special accounts.

Note 2.1B: Trade and Other Receivables	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Good and services receivables		
Goods and Services	440	253
Total goods and services receivables	440	253

Goods and receivables at 30 June 2022 are primarily associated with provision of vessel monitoring services.

Appropriations receivables		
Appropriation receivable	3,569	61
Total appropriations receivables	3,569	61

Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	372	310
Accrued revenue	373	398
Statutory receivables	91	92
Total other receivables	836	800
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	4,845	1,114

Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	-	(3)
Total impairment allowance	-	(3)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	4,845	1,111

Credit terms for Goods and Services were within 30 days for 2022 (2021: 30 days).

Accounting Policy

Financial Assets

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

Note 2.2 Non-financial assets

2.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant & Equipment and Intangibles	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2021					
Gross book value	1,775	15,519	1,608	6,716	25,618
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(2,815)	(392)	(6,105)	(9,312)
Net book value as at 1 July 2021	1,775	12,704	1,216	611	16,306
Additions:					
By purchase	-	-	643	-	643
Internally developed	-	-	-	751	751
Right of use assets	-	801	-	-	801
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	(17)	-	(17)
Right of use assets modification	-	76	-	-	76
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-	(574)	(424)	(154)	(1,152)
Depreciation on right of use assets	-	(1,413)	-	-	(1,413)
Disposals	-	-	(2)	-	(2)
Total as at 30 June 2022	1,775	11,594	1,416	1,208	15,993
Total as at 30 June 2022 represented by:					
Gross book value	1,775	16,396	2,099	7,467	27,737
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(4,802)	(683)	(6,259)	(11,744)
Total as at 30 June 2022	1,775	11,594	1,416	1,208	15,993
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets		7,195			

1. The above table discloses all property, plant and equipment including those subject to operating leases. AFMA own one building which is partially sublet to Torres Strait Regional Authority and Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (from 1 July 2022 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) for \$161,000 per annum. This asset incurred depreciation of \$43,334 during 2021–22.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets

As at 30 June 2022 AFMA has contractual capital commitments of \$714,858 (\$331,878 related to property, plant and equipment, \$295,707 related to intangible asset development and \$87,273 related to Land and buildings).

Accounting Policy

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.

Asset Recognition Threshold:

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, 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 for AFMA's Canberra office. These costs are included in the value of AFMA's buildings with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Revaluations

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to AFMA 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:

	2022	2021
Buildings on freehold land	40 to 45 years	40 to 45 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and Equipment	4 to 13 years	4 to 13 years

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2022. 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 (2021: 3 to 10 years). All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2022.

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 2021–22.

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 JLL Public Sector Valuations Pty Ltd in June 2020. In some instances, AFMA 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.

Note 2.2B Other Non-Financial Assets	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Prepayments	301	473
Total other non-financial assets	301	473

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

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

Note 2.3 Payables

Note 2.3A: Suppliers	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Trade creditors	3	-
Accrued expenses	2,226	1,725
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	771	1,058
Total supplier payables	3,000	2,783

Settlement is usually made within 20 days.

Note 2.3B: Other Payables	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Wages and salaries	470	413
Total other payables	470	413

Note 2.4 Interest bearing liabilities

Note 2.4A: Leases	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Lease liabilities	7,537	7,936
Total lease liabilities	7,537	7,936

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$1,368,000 (rounded to nearest thousand).

Maturity Analysis – contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	1,332	1,122
Between 1 to 5 years	4,705	4,415
More than 5 years	1,690	2,872
Total leases	7,727	8,409

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1C, 1.2B, 2.2A and 1.1B.

Note 2.5 Other Provisions

Note 2.5A: Other Provisions	Provision for restoration \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2021	183	183
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	2	2
Total as at 30 June 2022	185	185

AFMA currently has 1 (2021: 1) agreement for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring AFMA to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. AFMA has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation for the Majura Park office in Canberra.

Accounting Policy

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

Notes to the schedule of administered items

for the period ended 30 June 2022

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

Note 3.1A: Trade and Other Receivables	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Fees and charges		
Fees and charges receivable – external parties	280	263
Total fees and charges receivable	280	263
Other receivables		
Accrued Revenue	108	4
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	44	1
Total other receivables	152	5
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	432	268
Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	-	-
Other	-	-
Fees and charges	(247)	(247)
Total impairment allowance account	(247)	(247)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	185	21

Receivables are expected to be recovered within 12 months.

Receivables were aged as follows		
Not overdue	152	4
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	17	-
More than 90 days	263	264
Total receivables (gross)	432	268
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(247)	(247)
Total impairment allowance	(247)	(247)

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2021: 30 days).

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance	2022 Fees and charges \$'000	2021 Fees and charges \$'000
Opening balance	(247)	(251)
Amounts written off	-	2
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	2
Closing balance	(247)	(247)
Note 3.2A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	218	4
GST payable	36	1
Total suppliers	254	5
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	254	5
Total suppliers	254	5

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

Funding

This section identifies AFMA's funding structure.

Note 4.1 Appropriations

Note 4.1A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')						
Annual Appropriations for 2022						
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2022 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ¹ \$'000	
Departmental						
Ordinary annual services	21,035	-	21,035	21,035	-	
Departmental Capital Budget ²	4,418	-	4,418	910	3,508	
Total departmental	25,453	-	25,453	21,945	3,508	
Administered						
Ordinary annual services						
Administered items ¹	5,792	-	5,792	1,152	4,640	
Total administered	5,792	-	5,792	1,152	4,640	

Notes:

1. The variance of \$4,640,000 for Administered funds 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.

Annual Appropriations for 2021					
	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2022 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ¹ \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	19,973	-	19,973	19,973	-
Departmental Capital Budget ²	457	-	457	396	61
Equity injections	-	-	-	-	-
Total departmental	20,430	-	20,430	20,369	61
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items ¹	5,672	-	5,672	182	5,490
Total administered	5,672	-	5,672	182	5,490

Notes:

1. The variance of \$5,490,000 for Administered funds 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.

Note 4.1B: Unspent Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Departmental		
Cash and Cash equivalents	1,019	585
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020–21 (Capital Budget – DCB) – Non Operating	-	61
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021–22 (Capital Budget – DCB) – Non Operating	3,569	-
Total departmental	4,588	646
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021–22	4,640	
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020–21	2,363	2,363
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020–21	3,127	3,127
Total administered	10,130	5,490

Note 4.2 Special Accounts

	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) ¹		AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money) ²	
	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	12,066	10,606	13	236
Increases:				
Appropriation for reporting period	21,945	20,369	-	-
Levies and Licensing Charges (<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991 – Section 94C</i>)	13,998	13,239	-	-
Other receipts	4,660	5,268	42	7
Total increases	40,603	38,876	42	7
Available for payments	52,669	49,482	55	243
Decreases:				
Employee payments	(19,782)	(19,199)	-	-
Supplier payments	(16,075)	(16,501)	-	-
Interest payments on lease liabilities	(88)	(98)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,394)	(548)	-	-
Principal repayments on lease liabilities	(1,276)	(1,070)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	-	(230)
Total decrease	(38,615)	(37,416)	-	(230)
Total balance carried to the next period	14,053	12,066	55	13
Balance represented by:				
Cash – held in the Official Public Account	13,035	11,481	-	-
Cash – held by the agency	1,019	585	55	13
Total balance carried to the next period	14,054	12,066	55	13

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.
3. The closing balance of AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account represents amounts held in trust. See 7.2A Assets Held in Trust for more information.

Note 4.3 Regulatory Charging Summary

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	14,813	14,206
Total amounts applied	14,813	14,206
Expenses		
Departmental	13,577	13,310
Total expenses	13,577	13,310
Revenue		
Departmental	14,813	14,206
Total revenue	14,813	14,206

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
- Licensing/Registration and Revenue Collection
- Policy Support

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

Note 4.4 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) – as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,498	(633)
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	795	810
Plus: depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,413	1,145
Less: lease principal repayments	(1,276)	(1,070)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	2,430	252

¹ Depreciation and amortisation expenditure represented above refers to the government funded portion of AFMA's total depreciation and amortisation charges. In 2021–22 AFMA received \$357,000 (2020–21: \$305,000) in funding for depreciation and amortisation through cost recovery arrangements.

The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to ROU leased assets and the lease liability principle repayment amount reflects the impact of AASB 16 Leases, which does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

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 Employee Provisions

Note 5.1A: Employee Provisions	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Leave	5,174	5,730
Total employee provisions	5,174	5,730
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	1,533	1,520
More than 12 months	3,641	4,210
Total employee provisions	5,174	5,730

Accounting Policy

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.

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.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2022. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

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

Superannuation

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

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

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

AFMA makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. AFMA 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.

Note 5.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity. AFMA has determined the key management personnel to be Commissioners and Executive Officers. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Short-term employee benefits	1,561,176	1,416,455
Post-employment benefits	228,993	207,283
Other long-term employee benefits	32,821	27,164
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,822,990	1,650,902
The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are:	11	10

¹ The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by AFMA.

Note 5.3 Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationships

AFMA is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties to AFMA are Key Management Personnel including the Portfolio Minister and Executive, and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties:

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions include the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note.

- Significant transactions with related parties can include:
- the payments of grants or loans;
- purchases of goods and services;
- asset purchases, sales transfers or leases;
- debts forgiven; and
- guarantees.

Giving consideration to relationships with related entities, and transactions entered into during the reporting period by AFMA, it has been determined that there are no related party transactions to be separately disclosed.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

Managing Uncertainty

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

Note 6.1 *Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*

AFMA has one ongoing legal matter subject to appeal that may result in an asset or liability. The amount is unquantifiable as at 30 June 2022.

Note 6.2 *Financial Instruments*

AFMA's financial assets consist of cash and cash equivalents, accrued revenues and both statutory receivables and goods and services receivables. Receivables for statutory charges are not financial instruments — examples of statutory charges include GST (receivable from or payable to the ATO), levies, rates and fines. However, the initial recognition and measurement of statutory receivables is treated as if they are financial instruments under AASB 9. Receivables from statutory charges are assessed annually for impairment in accordance with AASB 136.

AFMA's financial liabilities include trade creditors and accrued expenses.

Accounting Policy

Financial Assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, AFMA classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both AFMA's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when AFMA becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Comparatives have not been restated on initial application.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, 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 interest basis.

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

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.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2022

Other Information

Note 7.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

Note 7.1A Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	14,054	12,066
Trade and other receivables	4,845	1,111
Other non-financial assets	301	473
Total no more than 12 months	19,200	13,650
More than 12 months		
Land and Buildings	1,775	1,775
Heritage and cultural	11,594	12,704
Plant and equipment	1,416	1,216
Computer software	1,208	611
Total more than 12 months	15,993	16,306
Total assets	35,193	29,956
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	3,000	2,783
Other payables	470	413
Leases	1,275	976
Employee provisions	1,533	1,520
Total no more than 12 months	6,278	5,692

Note 7.1A Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
More than 12 months		
Leases	6,262	6,960
Employee provisions	3,641	4,210
Other provisions	185	183
Total more than 12 months	10,088	11,353
Total liabilities	16,366	17,045

Note 7.1B Administered – current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Trade and other receivables	185	21
Total no more than 12 months	185	21
Total assets	185	21
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	254	5
Total no more than 12 months	254	5
Total liabilities	254	5

Note 7.2 Assets Held in Trust

Note 7.2A Assets Held in Trust	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
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.		
Cash at bank – monetary asset		
As at 1 July	13	236
Receipts	42	7
Payments	-	(230)
As at 30 June	55	13
Total monetary assets held in trust	55	13





PART 6 Appendices

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APPENDIX 1

Commission, Executive and Committees

Commission

AFMA Commissioners are appointed for their 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 new legislative amendments added expertise on matters relating to recreational or Indigenous Australian fishing. Future appointments to the Commission will take the new requirements into consideration.

The following Commissioners held appointments during the reporting period 2021–22:

Ms Helen Kroger – Chair

Helen has held leadership positions in the private, public and not for profit sectors for the last 20 years. She is a former Liberal Senator for Victoria, Government Whip and active former member of numerous key Senate and Joint Committees. She has extensive board experience and advises corporations on regulatory compliance, governance, communications and stakeholder management issues.

Mr Wez Norris – Chief Executive Officer

Wez is an AFMA Commissioner and the CEO. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Natural Systems and Wildlife Management from the University of Queensland. He has worked for Queensland Fisheries, previously at AFMA, as the Manager of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, and then spent 10 years as the Deputy Director-General at the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, in the Solomon Islands. He has worked on a number of significant fisheries reform projects, including prawn trawl, hand-line and hand-collectable fisheries, and also held positions in the Torres Strait and in a Ministerial Office.

Ms Catherine Cooper

Catherine currently chairs the Environment Protection Agency of South Australia and Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority. 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, the South Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee and Aquaculture Advisory Council.

Mr Brett McCallum

Brett has been a director of Bresal Consulting since November 2015. He has a Bachelor of Commerce and is a past Deputy Chair of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. He is currently chair of the Western Australian and South Australian Research Advisory Committee, the Australian Aquatic Animal Welfare Strategy Working Group and the Offshore Snapper Fishery Advisory Committee in the NT. His expertise covers commercial fisheries management, government policy setting, natural resource management, economics and business management. He has over 40 years' experience in peak fishing industry representation as Chief Executive of the WA Fishing Industry Council and the Pearl Producers Association. Brett has held senior managerial positions with several leading Australian fishing, pearling and exporting companies.

Mrs Sevaly Sen

Sevaly is an applied economist with over thirty years' experience in fisheries in Australia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and Asia. Sevaly ran her own consultancy company in the UK, worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in southern Africa and the Institute of Fisheries Management in Denmark. Since moving to Australia in 1999, Sevaly runs her own consultancy business. She has been a member of the Fisheries Council of South Australia, the NSW Structural Adjustment Review Committee and the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. Currently she is a member of the Torres Strait Rock Lobster Working Group, is advisor to Sydney Fish Market on sustainability issues and coordinates an FRDC sub-program.

Dr David Smith

David led the Marine Resources and Industries Research Program of CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere. The Program focused on research that supports the balanced use of marine resources, including sustainable marine industries (fisheries, offshore oil and gas) and biodiversity conservation. Prior to joining CSIRO in 2005, he was Director of the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute in Victoria. He has over 30 years' experience in fisheries assessment and management, and research management. Since September 2018 he has been a consultant. He currently is the Independent Chair of the National Research Providers Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture and is a member of the National Marine Science Committee. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies.

Mr Scott Spencer

Scott has over 40 years' experience in natural resource management and public policy development. He is a former Secretary of the Queensland Fish Management Authority, Director General of the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water, Deputy Director General (Policy) in the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet and most recently, Deputy Director General, Fisheries and Forestry within the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Scott was also Chair of the Board of Directors of Sunwater Ltd and for a number of years, operated his own private consultancy. He has held numerous statutory positions including as Commissioner on the then Murray Darling Basin Commission. Scott has formal qualifications in Economics.

AFMA Commissioners – attendance at commission meetings

Six Commission meetings were held in 2021–22. The table below shows the number of meetings Commissioners attended.

Commissioner	Meetings attended
Ms Helen Kroger	6
Mr Wez Norris	6
Ms Catherine Cooper	6
Mr Brett McCallum	6
Mrs Sevaly Sen	6
Dr David Smith	6
Mr Scott Spencer	6

Executive

Role and function

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

Membership

- Chief Executive Officer – Mr Wez Norris
- Deputy CEO, Fisheries Management Branch – Ms Anna Willock
- General Manager, Operations Branch – Mr Peter Venslovas
- Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Branch – Mr John Andersen
- General Manager, Fisheries and Information Services Branch – Ms Claire van der Geest

Audit and Risk Committee

Role and function

The Audit and Risk Committee operates in line with the PGPA Act and provides independent advice and assurance to CEO of the appropriateness of AFMA's:

- financial reporting including the annual audited financial statements
- performance reporting including the framework for developing, measuring and reporting
- systems of risk oversight and management including AFMA's risk management and fraud control framework
- systems of internal controls associated with – governance, risk management, compliance and business continuity management arrangements.

The charter determining the functions of AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee is located on the AFMA website [Audit and Risk Committee Charter](#). The committee held four meetings during the reporting period.

Membership

The AFMA Audit and Risk Committee comprised three independent members during 2021–22. The members were:

Member	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience	Meetings attended	Total Remuneration
Mr Geoff Knuckey	Significant Board and Audit Committee experience in the private and public sector. Strong financial reporting and management skills attained through professional and management roles. Highly developed appreciation of business, financial and reputational risk and appropriate governance frameworks	4	\$7,425
Ms Mary Harwood	Extensive experience as a senior executive in the Commonwealth Government. Design and delivery of major government initiatives related to natural resource management. Knowledge of all aspects of program management including governance, risk oversight and management, financial control and delivery	3	\$4,400
Mr Don Cross	Chartered accountant with extensive experience in internal audit and assurance services, financial audit services, technical skills in accounting and assurance, financial management, risk management, program management and evaluation.	4	\$6,428

Permanent Advisers

The committee has regular observers attending including:

- Mr John Andersen (COO, Corporate Services Branch)
- Ms Jo Hobson (Chief Finance Officer)
- Mr Peter Mann (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Business Operational Support)
- Ms Corinne Fox (Senior Manager, People, Capability and Engagement)
- Audit representatives from Bellchambers Barrett (AFMA's internal audit providers), Charterpoint (contracted external auditors) and the Australian National Audit Office.

AFMA's Business Partnership and Strategy team provides administrative support to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Research Committee

Role and function

AFMA's Research Committee advises the AFMA Commission on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for monitoring and research relevant to meeting AFMA's 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 plan for Commonwealth fisheries
- provide advice to the AFMA Commission on allocation of AFMA research funds
- assess research, monitoring and assessment investments for the Commonwealth fisheries for consistency with management needs.

The committee held three meetings in 2021–22.

Membership

- Mr Brett McCallum (Chair and Commissioner)
- Dr David Smith (Commissioner) – invited participant
- Mr Wez Norris (CEO)
- Ms Anna Willock (Deputy CEO, Fisheries Management Branch)

Permanent Advisers

- Mr Ryan Murphy (Senior Manager, Policy, Environment, Economics and Research)
- Ms Natalie Couchman (Manager, Research)

Regular Observers

- Mr Andrew Sullivan Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)
- Mr James Woodhams Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES)
- Dr Alistair Hobday Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Dr Chris Izzo Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)

Strategic Delivery Committee

The Strategic Delivery Committee met throughout 2021–22 to provide Executive oversight of all AFMA significant projects. The committee uses a risk-based tiered approach to prioritise projects undertaken by the agency to ensure appropriate governance and monitoring arrangements are in place. Each project is assessed based on risk factors that weigh the alignment and impact of the project on our corporate objectives. The committee monitors resources assigned and budget impacts, to ensure that milestones/targets are met to achieve project success.

Major projects reviewed by the committee in 2021–22 included the Torres Strait Legal Project, ICT Infrastructure Refresh, the Redesign and rebuild of the AFMA and PZJA website and the AFMA Workforce Plan.

The Business Partnership and Strategy team provides coordination and administrative support to the Strategic Delivery Committee.

Membership

- Mr John Andersen (Chair and COO, Corporate Services Branch)
- Ms Anna Willock (Deputy CEO, Fisheries Management Branch)
- Mr Peter Venslovas (General Manager, Fisheries Operations Branch)
- Ms Claire van der Geest (General Manager, Fisheries and Information Services)
- Ms Jo Hobson (Chief Financial Officer)
- Mr Peter Mann (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Business Operational Support)

Information Governance Committee

The remit of the Information Governance Committee is to provide AFMA with a mechanism to develop a consistent, systematic, and enterprise-wide approach to managing its information assets. This committee is responsible for ensuring that information is treated as an asset and supports organisational outcomes. It ensures that risk and compliance issues are identified and addressed for as long as the information is required.

This committee provides governance and oversight on a range of initiatives to improve our information governance processes which align to the Australian Government's Building Trust in the Public Record policy. The committee also considers the impacts the Government's Digital Transformation Agenda has on the agency and ensures that Whole of Government initiatives are taken into account when designing and implementing systems that involve public and stakeholders.

Membership

- Mr Peter Mann (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Ash Mooney (Senior Intelligence Analyst, Fisheries Operations)
- Mr Nate Mulenberg (Manager, Fisheries Management)
- Mr Latif Siddique (Senior Reporting Officer, Corporate Services)
- Mr Daniel Dal Piva (Senior Government Lawyer, Corporate Services)
- Ms Belinda Priestley (Governance Manager, Corporate Services)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Security and Property)
- Mr Thomas Kaufhold (Senior Records Management Officer and Secretariat)

Security Governance Committee

The AFMA Security Governance Committee met quarterly during 2021–22 to consider the current security governance arrangements and the security threats and vulnerabilities to AFMA. The committee reviews our personnel, physical and information security arrangements and ensures compliance with the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF). In 2021–22 the committee reviewed the structure and agenda for AFMA's Security Governance Committee to better streamline our reporting with the PSPF. In addition, the committee kept informed on the Cyber Security and protective security to further strengthen AFMA's overall security posture while providing input and feedback through the annual PSPF and Cyber Security Surveys. The committee continues to engage cyber security expertise to assist in the delivery of our PSPF obligations, focusing on cyber security. The committee is currently seeking a broader internal membership to consider opinions and ideas from outside the Corporate Services Branch.

Membership

- Mr John Andersen (Chair and COO, Corporate Services Branch)
- Mr Peter Mann (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Security and Property)
- Mr Brendan Kearney (Manager, Property and Security & Executive Support)
- Mr Andrew Browne (National Compliance Operations)
- Mr Ranjith Selvarajan (Network Engineer)
- Mr Zac Than (Governance Manager)
- Mr Ron Hulks (Infrastructure Manager)

APPENDIX 2

Litigation Outcomes

The following table identifies civil litigation outcomes associated with matters open in 2021–22.

Matter	Fishery	Outcome/Status
Federal Court		
Australia Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd v Northern Territory of Australia and Ors (Appeal) – NTD13/2021	Demersal & Timor Reef/ Northern Offshore Fishery	This matter is currently before the Full Federal Court. Written submissions have been finalised and the matter is awaiting judgement in due course.
Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel		
Nil		
Administrative Appeal Tribunal		
Nil		
Fair Work Commission		
Nil		

Significant matters

Nil

APPENDIX 3

Management Advisory Committee meetings and memberships

Management Advisory Committees are statutory committees established by AFMA under section 56 of the FAA.

The committees provide advice to AFMA and the AFMA Commission 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, sub stocks, 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 and the AFMA Commission in its role to regulate commercial fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, particularly the setting of catch limits and conditions.

The membership of Management Advisory Committees is available on AFMA's [website](#).

Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The committee met three in 2021–22, with one meeting held in Sydney and two meetings held via teleconference. The main item that the MAC dealt with was the application of the new Harvest Strategy for swordfish and the AFMA Commission agreed to manage striped marlin through a constant catch approach, rather than the implementation of species-specific harvest strategy. The swordfish harvest strategy and striped marlin constant catch approach were used to inform the AFMA Commission when setting the 2022 swordfish and striped marlin total allowable commercial catch.

The committee also discussed:

- the continuation of a trial of increased hooks in the Coral Sea Zone (historically has had a limit of no more than 500 hooks per shot to reduce the capture and mortality of blue and black marlin) into 2022
- annual TACC setting process
- updates to arrangements to management of seabird interactions
- various outcomes from international meetings of the WCPFC and IOTC
- management arrangements and responses to seabird interactions
- ongoing identification of research priorities.

All existing appointment for Tropical Tuna MAC members expired on 30 June 2021 following the panel processes. The Chair and members were appointed for three years, commencing 1 July 2021 to June 2024.

Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice in 2021 via video conference. The committee discussed and provided input towards the reviews of the Upper-slope Dogfish Management Strategy and the Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy. The committee also discussed:

- SESSF Strategic Research Plan 2021–25 and research priorities for 2022–23
- TAC limits for deepwater flathead and Bight redfish for the 2022–23 SESSF fishing season
- research catch allowance and amendments to the Great Australian Bight Orange Roughy Research Plan 2021–24.

Northern Prawn Management Advisory Committee

The committee met once in May 2022. The committee provided a recommendation on the total allowable effort for the tiger prawn fishing season and endorsed ecological risk assessment reports for the white banana prawn and tiger prawn sub-fisheries. The committee also discussed:

- proposed changes to the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan*
- annual monitoring of NPF performance indicators
- Indigenous engagement in the NPF.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The committee met once in 2021–22 via video conference, due to travel restrictions still being in place.

The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission about undercatch arrangements in the SBTF.

The committee discussed:

- a new policy being developed by AFMA on ways to interpret net economic returns
- changes to undercatch arrangements in the SBTF
- outcomes of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna Scientific Committee
- research issues and priorities.

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice during 2021–22 with one meeting via videoconference and one meeting face-to-face. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on the 2022 fishing season TAC for commercial scallop and doughboy scallop, spatial closures and fishing season dates in accordance with the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy. The committee also:

- considered the results of the 2022 pre-season biomass survey, including bycatch data
- provided advice on the membership of the BSCZSF Industry Co-Management Committee
- provided advice on the annual research plan for 2022–23.

South East Management Advisory Committee

The committee met three times during 2021–22 via videoconference. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on TACs for the SESSF and Small Pelagic Fishery 2022–23 fishing seasons and a total allowable effort for the Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) 2022 fishing season. The committee also considered:

- SPF Dolphin Strategy
- Harvest Strategy review for the SESSF and SSJF
- SPF Five Year Strategic Research Plan
- GHAT ERA's
- the revised SESSF Strategic Research Plan 2021–25 and research priorities for 2022–23
- the review of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery Bycatch and Discarding Workplan
- final ERAs for gillnet and trawl methods in the SESSF, and the draft Commonwealth Trawl Sector Bycatch and Discarding Workplan
- management approaches, including monitoring and research, for hagfish
- the five-year reviews of the orange roughy and blue warehou rebuilding strategies
- the review of the Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy.

Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee

The committee held two meetings during 2021–22, one via video conference in November 2021 and one face-to-face meeting in May 2022.

The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on TACs and bycatch limits in the HIMI Fishery and the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery.

The committee discussed:

- the outcomes of the CCAMLR meeting and its implications for the management of the HIMI Fishery
- updates on fishing operations
- update on the trawl gear modification trial
- proposed random longline survey design
- CCAMLR new and exploratory fisheries proposals
- updates on environmental interactions and gear loss and recovery in both fisheries
- other management and operational updates.

APPENDIX 4

Freedom of Information reporting

Entities 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 on our website at afma.gov.au

APPENDIX 5

Work Health and Safety

AFMA recognises its responsibility and obligations as outlined in the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of its employees, contractors, consultants and visitors. Health and wellbeing is considered to be of utmost importance and the need to integrate health and safety into all aspects of our work, whether in the office or in the field is paramount.

The Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Committee is a joint management and staff committee that is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all of its staff, contractors, consultants and visitors.

The WHS Committee:

- assists with the development, implementation, review and update of policies and procedures in relation to WHS
- reviews incident reporting
- oversees the implementation of preventive measures
- assists in the distribution and awareness of WHS information to staff.

The WHS Committee met four times during the 2021–22 financial year.

Health and Safety Initiatives

During 2021–22, the agency undertook initiatives ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and achieved good health and safety outcomes as a result.

This commitment included promoting a healthy work/life balance and supporting employees to engage in a healthy lifestyle. Through participating in a range of workplace initiatives, AFMA recognises the importance of a healthy workplace that supports employee's mental health and general wellbeing.

The annual program supports national and global health campaigns and offers employees the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of activities and seminars. The annual program is further supported by a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Hub providing access to a range of resources to assist staff in supporting their mental health and wellbeing. The Health and Wellbeing Hub includes information on AFMA's employee assistance program, flu vaccinations, online mental health training, meditation, mindfulness, exercise and mental health fact sheets from Comcare, Beyond Blue and the R U OK? initiative.

This year's program again included the Healthy Lifestyle Initiative, which is offered in recognition of the mutual benefits of a healthy lifestyle for both employees and AFMA.

Through the initiative, financial assistance is being offered to employees to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in supporting the health and wellbeing of AFMA workers, last financial year, AFMA introduced its Flexible Working Arrangement Policy, where staff can request approval to undertake their usual duties through working three (3) days in the office and two (2) days from home. Under these arrangements support is available to all staff via internal communication, including access to information regarding home-based workstation assessments, use of IT equipment (e.g., laptop) and advice regarding working remotely.

Incidents and Hazards

AFMA is required under the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) to create and maintain a safe and healthy work environment for all workers and record WHS data relating to incidents and hazards. In 2021–22 AFMA recorded fourteen (14) incidents relating to accidents or near-misses (see Figure 1). This rate has increased from last financial year which only recorded eleven (11) incidents. It should be noted that incidents are more prevalent amongst fisheries officers and fisheries observers due to the nature of their work and the risks of field workplaces (fishing vessels and patrol vessels). In general, both cohorts have been more active in 2021–22 than in 2020–21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

The agency monitors and assesses all incidents and hazards and reports to the AFMA Commission and the WHS Committee. Where identified, modifications and changes to work practices and training and awareness programs are implemented. Specifically, during this financial year, AFMA undertook an awareness campaign educating AFMA staff on their WH&S reporting responsibilities.

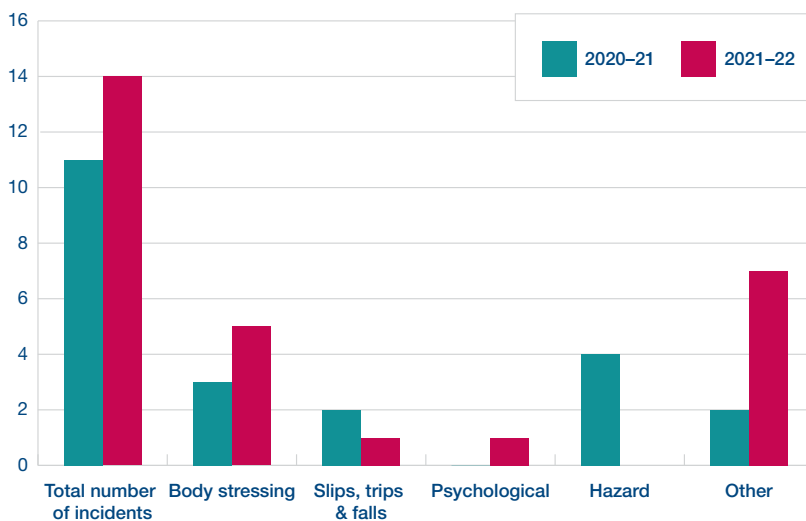


Figure 2: AFMA Work Health and Safety incidents reports comparison

Notifiable Incidents in 2021–2022

In accordance with the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#), AFMA is required to report 'notifiable incidents' to Comcare. A notifiable incident can include: death of a person; serious injury or illness, or a dangerous incident which arises out of AFMA conducting its business.

In 2021–22 there were no incidents that were required to be notified to Comcare that fell within the definition of a Dangerous Occurrence under the Work Health and Safety legislation.

APPENDIX 6

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Legislation according with Ecological Sustainable Development Principles

AFMA is responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fisheries on behalf of the Australian community. AFMA's legislated objectives are prescribed in the FAA and the FMA, and these objectives, along with those of the EPBC Act, are given effect by a number of subsequently developed fisheries policies and guidelines, principally the:

- Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018 (BP) and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018 (BP Guidelines)
- Commonwealth Fisheries HSP 2018 and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 (HSP Guidelines)
- Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries (ESMF Guidelines).

Commonwealth legislation requires that AFMA pursues ESD and as one part of this, ensure the ecological sustainability of species, populations, and ecosystems with which its fisheries interact.

This requirement sits alongside other legislative objectives that AFMA pursues including those relating to cost effective management, maximising net economic returns, having regard to Indigenous Australian and recreational fishing interests, accountability to industry, optimal utilisation of living resources, ensuring its fisheries take all reasonable steps to avoid killing or injuring EPBC Act-listed species and measures adopted must not be inconsistent with the preservation, conservation and protection of all species of whales.

AFMA, in collaboration with the fishing industry, pursues ecological sustainability through the implementation of:

- ERM responses which provides for the management of fishing interactions with commercial species, bycatch species, habitats and communities, as well as supporting strategies for research, data and monitoring
- a scientific risk assessment process (within ERM) referred to as the Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) to identify and quantify these risks to ecological sustainability.

Figure 3 outlines the linkages between legislation, policy, assessment, and management processes covered by ERM. ERM has multiple components and processes.

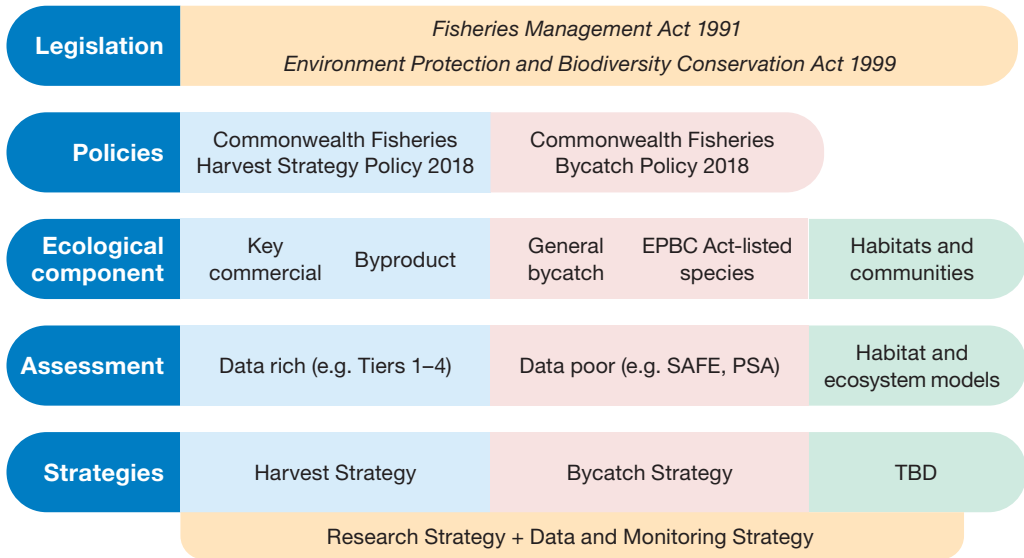


Figure 3: AFMA's ERM and its relationship with fisheries legislation and policies, ecological components and risk assessment tools which address ERM and other fisheries management objectives.

To ensure that AFMA meets objectives relating to ecological sustainability in a changing climate, AFMA commenced a program of work in 2021–22 to more strategically incorporate climate impacts into the management of Commonwealth fisheries. This program of work will include more explicit and structured integration of information on climate change into AFMA's decision-making processes and pursuing climate adaptive management arrangements across Commonwealth fisheries.

Outcome contributing to Ecological Sustainable Development

AFMA's outcomes are directed at Commonwealth fisheries being ecologically sustainable, improving the net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries and managing efficiently and effectively.

This approach reflects our commitment to pursuing management of Commonwealth fisheries in accordance with our legislative objectives and in partnership with others who also have an interest in sustainable management.

Effect of actions on the environment

All of AFMA's managed fisheries are currently accredited under three parts of the EPBC Act.

Part 10 of the EPBC 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 EPBC 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 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 to AFMA through our logbooks, which we in turn provide regular reports to the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water on fishers' behalf, thus reducing unnecessary duplication of reporting.

Part 13A of the EPBC 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 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 the environment

We take an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management to minimise the impact of commercial fisheries on the marine environment. The ERM Policy, and accompanying Ecological Risk Management Guide, provide a science and evidence based structure for managing the impact of fishing on the marine environment. The framework uses ERA for the Effects of Fishing as the primary means of assessing the risks that fisheries may pose and provides a mechanism for the identification and management of any identified risks. Revised methodologies in the ERA for the Effects of Fishing framework are being applied to fisheries as they are reassessed. The results of these assessments are reported in the performance section.

Mechanisms for reviewing

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

AFMA reviewed its ERM Framework and the Commission approved the ERM Guide and ERM Policy in April and June 2017 respectively and is currently part way through another review of the framework. AFMA also regularly reviews individual elements of the ERM Framework through the ERM Steering Committee. This group of expert risk assessment fisheries scientists and fishery managers is tasked with providing strategic advice to the AFMA Commission and AFMA Management on the direction, development, coordination and implementation of AFMA's risk management framework.

We are also subject to reassessment of all its fisheries under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water undertake the reassessments on a regular basis, ranging from a ten year review cycle for fisheries granted exemptions to a more regular review process for fisheries granted wildlife trade operations.

APPENDIX 7

Disability Reporting

The National Disability Strategy is Australia's overarching framework for disability reform. It acts to ensure the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into Australia's policies and programs that affect people with disability, their families and carers.

All levels of government will continue to be held accountable for the implementation of the strategy through biennial progress reporting to the Council of Australian Governments. Progress reports can be found at the [Department of Social Services](#) website. Disability reporting is included in the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service reports and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at the [Australian Public Service Commission](#) website.

APPENDIX 8

Selection and engagement of consultants

Decisions to engage consultants during 2021–22 were made in accordance with the PGPA Act and related regulations including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and relevant internal policy.

Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts and reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into by AFMA above the value of \$10,000 is available via the [Austender](#) website.

Consultancy Services

During 2021–22, 24 new consultancy contracts were entered into, and this resulted in expenditure of \$1.784 million for the period. In addition, 29 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during 2021–22 resulting in expenditure of \$2.652 million, for a reportable consultancy expenditure of \$4.436 million for the year.

Most consultancy services engaged during the 2021–22 were for fisheries research purposes. The selection and engagement of research consultants was primarily conducted through a limited tender process because of the small pool of qualified providers for these specialised services.

Reportable consultancy expenditure 2021–22	Number	Expenditure
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	24	1,784,056
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	29	2,651,704
Total	53	\$4,435,760

Top 5 Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure 2021–22 (ABN)	% of consultancy spend	Expenditure
CSIRO (Division of Fisheries) (41 687 119 230)	67.1%	2,974,242
The University of Adelaide (61 249 878 937)	6.3%	277,280
Fish Ageing Services Pty Ltd (77 134 707 145)	5.5%	245,457
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries QLD (66 934 348 189)	4.2%	186,579
AVAIL Information Management Services (17 125 677 401)	2.4%	104,990
Total of the Top 5 Consultancy Spends	85.4%	\$3,788,547

Non-Consultancy Services

During 2021–22, 79 new reportable non-consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$4.176 million. In addition, 46 ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts were active during 2021–22 involving total actual expenditure of \$6.850 million.

Expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts

Reportable non-consultancy contracts 2021–22	Number	Expenditure
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	79	4,176,456
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	46	6,850,205
Total	125	\$11,026,662

Top 5 Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure 2021–22 (ABN)	% of non-consultancy spend	Expenditure
Ventia Property Pty Ltd (16 618 028 676)	12.7%	1,404,999
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd (33 169 201 192)	9.5%	1,047,510
MTP Services Pty Ltd (61 610 143 863)	9.0%	990,489
Bhagwan Marine Pty Ltd (81 009 154 349)	8.9%	976,269
TrackWell (ABN Exempt)	8.5%	936,498
Total of the Top 5 Non-Consultancy Contract Spends	48.6%	\$ 5,355,765

APPENDIX 9

Procurement and Small Business

AFMA supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and medium enterprises and small enterprise participation statistics are available on the [Department of Finance's website](#)

How AFMA's procurement practices support small and medium enterprises

As a government organisation that interfaces with many small and medium enterprises as part of our daily engagement with the fishing industry and broader community, AFMA has procurement policies that ensure non-discrimination against small and medium enterprises in competitive procurement process and provide appropriate opportunities for small and medium enterprises to compete. AFMA encourages increased participation of small and medium enterprises in procurement activities by stipulating officials to consider in the procurement process “value for money”, and:

- the benefits of doing business with competitive small and medium enterprises when specifying requirements and evaluating value for money
- barriers to entry, such as costly preparation of submissions, that may prevent small and medium enterprises from competing
- disaggregation of large projects into smaller packages to maximise more competitive opportunity for small and medium enterprises
- small and medium enterprises capabilities and their commitment to local or regional markets
- AFMA commits to improve its on-time payment capabilities by using payment cards and implementing electronic invoicing which can now offer 5-day payment terms to suppliers who submit e-invoices.

APPENDIX 10

Total Resources and Total Payments

	Actual available appropriation 2021–22 \$'000	Payments made 2021–22 \$'000	Balance remaining 2021–22 \$'000
Departmental			
Departmental appropriation – ordinary annual services¹			
Prior year appropriation available ²	61	61	0
Departmental appropriation	25,453	21,884	3,569
s. 74 Retained revenue receipts	-	-	-
Total departmental annual appropriations	25,514	21,945	3,569
Special accounts³			
Opening balance	12,066	0	12,066
Appropriation receipts	21,945	21,945	0
Non-appropriation receipts to Special Accounts	18,658	16,670	1,988
Total special accounts	52,669	38,615	14,054
Less appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts and/or payments to corporate entities through annual appropriations	-21,945	-21,945	-
Total departmental resourcing	56,238	38,615	17,623
Administered			
Administered appropriation – ordinary annual services			
Outcome 1	5,792	1,152	
Total administered annual appropriations	5,792	1,152	
Total administered services	5,792	1,152	
Total resourcing for AFMA	62,030	39,767	17,623

Note: Departmental receipts and payments are made through the AFMA Special Account. All figures are GST exclusive.

1. Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in appropriation Act (No.1) and form part of ordinary annual services. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as 'contribution by owner'.
2. These amount does not include amounts held in AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account.

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.

	2021–22 Budget \$'000	2021–22 Actual expenses \$'000	2021–22 Variance \$'000
Programme 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority	(a)	(b)	(a) - (b)
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,792	1,267	4,525
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	22,481	21,035	1,446
Special accounts	14,812	13,986	826
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	2,557	2,208	349
Total for Programme 1.1	45,642	38,496	7,146
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,792	1,267	4,525
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	22,481	21,035	1,446
Special accounts	14,812	13,986	826
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	2,557	2,208	349
Total expenses for Outcome 1	45,642	38,496	7,146
Average staffing level (number)	177	151	26

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

1. Departmental appropriation combines "Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)" "Retained Revenue Receipts under s74 of the PGPA Act".
2. Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year¹ is made up of depreciation expense and amortisation expense for both Departmental and Administered items.

APPENDIX 12

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

During the reporting period ended 30 June 2022, AFMA had 11 executives and Commissioners who met the definition of key management personnel.

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity.

The remuneration of the AFMA CEO and AFMA Commissioners is made under sub-section 7(3) and 7(4) of the [Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973](#). During 2021-22 the remuneration for AFMA's executives (SES equivalent) was consistent with equivalent public sector entities. Base salaries and inclusions complied with government policy and guidelines. Individual determination was made under section 24(1) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#).

The tables below provides disaggregated information disclosed in Note 5.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration in AFMA's 2021–22 financial statements.

Key Management Personnel Remuneration Table

Key Management Personnel	Position	Term as KMP	Short Term Benefits			Post-employment Benefits			Other long-term benefits			Termination benefits	Total remuneration
			Base salary	Other benefits & allowances	Bonuses	Superannuation contributions	Benefits	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits				
Wez Norris	Chief Executive Officer	Full year	378,243	-	-	37,600	9,270	-	-	-	-	-	425,113
Anna Willock	Executive Manager	Full year	292,254	-	-	42,481	6,706	-	-	-	-	-	341,441
John Andersen	Chief Operating Officer	Full year	256,221	-	-	45,784	5,736	-	-	-	-	-	307,741
Peter Venslovas	General Manager	Full year	233,291	-	-	40,566	5,452	-	-	-	-	-	279,310
Claire van der Geest	General Manager	Part year	129,324	-	-	20,678	5,657	-	-	-	-	-	155,659
Helen Kroger	Commissioner (Chair)	Full year	77,669	-	-	11,961	-	-	-	-	-	-	89,631
Catherine Cooper	Commissioner	Full year	38,835	-	-	5,981	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,815
Brett McCallum	Commissioner	Full year	38,835	-	-	5,981	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,815
Scott Spencer	Commissioner	Full year	38,835	-	-	5,981	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,815
Sevaly Sen	Commissioner	Full year	38,835	-	-	5,981	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,815
David Smith	Commissioner	Full year	38,835	-	-	6,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,834
			1,561,149	-	-	228,993	32,821	-	-	-	-	-	1,822,990

Notes:

1. The remuneration of the AFMA Chief Executive and AFMA Commissioners is made under the subsection 7(3) and 7(4) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*.
2. In 2021–22 Claire Van Der Geest was added as a KMP after promotion to General Manager of the Fisheries Information and Services Branch from 4 November 2021.

Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short Term Benefits			Post-employment Benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits		Total remuneration
		Average base Salary	Average other benefits and allowances	Average bonuses	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average Termination Benefits	Average Total Remuneration		
\$0-\$220,000	7	57,310	-	-	8,937	808	-	-	-	67,055	
\$220,001-\$245,000											
\$245,001-\$270,000											
\$270,001-\$295,000	1	233,291	-	-	40,566	5,452	-	-	-	279,310	
\$295,001-\$320,000	1	256,221	-	-	45,784	5,736	-	-	-	307,741	
\$320,001-\$345,000	1	292,254	-	-	42,481	6,706	-	-	-	341,441	
\$345,001-\$370,000											
\$420,001-\$445,000	1	378,243	-	-	37,600	9,270	-	-	-	425,113	





PART 7

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Glossary and indexes

List of Requirements – non-corporate Commonwealth entities

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g) Letter of transmittal			
17AI	vi	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h) Aids to access			
17AJ(a)	iii	Table of contents.	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	199	Alphabetical index.	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	191–198	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	184	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	ii	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a) Review by accountable authority			
17AD(a)	2	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b) Overview of the entity			
17AE(1)(a)(i)	12	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	16	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	20	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	20	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	20	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	20	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	154	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	12	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c) Report on the Performance of the entity			
Annual performance Statements			
17AD(c)(i); 16F	19–47	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii) Report on Financial Performance			
17AF(1)(a)	114	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	177	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory
17AF(2)	N/A	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.
17AD(d) Management and Accountability			
Corporate Governance			
17AG(2)(a)	vi	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	vi	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	vi	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	vi	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	88	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	97	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
Audit Committee			
17AG(2A)(a)	155	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	155	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	155	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	155	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	155	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
External Scrutiny			
17AG(3)	91	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	160	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	91	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
Management of Human Resources			
17AG(4)(a)	106	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(aa)	108–109	<p>Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following:</p> <p>(a) statistics on fulltime employees; (b) statistics on parttime employees; (c) statistics on gender (d) statistics on staff location</p>	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	108–109	<p>Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics on staffing classification level; • Statistics on fulltime employees; • Statistics on parttime employees; • Statistics on gender; • Statistics on staff location; • Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous Australian. 	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	104	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	103	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	111	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	111	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	N/A	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
Assets Management			
17AG(5)	N/A	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
Purchasing			
17AG(6)	172	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory
Reportable consultancy contracts			
17AG(7)(a)	174	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	174	A statement that “ <i>During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]</i> ”.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	174	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	174	A statement that “ <i>Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.</i> ”	Mandatory
Reportable non-consultancy contracts			
17AG(7A)(a)	175	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	175	A statement that “ <i>Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.</i> ”	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(daa)		Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts	
17AGA	175	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses			
17AG(8)	98	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory
Exempt contracts			
17AG(9)	98	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory
Small business			
17AG(10)(a)	176	A statement that "[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	176	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	N/A	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that "[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
Financial Statements			
17AD(e)	119–149	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
Executive Remuneration			
17AD(da)	179	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 23 of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(f) Other Mandatory Information			
17AH(1)(a)(i)	98	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that <i>"During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity's website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website."</i>	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	98	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	98	A statement that <i>"Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity's website]."</i>	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	173	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	165	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	N/A	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	51–84	Information required by other legislation	Mandatory

Abbreviations

The following table describes the abbreviations and acronyms used throughout the report:

Abbreviation	Explanation
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BMEY	stock biomass required to produce maximum economic yield from the fishery
BMSY	a proxy of 0.48 times the unfished biomass, or 1.2 times the biomass at maximum sustainable yield
BSCZSF	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Southern Bluefin Tuna
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Commonwealth Fisheries Association
CMM	Conservation and management measure
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRIS	Cost Recovery Implementation Statement
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DTEMP	Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program
eCDRs	electronic catch documentation records
eLogs	electronic logbooks
eObserver	electronic observer data collection
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EM	Electronic Monitoring
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
ERM	Ecological Risk Management
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
ETBF	Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
FAA	<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>
FFV	Foreign fishing vessel

Abbreviation	Explanation
FMA	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
FOB	Fisheries Operations Branch
FRDC	Fisheries Research Development Corporation
GHAT	Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
GVP	Gross Value of Production
HIMI	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
HSP	Harvest Strategy Policy
ICEP	International Compliance and Engagement Program
ICO	International Compliance Operations
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFMO	International Fisheries Management Organisations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
MAC	Management Advisory Commission
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield
NCEP	National Compliance and Enforcement Program
NER	Net Economic Returns
NPF	Northern Prawn Fishery
NWSTF	North West Slope Trawl Fishery
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
OMC	Operational Management Committee
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PSM	Port State Measures
PSPF	Protective Security Policy Framework
PZJA	Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority
QWP	Queensland Water Police
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SBTF	Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery
SESSF	Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery
SFRs	Statutory Fishing Rights
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

Abbreviation	Explanation
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TAC	Total allowable catch
TACC	Total allowable commercial catch
TEP	Threatened, Endangered and Protected species
TDS	Technology and Digital Services team
VMS	Vessel Monitoring system
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDTF	Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery
WTBF	Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operations

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 below which the risk to the stock is regarded as unacceptably high.

Bycatch

Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target, and which are always discarded.

Byproduct

Any part of the catch that is kept or sold by the fisher but is not the target species.

Demersal

Found on or near the sea floor (c.f. Pelagic).

Discard

Any part of the catch returned to the sea, whether dead or alive.

Effort

A measure of the resources used to harvest a fishery's stocks. The measure of effort appropriate for a fishery depends on the methods used and the management arrangements. Common measures include the number of vessels, the number of hooks set or the number of fishing days.

Electronic monitoring

Electronic monitoring uses sensors and cameras to monitor and record information on fishing activity in a targeted way. Sensor data and video footage is analysed retrospectively to provide information and verify logbooks according to the needs identified for that fishery.

Fisheries Management Act 1991

One of the two main pieces of legislation (along with the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*) that detail AFMA's responsibilities and powers.

Fishing concession

A Statutory Fishing Right, or a fishing permit, or a foreign fishing boat licence granted under the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Fishing permit

A type of fishing concession granted under Section 32 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to a person, authorising the use of a specified Australian boat by that person, or a person acting on that person's behalf, for fishing in a specified area of the Australian Fishing Zone or a specified fishery for specified species, using specified equipment.

Fishing season

The period during which a fishery can be accessed by fishers.

Gillnet

Type of passive fishing gear consisting of panels of net held vertically in the water column, in contact with the seabed, such that fish attempting to swim through the net are entangled. The mesh size of the net determines the size range of fish caught, as smaller fish can swim through the meshes and larger fish are not enmeshed.

GoFish

GoFish is AFMA's online business facility for fishers to submit their applications, view their record of fishing concessions as held by us, keep their contact details up to date, view quota and catch information, receive messages from AFMA and monitor progress of applications lodged with AFMA.

Harvest strategy

Strategy outlining how the catch in a fishery will be adjusted from year to year depending on the size of stock, the economic or social conditions of the fishery, conditions of other interdependent stocks or species, and uncertainty of biological knowledge. Well-managed fisheries have an unambiguous (explicit and quantitative) harvest strategy that is robust to the unpredictable biological fluctuations to which the stock may be subject.

Incidental catch

Any part of the catch that is not the target species, including bycatch and by-product.

Individual transferable quotas

Individual portions of a total allowable catch – units of quota – that allow the holder to catch that portion of the total allowable catch each season. The weight value of the individual transferable quotas changes in proportion to changes in the total allowable catch set for a species each season.

Individual transferable quotas are fully tradeable and can be sold or leased to other fishers.

Key commercial species

A species that is, or has been, specifically targeted and is, or has been, a significant component of a fishery.

Logbook

Official record of catch-and-effort data completed by fishers. In many fisheries, a licence condition makes the return of logbooks mandatory.

Longline

Fishing gear in which short lines (branch lines or droppers) carrying hooks are attached to a longer main line at regular intervals. Pelagic longlines are suspended horizontally at a predetermined depth with the help of surface floats. The main lines can be as long as 100 kilometres and have several thousand hooks. Droppers on demersal longlines (set at the seabed with weights) are usually more closely spaced.

Maximum economic yield

The sustainable catch or effort level for a commercial fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised. Note that for most practical discount rates and fishing costs maximum economic yield will imply that the equilibrium stock of fish is larger than that associated with maximum sustainable yield. In this sense maximum economic yield is more environmentally conservative than maximum sustainable yield and should in principle help protect the fishery from unfavourable environmental impacts that may diminish the fish population.

Maximum sustainable yield

The maximum average annual catch that can be removed from a stock over an indefinite period under prevailing environmental conditions.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) box

The area of the Australian Fishing Zone where traditional fishing by Indonesian nationals is permitted.

Nautical mile

A unit of distance derived from the angular measurement of one minute of arc of latitude, but standardised by international agreement as 1852 metres.

Net economic returns

A fishery net economic returns over a particular period are equal to fishing revenue less fishing costs.

Non target species

Species that are unintentionally taken by a fisher or not routinely assessed for fisheries management. See also Bycatch.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement

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'.

Overfishing

A fish stock that is subject to fishing mortality that exceeds the fishing mortality reference point.

Pelagic fish

Inhabiting surface waters rather than the sea floor: usually applied to free swimming species such as tunas and sharks.

Precautionary principle

A principle asserting that a degree of scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation in situations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Quota

Amount of catch allocated to a fishery as a whole (total allowable catch) or to an individual fisher or company (individual transferable quota).

Quota management

A method of management based on output controls that allocates the total allowable catch among eligible operators as shares in the annual total allowable catch.

Reference point

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

Statutory Fishing Rights

Rights granted under Section 21 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The nature of Statutory Fishing Rights in a fishery is detailed in the plan of management that creates those rights. A Statutory Fishing Right may be a right to use a boat, a unit of fishing gear or a quantity of catch, or other rights as identified in the management plan.

Species

Members of a species of fish that can breed with one another and produce fertile (capable of reproducing) offspring. In this way, a species maintains its 'separateness' from other species; for example, the yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna are two distinct tuna species whereas the general term 'tuna' includes all tuna species.

Stock

A functionally discrete population of a species that is largely distinct from other populations of the same species. Such a population may be regarded as a separate entity for management or assessment purposes. Some species form a single stock (e.g. southern bluefin tuna) while others form several stocks (e.g. albacore tuna in the Pacific Ocean are divided up into separate Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific stocks).

Targeting

Fishing selectively for particular species or sizes of fish.

Target species

The species being actively sought by fishers.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority

An authority comprising the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture 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.

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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