



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



AFMA

Annual Report

2020–21

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Front cover photos:

Clockwise from top:

Fisheries and Border Force Officers – foreign vessel surveillance

Scallops with chilli

Bight redfish

Big eye trevally

All photos courtesy of AFMA

Letter of transmittal



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

17 September 2021

Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniham
Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Assistant Minister

We have much pleasure in presenting to you the annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2021. This report also includes AFMA's Annual Performance Statement for 2020–21.

Commonwealth fisheries remain in excellent shape with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) Fishery Status Reports 2021 showing that for the eighth consecutive year, all fish stocks solely managed by AFMA were not subject to overfishing.

In addition, ABARES' most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production, 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.

COVID-19 impacted on Commonwealth fisheries in a number of ways in the reporting period, and continues to do so. At the industry level, these have included demand and market disruptions, increases to freight costs, greater operational uncertainty, particularly in fisheries that span borders and interruptions to sourcing of international crew. From a management perspective, challenges have included disruptions to data collection, fishery assessment and compliance processes. AFMA has embraced these challenges and sought to implement revised protocols and decision-making processes to mitigate the negative consequences to the fishing industry while remaining focussed on our legislative objectives.

AFMA focussed on updating and implementing harvest strategies consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and setting total allowable commercial catches for our fisheries. To support this work, we continued to implement our ecological risk



management framework with a large number of fisheries updating their risk assessments and refining responses for high-risk species.

The agency also identified the need to improve communications on how AFMA meets and measures its net economic returns objective. Work has commenced on a detailed fisheries management paper to improve the understanding and performance evaluation of AFMA's economic objective.

Over the past year, there have been a number of key initiatives undertaken across the agency to drive efficient, cost effect and service delivery excellence. AFMA's first business led and business focused Data Strategy articulates the principles and priorities for the transparent and efficient investment in AFMA's IT, ensuring that the investment drives and supports the delivery of AFMA's core business needs.

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*.

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 and reporting mechanisms that meet the specific needs of the agency
- taken all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud relating to the agency.

We give the report to you for presentation to Parliament as required under section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Yours sincerely



Helen Kroger
Chairman



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

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User guide

This report provides details of the operations and performance of AFMA for the financial year ending 30 June 2021, as forecast in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio Budget Statements 2020–21 and the AFMA Corporate Plan 2020–21.

It has been prepared in accordance with Australian Government and legislative requirements, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (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 (CEO) review, looking at AFMA's key achievements in 2020–21, against the continuing impacts of COVID-19, and an outlook for 2021–22.

PART 1 – Overview

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

PART 2 – Performance

Details AFMA's Annual Performance Statement 2020–21 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 2020–21 financial year, as independently audited by the Australian National Audit Office. These statements include financial performance, SES remuneration, financial status and cash flows during 20120–21.

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 and corrections to previous reports.

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.



Chairman's and CEO review

Our performance and achievements

Commonwealth fisheries remain in excellent shape with the ABARES Fishery Status Reports 2021 showing that for the eighth consecutive year, all fish stocks solely managed by AFMA were not subject to overfishing. In addition, ABARES' most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production (GVP), 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.

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

Guided by our core policy and legislative requirements, AFMA focussed on updating and implementing harvest strategies consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and setting total allowable commercial catches for our fisheries. To support this work, we continued to implement our ecological risk management framework with a large number of fisheries updating their risk assessments and refining responses for high-risk species.

During the reporting period the Commission considered and approved the new harvest strategy for swordfish in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and a new Harvest Control Rule for red-leg banana prawns in the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF). The revised and updated harvest control rules will increase confidence in the sustainability targets set for Commonwealth fisheries. The Commission also utilised an extensive program of updated stock assessments and application of the harvest strategy policy to a range of species in the Southern Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF) when setting allowable catches for multiple species in that fishery.

The agency worked during this period to update several core fishery ecological risk assessments for two of three sub-fisheries in the NPF, sectors of the SESSF and the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF). The outputs of these assessments will focus management actions for high-risk species and improve the ecological sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries. The completion of these assessments is a fundamental component of the agency's risk management framework and informs the agency's decision making.

We maintained our focus and work on rebuilding overfished stocks with the orange roughy, upper slope dogfish and blue warehou rebuilding strategies reviewed. The AFMA Research Committee also approved funding for a project to monitor recovery of upper slope dogfish species. This work supports our sustainability goals by developing and implementing fishery specific harvest control rules that ensure sustainable fishing to allow the rebuilding of overfished stocks.



Maximise the net economic returns

AFMA continued to pursue its economic objective through implementing the requirements of the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy that requires AFMA to maximise net economic returns (NER) to the Australian community from the management of a fishery. 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 incentivise cost minimisation and revenue maximisation for the commercial sector.

To support the work developing fishery specific harvest strategies to meet this objective, the agency identified the need to improve communications on how AFMA meets and measures its net economic returns objective. Work has commenced on a detailed fisheries management paper *Net Economic Returns – Interpretation and Performance Management* to improve the understanding and performance evaluation of AFMA's economic objective.

Developing this paper, including consultation with stakeholders, will be a key focus of the coming period. Through this process, we aim to identify the most appropriate economic indicators and information needs to help us track our performance against the economic objective. Developing a common understanding of the approach with our stakeholders will be a primary consideration.



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 Enforcement 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 2020–21, AFMA responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that fisheries officers implemented additional protocols and methods to minimise the risk of exposure 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

Over the past year, there have been a number of key initiatives undertaken across the agency to drive effective, cost efficient and excellent service delivery. AFMA's first business led and business focused Data Strategy articulates the principles and priorities for the transparent and efficient investment in AFMA's Information and Communications Technology (ICT), ensuring that the investment drives and supports the delivery of AFMA's core business needs. For example, the Data Strategy seeks to better integrate AFMA's data sets to enable business intelligence and analytics thereby strengthening evidence-based decision making.

Two other programs directly link to the Data Strategy:

1. Establishment of a Business Intelligence and Analytics team within the Fisheries Management Branch. Along with taking carriage of all data queries and reporting, the team will provide AFMA with specific business intelligence and analytics skills and capability. The team will support more complex, and in time, predictive analytics to support new and emerging issues facing our fisheries.
2. Move to electronic logbooks – significant behind the scenes work undertaken to enable all fisheries to move to electronic logbooks in due course and have this data imported into AFMA's Agency Data Capture (ADC) platform. Moving from paper to electronic reporting provides data in near-real time, supporting the collection of complete and more accurate data that helps to increase the confidence in its efficacy. Linked to this has been the initial development of eCDRs in the Torres Strait and Commonwealth fisheries. Moving our existing data collection methods to the ADC platform, for example moving to eObserver, is ongoing work and is foundational to the realisation of the Data Strategy. All of these initiatives reduce administration time and regulatory burden on fishers.

Over the past year AFMA has also undertaken a thorough review of electronic monitoring (EM), including considering all aspects of the program. The objective of the review is to ensure that the program remains fit for purpose, is cost-effective, and is supporting other AFMA policies such as co-management, the Harvest Strategy, and protected species policies. The review included internal and external stakeholder engagement, consideration

of how we are currently using the technology, the costs and benefits associated with EM, changes to the technology including related to artificial intelligence and machine learning, the changing expectations of the market and consumers, and how AFMA can leverage from the technology. Based on this review, AFMA will move to a standards- based EM program with internal review of the EM footage.

Impact of COVID-19 on operational delivery

The start of 2020–21 saw AFMA continuing to operate in much the same posture as the latter part of 2019–20, with all offices remaining closed and staff working remotely from home in response to COVID-19.

Despite this, AFMA continued to deliver the full range of regulatory services to the Commonwealth fishing industry, albeit some field activities such as observer coverage and foreign compliance, to a limited degree.

Observer Program

Australian and global COVID-19 management measures continue to impact our ability to deliver the full requirements of AFMA's observer program. AFMA's observer program administration team together with fisheries management teams continue to collaborate closely with industry to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission and exposure while meeting the observer coverage requirements.

Internationally, key impacts continue to be the restricted air travel and the risks posed to observers by air travel. To ensure the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) observer coverage requirements in the Southern Ocean are met, observers are increasingly having to do back-to-back trips, resulting in single long deployments for those observers; for example up to seven months at sea.

The situation is similar for domestic observer deployments. The various COVID-19 lock downs across States and the Northern Territory requires continued monitoring and the implementation of an agile observer program. Despite these complexities, the observer program has largely met 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.



The commitment of our observers during this difficult period is to be commended.



AFMA Observer Pat Ward looking at longline, photo courtesy AFMA

International/Domestic Compliance

Following the AFMA Executive's decision to suspend all foreign and domestic compliance field duties in March 2020, to meet workplace health and safety (WHS) issues in response to COVID-19 impacts, AFMA pivoted its compliance programs to monitor domestic fishing operations through electronic means (Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), EM, and CCTV) together with incorporating other sources of data and desktop audits of vessel unloads.

Our fisheries officers undertaking domestic duties returned to field work in July 2020, with Lakes Entrance based officers returning in August 2020. With travel undertaken in accordance with each Territory/State's COVID-19 restrictions, officers employed a risk-based approach to target port and vessel compliance inspections, including inspections of foreign fishing vessels that entered Australian ports under a port permit.

Noting that WHS was paramount, AFMA sought to minimise and treat risks when necessary to undertaking essential field work. Activities were undertaken in accordance with specific guidelines (including the completion of a risk assessment) and mandatory best practice measures, including social distancing, the use of Personal Protective Equipment and attention to personal hygiene.

These arrangements also applied to officers undertaking patrol vessel deployments targeting illegal foreign fishing vessels at sea within the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ), which resumed, in part, in September 2020. Boarding of vessels on the high seas remain suspended. In addition to AFMA requirements, officers were also subject to the direction of the Commanding Officer and specific COVID-19 mitigation protocols applicable on board the patrol asset. Due to COVID-19 restrictions enforcement actions were limited to legislative forfeitures of catch and/or fishing equipment and in some instances, vessels at sea. In 2020–21, direct enforcement action was taken against 85 foreign fishing vessels that were intercepted fishing illegally within the AFZ. This number is an increase from previous years but is still lower than historical trends. AFMA continues to work across government to implement a range of responses to counter this threat on our natural marine resource. International travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic required AFMA to consider alternatives to attending international meetings and delivering face to face training programs. Refer to Case Study on page 46 – *COVID-19 pandemic presents opportunity for innovation in training*.

Corporate Activities

Throughout 2020–21 AFMA Management continued to implement the agency Pandemic Response and Transition Plan in conjunction with the Business Continuity Plan, adjusting the agency's posture in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 September 2020 AFMA Executive moved the posture of the agency towards transitioning the workforce back to the office, which saw staff electing to return to the office on a voluntary basis. On 14 December 2020, AFMA Executive again moved to consolidate the workforce transition by implementing a “soft” transition where staff could elect to work flexibly under a 3:2 office working arrangement. On 4 January 2021, AFMA transitioned to Stage 3a of its COVID-19 Response and Transition Plan which saw all staff return to the office environment either on a fulltime weekly basis or under a flexible 3:2 work arrangement across all our offices and worksites.

Whilst this operating posture has remained relatively stable over the latter part of 2020–21, there have been occasions whereby the AFMA Executive, responding to State/Territory Health directives, have closed offices for periods of time, resulting in staff returning to remote working arrangements from home.

In response to the continuing impacts of COVID-19 on our business activities, our efforts focused on consistent communications to staff providing them with a range of internal communications channels including a dedicated COVID-19 site on the intranet, regular staff meeting updates with the AFMA CEO and weekly wraps from the Chief Operating Officer (COO). In supporting employee's health and wellbeing, AFMA also continued to maintain a Health and Wellbeing Hub. The Hub was updated regularly with additional resources to support staff during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.



The Pandemic Incident Management Team (PIMT), chaired by the COO and comprising a membership of staff from across all three branches, continued to meet regularly throughout 2020–21. The PIMT provided advice and disseminated information on a range of issues impacting staff and business activity, as a result of the pandemic.

Whilst our ICT technology ably supported our business delivery activities to the fishing industry, it also proved vital in supporting our staff to operate seamlessly in remote settings. However, despite these positive outcomes came a number of risks and threats, mainly in the form of cyber security attacks. Over 2020–21 AFMA saw a constant increase in cybersecurity activity over our network environments, making it imperative that our ICT cyber security team continue to manage a cyber-resilient network by aligning to the Australian Governments Information Security Manual, and the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Essential 8 cyber mitigation strategies. The team's efforts in keeping on top of this threat successfully resulted in AFMA reporting no detected cyber breaches during 2020–21.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 and the periodic disruptions to AFMA's business operations, the AFMA Executive has continued to monitor productivity across the business with no discernible drops detected. This is a positive reflection on our staff with AFMA continuing to deliver its functions and decision making as well as absorbing additional workload directly related to the pandemic during this disruptive year.

Outlook

AFMA's Corporate Plan 2021–24 was approved by the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries. Over the next four years, AFMA will implement fisheries management in pursuit of sustainable and profitable Commonwealth fisheries by:

- assessing and mitigating risks to species' sustainability, including ecological and compliance risks
- simplifying regulations to reduce operational and cost burdens for industry
- deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign vessels
- strengthening communication with, and accountability to the community including commercial, recreational and indigenous stakeholders
- achieving cost recovery targets.

AFMA will continue to review management arrangements through broad consultative processes to take into consideration commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishing interests. We will also review relevant AFMA policies and fishery harvest strategies, with a particular focus on avoiding management that imposes unnecessary burden or inefficiency on the commercial sector.

The Australian Government has announced significant new resources for AFMA over the next four years to modernise and integrate our key data management systems and to support greater utilisation of internal business intelligence by both government and industry. This work builds on and enhances our ongoing delivery of the ADC platform. Funding announced will also facilitate a large step-up in our independent monitoring program, including through additional electronic monitoring and greater harnessing of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Work will begin in earnest during 2021–22 and continue in the out-years, delivering substantial benefits to both AFMA and the fishing industry, including through decreased regulatory burdens. AFMA will approach these tasks through co-design and close consultation with industry and government stakeholders.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam and the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, the Hon David Littleproud MP and their offices for the support that they have provided during 2020–21.

We also 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

NO STOCKS SUBJECT TO OVERFISHING
in AFMA solely managed fisheries for



8 consecutive
YEARS

AFMA fisheries officers activities included...

2



AERIAL SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS



140

FISH RECEIVER INSPECTIONS



9

AT-SEA PATROLS



182

COMMONWEALTH PORT VISITS



85

SEIZURES OF FISHING EQUIPMENT AND/OR CATCH

from 12 foreign illegal vessels



344

BOAT INSPECTIONS

Of these, **49** were desktop inspections

25 DAYS
North West Slope Trawl Fishery



15 STAFF
Darwin



6 STAFF
Thursday Island

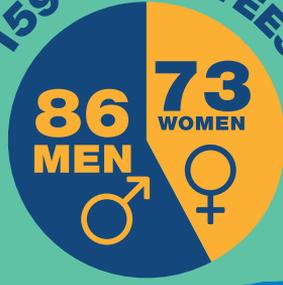


21 DAYS
Torres Strait Prawn Fishery



12 DAYS
Coral Sea Fishery

159 EMPLOYEES



23 OBSERVERS



50 DAYS
Small Pelagic Fishery

114 DAYS
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



111 STAFF
Canberra



4 STAFF
Lakes Entrance



461 DAYS
Commonwealth Trawl Sector



1185 DAYS
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery



30 DAYS
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector



37 DAYS
High Seas Non Trawl Fishery



5 DAYS
Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector

38 DAYS
Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources



119 DAYS
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery



Staff



Observer



PART 1

Overview

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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, Water and the Environment retains responsibility for strategic fisheries policy advice, legislative development and leading international negotiations as well as responsibility for the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and fishery assessments.

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*.

During the reporting period 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.

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 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 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	<p>Ensure the exploitation of fisheries and related activities is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.²</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries.</p> <p>Ensure accountability to the fishing industry and the Australian community in the management of fisheries resources.</p> <p>Achieve government targets in relation to the recovery of AFMA's costs.</p> <p>Ensure that the interests of commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishers are taken into account.</p>
FMA – section 3	<p>Ensure, through proper conservation and management measures, that the living resources of the AFZ are not endangered by over-exploitation.</p> <p>Achieve optimum utilisation of the living resources of the Australian fishing zone.</p>

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.

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 communities, recreational and charter fishing representatives, researchers, environment/conservation organisations, state and territory agencies and others with an interest in Commonwealth fisheries management. We engaged 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 communicated and consulted with the public using contemporary digital, web and social media communication channels.

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.



We also provided 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.

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](https://www.afma.gov.au).

Organisational structure

Our organisational structure as at 30 June 2021 is presented below.

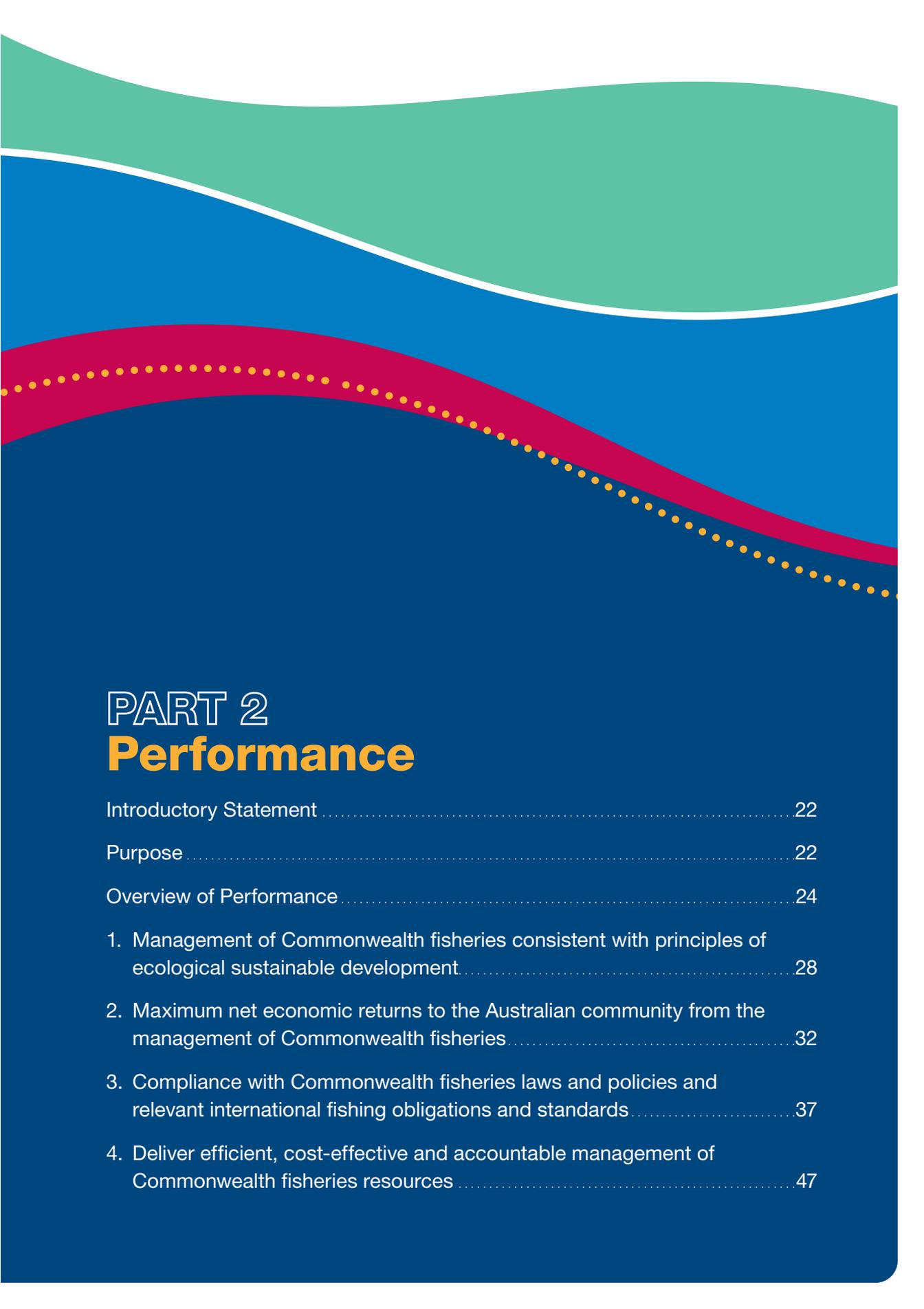
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia and Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries		
AFMA Commission		
AFMA Chief Executive Officer Mr Wez Norris		
Fisheries Management Branch Executive Manager <i>Ms Anna Willock</i>	Fisheries Operations Branch General Manager <i>Mr Peter Venslovas</i>	Corporate Services Branch Chief Operating Officer <i>Mr John Andersen</i>
Northern Fisheries & Co-management Senior Manager <i>Mr Steve Bolton</i>	National Compliance Strategy Senior Manager <i>Mr Tod Spencer</i>	Legal and Parliamentary Services General Counsel <i>Ms Susannah Luck-Cameron</i>
Northern Fisheries Thursday Island Senior Manager <i>Ms Selina Stoute</i>	Compliance Operations (Darwin) A/g Senior Manager <i>Mr Brendan Rayner</i>	Business Partnership & Strategy A/g Chief Finance Officer <i>Mr Steve Truong</i>
Demersal and Midwater Fisheries Senior Manager <i>Ms Fiona Hill</i>	International Compliance Policy Senior Manager <i>Ms Kerry Smith</i>	People, Capability & Engagement Senior Manager <i>Ms Libby Jenkins</i>
Tuna and International Fisheries Senior Manager <i>Mr Trent Timmiss</i>		Business Operational Support Senior Manager <i>Mr Scott Connors</i>
Policy, Environment, Economics and Research Senior Manager <i>Mr Ryan Murphy</i>		Technology and Digital Services Chief Information Officer <i>Mr Mick Roses</i>
Fisheries Services Senior Manager <i>Ms Claire van der Geest</i>		



Where AFMA operates

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

Canberra office		
Street address	Postal address	Enquiries
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



PART 2

Performance

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4. Deliver efficient, cost-effective and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources	47

Introductory Statement

I, as the accountable authority of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, present the 2020–21 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 2020–21, 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 indicators as outlined in the 2020–21 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 fishers.

2. Maximum 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 efficient, cost-effective 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.



Shy Albatross, photo courtesy Alamy Stock photo



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.
- 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.

In 2020–21 AFMA successfully delivered outcomes across all four of its goals as set out in the table below. AFMA set eight performance measures for 2020–21, each with a number of targets. 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 47 targets, 25 were met, 13 are on track to be implemented in future reporting years and 9 were not met. Detailed analysis is provided on pages page 28 to page 51.

	Target met	Target on track	Target not met
Measure 1: Decision making by the AFMA Commission and AFMA Management is consistent with legislative objectives and overarching policy settings.			
All major fisheries ⁴ have Management Plans in place and managed in accordance with them (per cent of major fisheries)	✓		
Current ERA for all fisheries/sub fisheries and responses in place for high-risk species (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)			✓
Fishery Specific Harvest Strategies in place for all fisheries/sub fisheries (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)			✓
Individual species Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and effort limits set in accordance with harvest control rules based on scientific advice (per cent of species)	✓		
Bycatch mitigation and management arrangements in place for protected species and general bycatch (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	✓		

4 Fisheries with strong management arrangements in place with active operators applying regular levels of effort to a stock, exporting product and/or providing a significant economic return.

	Target met	Target on track	Target not met
Appropriate assessment – primarily Wildlife Trade Operation renewals – under the EPBC Act (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries due per annum)	✓		
Number of solely Commonwealth managed stocks subject to overfishing by ABARES Fisheries Status Reports (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	✓		
Measure 2: Fishery maximum economic yield (MEY) targets are consistent with the objectives of the Fisheries Management Act 1991 and Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy and Guidelines.			
For economically significant stocks :			
a) Maximise the number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on MEY or the best available proxy	✓		
b) Improve the number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on economic target (number of stocks)	✓		
c) For those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, improve the number that are heading towards their target reference point (number of stocks)			✓
Major fisheries have harvest strategies that meet the Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 (HSP2018) within three years (number of fisheries)			✓
Other fisheries ⁵ have harvest strategies that meet the HSP2018 within four years (number of fisheries)			✓
Measure 3: Governance arrangements for domestic compliance program in place and remain relevant.			
National Compliance and Enforcement Policy reviewed every two years	✓		
Risk assessment reviewed every two years	✓		
National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP) developed and implemented annually	✓		
Measure 4: Effective risk based domestic compliance programs in place.			
Non-compliance incident levels in targeted risk areas maintained at current levels or reduced	✓		
Treatment targets for all priority compliance risks met		✓	

5 Small, low value/effort fisheries, normally without a formal management plan requiring minimal management resources



	Target met	Target on track	Target not met
Measure 5: To deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign fishing vessels in Australian waters.			
Media releases for major activities and significant outcomes	✓		
Number of illegal foreign fishing vessels detected in Australian waters remains low	✓		
Disposal of apprehended foreign IUU vessels received by AFMA		✓	
Foreign fishers charged are successfully prosecuted		✓	
High risk foreign fishing vessels visiting Australian ports inspected		✓	
High Seas Boarding and Inspection reports by Australian officers submitted, as required, to flag States and International Fisheries Management Organisations (IFMO)		✓	
AFMA priorities for meetings and bilateral engagement are incorporated in government briefings and negotiating frameworks	✓		
Nominations of non-compliant vessels for IUU listing in accordance with IFMO are successful		✓	
In-country programs to provide technical, policy and operational advice to build capacity are delivered	✓		
Participation in Forum Fisheries Agency-led cooperative training activities and multilateral maritime surveillance activities, as appropriate	✓		
Australian officers target IUU threats and engage flag States to implement remedial actions	✓		
Measure 6: To ensure AFMA's cost recovery framework is efficient and effective, transparent and accountable taking into consideration stakeholder feedback.			
The percentage of overhead costs in total cost recovery expenditure remains below 20.0 per cent			✓
The variance between total actual and budgeted cost recovered expenditure should not exceed 5.0 per cent			✓
The percentage of total cost recovery expenditure to the GVP of Commonwealth fisheries should be no greater than 5.0 per cent	✓		
The cost recovered budget will remain at or below the budget in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases	✓		
An internal review of the AFMA Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) will be undertaken each year prior to being provided to being provided to the Commonwealth fishing industry's peak body, the CFA, for their review	✓		

	Target met	Target on track	Target not met
Financial reports will be provided to the CFA detailing actual versus budget cost recovery expenditure by AFMA CRIS activity group and by fishery. A report will be provided for financial year to 31 December (by no later than 31 March) and for the full year (by no later than 30 September)	✓		
Information sessions for the Commonwealth fishing industry on the CRIS document and on activity cost formulation will be offered in March and October each year	✓		
The change request register detailing industry feedback on the draft budget and CRIS will be published along with the final CRIS on the AFMA website each year before the commencement of the new financial year	✓		
Measure 7: Increase stakeholder participation and improve feedback mechanisms.			
Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Framework and Communication plan		✓	
The percentage of stakeholders responding to AFMA surveys (including biennial perception and 'pop-up' style surveys) increases by 10per cent per annum			✓
The level of overall satisfaction of stakeholders increases over time		✓	
The level of satisfaction responses of stakeholders to 'pop up' surveys increases over time			✓
The level of engagement and feedback from engagement with stakeholders increases over time		✓	
Measure 8: Agency Data Strategy.			
The Agency Data Strategy and Roadmap is delivered and endorsed	✓		
The ADC project is implemented successfully, and extended across the agency to all logbook, catch disposal and observer data	✓		
AFMA continues to align to the Digital 2020 policy and ensures internal processes and technology are enhanced to meet this requirement		✓	
Data Governance and Culture is embedded into AFMA practices		✓	
Significant increases to data analytical capability provided for AFMA staff		✓	
The technical delivery of an integrated fisheries data architecture is implemented		✓	



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

Purpose

AFMA manages Commonwealth fisheries against the principles of ecological sustainable development. We manage the impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and ensure sustainable commercial harvesting to achieve better economic and social outcomes.

To achieve this AFMA worked with Commonwealth agencies during 2020–21 on updated Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategies and ERAs and implemented changes to our management arrangements to reflect emerging risks.

Result

Measure 1: Decision making by the AFMA Commission and AFMA Management is consistent with legislative objectives and overarching policy settings.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
All major fisheries have Management Plans in place and managed in accordance with them (per cent of major fisheries)	100%	100%
Current ⁶ ERA for all fisheries/sub fisheries and responses in place for high-risk species (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	100%	52.94%
Fishery Specific Harvest Strategies ⁷ in place for all fisheries/sub fisheries (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	90%	56.25%
Individual species TAC and effort limits set in accordance with harvest control rules based on scientific advice (per cent of species)	100%	100%
Bycatch mitigation and management arrangements in place for protected species and general bycatch (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	70%	71%
Appropriate assessment – primarily Wildlife Trade Operation renewals – under the EPBC Act (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries due per annum)	100%	100%
Number of solely Commonwealth managed stocks subject to overfishing by ABARES Fisheries Status Reports (per cent of fisheries/sub fisheries)	<10%	0%

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 223 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2020–21 p. 18.

- 6 Fisheries and sub fisheries that have updated their ERA since the 2018 revision of Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy and bycatch polices.
- 7 Fisheries and sub fisheries that have updated their Harvest Strategy since the 2018 revision of Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy.

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 *Fisheries Management Act 1991*
- 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 Bycatch Policy.

This management regime is underpinned by independent, peer-reviewed scientific assessment and advice.

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 fisheries that: have Management Plans in place, have harvest strategies and/or have catch or effort limits set by the AFMA Commission in line with scientific advice derived after the application of harvest strategies.

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 legislative management plans in place.

The ERA performance indicator has been noted as not met because while every Commonwealth Fishery has an ERA and responses to high-risk species are in place, a number of fishery ERA's have not met the requirements detailed in AFMA's ERM Framework for five yearly review. However, there have been very few changes in terms of the amount of effort, type of gear or area of operation within these fisheries, so there is no reason to believe that the risk posed by these fisheries to the environment has changed. AFMA, through the Ecological Risk Management Working Group, is progressing a fundamental change to AFMA's ERM framework to allow more timely identification of risks and areas for management focus. The changes will take place in 2021-22 subject to Executive and Commission approval.

The indicator for harvest strategies has also been marked as not met because while every Commonwealth fishery and sub fishery has a harvest strategy in place some strategies have yet to be updated to reflect changes in policy made in the 2018 harvest strategy policy.

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.



The bycatch mitigation indicator has been marked at 71 per cent which reflects the good work to date. While strong management responses are in place, there are still areas for improvement. A particular area of focus will be updating bycatch discard work plans. AFMA has commenced a review of the agency bycatch strategy to focus it on responses to protected species. This work will provide a consistent approach to monitor and record interactions and allow cumulative impacts of fishing to be taken into account in accordance with the Commonwealth bycatch policy. All fisheries have strong mitigation responses in place where high risk interactions have been identified for species such as birds and Australian sea lions. For some fisheries further work is needed to understand and minimise general bycatch interactions. The adequacy of the management arrangements in place to minimise and avoid interactions with protected species is recognised by all fisheries having received approval under the EPBC Act.



Unloading scallops, photo courtesy AFMA



CASE STUDY

Scaling up data capability

Quality and timely data is the cornerstone of effective fisheries management so AFMA used the best available information to inform public policy and support evidence-based decision making. In recent years there has been significant growth in the amount of data available and the speed at which it can be accessed. Unlocking the full potential of this growth is a significant focus area for AFMA.

Building on the 2019–20 success in demonstrating how modern technologies could be used to better link, integrate and share fishers' data, in 2020–21 AFMA developed a data strategy to establish a cohesive approach to the collection and management of fisheries data and a pathway for investing in the development, renewal and enhancement of AFMA's approach to data management.

The Data Strategy is focused on positioning the agency to meet future challenges and supporting AFMA's ability to identify, interrogate and implement management arrangements to address new and emerging issues. In addition, the strategy outlines how AFMA will develop its

business intelligence and analytics capability, shifting away from a responsive mindset to become a predictive and adaptive fisheries management agency.

The Data Strategy will enhance AFMA's capacity to provide robust and reliable fisheries data back to external stakeholders. It will allow AFMA to combine fishers' submitted data with other high value external data sets. For the fishing industry this has the potential to increase fishing efficiency, gain access to new markets, and avoid interactions with Threatened, Endangered and Protected species (TEPs).

The recent Government announcement of the investment into AFMA's ICT systems provides a significant opportunity to fast-track the implementation of the data strategy. The focus of the coming 12 months will be to co-design the implementation of the data strategy and the investment with industry, government agencies and other external stakeholder to ensure strong outcomes for the management of Australian fisheries.

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

Purpose

The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines provide the management framework for AFMA's Commonwealth fisheries. Commonwealth fishery harvest strategies for key commercial stocks guide the setting of total allowable catches and other catch limits. By pursuing biomass targets of maximum economic yield (or proxy), where available, net economic returns from the management of Commonwealth fisheries should be maximised.

AFMA has also continued work on measures to improve the net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries. In 2020–21, AFMA:

- refined and investigated use of economic information including trading prices of gear and SFRs
- reviewed Fisheries Management Paper number 5 – exploration of fish resources
- contributed to the work of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on the finalisation of a Commonwealth resource sharing policy.

Result

Measure 2: Fishery MEY targets are consistent with the objectives of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> and Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy and Guidelines.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
For economically significant stocks ⁸ :		
a) Maximise the number of key commercial stocks with harvest strategy targets based on MEY or the best available proxy ^{9,10}	At least 15 stocks	16
b) Improve the number of stocks in (a) assessed as being on economic target (number of stocks)	4	6
c) For those stocks in (a) that are assessed as not on target, improve the number that are heading towards their target reference point (number of stocks)	7	5
Major fisheries have harvest strategies that meet the Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 (HSP2018) within three years (number of fisheries)	8	7
Other fisheries have harvest strategies that meet the HSP2018 within four years (number of fisheries)	4	1

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements* p. 235 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2019–22* p. 21.

Methods for measuring performance

1. The method for estimating these performance measures was recommended by ABARES in its 2015 review of AFMA's economic KPIs. One-year forecasts are based on fishery manager expertise and stock assessments.
2. Where higher and lower value species are caught together, different targets for the lower value species may maximise net economic returns overall.
3. Assessment methodologies are being reviewed and improved so projections may vary.

Note: Not all Commonwealth fish stocks can be managed by MEY; for example, those managed under international regional bodies.

8 Note that not all Commonwealth fish stocks can be managed by MEY; for example, those managed under international regional bodies.

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

10 Assessment methodologies are being reviewed. This may mean projections may vary.



Analysis

There are sixteen key commercial stocks that 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 east in the ETBF.

The six stocks on target are Deepwater flathead, eastern school whiting, tiger flathead (all SESSF), swordfish east (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. Setting an economic target for this species is unworkable owing to the large and environmentally driven inter-annual variability in stock level.

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.

There were a range of delays to important research that will assist advisory committees update harvest strategies to ensure that key commercial fisheries are sustainably managed to maximise net economic returns. These included disruption to data collection programs and reduced ability for in depth technical workshops that are far better held face to face.

Though there are five stocks assessed as not on target and not heading towards target, this is a measure of whether the NER are being maximised rather than an indicator of the sustainability of those stocks. There are a range of reasons why these stocks are considered as not on target and not heading towards target. This includes when biomass is below the target reference point and/or declining away from this point or when biomass is above the target reference point, or a higher level of fishing is required to bring the stock down to the target reference point. Some fisheries may also have data limitations that constrain our ability to measure economic performance in as much detail as desired.

AFMA is currently developing a Fisheries Management Paper to articulate how AFMA interprets the economic objective and how performance against the objective will be measured.

CASE STUDY

Black Teatfish

In April 2021, AFMA ran a trial opening of fishing for black teatfish (*Holothuria whitmaei*) in the Torres Strait Bechê-de-mer (BDM) Fishery. The BDM Fishery is managed by AFMA on behalf of the PZJA. The Torres Strait BDM Fishery has a history that dates back to at least the 19th century and, since 2014, access to the fishery has been reserved entirely for traditional inhabitants living in the Torres Strait Protected Zone.

Historically, black teatfish was one of the key target species in the BDM Fishery until 2003, when it was closed following a considerable decline in abundance. The species was opened to fishing on a trial basis in 2014 and 2015. In both openings the TAC was overcaught, prompting the PZJA to declare that the species would remain closed to fishing until the risk of exceeding the TAC was substantially reduced. In 2020, black teatfish also became one of three sea cucumber species to be listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The recent trial opening was a culmination of work undertaken by the PZJA Hand Collectables Working Group, industry, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and PZJA agencies that saw the development and implementation of the BDM Harvest Strategy; a mandatory fish receiver system; and an independent scientific stock survey showing that the black teatfish stock in the Torres Strait had recovered close to unfished biomass levels.

In the lead-up to the opening, AFMA convened 11 individual community meetings across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula regions and a dedicated industry workshop on Mer Island. It was at this workshop that industry took responsibility for nominating their preferred timing of the opening.

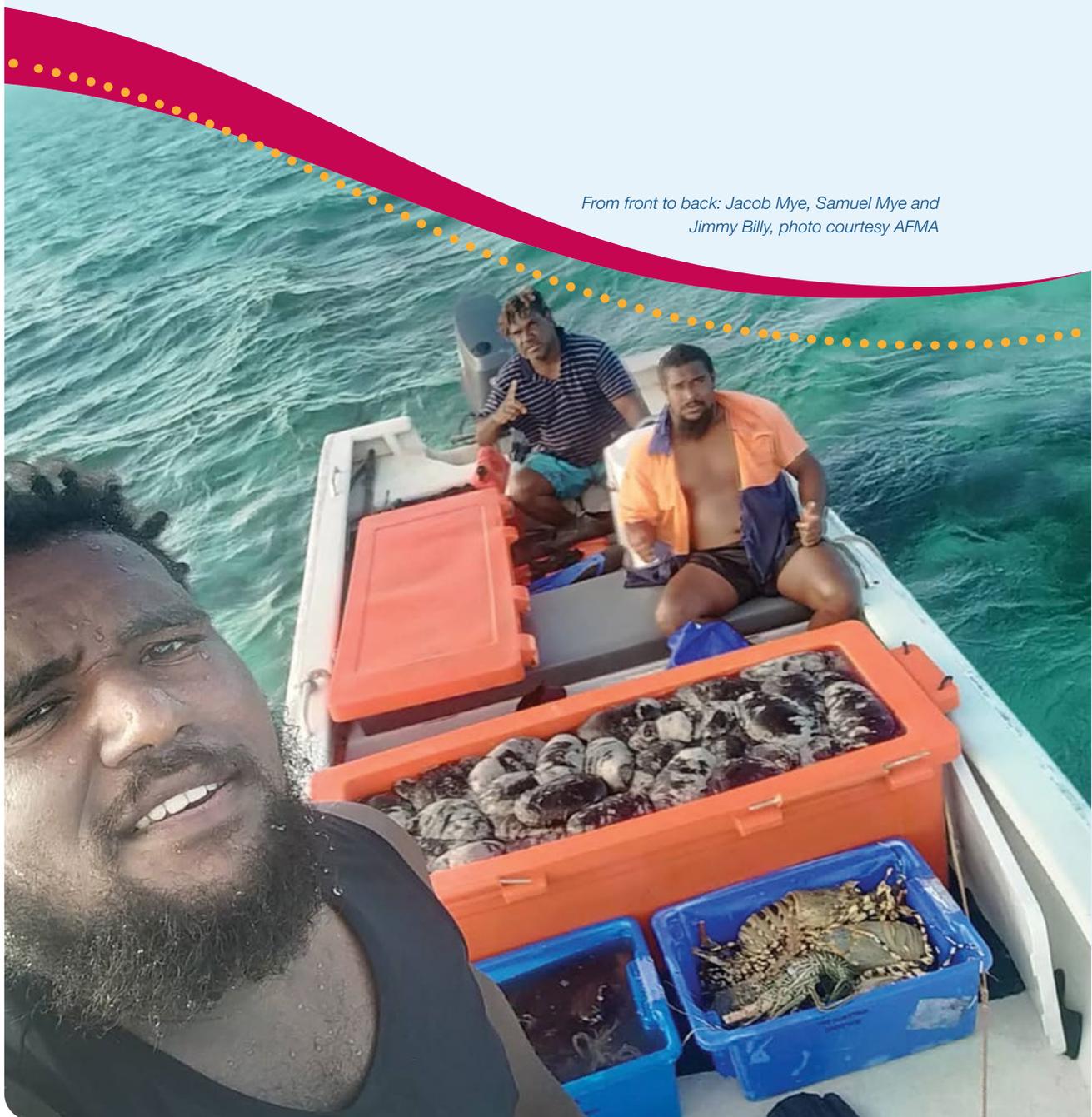
The opening commenced on 30 April 2021 with a competitive TAC of 20 tonnes and was closed four days later to ensure catches remained within the catch limit. A total of 17.62 tonnes was landed. Fishers were required to land their catch to a licensed fish receiver daily and in turn fish receivers were required to report landed catches daily to AFMA. AFMA kept fishers and fish receivers informed of daily catches via SMS text messages and daily updates on the PZJA website.

During the opening, AFMA worked with Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP), Queensland Water Police (QWP) and Maritime Border Command to conduct a multi-pronged intelligence-based operation. Fisheries Officers from every AFMA office joined QBFP Officers to undertake land-based operations at Mer, Poruma and Masig Islands, focusing on monitoring and assisting fishers, fish receivers and freight hubs. An at-sea patrol with AFMA, QWP and QBFP allowed for surveillance, monitoring and inspections to be conducted on the fishing grounds and at remote, uninhabited islands where fishers and fish receivers established temporary processing sites.

Although there are some female fishers that fish for sea cucumber commercially from time to time, the fishery is predominantly made up of male fishers and divers. It was therefore inspiring to see a fully female crewed fishing boat participate in the black teatfish opening, along with the other female sea cucumber divers that also fished.

A total of 41 fishing licences participated in the fishery, landing their product to 13 fish receivers across five locations in central and eastern Torres Strait islands. The opening provided an important source of income for the fishing industry and communities of the Torres Strait, with the beach price of black teatfish during the opening ranged from AUD\$26–36 per kilogram, generating over half a million dollars revenue within the community.

From front to back: Jacob Mye, Samuel Mye and Jimmy Billy, photo courtesy AFMA



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 as well as the value of fishing concessions which ultimately affects the value and viability of Australia's fishing industry.

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

National Compliance (Domestic)

Result

Measure 3: Governance arrangements for domestic compliance program in place and remain relevant.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
National Compliance and Enforcement Policy reviewed every two years	✓	✓
Risk assessment reviewed every two years	✓	✓
NCEP developed and implemented annually	✓	✓
Measure 4: Effective risk based domestic compliance programs in place.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
Non-compliance incident levels in targeted risk areas maintained at current levels or reduced	✓	✓
Treatment targets for all priority compliance risks met	✓	75% (24/32) ¹¹

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 235 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2019–22 p. 26.

11 Note: 97 per cent (31/32) of performance targets were met or within threshold targets.



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 utilising published methodology and input from stakeholder groups which is used to inform the development of the annual NCEP. This is developed by the National Compliance Strategy team, considered by the OMC and approved by the AFMA CEO. Compliance data is routinely collected as part of program delivery and the NCEP contains identified performance targets across activities, including the prioritised risks where the activities and outcomes against these targets are routinely monitored and reported against monthly and annually.

Due to the nature of compliance programs, it is inherently difficult to assess their effectiveness in terms of outcomes. As a result, the effectiveness of the program (i.e. how well the program is meeting its aims and objectives) is assessed through the use of multiple outcome targets wherever possible, as well as input and output targets where a suitable 'outcome target' are not able to be identified.

It is recognised that not all performance targets or thresholds 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 particular impact that required flexibility has on the resources available for other programs), an acceptable 'threshold band' has also been set for each target.

In 2020–21, 24 of the 32 performance targets for priority compliance risks were met, whilst 31 of the 32 were met or were within the threshold level.

Analysis

National Compliance (Domestic)

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

In order to achieve the policy objective the risk based 2020–21 NCEP consisted of four main components:

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

Communication and Education

As part of our strategy to promote voluntary compliance our fisheries officers conducted infield education sessions and pre-season briefings in a variety of ports. These were to inform Commonwealth fishers on the principles of the compliance and enforcement program and potential consequences of being caught committing offences.

Specific in-field education programs were provided in the Torres Strait in relation to the Tropical Rock Lobster season closures, Catch Documentation Record 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.

Monthly compliance articles were posted on AFMA's website and Facebook pages with messages being sent to fishers on a regular basis. These included a joint media release with Parks Australia on Australian Marine Parks about new seabird interaction mitigation rules and reporting requirements in the ETBF. Reminders to fishers on their e-monitoring requirements were also distributed.

Four of the six Communication and Education performance targets were met in 2020–21 with the remaining two performance targets within acceptable thresholds.

General Deterrence Program

AFMA fisheries officers visit Commonwealth ports, conduct boat, at-sea and fish receiver inspections as part of their regular duties. AFMA's presence acts as a deterrent to non-compliant activity and provides a mechanism to assist those wishing to comply by providing clarity around the fisheries management arrangements and particular rules which apply.

During 2020–21, AFMA fisheries officers visited fishing ports on 182 occasions where they conducted 295 boat inspections (17 at sea) and 140 fish receiver inspections. Officers undertook 49 desktop inspections (total of 484 inspections).

Despite travel restrictions imposed during COVID-19 lockdowns, the number of inspections returned to pre-COVID-19 levels with the 2020–21 figures comparable to the 356 boat and 146 fish receiver premises inspections conducted in 2018-19 and well above the 289 boat inspections and 88 fish receiver inspections in 2019–20. High levels of compliance were observed with 89 per cent of inspections requiring no further action. This was, however, below the program target rate for voluntary compliance of 95 per cent.

During 2020–21, 180 investigations were commenced and 35 matters carried over from the 2019–20 financial year. A total of 197 matters were closed and 18 matters requiring further investigation are still open. Of the 197 matters closed, 22 warnings and 23 cautions were issued, two Commonwealth Fisheries Infringement Notices issued, seven cases involving 12 individuals taken to court, one suspension of a fishing authorisation and 142 matters required no further action.

Eight of the nine performance targets for the general deterrence program were met in 2020–21 with the remaining one being within the threshold limit.



Targeted Risk Program

The prioritised risks identified in the 2019–21 domestic compliance risk assessment and the focus of the 2020–21 program are:

- Failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species
- Quota evasion
- Bycatch mishandling
- Torres Strait Fisheries.

Ten of the 13 performance targets for the Targeted Risk Program were met in 2020–21, one target was not met and the remaining two were within threshold tolerance.

Failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species

During 2020–21, there were 38 incidents of non-reporting of Threatened, Endangered and Protected species interactions detected, 18 of which required further investigation. The 18 matters¹² in 2020–21 is an increase from the 11 matters requiring investigation in 2019–20, seven in 2018–19, ten in 2017–18 and 13 in 2016–17.

Each of the 2020–21 matters was dealt with by way of education, warnings or referred to another agency for further action.

Two of the three failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species performance targets were met in 2020–21.

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 Catch Disposal Records.

In 2020–21 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.

Three of the three quota evasion performance targets were met in 2020–21.

¹² Note that current and historical figures quoted are now based on those matters requiring investigation as opposed to the total number of suspected incidences detected, which were published in previous annual reports.

Bycatch mishandling

In 2020–21 we continued our education and communication programs with industry to outline the risk of bycatch mishandling.

There were 17 reports of alleged bycatch mishandling during 2020–21, ten of which required further investigation. The overall instances of bycatch mishandling reports (requiring investigation) during 2020–21 averaged 0.8 reports per month which is below the 2019–20 average of 1.25 per month and the long-term average of 1.7 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.

Both bycatch mishandling performance measures were met during 2020–21.

Torres Strait Fishery

In the Torres Strait Fishery fisheries officers participated in 10 joint 'at-sea' patrols, alongside agencies such as the Australian Border Force and QWP.

AFMA officers conducted 62 boat inspections, 68 fish receiver premises inspections and visited ports/freight hubs on 45 occasions. AFMA officers also participated in 22 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 Torres Strait Fishery performance targets were met or exceeded, with the two remaining performance targets within the threshold limit in 2020–21.

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

Two of the four performance targets for the Maintenance Treatment Program were met in 2020–21 and two were within threshold tolerance.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

VMS compliance rates remained high with an average of 96.7 per cent of all Commonwealth vessels reporting to AFMA via their VMS at any one time, which is slightly below the average target of 98 per cent for the year.



During November and December 2020 VMS compliance rates began to noticeably decline. As a result, AFMA implemented a “zero-tolerance” program throughout January. This included education and media along with targeted enforcement. The program resulted in an increase in VMS compliance rates from a daily low of 93.7 per cent at the end of December to a daily peak of 99.4 per cent in mid-January. Average compliance rates also increased from 96.7 per cent in December to 97.4 per cent in January.

There were 25 incidents of VMS non-compliance investigated in 2020–21. 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, with two warnings issued and one vessel ordered to port.

The VMS performance target was not met but was within threshold tolerances during 2020–21.

E-Monitoring

There were 14 incidents of non-compliance with EM requirements. The main reasons for non-compliance were failing to maintain (clean) cameras, camera obstructions or system failures. Most fishers were educated with regard to their obligations, with one caution issued.

The EM performance target was not met but was within threshold tolerances during 2020–21.

Quota Reconciliation

A total of 12 fishers failed to reconcile their over catches by the due date, lower than 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 12 fishers to resolve most of the matters, with ten fishers issued with Official Cautions and two fishers having their fishing concessions suspended until they reconciled.

The quota reconciliation performance target was met, with an average of 1.1 instances per month.

Fishery Closure Monitoring

There was one detected closure breach during 2020–21. The fisher was given an official caution.

The closure monitoring performance target was met during 2020–21.

AFMA domestic prosecutions for 2020–21

In 2020–21 the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions progressed seven briefs of evidence against 12 individuals referred by AFMA for suspected breaches of the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*. A total of 12 defendants were before the courts, resulting in a total of \$11,700 in fines, \$53,599.84 in forfeiture proceeds from the sale of seized product and \$1,134.40 in court costs. The 12 defendants were either convicted and fined or placed on good behaviour for periods of up to two years.

International Compliance

Result

Measure 5: To deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign fishing vessels in Australian waters.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
Media releases for major activities and significant outcomes	100%	100%
Number of illegal foreign fishing vessels detected in Australian waters remains low	✓ Incident rates maintained at historical low levels	See narrative
Disposal of apprehended foreign IUU vessels received by AFMA	100%	See narrative
Foreign fishers charged are successfully prosecuted	100%	See narrative
High risk foreign fishing vessels visiting Australian ports inspected	100%	See narrative
High Seas Boarding and Inspection reports by Australian officers submitted, as required, to flag States and IFMO	100%	See narrative
AFMA priorities for meetings and bilateral engagement are incorporated in government briefings and negotiating frameworks	100%	100%
Nominations of non-compliant vessels for IUU listing in accordance with IFMO are successful	100%	See narrative
In-country programs to provide technical, policy and operational advice to build capacity are delivered	2	4
Participation in Forum Fisheries Agency-led cooperative training activities and multilateral maritime surveillance activities, as appropriate	4	6
Australian officers target IUU threats and engage flag States to implement remedial actions	100% of identified suspected non-compliant actions acted on	100%

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 235 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2019–22 p. 27.



Methods for measuring performance

AFMA's program to combat IUU fishing includes effective enforcement and monitoring, regional cooperation, diplomatic representations and engagement measures such as capacity building, education and outreach programs. 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.

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. AFMA built on our networks and collaboration partners to deliver more effective outcomes and responses to IUU fishing. Working in concert with counterparts from flag States, port States, market States and States with nationals involved in IUU fishing ensured that we are targeting those actors that seek to profit from illegal activity.

Analysis

International Compliance

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Australia's enforcement capability to address IUU fishing by foreign fishing vessels. AFMA's approach with respect to foreign fishers suspected of fishing illegally in the AFZ has been significantly modified in response to operational constraints, particularly the inability to detain and prosecute offenders or bring vessels to port for destruction.

Working closely with our counterparts from Maritime Border Command, alternate measures were initiated that included the seizure of fishing equipment and/or catch found onboard foreign vessels fishing illegally in the AFZ and reinforcing messaging around the risks of fishing illegally inside Australian waters. From 1 July 2020 to 30 July 2021, there were 85 legislative forfeitures of gear and/or catch, including 12 vessel disposals at sea. These vessels were disposed of in accordance with the *Maritime Powers Act 2013*.

On the water enforcement action was complemented with an array of initiatives including media articles on enforcement action, sharing information relating to incursions by foreign fishing vessels, preparation of targeted education materials and high-level dialogue with officials from the authorities of the flag States. While vessels, fishing gear and catches were seized, because of unacceptable COVID-19 risks to operational officers and the detention and court systems, no foreign fishers were prosecuted, and no foreign fishing vessels were brought to Australia during 2020–21. Disruption to international travel would also have rendered repatriation of prosecuted fishers impossible. With these changes came a noticeable increase in illegal activity during the reporting period.

While enforcement action undertaken against foreign fishers fishing illegally inside the AFZ has increased in 2020–21 compared to 2019–20, the numbers are still significantly below the historical highs seen in the mid-2000s where hundreds of vessels were being apprehended each year. Nonetheless a persistent and enduring threat remains and AFMA is working with our Australian partner government agencies to ensure numbers remain low.

As part of a whole of government response, AFMA worked with Maritime Border Command and Parks Australia to track and recover abandoned and lost fishing gear in Australian waters. Ten ghost nets were recovered and disposed of in accordance with biosecurity requirements in 2020–21. During 2020–21, again due to COVID-19 considerations, no high seas boarding and inspections were undertaken and no vessels were nominated for IUU listing by AFMA. In 2020–21, there were 11 visits to Australian ports by foreign fishing vessels. All vessels were determined to be a low-moderate risk and seven vessels were inspected, recognising that port State measures provide a cost-effective means of preventing, deterring and eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

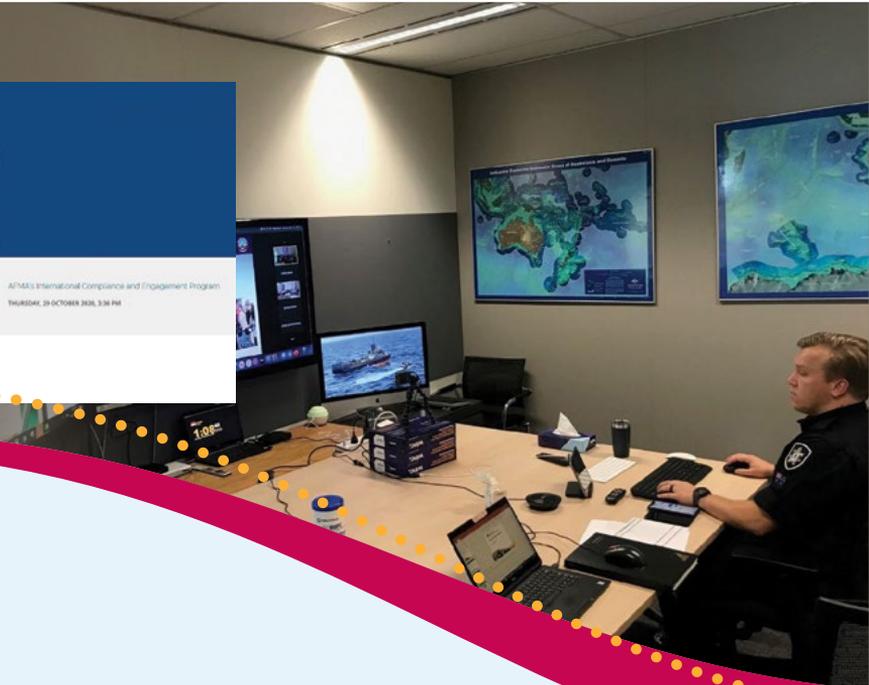
During 2020–21, AFMA contributed to whole of Government briefings and participated in a range of international meetings including those held by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the CCAMLR, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Regional Plan of Action on Responsible Fishing Practices, including Combating IUU Fishing and various sub committees.

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 (MCS) skills training in the Pacific and South East Asia. These activities included collaborations with Registered Training Organisations as well as ad hoc presentations.

Under the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement, there were two occasions throughout the year where Tonga and Solomon Islands platforms provided an additional surveillance effort as they transited enroute from Australia to their home ports.

Courses delivered during 2020–21 included MCS training through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement, a vessel inspection workshop in Myanmar, Operation Gannet and maritime domain awareness training. 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. AFMA sought opportunities to mitigate the prioritised risks as set out in the 2020–22 ICEP. Following the boarding by Australia in June 2020 of the stateless fishing vessel, *Cobija*, suspected of fishing illegally for toothfish, AFMA worked with INTERPOL and port States to share information and to ensure the vessels' movements were restricted. Australia's participation in *Operation Nasse 2020* was limited to aerial surveillance because of COVID-19 restrictions. AFMA focused its efforts on strengthening VMS processes and actions when potential non-compliance is identified. This involved engagement with Secretariats of relevant regional fisheries bodies and fisheries monitoring centres of relevant flag States.





CASE STUDY

COVID-19 pandemic presents opportunity for innovation in training

A suspension of international travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on the way in which the International Compliance Operations (ICO) team provides operational MCS expertise to international counterparts. Despite the challenges the ICO team has adapted when delivering capacity building programs to foreign officers involved in fisheries management and compliance.

Like many other organisations and industries that have traditionally relied on face-to-face interactions as their core business, AFMA transitioned to the online design, delivery and facilitation of training. Although the rapid move to online learning has not been without challenges, its success has been underpinned by participant's ability to access reliable internet, technological hardware infrastructure and accessibility. Despite the challenges, the adaptation to the online learning environment has presented a number of opportunities including an increase in innovation, the ability to provide training more frequently and to make training accessible to broader audiences.

An online training delivery strategy, underpinned by integrating 3 tools (an online learning management system, HTML5 content and a live polling program) has facilitated meaningful engagement with training participants. This approach engages with participants who may not be confident speaking in online forums, providing participants with adequate time and resources to acquire knowledge and informing instructors how training delivery and participant understanding is progressing.

In the 2020–21, online training was delivered to over 100 students from more than 15 countries. Courses and content included foundational skills for MCS officers, high-risk vessel inspection methods, maritime domain awareness training and other specialist programs. Looking forward, it is likely that many of the tools and resources implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are here to stay as the full potential of online learning technology continues to be realised.

Image: AFMA Online Training – Learning Management System, photo courtesy AFMA

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

Purpose

AFMA develops and invests in business processes and technologies in consultation with its stakeholders to deliver efficient and cost-effective management that ensures accountability to stakeholders and the Australian community, as well as efficient regulatory services to the Commonwealth fishing industry.

Results

Measure 6: To ensure AFMA's cost recovery framework is efficient and effective, transparent and accountable taking into consideration stakeholder feedback.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
The percentage of overhead costs in total cost recovery expenditure remains below 20.0 per cent	✓	Not met
The variance between total actual and budgeted cost recovered expenditure should not exceed 5.0 per cent	✓	Not met
The percentage of total cost recovery expenditure to the GVP of Commonwealth fisheries should be no greater than 5.0 per cent	✓	✓
The cost recovered budget will remain at or below the budget in 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI increases	✓	✓
An internal review of the AFMA CRIS will be undertaken each year prior to being provided to the Commonwealth fishing industry's peak body, the CFA, for their review	✓	✓
Financial reports will be provided to the CFA detailing actual versus budget cost recovery expenditure by AFMA CRIS activity group and by fishery. A report will be provided for financial year to 31 December (by no later than 31 March) and for the full year (by no later than 30 September)	✓	✓
Information sessions for the Commonwealth fishing industry on the CRIS document and on activity cost formulation will be offered in March and October each year	✓	✓
The change request register detailing industry feedback on the draft budget and CRIS will be published along with the final CRIS on the AFMA website each year before the commencement of the new financial year	✓	✓

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements* p. 235 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2019–22* p. 32.



Methods for measuring performance

The Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines promotes consistent, transparent and accountable charging for government activities and supports the proper use of public resources. The Australian Government’s overarching cost recovery policy is, where appropriate, non-government recipients of specific government activities should be charged some or all of the costs of those activities. The cost recovery framework is underpinned by three principles that must be applied across all stages of the cost recovery process:

- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Transparency and accountability; and
- Stakeholder engagement

Efficiency and effectiveness can be effected by the use of improved business processes and technologies which increase productivity for both the fishing industry and AFMA. Key performance activity metrics to deliver include:

- a.** the percentage of overhead costs in total cost recovery expenditure as detailed in the AFMA CRIS;
- b.** a comparison of actual and budget cost recovery expenditure by AFMA CRIS activity group and by fishery to measure the variability in planned cost recovered activity;
- c.** the percentage of total cost recovery expenditure to the GVP of Commonwealth fisheries; and
- d.** AFMA’s commitment to industry that it would keep cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

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:

- e.** an annual internal review of the CRIS prior to providing the Commonwealth fishing industry with a draft CRIS for their review and feedback; and
- f.** providing financial reports to the Commonwealth fishing industry of actual and budget 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:

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

Analysis

For 2020–21, performance measure targets were largely achieved with the actual costs recovered falling well within budget parameters. The trend for increased expenditure on software development for effective, contemporary monitoring has seen overhead costs exceed the performance measure limit of 20 per cent of total cost recovered expenditure by 1.4 per cent. AFMA has initiated a review of the CRIS settings, to be undertaken with the CFA in 2021–22.

Results

Measure 7: Increase stakeholder participation and improve feedback mechanisms.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Framework and Communication plan	✓	Target on track
The percentage of stakeholders responding to AFMA surveys (including biennial perception and 'pop-up' style surveys) increases by 10 per cent per annum	✓	Not on track
The level of overall satisfaction of stakeholders increases over time	✓	Target on track
The level of satisfaction responses of stakeholders to 'pop up' surveys increases over time	✓	Not on track
The level of engagement and feedback from engagement with stakeholders increases over time	✓	Target on track

Source: AFMA's chapter in the *Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements* p. 235 and in AFMA's *Corporate Plan for 2019–22* p. 33.

Methods for measuring performance

AFMA's objective is to deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources. Ensuring a common understanding (and compliance with) regulations and management arrangements associated with Commonwealth fisheries is fundamental to delivering on this objective.

Implementing a Stakeholder Engagement Framework (the Framework) that underpins all engagement activities undertaken by AFMA, in addition to a comprehensive Communication Plan ensures that AFMA's stakeholders are kept informed of any decisions, opportunities for consultation and continue to be educated on AFMA's role.



Within the Framework and communication plan, additional feedback mechanisms such as “pop up” feedback surveys with concession holders who regularly interact with AFMA, together with a bi-annual survey of the fishing industry will assist in understanding and measuring the results. AFMA can influence its effectiveness, under this measure, by providing more immediate and cost-effective response to stakeholder feedback.

In addition to the two yearly broader stakeholder perceptions surveys, and increased move to electronic engagement with stakeholders coupled with current and emerging communication channels will also provide valuable data collection points that can be used to inform AFMA's performance against this measure.

Analysis

The Stakeholder Engagement Framework 2020–2024 and Communications Plan 2020–2022 have been endorsed by AFMA's CEO to be implemented across a range of engagement activities, including regulatory issues and strategic decisions that impact AFMA stakeholders and operational processes and procedures.

The Communications team works with line areas across all offices to deliver clear, accurate and timely communication that is accessible, accurate and transparent. In 2020–21 this included key communications around impacts of COVID-19 and Commonwealth levies arrangements, consultation on conservation dependent stocks rebuilding strategies, changes to VMS requirements for Commonwealth operators and AFMA and Australia's ongoing activities to combat IUU fishing in our region.

Increased levels of engagement and stakeholder satisfaction targets were not met in 2020–21, because the Communications Team was focused on agency priorities described above.

Results

Measure 8: Agency Data Strategy.	2020–21 Target	2020–21 Actual
The Agency Data Strategy and Roadmap is delivered and endorsed	✓	✓
The Agency Data Capture project is implemented successfully, and extended across the agency to all logbook, catch disposal and observer data	✓	✓
AFMA continues to align to the Digital 2020 policy and ensures internal processes and technology are enhanced to meet this requirement	✓	Target on track
Data Governance and Culture is embedded into AFMA practices	✓	Target on track
Significant increases to data analytical capability provided for AFMA staff	✓	Target on track
The technical delivery of an integrated fisheries data architecture is implemented	✓	Target on track

Source: AFMA's chapter in the Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements p. 235 and in AFMA's Corporate Plan for 2019–22 p. 34.

Methods for measuring performance

AFMA worked with external consultants to develop a Data Strategy which has been endorsed by the Executive and the Commission. AFMA's Data Strategy brings a cohesive approach to the collection and management of data to ultimately deliver AFMA's business outcomes while establishing a clear pathway for investing in the development, renewal, and enhancement of AFMA's approach to data management. It supports the development and implementation of common methods, practices, tools, and processes to manage, manipulate and share data within and outside the organisation.

The Data Strategy aligns with the Australian Government's objectives for improving data management, sharing, governance and use across portfolios while ensuring public confidence is maintained through implementing appropriate privacy and security safeguards. Implementation of this Data Strategy will underpin AFMA's ability to effectively and efficiently deliver against each of the goals contained within AFMA's corporate plan. The Data Strategy, in concert with the ICT strategy, and the newly announced government \$20 million funding initiative to advance AFMA's electronic monitoring and digital transformation program, will improve the data collection, processing, and analysis capabilities within the agency. This will be used to guide AFMA's resource and workforce planning and skills development.

Analysis

The Data Strategy is built on the outcomes of the Agency Data Capture project and the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) funded e-fish project. Internal consultation with all business users enabled the identification of pain points and critical needs that were used to inform the five pillars contained in the Data Strategy. The five pillars: Analytics and Business Intelligence; Governance; Skills; Architecture and Platforms; and Access and Sharing provide a strategic and high-level engagement for the Fisheries Services and Technology and Digital Services teams. The Data Strategy provides the cohesive plan for ICT investment such that it delivers strong business outcomes now and into the future.

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. Our service charter is available on our website afma.gov.au.

We use our licensing system, GoFish, to record the timeliness of responses for licensing transactions. During 2020–21 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 2020–21.



CASE STUDY

EDRMS Project Implementation

AFMA requires complete and reliable information to make evidence-based decisions, provide sound advice, develop good policy, and deliver services and programs in support of effective management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fisheries resources.

How AFMA manages its records and information is essential for cost-effective and responsive service delivery to the Commonwealth fishing industry. Through 2020–21, AFMA recognised that to manage our information and records to support a more responsive service delivery model, we need to rely heavily on the tools that we can leverage to simplify and streamline effective agency records management and collaboration.

To meet this requirement, a modern Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS) solution was required that was intuitive enough to connect to multiple systems while greatly simplifying the processes for AFMA staff in creating, saving, and collaborating on agency records.

Guided by the Australian Governments *Building Trust in the Public Record* policy and recommendations, AFMA's Records Management and Technical and Digital Services teams embarked on a journey to significantly modernise and simplify how AFMA could cost effectively manage its vital records.

What was integral to the success of the project was AFMA's ability to utilise its modern "cloud" products to seamlessly integrate a range of its information holdings whilst ensuring the solution system was compliant with the *Archives Act 1983* and that was user friendly and takes the effort out of records management practices.

AFMA's approach to formulating our requirements included talking to several government entities and participating in whole of government led workshops. Following this, AFMA approached the market and evaluated several products to meet our criteria, finally selecting the Castlepoint product to be AFMA's future EDRMS. At a high level, the Castlepoint product sits behind key systems, which create records of managed files, including:

- SharePoint Online
- Microsoft Exchange (emails)
- Microsoft Teams.

The power of the Castlepoint product ensures that any file created or moved to a folder location (including emails), within these systems will automatically be records managed with no requirement from the user to actively place a record in a separate system.

The solution offers an improved user experience and increases the uptake of appropriate record keeping practices and significantly enhances collaboration across the agency. This was achieved by providing staff with a seamless record keeping approach with minimal input by users to create and file records. The new EDRMS is also guided by government privacy policies and provisions for secure storage of information.

Since delivery of the new system, AFMA has seen a significant increase in online collaboration and records compliance, as all documents are now created in the EDRMS with records management automatically being applied at point of creation.





PART 3

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Introduction

Most elements of fisheries administration and management, as well as fishing activity, continued to be impacted by COVID-19. AFMA continued to adopt a flexible approach to modify management practices as necessary to overcome COVID-related issues, while maintaining adequate focus on our legislated objectives. These issues impacted fisheries in different ways, including but not limited to hampering routine data collection programs, changing observer deployments, altering fishing patterns such as around border closures and reducing the effectiveness of technical discussions that are best held face-to-face.

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 2020–21 has been maintained at around \$400 million.

Performance results discussed in fishery reports

Estimated Catch Totals for 2020–21

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 2020 to June 2021.

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 2021 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

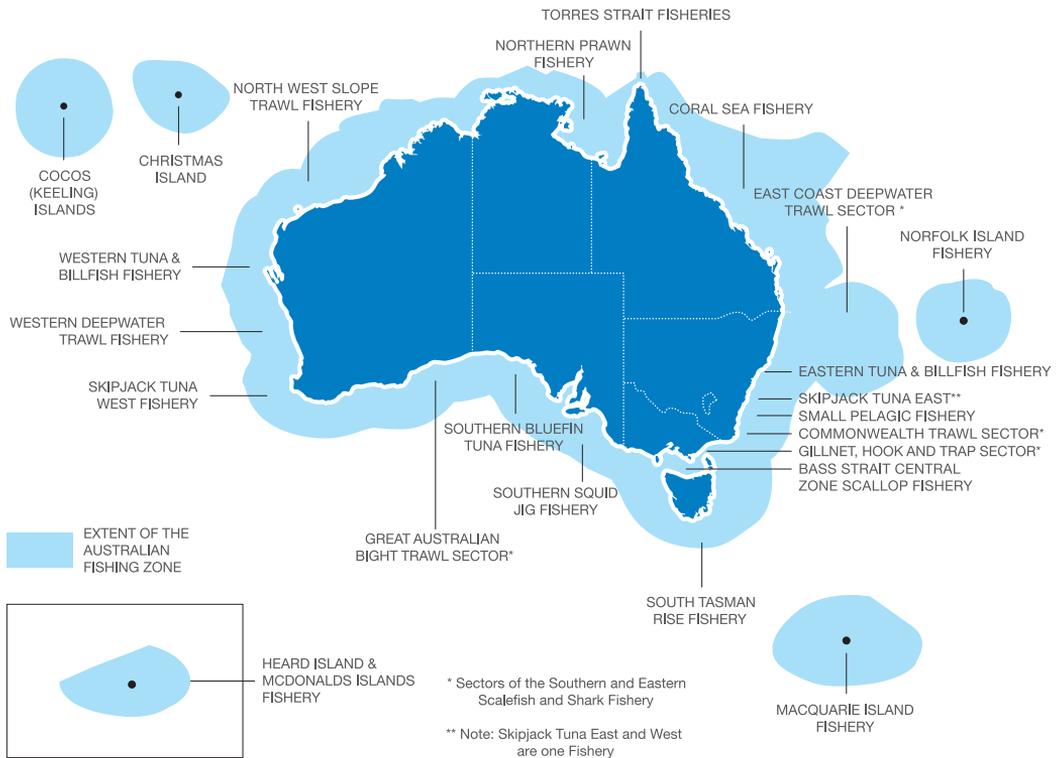
Joint managed fisheries:

- 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:
2,732 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) continues to be managed in accordance with the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the BSCZSF 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 2020–21.

AFMA, in consultation with the Scallop Resource Assessment Group and Scallop Management Advisory Committee, is undertaking a review of the BSCZSF 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 the Bass Strait but is rarely retained.

The 2020 fishing season opened on 12 July and closed on 31 December 2020.



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 BSCZSF 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 BSCZSF 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 TAC that represents a sustainable harvest. With the pre-season biomass survey being the primary source of information to inform catch limits and closures.

The 2020 pre-season biomass survey was cancelled due to operational issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. AFMA commissioned additional analysis of previous survey results to inform precautionary decision-making.

A 3,000 tonne TAC for commercial scallop was set for the 2020 fishing season, of which 2,732 tonnes were caught. In the absence of an annual biomass survey, the commercial scallop TAC was set at a precautionary level with a view to mitigate potential sustainability risks. Six area closures were implemented to protect adult and juvenile commercial scallops, based on previous biomass survey outputs and management arrangements within the fishery.

A TAC of 100 tonnes was set for doughboy scallop for the 2020 fishing season. No doughboy scallop has been landed since 2017.

Economic returns

The BSCZSF 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 BSCZSF Harvest Strategy, AFMA has engaged a researcher to develop an economic model to allow for economic information to be integrated into the commercial scallop TAC setting process, using Maximum Economic Yield proxies that align with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy.

Stable catches and beach prices were maintained throughout the 2020 fishing season. The number of boats operating reduced from 12 in 2019 to nine during the 2020 fishing season.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2020–21.

Coral Sea Fishery


ESTIMATED CATCH:
21 tonnes
(excluding aquarium sector)

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019	2019	2020	2020
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Sea cucumber sector				
Black teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmael</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Uncertain	Uncertain
Prickly redfish (<i>Thelenota ananas</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Surf redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
White teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>) Other sea cucumber species (11 spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Uncertain	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, 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 2019–20 fishing season, five vessels were active in the fishery: two in the Line Sector, one in the Sea Cucumber Sector and two in the Aquarium Sector. No effort was recorded for the lobster and trochus sector.

In the Aquarium Sector, there was a total of 1,230 dive hours in 2019–20, relatively similar to the 1,366 dive hours recorded in 2018–19. In the Sea Cucumber Sector, there was 1,050 dive hours recorded in the sea cucumber sector during 2019–20 (no fishing occurred during 2018–19). In the Line and Trap Sector, there was a total of 128,871 hooks set and zero lines set, a decrease from 204,046 hooks and 111 lines set in 2018–19.

Catch in the Coral Sea Fishery (excluding the aquarium sector which records number of individuals) decreased from 25.7 tonnes in 2018–19 to 20.7 tonnes of fish products in the 2019–20 season. Of this catch 65 per cent was finfish and 35 per cent was sea cucumbers. Catches in the Aquarium Sector were 20,049 individual fish in the 2019–20 season, a decrease from the previous 24,318 fish taken in 2018–19.

There are changes of stocks status for some sea cucumber species including black teatfish, white teatfish, surf redfish, and 'other' sea cucumber species, which are now classified as uncertain. This change was based on the most recent ABARES fishery status report assessments and reflects the uncertainty in the available evidence for these species.

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:
542 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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. One boat operated in the fishery during the 2020–21 fishing season.

There were no changes to the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006* during the 2020–21 fishing period.

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 species were set for 2020–21, consistent with previous years. These catch limits were not exceeded in 2020–21 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 April 2021 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard.

Northern Prawn Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
4,947 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
White banana prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus merguensis</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>)	Uncertain	Not overfished	Uncertain	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Lacombe, J, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.



Management Plans/Arrangements

The principal legal framework for the management of the fishery continues to be 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; and a quarterly age based biological stock assessment model for red-leg banana prawns. There is no formal stock assessment for the white banana prawn fishery as the species is short lived and its abundance is driven by environmental factors, principally rainfall across the catchments adjacent to the fishery.

The operational objective of the white banana prawn Harvest Strategy is to allow sufficient escapement to ensure an adequate spawning biomass of banana prawns (based on historical data), and to achieve the maximum economic yield from the fishery. A planned update of the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995* to reflect the revised Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy and Bycatch Policy was commenced during 2020–21 and will be finalised in the coming period. Key management arrangements in the fishery were modified for the red-leg banana prawn sub-fishery to improve the long-term sustainability of that stock. This change closes the first (banana prawn) season in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf (1 April to 15 June). Further reviews of the NPF Harvest Strategy, including further required updates to the red-leg banana prawn sub-fishery to incorporate the first season closure and the by-product species component, will occur in the coming period.

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

Tropical prawn species are very short-lived animals and their stock size is prone to wide inter-annual fluctuation with strong dependence on prevailing environmental conditions. For this reason, 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}.

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 assessment indicated that the five-year year moving average of spawning stock biomass was well above 100 per cent of B_{MSY}, meaning that neither stock is overfished.

The management objective of maximising economic yield is also assessed against an annual target reference point, which is a spawning stock size equal to that which is estimated to produce maximum economic yield. 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 maximum economic yield is also used in the fishery. The catch rate dropped below the trigger in the 2020 tiger prawn season (1 August to 30 November) and the fishery closed early on 20 November 2020. All 52 boat SFRs were utilised during the 2020 tiger prawn season.

As with the tiger prawn fishery, all 52 boat SFRs were utilised during the 2021 banana prawn season (1 April to 15 June 2021). Total catch in the 2021 banana prawn fishery was 2,948 tonnes, similar to the 2020 catches of 2,969 tonnes. These catch levels are below average and were most likely impacted by lower rainfall across key catchments. Changes in environmental conditions, such as rainfall, normally causes fluctuations in year-to-year stock size (and therefore catch) in this short-lived, tropical prawn species. 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 is currently being reviewed to explore options that allow catch and effort levels to be progressively adjusted to levels that achieve maximum economic yield. A management strategy evaluation (MSE) was completed in 2020 providing several suitable control rules to enhance management of red-leg banana prawns. In line with the outcomes of the MSE, a decision was made in November 2020 to close the first (banana) season in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf each year. This change was implemented in the 2021 fishing season. Other modifications to the harvest strategy are under consideration to incorporate this change into the harvest strategy (due to be finalised in early 2022).

During 2020, fishing catch and effort in the red-leg banana prawn fishery increased compared with 2019. The total catch in 2020 was 133 tonnes across 195 boat days compared to 47 tonnes across 75 boat days in 2019. The fishing effort pattern in 2019 and 2020 was unusual with a majority of the fishing effort in the second quarter, whereas in previous years the fishing effort was more concentrated in the second and third quarters (April-September). Although economic reasons may explain the change in fishing patterns, the first season catch per unit effort (CPUE-an index of relative stock abundance) indicated that the stock abundance in 2019 and 2020 was below average.

The total annual spawning biomass trajectory predicted the prawn population to have declined after 2014 before reversing in 2018 with the CPUE trending back towards the target level. The latest CPUE data suggests that spawning biomass is again predicted to have decreased slightly, although the 2020 stock size is estimated to be below the target level but above the limit reference point. Variability in biomass is to be expected for these short-lived species, but as the biomass levels are estimated to have been below the target level for a number of recent years, additional management measures are being considered within the harvest strategy review to reduce the risk of further declines.



Performance – status of bycatch

Following significant progress in reducing small fish bycatch through the Northern Prawn Fishery Bycatch Strategy 2015–18, new bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) have been implemented from the 2020 tiger prawn season. The new BRDs have been demonstrated through scientific trials to achieve up to 44 per cent reduction in bycatch compared to the standard device (the square mesh panel) previously used in the fishery. The newest device known as 'Tom's Fisheye' creates an area of low pressure in the trawl net as it is pulled through the water, increasing access to an opening for fish to escape. There will be a choice for NPF trawl boat operators to use one of four more effective devices from 2020. The NPF fishers, led by the Northern Prawn Fishery Industry Pty Ltd (NPFIL), continue to demonstrate commitment to reducing bycatch through design and trial of new equipment and technology. It is important that fishers can use an effective device that will suit different operating conditions.

An updated Bycatch Strategy for the NPF was finalised in early 2021. The new strategy continues to build 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 (2019–20) the NPF GVP was \$84.8 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. Recent assessments of economic performance by ABARES indicates that the level of fishing effort in the fishery is close to MEY targets.

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.

Emerging 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 2020–21, the NPF has continued to play a key role as a source of black tiger prawn (*P. monodon*) for aquaculture broodstock. Access is provided through the three fishing permits issued to trawlers to specifically target black tiger prawns and through commercial arrangements utilising NPF SFRs to target black tiger prawns. Under these arrangements, the fishery met aquaculture supply demand throughout the year.

A stock assessment of black tiger prawns was delivered in 2020. However, due to limited data covering black tiger prawn catches historically there is a low level of confidence in the stock assessment outcome. 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 2021. The potential for increases in broodstock supply from the NPF, should there be further investment in prawn aquaculture, is limited.

External Reviews

The NPF has held Marine Stewardship Council certification since 2012, with the most recent re-assessment 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



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
Confidential

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019	2019	2020	2020
	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
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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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 *Fisheries Management Act 1991* 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 generally experience relatively low levels of fishing effort with modest increases recorded in 2017–18 and the 2018–19 in both fisheries. Increased effort levels occurred in 2019–20 in the NWSTF, which more than doubled compared with averages over recent years. The relatively limited levels of effort are due in part to permit holders accessing more lucrative fisheries that are adjacent to the North West Slope Trawl or Western Deepwater Trawl fishery areas.

Recent increases in catch occurred in the North West Slope scampi fishery as market opportunities improved.

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 management arrangements will be considered further during 2021–22.

External Reviews

The North West Slope and Western Deep Water 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.



Small Pelagic Fishery

 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
16,193 tonnes



Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra. CC BY 4.0.

Management Plans/Arrangements

The Small Pelagic Fishery 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 2020–21.

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 Small Pelagic Fishery 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 being reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy.

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 for the 2019–20 survey for blue mackerel east and Australian sardines were used to inform the 2020–21 TAC for these stocks. TAC determinations for other stocks were informed by previous survey results.

Fishing effort in 2020–21 was focussed in the eastern area of the fishery and was greater than the previous year, with catches of jack mackerel east and Australian sardine also increasing. Notwithstanding these increases, the TACs for each of the seven target stocks remain undercaught. Overall catches remain consistent, indicating the incentives to fish in the Small Pelagic Fishery remain good. The GVP and net economic returns have likely improved from previous years.

Performance – status of bycatch

Dolphin interactions are managed under the Small Pelagic Fishery 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 2020–21 fishing season were less than those in 2019–20. AFMA funded a pilot project using underwater cameras to observe dolphin behaviour around trawl gear in the Small Pelagic Fishery. This project finished recently, and the report provides recommendations on improvements to mitigation measures and continued research. AFMA will also review the Small Pelagic Fishery Dolphin Mitigation Strategy in 2021–22 to strengthen the management of dolphin interactions and incorporate new knowledge.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2020–21.



Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
24,962 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish 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 (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean perch (<i>Helicolenus barathri</i> , <i>H. percooides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not 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

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Silver trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
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>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Uncertain	Uncertain
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>Allocyttus niger</i> , <i>A. verrucosus</i>)	Uncertain	Not overfished	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>)	Uncertain	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



Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Silver warehou (<i>Seriolella punctata</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, 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.*

Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

The table above shows that there are several SESSF stocks that are 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 2020 for a number of SESSF species. Assessments for gummy shark, ocean perch (offshore), ribaldo, royal red prawn and sawshark estimated the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, to be above the target reference point. Assessments for blue-eye trevalla, mirror dory (east/west), oreos (mixed), school whiting, and silver trevally estimated that the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, is between the limit reference point and the target referent 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.

John dory was assessed using a weight of evidence approach, including the outputs of two data-poor assessment methods, which estimated the stock had declined over time, however it is not clear what the current estimate of biomass is. As a precautionary approach, AFMA implemented a TAC based on unavoidable catches for the 2021–22 fishing season, and will consider further analysis of the catch and effort data when setting a TAC for the 2022–23 fishing season.



Commonwealth rebuilding strategies are in place for blue warehou, eastern gemfish, redfish, school shark and orange roughy. Each of these strategies implement incidental total allowable catches and management arrangements to prevent targeting and promote recovery of the stock to the limit reference point. The performance of the strategies are reviewed annually by the relevant resource assessment group, and each undergo 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 late 2021.

A five-year review of the Upper-slope Dogfish Management Strategy was also completed in 2021, with the revised management strategy expected to be published in late 2021. The management strategy differs slightly from the rebuilding species, in that it prohibits retention and relies on an extensive closure network to support the rebuilding of the stocks to above the limit reference point.

The stock assessment for eastern redfish estimated that the current biomass remains below the limit reference point. Redfish continue to be managed in accordance with the objectives of the rebuilding strategy, which include setting a bycatch TAC to allow for incidental catches. AFMA will commence the five-year review of the redfish rebuilding strategy in 2021 to ensure the management arrangements, including monitoring and research, remain effective.

Performance – economic returns

AFMA reports against economic key performance indicators using the key commercial stocks in each fishery. The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy defines what is meant by key commercial stocks. In the 2020–21 season, there were 11 key commercial species in the SESSF with MEY targets: 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.

Three of those species, tiger flathead, deepwater flathead and eastern school whiting are assessed as being 'on target' or within 20 per cent of their target reference point on average over the past five years. Two stocks – orange roughy east and pink ling east – are between the limit reference point and target reference point and heading towards the target. One stock – gummy shark – is assessed as being above the target reference point and heading towards the target. Three stocks – Bight redfish, blue grenadier and pink ling west – are assessed as being above the target reference point but not heading towards the target. 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.

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. Reporting by fishers has improved since the introduction of EM, particularly for quota species.

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 is expected to be completed in 2021–22. The outcome of this analysis will assist AFMA and its stakeholders understand the reliability of both sources of information as an accurate representation of commercial fishing operations and inform consideration of EM program audit rates.

A trial was recently 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 can detect 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 Commonwealth Government's recent funding announcement 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.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, deployment of on-board observers was restricted during the second and third quarters of 2020 which affected data collection in the trawl sectors of the SESSF. Coverage recommenced in October 2020 and sampling targets have mostly been achieved since then. Biological data collection in the GHAT is collected via an industry-led program and was also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, although sample collection targets were mostly achieved for 2020–21.

The SESSF RAG will review the SESSF Data Plan in August 2021 to ensure data collected across the fishery, including through the observer program, continues to provide useful inputs to stock assessments and support management decisions.

A seismic oil and gas survey was completed during the first six months of 2020 in Bass Strait, which impacted Danish seine catch rates for tiger flathead and school whiting. The impact of the seismic surveys and the lack of observer data collected during this period will be considered by the relevant RAG when reviewing fishery indicator data and undertaking stock assessments in 2021.



Performance – status of bycatch

The ERAs undertaken for the following methods and sectors of SESSF were considered and accepted by the relevant RAGs and management advisory committees in 2019 and 2020:

- 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.

The remaining SESSF ERAs (including the scalefish automatic longline, and shark hook and scalefish hook methods of the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector) are being undertaken by CSIRO and are expected to become available later in 2021.

Under these ERAs there were 21 individual species assessed across the sectors as potentially being at high risk for the period 2012–16. 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 Commonwealth Trawl Sector), and seven species in the gillnet sector of the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector. Management responses are currently under consideration. In particular, through the development of bycatch and discarding work plans for the relevant sectors, with a view to be finalised later in 2021.

To monitor potential changes in risk in between updates to ERAs, SESSF developed an annual checklist of risk related triggers in August 2020. This annual checklist will be used to identify if an update to an ERA should be brought forward.

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. Good progress has been achieved to date with a half-scale prototype developed and tested in a flume tank, and further development including full-scale design for extensive at-sea trials planned for 2021–22.

AFMA continues to focus on minimising seabird interactions in the SESSF by monitoring compliance with boat-specific Seabird Management Plans. AFMA are also working with 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.

The following species/stocks continue to be subject to rebuilding strategies: blue warehou, eastern gemfish, upper-slope dogfish, orange roughy, redfish and school shark. The status of the rebuilding strategies are:

- a revised blue warehou stock rebuilding strategy is in the final stages of development following the 2019 five-year review. The existing strategy continues to be implemented while the strategy is being finalised
- a five-year review of the eastern gemfish stock rebuilding strategy commenced in late 2020 with a view to have the review finalised in late 2021

- a comprehensive review of the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy was completed in 2020–21. It is planned that the revised strategy will be finalised in late 2021. A monitoring program has commenced that will establish the baseline relative abundance of dogfish and support monitoring through time
- a revised orange roughy stock rebuilding strategy is in the final stages of development following the 2019 five-year review. The existing strategy continues to be implemented while the strategy is being finalised
- a five-year review of the redfish stock rebuilding strategy is due to commence in late 2021
- a five-year review of the school shark rebuilding strategy is underway and due to be completed in 2021–22.

Internal Reviews

An implementation workplan for the SESSF Strategic Monitoring and Review Project (SMARP, FRDC 2014-203) and Declining Indicators Project (FRDC 2016-146) was finalised in early 2020. The workplan prioritises the recommendations from each project, including approaches for future monitoring and assessment options and developing additional or alternative indicators for use in future assessments and harvest strategies.

Key to the implementation workplan is the ongoing work to develop a new SESSF harvest strategy (FRDC 2018-021) which will consider alternative approaches to multi-species harvest strategies, including monitoring and assessment options identified in the SMARP project.

AFMA commissioned an independent expert panel to review the new stock assessment approach, Close Kin Mark Recapture (CKMR), for school shark in 2020–21. Overall the Expert Panel concluded that the CKMR approach to assess school shark is likely to be the most appropriate method to understand the status of the population and to make management decisions. The Panel also identified several key areas for further work prior to the next assessment to improve the accuracy and precision of assessment outcomes. The outcomes of the review have been adopted by the Shark RAG and AFMA, and actions to address key uncertainties will be undertaken prior to the next assessment in 2024.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2020–21.



Southern Squid Jig Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
463 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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 2020–21.

The Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy will be updated in 2021–22, 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 undertaken once additional data is collected via recently updated electronic logbooks.

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 2020–21 was 463 tonnes and high compared to previous years, though still below the first catch trigger of 3,000 tonnes in the Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy, which if reached would have resulted in further analyses and management responses being triggered.

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 2020–21.



Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
5,239 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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 and gear restrictions).

During the period 2020–21 AFMA finalised a harvest strategy for broadbill swordfish. Work continued to develop a harvest strategy for striped marlin. The revised swordfish harvest strategy was used to inform the AFMA Commission when setting the 2021 swordfish total allowable commercial catch. Performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were met in 2020–21.

Analysis of Performance

Status of stocks

Overall, ETBF catches of key commercial species decreased from 3,838 tonnes in 2019 compared to 3,778 tonnes in 2020. A relatively high proportion of the total allowable commercial catches were caught for yellowfin tuna and striped marlin but less so for swordfish and less than half the catch limits set for albacore tuna and bigeye tuna were caught. Domestically, the total allowable commercial catches of all the key commercial species are considered to be appropriate and of no concern to the status of these regional stocks.

There are two major research projects underway in the fishery. The first aims to use genetic information to assess connectivity between target species in ETBF and the broader Pacific Ocean. The second project aims to investigate oceanographic impacts on the fishery to better understand inter-annual variations in catches, interactions between fishery sectors, connectivity and longer-term potential climate change impacts.

During 2020–21 a research project to develop a harvest strategy for broadbill swordfish was completed. The new harvest strategy was adopted and implemented during 2020–21 and the AFMA Commission used the harvest strategy results to set the Total Allowable Commercial Catch for Swordfish in 2021.

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 five target stocks indicate that none of these stocks are overfished or subject to overfishing.

An ERA for the fishery was completed in mid-2019 and indicates that the ETBF longline fishery as a whole does not pose a high risk to the ecological sustainability of general bycatch, protected species or by-product species.

Fishery management arrangements

Since July 2015 all boats fishing more than 30 days a year in the ETBF have been required to have a system of cameras and sensors installed to monitor all fishing operations. During 2020–21 it was made compulsory for all longliners. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring to verify the logbook records. 10 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 e-monitoring, 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.

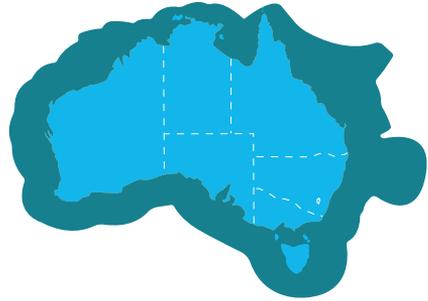


Between May and November each year a southern bluefin tuna (SBT) zone is implemented in the fishery to help ensure that any SBT caught is covered by quota and to minimise discarding. To enter the zone, ETBF operators are required to hold a minimum amount of SBT quota and maintain an operational electronic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

External Reviews

Compliance by the ETBF with Conservation and Management Measures of the WCPFC is reviewed on an annual basis under the WCPFC Compliance Monitoring Scheme. In 2020–21, as in previous years, ETBF management arrangements were consistent with WCPFC measures. 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:
5,679 tonnes

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Southern Bluefin Tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Larcombe, J, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, 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 performance criteria detailed in the management plan were all met in 2020–21. The Management Plan was reviewed and amended in 2020–21 to reflect the agreement to set aside 5 per cent of the Australian catch limit from the Commission for the Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) to account for recreational mortality.

The 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 2020–21 TAC was the set under the new Management Plan amendment.

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 2020–21 SBT fishing season was 5,926.5 tonnes, with 311.9 tonnes set aside to account for recreational fishing in accordance with Government policy announced in 2020.



In 2020 CSIRO undertook an assessment of the ecological impacts of the SBT Purse Seine sub-fishery using the Ecological Risk Assessment for Effect of Fishing (ERAEF) methodology. The ERAEF, developed jointly by CSIRO and AFMA provides a hierarchical framework for a comprehensive assessment of the ecological risks arising from fishing. Fifty species across the three ecological components were assessed in this ERAEF. No high risks were identified for any components assessed in the SBT purse seine sub-fishery from internal activities.

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 stock remains below the level estimated to produce maximum sustainable yield. The fishing mortality rate is below the level associated with maximum sustainable yield.

The current estimated trends indicate that the stock has been rebuilding by approximately 5 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 2019–20 fishing season 4,568 tonnes were taken by the purse seine sector compared to 5,291 tonnes in the previous season.

The amount of fish taken by longliners on the east coast depends primarily on access to available quota from the ranching sector and the seasonal availability of fish. In the 2019–20 fishing season 861 tonnes was caught compared to 783 tonnes in the previous season.

Economic performance of both sectors was severely impacted by COVID-19 during the reporting period through changed market demand, particularly in Japan, and increased freight prices.

External Reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2020–21.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery


ESTIMATED CATCH:
174 tonnes


Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
		2019		2020
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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 2020–21.



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 2020–21, catch levels for the main target species were slightly lower than 2019–20 due to a reduction in fishing due to the impacts of COVID-19. Domestically, the total allowable commercial catches 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. AFMA will need to consider these new catch limits in 2021–22.

Updated stock assessments for both striped marlin and yellowfin tuna were completed in 2018. AFMA cooperates with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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 10 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 2020–21.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:

3,010 tonnes

(Patagonian toothfish)



ESTIMATED CATCH:

502 tonnes

(Mackerel icefish)

Stock Status of Target Species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus 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, Larcombe, J, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, 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 the CCAMLR. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. As at June 2021 five boats operated in the fishery during the 2020–21 fishing season (1 December to 30 November). Three of these boats longlined and two boats both trawled and longlined, with one boat also using pots. There were no changes to the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* during 2020–21.



Analysis of Performance

Performance – status of fish stocks

In November 2019, the AFMA Commission set the HIMI Fishery TAC at 3,030 tonnes for Patagonian toothfish and 527 tonnes for Mackerel icefish for the 2019–20 fishing year based on stock assessments undertaken in 2019. The stock assessment for Patagonian toothfish is updated every two years and no update was completed in 2020–21. The assessment for Mackerel icefish is usually updated annually, but due to meeting constraints caused by COVID-19 the CCAMLR did not agree to implement the results of the updated assessment. The 2020–21 catch limit proposed by Australia was 1,200 tonnes supported by the 2020 survey results. Therefore, a catch limit of 406 tonnes was set for Mackerel icefish for 2020–21 fishing season.

The Sub-Antarctic RAG and Sub-Antarctic MAC also supported the HIMI Fishery TACs for the 2020–21 fishing year as being sustainable.

Performance – status of bycatch

The core longline fishing season extends from 1 May to 14 September. In 2019, longlining was permitted from 1 April 2019 to 30 November 2019 with additional seabird measures applying to the periods outside the core longline season. Strict rules are in place around interactions with seabirds during the autumn and spring extension periods, when seabird activity is known to increase around HIMI. 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. One boat triggered this provision in 2020–21.

Bycatch is generally low in the HIMI Fishery and catch limits were not exceeded in 2020–21.

External Reviews

Management of the HIMI Fishery is reviewed internationally by CCAMLR, which meets each year and, among other things, considers catch limits and bycatch management for the HIMI Fishery.

The HIMI Fishery stock assessment for Patagonian toothfish is considered and endorsed by CCAMLR. The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. A surveillance audit was conducted in April 2021 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard.

High Seas Permits



ESTIMATED CATCH:

57 tonnes

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.

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 2020–21.

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			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, *Fishery status reports 2021*, 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 since 2008 for economic reasons.

There were no new management arrangements implemented in the fishery in 2020–21.

There are 19 Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits and 14 Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits, however no Australian vessels are currently targeting skipjack tuna.

Southern Tasman Rise Fishery

Stock status of target species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2019		2020	
	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, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2021, Fishery status reports 2021, 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 tonne 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 the 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

Management and accountability

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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 *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

The Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia 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. Some or all duties of the minister are typically delegated to the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries.

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 Executive Secretary. 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.

BellchambersBarrett were re-appointed as our 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 2020–21 on the following areas of AFMA's business operations:

Protected Species Interaction audit

This audit focused on assessing the AFMA framework – including management strategies, processes and reporting practices – that support effective and sustainable management of TEP species interactions. This included assessing management strategies for practices of non-compliance with protected species interaction requirements.

Co-managed Arrangements Review audit

This audit focused on the effectiveness of AFMA's approach to the co-management of Commonwealth Fisheries and the consistency of supporting arrangements underpinning this approach. This included considering the effectiveness of the approach in reducing the risk of inappropriate use of Commonwealth resources (i.e. monies and time) and ensuring the expected standards are met, and the identification of improvements to current procedures.

JADE System Review

The focus of this audit was to assess how our JADE system, which is AFMA's primary compliance and enforcement data system, is utilised within AFMA, and whether there was potential for further benefits to be derived from use of the system. The review focused on assessing the effectiveness of the key controls, governance arrangements and adherence to framework documentation as well as benchmarking the use of JADE across AFMA and considering whether the system is being utilised to its full potential.

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).

AFMA Management has endorsed and implemented the majority of the recommendations from these audits. Work on outstanding endorsed recommendations will be undertaken during 2021–22 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.

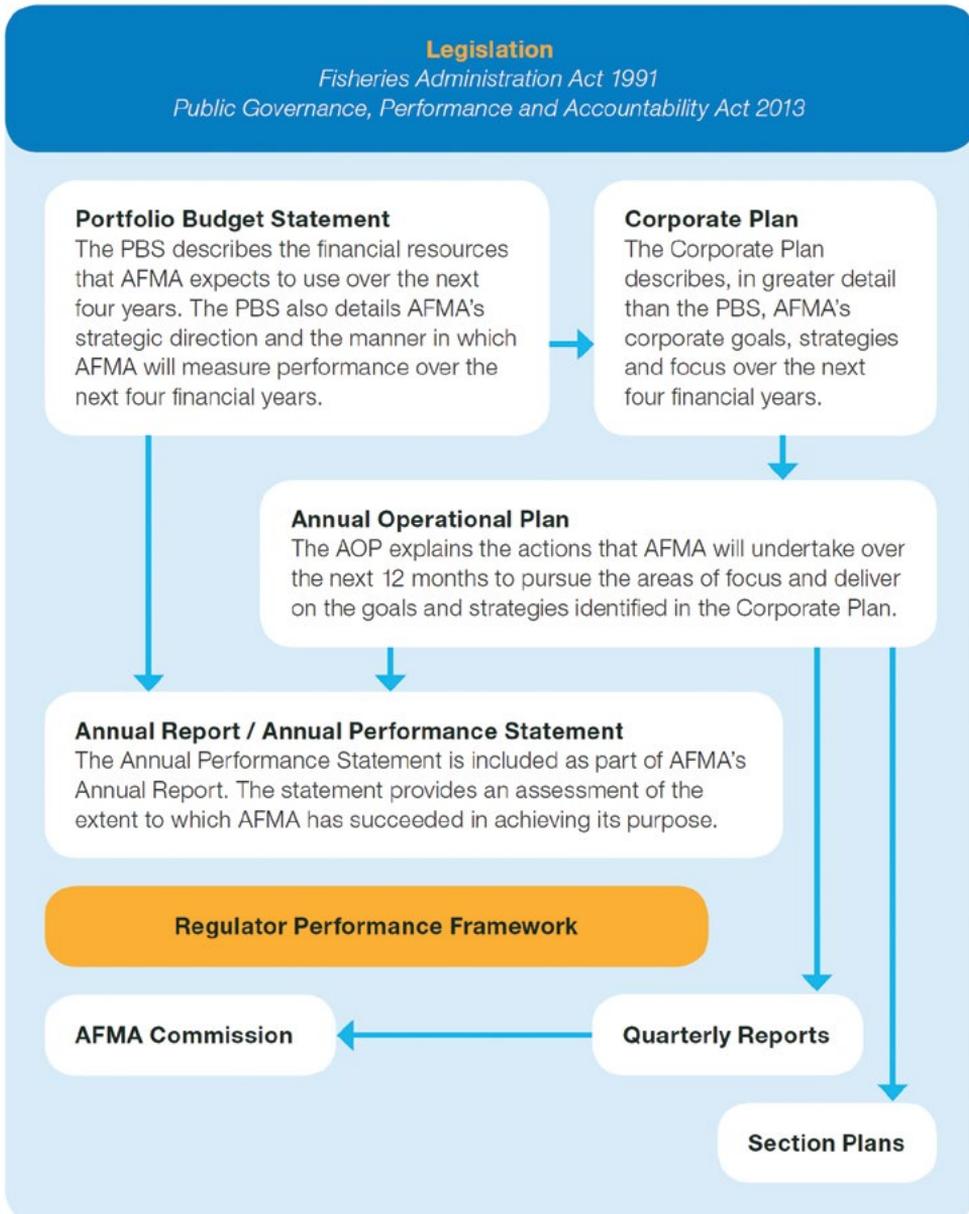
Our performance is also subject to review through the Senate Estimates process. Parliament may also review and disallow legislative instruments proposed by AFMA as part of its delegated functions.

In 2020–21, the ANAO undertook a Performance Audit on AFMA's Management of Commonwealth Fisheries. The report was tabled in Parliament on 23 June 2021. AFMA agreed to all of the nine recommendations and has commenced action on several of these already.

There was one civil litigation outcome during 2020–21 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 *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, 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 2020–21.

In 2020–21, AFMA conducted a comprehensive review of its performance measures and targets, picking up advice from our internal auditors, the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee and the ANAO. Reviewed measures and targets have been including in the 2021 Portfolio Budget Statement and the 2021–24 Corporate Plan.

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 well-being, cybersecurity as well as strategic risks in relation to fisheries management and compliance.

Throughout 2020–21, 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 well-being of staff is a priority and AFMA will continue to monitor these risks and the implications for our staff, business operations and stakeholders in 2021–22.

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 2020–21 included the implementation of AFMA's EDRMS replacement system, progressing stage 2 of AFMA's Data Strategy, implementing our Torres Strait legislative reform project and delivering on our ICT infrastructure reform agenda.

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

During 2020–21 there was a continued focus within our Technology and Digital Services team (TDS) on supporting a more remote workforce and ensuring, as a result of the nation-wide lockdowns and travel restrictions, that AFMA's staff and stakeholders had access to technology that continued to support our business activities.

Leveraging on the technology implemented through the ICT Strategy, the TDS team continued to refine the mobility solutions available to effectively support AFMA operations. Extending the capabilities of the remote platforms, in providing secure and robust technology services was critical in ensuring AFMA's business continuity through the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the adoption of a more remote business model, the technology implications also saw the continued rise of cyber security threats across government, to which AFMA was not immune. With the increasing cyber security threat ever present, it remained critical that our TDS team continued to focus on quality cyber security governance aligned to the Australian Governments Information Security Manual and the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) "Essential 8" mitigation strategies. The TDS team partnered with a cyber security provider, to provide active monitoring and threat responses to the AFMA network and provide quality ICT Security advisory services. To further safeguard AFMA's cyber environment, our TDS team partnered with the ACSC to implement a direct monitoring service, where cyber technicians from the ACSC can monitor and detect suspect intrusive activity across AFMA's ICT environment. Through these efforts we continue to remain well positioned to counter cyber security threats and are confident the safeguards we have applied are strong and fit for purpose to protect our key data and information assets.

The cyber security threats also made it imperative that AFMA continue to ensure its information management practices were robust. In 2020–21 there was a renewed focus on ensuring AFMA understood the value of its information and the importance of delivering quality records management services. Aligning to the Australian Governments "Building Trust in the Public Record" policy, the TDS team implemented a modern, cost-efficient EDRMS, replacing a legacy system. The modern cloud-based system supported AFMA's staff in ensuring vital information was retained and efficiently managed across multiple platforms, supporting a variety of staff requirements and streamlining the capture of AFMA's records. To further support the new system, the TDS led in the establishment of a renewed 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 assets.

AFMA also established a Data Strategy Implementation Group to oversee development of the AFMA Data Strategy and contribute to ongoing implementation of the ADC project described above. Working with the Commonwealth fishing industry to expand the platform will provide significant cost-effective benefits to both the Commonwealth fishing industry and AFMA alike.



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

On 18 March 2021, the Parliament passed the *Regulatory Powers (Standardisation Reform) Bill 2020*. Schedule 4 of the *Regulatory Powers (Standardisation Reform) Act 2021* (Reform Act) to amend section 93 the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (FMA) in relation to offences committed by holders of fish receiver permits, to make such offences of strict liability; that is, the defence of reasonable excuse is no longer valid. Removing the requirement to prove fault in relation to elements of the offence is appropriate because it is likely to significantly enhance the integrity and sustainability of fisheries resources by deterring non-compliance with the requirements of the relevant permit. The amendments also bring section 93 of the FMA into line with commensurate offences in subsection 95(5) of the FMA. Under subsection 95(5) the breach of a licence or permit condition, involving the provision of certain information, is subject to a pecuniary penalty instead of a penalty of imprisonment and is an offence of strict liability. Schedule 4 of the Reform Act commenced on 26 September 2021, at which time amendments to the FMA take effect. As a consequence of these amendments, the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019* will also require amendment.

Compliance with Finance Law

In accordance with paragraph 19(1)(e) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, 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 2020–21 with finance law (the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and associated rules and instruments) indicates that there are no significant matters that warrant reporting to the Minister.

Purchasing

During 2020–21 AFMA maintained a strong push on improved 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 2020–21. 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 2020–21 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 2020–21.

Discretionary Grants

AFMA did not administer any grants during 2020–21.



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; and
- The 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 2020–21, 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 devices such as iPads and 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 5 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 issued mobile devices to all staff in the form of new laptop computers and associated Standard Operating Environments in line with AFMA's ICT Strategic Plan that supports and enhances our organisational capability and functionality as well as improves flexible working arrangements for our staff.

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 2021, AFMA employed 159 employees. Of these 129 were ongoing and 30 were non-ongoing employees. These numbers do not include five employees on long-term leave.

The agency had 111 employees located in Canberra, 15 employees located in Darwin, six employees located in Thursday Island and four in Lakes Entrance. A further 23 staff were engaged as casual field observers who undertake duties on Commonwealth commercial fishing vessels and are based at various locations around Australia.

AFMA's employment profile has not significantly changed since 2019–20. The proportion of part-time employees (excluding casual observers) has decreased by 5 per cent in 2020–21 compared to 8 per cent in 2019–20.

The proportion of females has increased to 45.9 per cent from 44.7 per cent in the previous financial year. The percentage of women at EL1–2 levels for 2020–21 has decreased to 39.1 per cent from 43.2 per cent in the previous year.

There has been a slight increase in the number of employees from non-English speaking backgrounds with six employees in 2020–21, up from five in 2019–20.

As a comparison with the 2019–20 financial year, the number of employees who have at least one parent from a non-English speaking background has decreased by one to 24. The number of employees identifying as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander has increased slightly from eight to nine. In addition, employees who identified themselves as having a disability decreased slightly to two in 2020–21, down from three in 2019–20.

Tables 2–5 on pages 115–117 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.

COVID-19

AFMA continued to ensure our employees are well informed and supported as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause impacts. This work included:

- weekly COO updates – including promotion of the Employee Assistance Program service
- continuous update of a dedicated COVID-19 intranet portal to ensure clear communication to staff
- introduction of AFMA's Flexible Working Arrangement (3:2); allowing staff to attend the office 3 days a week and work from home 2 days per week
- ensuring our eligible Fisheries Officers and Observers under phase 1a and b of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program were informed and vaccinated in a timely manner
- regularly reviewing COVID-19 procedures set by each local government and making appropriate adjustments in response.

Staff Engagement

The 2020–21 financial year saw AFMA staff participate in two government wide Australian Public Service Employee Census surveys (the Census). For the 2020 Census (delayed from May until November due to COVID-19) 83 per cent of staff responded to the survey and compared to the 2019 Census results, AFMA's employee engagement index increased by three points to 75 per cent, two points above the whole of APS engagement level. Strong engagement levels were supported by results that show 90 per cent of staff believe strongly in the purpose of AFMA, with 93 per cent willing to go the extra mile for the agency. Employee perception of supervisors also drove positive engagement results.

The agency's wellbeing index also increased significantly up 10 points from the previous census to 68 per cent. While there has been a positive increase seen in the 2020 results, wellbeing remains slightly below the wider APS. An inclusive and respectful culture also drove engagement with an increase of 14 per cent from 2019 results.

Employees responded positively to the actions that the agency took in managing COVID-19, recognising that AFMA continues to take steps to improve the way we worked during the pandemic. In general, staff were more satisfied with the way change was managed within the agency.

Staff responses to the survey indicated that further work needs to be done in relation to clarification of priorities, roles and responsibilities and perceptions around time pressures.

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

- priority setting
- diversity and inclusion
- review of AFMA's Flexible Working Policy
- performance management
- development and learning.

AFMA staff participated in the 2021 Employee Census which was launched by the APS in May 2021. The results were not available in the current reporting period and will be reported on in the 2021–22 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 2 April 2019 which provides details of increases to existing salaries and allowances effective on 23 June 2019, 23 June 2020 and 23 June 2021.

Individual Flexibility Agreements

The Agreement provides for the CEO and an employee covered by the agreement, to enter into an individual flexibility agreement. 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 26 individual flexibility agreements for 22 employees during 2020–21 as outlined in the table below and of these, four employees entered into multiple agreements therefore the number of agreements is higher than the number of employees.

Table 1: Individual Flexibility Agreements as at 30 June 2021

Classification	Number
APS 1	0
APS 2	0
APS 3	0
APS 4	1
APS 5	1
APS 6	6
EL1	8
EL2	10

Flexible Working Arrangements

Throughout 2020–21, all AFMA offices experienced shut-downs as a result of COVID-19. Upon reopening offices following the initial nation-wide shutdown in 2020, AFMA trialed a flexible arrangement whereby staff could work three days per week in the office and two days per week from home. The settings of the trial (which ran until 30 June 2021) were designed to create a good balance between the mental health, work-life, efficiency gains that were generally experienced by most staff in shutdown, with the need for face-to-face contact within and between teams to maintain relationships and rebuild workplace culture. The trial was considered a success and all AFMA staff have been provided opportunity to continue with the 3:2 setting on an ongoing basis.

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. Census results have indicated AFMA employees' views towards the current Performance Development Scheme was less than ideal. Feedback indicated the need to improve the performance framework to streamline it, make it more user friendly and incorporate 360 degree feedback.

AFMA undertook an initial review of the entire AFMA Performance Development Scheme during 2020–21, with a view to shifting our appraisals from a process driven scheme to a genuine two-way conversation between managers and staff at all levels.

AFMA Executive approved the following recommendations:

- review and streamlining of AFMA's performance and development scheme and associated documentation
- maximise the configuration of the current performance management system to move the focus from compliance
- review the requirements of each performance review, with a goal of reducing the number of formal reviews to two annual reviews, and consider the option to reduce the approval process to first level manager sign off only
- reduce the performance rating scale from seven to three criteria
- simplify the capability development plan, including removing the link to the Integrated Leadership System
- develop managers and senior managers in holding performance conversations
- build manager capability in managing underperformance
- review the tools utilised to improve employee performance.



Rewards and Recognition

AFMA recognises that building a culture that values its employees and recognises performance is critical to retaining the best people. The annual AFMA Achievement Awards recognise individual and team achievements throughout the year. Nominations are sought from employees and the recipients agreed by the AFMA Executive team. The 2020 awards were presented in December by the AFMA CEO:

- **Technology Mobility Team:** Team Achievement award in recognition of their outstanding work in ensuring the AFMA remote access environment was optimally available to support staff during the COVID-19 office closures.
- **Darwin International Compliance Operations Team:** Team Innovation award for demonstrating that they are at the leading edge of providing Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) training at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels.
- **Levy Relief Team:** Team Innovation award in recognition of their dedication to undertaking a body of work never been done before in AFMA, while working under remote working circumstances.
- **COVID-19 Response Team:** Team Unsung Hero award in recognition of the team who demonstrated strong commitment to AFMA and were critical in supporting AFMA in the lead up to, and during the COVID-19 office closures.
- **Ash Mooney:** Good citizenship award for exemplifying corporate citizenship within AFMA ensuring AFMA staff remained connected and uplifted in 2020. Including the opportunity for Fisheries Officers to undertake 'desktop inspections' during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Eric Appleyard:** Good citizenship award for always displaying commitment to the vision, purpose, and values of AFMA.
- **Cameron James:** Collaborating and mentoring award in recognition of his incredible willingness to help others within the agency through providing assistance, mentoring and being a positive role model.

AFMA also provided ten-year service pins to three employees with one employee receiving a twenty-year service plaque.

Professional Development

AFMA continued to invest in the ongoing professional development of its employees in order to build a high-performance organisation. AFMA's Corporate Training Plan 2020–21 (the plan) clearly articulated the approach to learning and development, identifying a number of development priorities with parts considered essential learning for all employees. Topics covered in the plan ensures AFMA has a workforce with the skills and capabilities required to adapt and respond to changes in the world of work, is capability lead and builds and shapes AFMA for the future.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the plan was not able to be fully realised. However, plans are currently underway to develop and implement AFMA's 2021–22 Corporate Training Plan. This plan include the resumption of key development strategies, such as core skill development programs which focus on building manager capability, leadership, communication, and career development.

During 2020–21, all AFMA staff were required to complete four mandatory on-line training courses, with one additional mandatory training course for all EL1s and EL2s, and those who have supervisory responsibilities. These courses were:

- Security
- Introduction to Risk
- Privacy Awareness
- Beyond Blue – Managing Mental Health Risks at work (including manager)
- Beyond Blue – What would you do? 'Approaching an employee you're concerned about' (managers and supervisors only).

In 2020–21 there remained a consistent uptake of the agencies studies assistance program. Seven employees received studies assistance, which includes paid study leave and/ or financial assistance to undertake tertiary education in subject areas such as marine and Antarctic science, communications, environment, information and communications technology, economics, maritime studies and international security.

In 2020–21 AFMA sponsored four staff members to participate in professional development programs, including Professional Foundations Program and the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program.



Employment Programs

Graduate Development Program

AFMA partnered with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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. We also hosted two graduates from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment during the third rotation.

Australian National Internship Program

In 2020–21 AFMA participated in hosting three 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 2020–21 AFMA supported several initiatives to improve its diversity outcomes, including:

- various events to raise awareness of diversity, such as NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day, Wear it Purple and International Day of People with Disability
- staff participation in a range of diversity staff networks hosted by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- promotion of flexible working as part of normal business through the Flexible Working Arrangements policy
- establishment of a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan
- introduction of the Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee.

During 2020–21 AFMA developed its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). The plan represents AFMA's commitment to reconciliation; to strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples for the benefit of all Australians. The official launch of the Reflect RAP is planned for early 2021–22.

Workforce Statistics

Table 2: Ongoing employees employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2021

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
APS 3–4	Canberra	2	10	0	3	15
	Darwin	0	1	0	2	3
	Lakes Entrance	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	1	0	0	1
APS 5–6	Canberra	6	24	0	17	47
	Darwin	0	3	0	7	10
	Lakes Entrance	0	2	0	1	3
	Thursday Island	0	2	0	1	3
EL1	Canberra	0	10	0	16	26
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
	Lakes Entrance	0	0	0	1	1
	Thursday Island	0	0	0	1	1
EL2	Canberra	0	5	0	7	12
	Darwin	0	0	0	0	0
	Thursday Island	0	1	0	0	1
SES	Canberra	0	1	0	2	3
	Darwin	0	0	0	1	1
Total		8	61	0	60	129

This table excludes five employees who were on long-term leave as at 30 June 2021. 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 2021. This SES figure also includes AFMA's CEO.



Table 3: Non-ongoing employees employed by location, gender and employment status as at 30 June 2021

Level	Location	Women		Men		Total employees at level
		Part time	Full time	Part time	Full time	
APS 1–2	Millner, NT	0	0	1	0	1
	Nightcliff, NT	0	0	1	0	1
	North Wollongong, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	Woolner, NT	0	0	1	0	1
	Cudgera Creek, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	Orange, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	Sellicks Beach, SA	0	0	1	0	1
	Port Lincoln, SA	0	0	2	0	2
	Rye, VIC	0	0	1	0	1
	Toormina, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	Urangan, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Fitzroy North, VIC	0	0	1	0	1
	Georgica, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	Lakes Entrance, VIC	0	0	1	0	1
APS 3–4	ACT	0	1	1	0	2
	Adelaide, SA	0	0	1	0	1
	Ashmore, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Kirwan, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Labrador, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Minyama, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Port Douglas, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
	Southport, QLD	0	0	1	0	1
APS 5–6	Tuncurry, NSW	0	0	1	0	1
	ACT	0	1	0	0	1
EL 1	ACT	0	2	0	2	4
Total		0	4	24	2	30

These figures include 24 observers who are engaged as APS 2/3 casual employees.

Table 4: Diversity profile of AFMA employees as at 30 June 2021

Level	NESB1	NESB2	People with disability	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Women	Men	Total employees at level
APS 2-4	2	7	0	4	16	29	45
APS 5-6	4	11	2	4	38	26	64
EL1	0	4	0	1	12	21	33
EL2	0	1	0	0	6	7	13
SES	0	1	0	0	1	3	4
Total	6	24	2	9	73	86	159

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

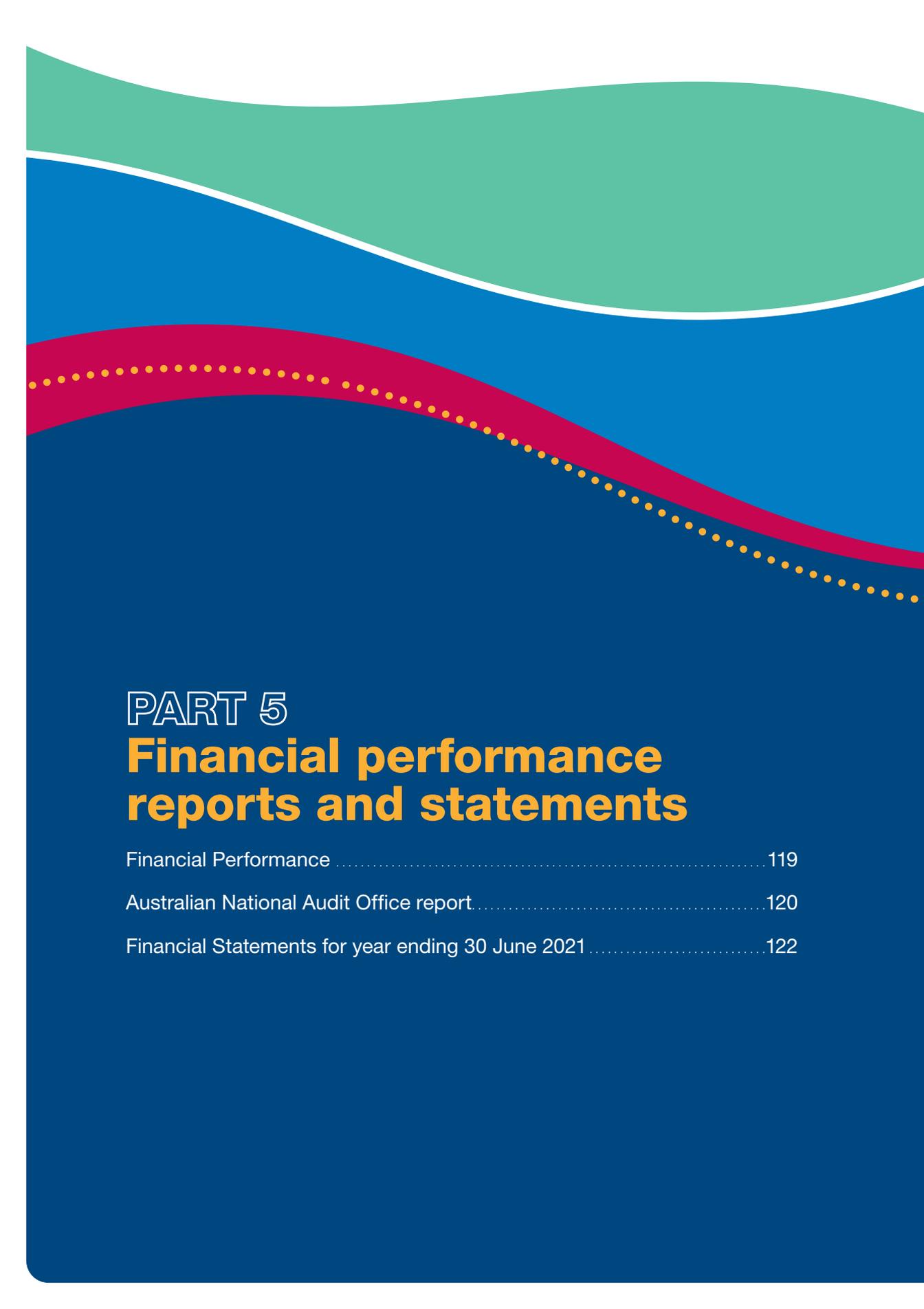
Information (except gender data sourced from AFMA's HR management system) has been sourced from a diversity report where individuals volunteer to provide diversity information to the Agency.

Table 5: Salary ranges by non-Senior Executive classification level as at 30 June 2021

Classification	Minimum (\$)	Maximum (\$)
APS 1	\$46 524	\$54 369
APS 2	\$58 289	\$62 214
APS 3	\$63 804	\$69 343
APS 4	\$72 110	\$77 097
APS 5	\$79 471	\$84 171
APS 6	\$88 868	\$98 272
EL1	\$109 320	\$121 503
EL2	\$128 255	\$149 526

AFMA does not provide performance bonuses.





PART 5

Financial performance reports and statements

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Financial Performance

Results

AFMA reported a deficit attributable to the Australian Government of \$0.633 million for the 2020–21 financial year, well within the budgeted operating loss of \$1.781 million, or \$1.148 million underspend compared to budget.

Employee costs were some \$2.0 million lower than budget, mainly due to significantly lower Average Staffing Levels across the agency (145.1 ASL compared to a budget of 177.0 ASL). Recruitment continued to be a challenge, with lower field operations due to COVID-19 exacerbating lower staffing levels.

Supplier expenditure was \$0.7 million higher than budget mainly due to higher consultancy and contractor expenditure relating to information technology investments in the E-fish project and ICT Security Remediation. Higher expenditure was also incurred for vessel monitoring services provided to state and territory governments. This was offset somewhat by substantially reduced domestic and international travel expenditure due to COVID-19, along with lower expenditure on AFMA facilitated conferences and training.

AFMA's administered expenditure relating to the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels was \$0.2 million. This result was \$5.5 million lower than budget due to lower vessel apprehensions than expected.



Australian National Audit Office report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2021:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 2021 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 2021 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 – Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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.

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; and
- 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



Mark Vial
Acting Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Canberra

8 September 2021



Financial Statements for year ending 30 June 2021

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

Administered Reconciliation Schedule

Administered Cash Flow Statement

Overview

Notes to the financial statements:

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1.2: Own Source Revenue

1.3: Revenue from Government

2. Departmental Financial position

2.1: Financial assets

2.2: Non-financial assets

2.3: Payables

2.4: Leases

2.5: Other Provisions

3. Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government

3.1: Administered – financial assets

3.2: Administered – liabilities

4. Funding

- 4.1: Appropriations
- 4.2: Special accounts
- 4.3: Regulatory charging summary
- 4.4: Net cash appropriation arrangements

5. People and relationships

- 5.1: Employees
- 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: Aggregate 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 2021 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
8 September 2021



Jo Hobson
Chief Finance Officer
8 September 2021



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Net cost of services				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Employee benefits	1.1A	19,865	19,442	21,829
Suppliers	1.1B	14,840	14,914	14,153
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,260	2,126	2,757
Finance costs	1.1C	100	110	97
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	41	10	-
Impairment loss on financial instruments	1.1E	6	7,932	-
Act of grace payments		-	2,529	-
Foreign exchange losses		3	12	-
Total expenses		37,115	47,075	38,836
<i>Own-Source Income</i>				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	2,976	2,990	2,237
Rental income	1.2B	160	158	135
Interest	1.2C	7	8	-
Levies and licence fees	1.2D	13,322	14,602	14,665
Total own-source revenue		16,465	17,758	17,037
Gains				
Resources received free of charge		44	1,490	45
Total gains		44	1,490	45
Total own-source income		16,509	19,248	17,082
Net (cost of) / contribution by services		(20,606)	(27,827)	(21,754)
Revenue from Government	1.3A	19,973	30,224	19,973
Surplus / (deficit) on continuing operations		(633)	2,397	(1,781)
Other comprehensive income				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		-	(192)	-
Total other comprehensive (loss)		-	(192)	-
Total Comprehensive income / (loss)		(633)	2,205	(1,781)

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Employee expenses were lower than the Original Budget by \$2.0 million due to lower average staffing levels throughout 2020–21 partially offset by an increase in employee leave provision expenses.

Own-source revenues were lower than the Original Budget by \$0.6 million due to lower than forecast levy revenues, partially offset by higher services income for Vessel Monitoring Systems for States & Territory Governments and higher observer fee for service income.

Suppliers were \$0.7 million higher than the Original Budget. The key drivers included:

- higher than forecast Vessel Monitoring Systems expenditure for State & Territory Governments
- higher than forecast contractor and consultant costs due to lower average staffing levels
- the above increases were partially offset by lower than forecast travel costs due to Covid 19 restrictions

Depreciation and amortisation were \$0.5 million lower than the Original Budget as budgeted depreciation was set using historical averages.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Assets				
<i>Financial Assets</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	12,066	10,606	10,606
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	1,111	1,269	1,269
Total financial assets	13,177	11,875	11,875	
<i>Non-Financial Assets</i>				
Land	2.2A	1,775	1,775	1,775
Buildings	2.2A	12,704	14,320	12,688
Plant and equipment	2.2A	1,216	1,295	1,085
Computer software	2.2A	611	499	423
Other non-financial assets	2.2B	473	539	538
Total non-financial assets		16,779	18,428	16,509
Total assets		29,956	30,303	28,384
<i>Liabilities</i>				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	1,725	2,102	2,457
Other payables	2.3B	1,471	934	649
Total payables		3,196	3,036	3,106
<i>Interest bearing liabilities</i>				
Leases	2.4A	7,936	8,836	7,860
Total interest bearing liabilities		7,936	8,836	7,860
<i>Provisions</i>				
Employee provisions	5.1A	5,730	5,163	5,474
Other provisions	2.5A	183	181	181
Total provisions		5,913	5,344	5,655
Total liabilities		17,045	17,216	16,621
Net assets		12,911	13,087	11,763
Equity				
Contributed equity		13,720	13,263	13,721
Reserves		3,581	3,581	3,581
(Accumulated deficit)		(4,390)	(3,757)	(5,539)
Total equity		12,911	13,087	11,763

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Cash at end of the reporting period was \$1.5 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to lower than anticipated employee expenditure in 2020–21. This underspend was also the primary driver in lower than budgeted accumulated deficit of \$1.1m.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of changes in equity

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Contributed equity			
<i>Opening balance</i>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	13,263	12,808	13,264
<i>Transactions with owners</i>			
Departmental capital budget	457	455	457
Total transactions with owners	457	455	457
Closing balance as at 30 June	13,720	13,263	13,721
Retained earnings			
<i>Opening balance</i>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(3,757)	(8,763)	(3,758)
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 16	-	2,609	-
Adjusted opening balance	(3,757)	(6,154)	(3,758)
<i>Comprehensive income</i>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(633)	2,397	(1,781)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(633)	2,397	(1,781)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(4,390)	(3,757)	(5,539)
Asset revaluation reserve			
<i>Opening balance</i>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	3,581	3,773	3,581
Adjusted opening balance	3,581	3,773	3,581
<i>Comprehensive income</i>			
Other comprehensive income	-	(192)	-
Total comprehensive income	-	(192)	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	3,581	3,581	3,581
Total equity			
<i>Opening balance</i>			
Balance carried forward from previous period	13,087	7,818	13,087
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 16	-	2,609	-
Adjusted opening balance	13,087	10,427	13,087
<i>Comprehensive income/(loss)</i>			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(633)	2,397	(1,781)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	-	(192)	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(633)	2,205	(1,781)
<i>Transactions with owners</i>			
Departmental capital budget	457	455	457
Total transactions with owners	457	455	457
Closing balance as at 30 June	12,911	13,087	11,763

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 \$1.1 million higher than the Original Budget. The variance is due to the \$1.1 million variance in the forecast operating result.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Operating activities				
<i>Cash received</i>				
Appropriations		19,912	30,224	19,973
Sales of goods and rendering of services		4,073	3,338	2,372
Net GST received		1,195	1,029	-
Levies and licence fees		13,239	6,886	14,665
Total cash received		38,419	41,477	37,010
<i>Cash used</i>				
Employees		19,199	19,605	21,829
Suppliers		16,501	19,053	13,726
Interest payments on lease liabilities		98	108	97
Total cash used		35,798	38,766	35,652
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities		2,621	2,710	1,358
Investing activities				
<i>Cash used</i>				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		548	634	839
Total cash used		548	634	839
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(548)	(634)	(839)
Financing activities				
<i>Cash received</i>				
Contributed equity - departmental capital budget		457	455	457
Total cash received		457	455	457
<i>Cash used</i>				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,070	884	976
Total cash used		1,070	884	976
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		(613)	(429)	(519)
Net increase in cash held		1,460	1,647	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		10,606	8,959	10,606
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2.1A	12,066	10,606	10,606

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Operating Activities

Sales of goods and services and net GST received were \$1.9 million higher than the Original Budget due to higher vessel monitoring services and observer fee for service income, and net GST received of \$1.0 million.

Levy and Licence fee receipts were \$1.4 million lower than the Original Budget due to higher observer fee for service income and lower cost recovery from lower than forecast employee expenditure.

Employee payments were lower than the Original Budget by \$2.6 million due to lower average staffing levels in 2020–21.



Supplier cash used were \$2.8 million higher than the Original Budget primarily due to higher Vessel Monitoring System costs, contractor and consultancy costs and gross up of GST payments of \$1.4 million which was not budgeted for.

Investing Activities

Total cash used were \$0.3 million lower than estimated in the Original Budget primarily as a result of lower than anticipated capital project costs.

Financing Activities

Total cash used were \$0.1 million higher than estimated in the Original Budget due to new lease agreements entered into during 2020–21.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered schedule of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Net cost of services			
Expenses			
Suppliers	184	330	5,672
Impairment loss on financial instruments	-	5	-
Total expenses	184	335	5,672
Income			
Revenue			
Non-taxation revenue			
Fees and fines	167	61	-
Total non-taxation revenue	167	61	-
Total revenue	167	61	-
Gains			
Reversal of write-downs and impairments	2	-	-
Total gains administered on behalf of Government	2	-	-
Total income	169	61	-
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(15)	(274)	(5,672)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(15)	(274)	(5,672)
Total Comprehensive income/(loss)	(15)	(274)	(5,672)

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

Budget Variances Commentary

Expenses

Suppliers expenses were \$5.5 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.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered schedule of assets and liabilities

as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Assets				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Trade and other receivables	3.1A	21	34	34
Total financial assets		21	34	34
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		21	34	34
Liabilities				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.2A	5	3	3
Total payables		5	3	3
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		5	3	3
Net assets		16	31	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 2021

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	31	22
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		
Income	169	61
Expenses	(184)	(335)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government:		
<i>Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account</i>		
Annual appropriations	184	332
<i>Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account</i>		
Transfers to OPA	(184)	(49)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	16	31

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.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered cash flow statement

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 Original Budget \$'000
Operating activities				
<i>Cash received</i>				
Fees		184	49	-
Net GST received		17	107	-
Total cash received		201	156	-
<i>Cash used</i>				
Suppliers		199	808	5,672
Total cash used		199	808	5,672
Net cash flows from/(used by) operating activities		2	(652)	(5,672)
<i>Cash from Official Public Account</i>				
Appropriations		182	701	5,672
		182	701	5,672
<i>Cash to Official Public Account for:</i>				
Appropriations		(184)	(49)	-
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 \$5.4 million lower than budget as a result of lower supplier expenditure as explained under the Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

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.

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 - Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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.

The continued existence of AFMA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for AFMA's administration and programs. Based on the key assumptions of continued appropriation funding from Government as the primary funding source of AFMA, management expects to continue operations as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

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 (2019–20 Levy Amounts) Regulations 2019 (Fishing Levy) and the Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment (Levy Amount) Regulations 2019 (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. The accounting treatment of levies has been amended in 2019–20, with levies transferred from Revenue from Government (special appropriations) to own-source income. This treatment reflects that levies are collected from Commonwealth concessional holders and credited to the AFMA Special Account, aligning with the budget treatment.



Levy Relief Package 2019–20

The impacts of Covid-19 on Commonwealth fisheries has been particularly severe, with the fishing industry being one of the first hit when access to overseas markets was significantly reduced in January 2020.

The Australian Government provided around \$10.3 million to AFMA in order to waive any further levies for all Commonwealth fisheries for the remainder of the 2019–20 year. Funding to support the government's announcement was provided under the *Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Bill 2020*.

The levy relief announcement provided for relief for Commonwealth concession holders from payment of:

- I. April and May instalments prescribed under the Fishing Levy; and
- II. April instalments prescribed under the TSPF Levy.

The legislative implementation of the package involved seeking approval from the Finance Minister to:

- I. the waiver of levy instalment amounts outstanding pursuant to section 63 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) totalling some \$7.9 million; and
- II. act of grace payments on behalf of the Commonwealth pursuant to section 65 of the PGPA Act for levy amounts already receipted for relevant levy instalments totalling some \$2.5 million.

Approvals under PGPA Act s63 and s65 were received from the Assistant Minister for Finance, Charities and Electoral Matters on 8 May 2020. AFMA worked with its Commonwealth concession holders to ensure the timely refund of levy instalment amounts already paid, some \$2.5 million. All Commonwealth concession holders were refunded before 30 June 2020. All debt waivers, totalling some \$7.9 million were processed in May 2020. Refer to Budgetary Reporting in Departmental primary statements for details. AFMA did not receive any levy relief during the 2020–21 year.

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.

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 2021.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

Financial performance

This section analyses AFMA's financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Note 1.1 Expenses

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Note 1.1A Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	15,362	15,117
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	1,774	1,779
Defined benefit plans	915	931
Leave and other entitlements	1,814	1,615
Total employee benefits	19,865	19,442

Accounting Policy

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

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Note 1.1B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Research	4,449	4,051
Surveillance and compliance	1,750	1,471
Consultants and contractors	4,163	4,585
Travel and meetings	904	1,253
Information technology and communications	1,618	1,461
Training and development	161	189
Building repairs and outgoings	451	392
External audit fees provided free of charge	44	40
General administrative	809	745
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	14,349	14,187
Goods supplied	193	154
Services rendered	14,156	14,033
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	14,349	14,187
Other suppliers		
Workers compensation expenses	293	253
Short-term leases	198	474
Total other suppliers	491	727
Total suppliers	14,840	14,914

AFMA does not have any short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2021, however AFMA leases three properties on month-to-month arrangements.

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Interest on lease liabilities	98	108
Unwinding of discount	2	2
Total finance costs	100	110

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

Note 1.1D: Write-Down and Impairment of Other Assets	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Asset write-downs and impairments from:		
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	41	10
Total write-down and impairment of assets	41	10

Note 1.1E: Impairment Loss on Financial Instruments	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Impairment on trade and other receivables ¹	6	7,932
Total impairment on financial instruments	6	7,932

¹ In 2019–20 impairment loss included waiver of levy amounts to support Commonwealth fishers during Covid-19. Refer to overview for further details.

Note 1.2 Own Source Revenue

Note 1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Rendering of services	2,976	2,990
Total revenue from contracts with customers	2,976	2,990
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
<i>Major product / service line:</i>		
Regulatory Services	2,800	2,235
Other revenue	176	755
Total revenue from contracts with customers	2,976	2,990

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Operating lease:		
Thursday Island office	159	155
Sub-leasing right of use assets:		
Employee car parking	1	3
Total rental income	160	158

Leasing commitments receivable

AFMA in its capacity as a lessor sub-leases office accommodation on Thursday Island. As at 30 June 2021 this arrangement is on a month-to-month basis, and so no commitment is applicable. All commitments are GST exclusive.

Note 1.2C: Interest	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Interest	7	8
Total interest	7	8

Note 1.2D: Levies and licence charges	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Levies and licensing charges ¹	13,322	14,602
Total levies and licence charges	13,322	14,602

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 1.3A: Revenue from Government	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Appropriations:		
Departmental appropriation	19,973	19,890
Special Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) ¹	-	10,334
Total revenue from Government	19,973	30,224

¹ In 2019–20 special appropriations also included *Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020*. Refer to overview and table below for details:

Reconciliation of Coronavirus Economic Response Package 2019–20	2020 \$'000
Levies and licensing charges per 2019–20 Levy Regulations	14,602
Levies and licensing charges for 2019–20 receipts collected	6,692
Difference represented by 2019–20 levy amounts waived	(7,910)
Act of grace payments	(2,529)
Total waivers and act of grace payments	(10,439)
Special Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package)	10,334
Net impact on AFMA cash reserves	(105)

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 (RRFOC) are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. RRFOC are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

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

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Note 2.1A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash in special accounts	11,481	10,171
Cash on hand or on deposit	585	435
Total cash and cash equivalents	12,066	10,606

The closing balance of cash in special accounts does not include amounts held in Trust: \$13,000 in 2021 (\$236,000 in 2020). 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:

- (a) cash on hand;
- (c) cash in special accounts.

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Note 2.1B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Good and services receivables		
Goods and Services	253	584
Total goods and services receivables	253	584
Appropriations receivables		
Appropriation receivable	61	-
Total appropriations receivables	61	-
Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	310	259
Accrued Revenue	398	411
Statutory receivables	92	15
Total other receivables	800	685
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	1,114	1,269
Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	(3)	-
Total impairment allowance	(3)	-
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,111	1,269

Goods and receivables at 30 June 2021 are primarily associated with provision of vessel monitoring services. Credit terms for Goods and Services were within 30 days for 2021 (2020: 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 for 2021	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2020					
Gross book value	1,775	15,408	1,295	6,487	24,965
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(1,088)	-	(5,988)	(7,076)
Net book value as at 1 July 2020	1,775	14,320	1,295	499	17,889
Additions:					
By purchase	-	-	313	-	313
Internally developed	-	-	-	235	235
Right of use assets	-	94	-	-	94
Right of use assets modification	-	76	-	-	76
Depreciation and amortisation expense	-	(600)	(392)	(123)	(1,115)
Depreciation on right of use assets	-	(1,145)	-	-	(1,145)
Disposals	-	(59)	-	(6)	(65)
Accumulated amortisation of disposed assets	-	18	-	6	24
Total as at 30 June 2021	1,775	12,704	1,216	611	16,306
Net book value as at 30 June 2021 represented by:					
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)
Total as at 30 June 2021	1,775	12,704	1,216	611	16,306
Closing balance of RoU assets		7,731			

- 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 for \$141,000 per annum. This asset incurred depreciation of \$43,334 during 2020–21.
- 2 The carrying amount of computer software included \$16,000 purchased software and \$595,000 internally generated software.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 7.4.

No revaluations were undertaken as at 30 June 2021.

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

As at 30 June 2021 AFMA has contractual commitments of \$121,708 relating to property, plant and equipment (2020: \$135,882 related to intangible asset development).

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 balance sheet, 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. 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:

	2021	2020
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 2021. 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 (2020: 3 to 10 years). All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2021.

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 2020–21.

Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements with respect to the fair value of land and buildings. The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by an independent valuer. In some instances, 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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Prepayments	473	539
Total other non-financial assets	473	539

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Accrued expenses	1,725	2,102
Total supplier payables	1,725	2,102

Settlement is usually made within 20 days.

Note 2.3B: Other Payables	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Wages and salaries	413	313
Unearned revenue	1,058	621
Total other payables	1,471	934

Note 2.4 Interest bearing liabilities

Note 2.4A: Leases	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Lease liabilities	7,936	8,836
Total lease liabilities	7,936	8,836

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2021 was \$1,168,000 (rounded to nearest thousand).

Maturity Analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Within 1 year	1,122	1,094
Between 1 to 5 years	4,415	4,384
More than 5 years	2,872	4,025
Total leases	8,409	9,503

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 2020	181	181
Additional provisions made	-	-
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	2	2
Total as at 30 June 2021	183	183

AFMA currently has 1 (2020: 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.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to the schedule of administered items

for the period ended 30 June 2021

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Fees and charges		
Fees and charges receivable - external parties	263	282
Total fees and charges receivable	263	282
Other receivables		
Accrued Revenue	4	2
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	1	1
Total other receivables	5	3
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	268	285
Less impairment allowance		
Fees and charges	(247)	(251)
Total impairment allowance account	(247)	(251)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	21	34

Receivables are expected to be recovered within 12 months.

Receivables were aged as follows		
Not overdue	4	3
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	264	282
Total receivables (gross)	268	285
Impairment allowance aged as follows		
Overdue by:		
More than 90 days	(247)	(251)
Total impairment allowance	(247)	(251)

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2020: 30 days).

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance	2021 Fees and charges \$'000	2020 Fees and charges \$'000
Opening balance	(251)	(290)
Amounts written off	2	44
Amounts recovered and reversed	2	-
Movement recognised in net surplus	-	(5)
Closing balance	(247)	(251)
Note 3.2A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	4	2
GST payable	1	1
Total suppliers	5	3
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	5	3
Total suppliers	5	3

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

Funding

This section identifies AFMA's funding structure.

Note 4.1 Appropriations

Note 4.1A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')						
Annual Appropriations for 2021	Annual Appropriation	Adjustments to appropriation	Total appropriation	Appropriation applied in 2021 (current and prior years)	Variance ¹	
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'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						
<i>Ordinary annual services</i>						
Administered items ¹	5,672	-	5,672	182	5,490	
Total administered	5,672	-	5,672	182	5,490	

Notes:

- The variance of \$5,490,000 for Administered funds remained as unspent and will be returned to consolidated revenue.
- 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 4.1A: Annual Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')						
Annual Appropriations for 2020	Annual Appropriation	Adjustments to appropriation	Total appropriation	Appropriation applied in 2020 (current and prior years)	Variance ¹	
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental						
Ordinary annual services	19,890	-	19,890	19,890	-	
Departmental Capital Budget ²	455	-	455	455	-	
Equity injections	-	-	-	-	-	
Total departmental	20,345	-	20,345	20,345	-	
Administered						
<i>Ordinary annual services</i>						
Administered items ¹	5,588	-	5,588	700	4,888	
Total administered	5,588	-	5,588	700	4,888	

Notes:

- The variance of \$4,888,000 for Administered funds remained as unspent and will be returned to consolidated revenue.
- 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')	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Departmental		
Cash and Cash equivalents	585	435
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020–21 (Capital Budget - DCB) - Non Operating	61	-
Total departmental	646	435
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020–21	2,363	-
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020–21	3,127	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019–20	2,931	2,931
Supply Act (No. 1) 2019–20	2,329	2,329
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018–19	4,697	4,697
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2017–18	-	4,334
Total administered	15,447	14,291

Note 4.1C: Special Appropriations ('Recoverable GST exclusive')				Appropriation applied	
Authority	Type	Purpose	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	
<i>Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation) (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020.</i>	Limited Amount	An Act to appropriate money for community, regional and industry support as part of the Coronavirus Economic Response, and for related purposes	-	10,334	
Total			-	10,334	

Note 4.2: Special Accounts	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) ¹		AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money) ²	
	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	10,606	8,959	236	311
Increases:				
Appropriation for reporting period	20,369	20,345	-	-
Levies and Licensing Charges (<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991 - Section 94C</i>)	13,239	6,886	-	-
Special appropriation (Assistance for Severely Impacted Regions)	-	10,334	-	-
Other receipts	5,268	4,367	7	-
Total increases	38,876	41,932	7	-
Available for payments	49,482	50,891	243	311
Decreases:				
Employee payments	(19,199)	(19,605)	-	-
Supplier payments	(16,501)	(19,053)	-	-
Interest payments on lease liabilities	(98)	(108)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(548)	(634)	-	-
Principal repayments on lease liabilities	(1,070)	(884)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	(230)	(75)
Total decrease	(37,416)	(40,285)	(230)	(75)
Total balance carried to the next period	12,066	10,606	13	236
Balance represented by:				
Cash - held in the Official Public Account	11,481	10,171	-	-
Cash - held by the agency	585	435	13	236
Total balance carried to the next period	12,066	10,606	13	236

- 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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	14,206	15,361
Total amounts applied	14,206	15,361
Expenses		
Departmental	13,310	14,089
Total expenses	13,310	14,089
Revenue		
Departmental	14,206	15,361
Total revenue	14,206	15,361

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(633)	2,205
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	810	748
Plus: depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,145	1,089
Less: lease principal repayments	(1,070)	(884)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	252	3,158

¹ Depreciation and amortisation expenditure represented above refers to the government funded portion of AFMA's total depreciation and amortisation charges. In 2020–21 AFMA received \$305,000 (2019–20: \$289,000) 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.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

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	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Leave	5,730	5,163
Total employee provisions	5,730	5,163
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	1,520	4,004
More than 12 months	4,210	1,159
Total employee provisions	5,730	5,163

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 2021. 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:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Short-term employee benefits	1,416,455	1,374,052
Post-employment benefits	207,283	223,398
Other long-term employee benefits	27,164	27,205
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,650,902	1,624,655
The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are:	10	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.



AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2021

Managing Uncertainty

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

Note 6.1 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

AFMA negotiated rent payable with National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) during 2020–21. There are no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2021. AFMA has a contingent asset of \$27,500 from an ongoing legal matter that is subject to appeal.

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 Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

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

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 2021

Other Information

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

Note 7.1A Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
<i>No more than 12 months</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	12,066	10,606
Trade and other receivables	1,111	1,269
Other non-financial assets	473	539
Total no more than 12 months	13,650	12,414
<i>More than 12 months</i>		
Land and Buildings	1,775	1,775
Heritage and cultural	12,704	14,320
Plant and equipment	1,216	1,295
Computer software	611	499
Total more than 12 months	16,306	17,889
Total assets	29,956	30,303
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
<i>No more than 12 months</i>		
Suppliers	1,725	2,102
Other payables	1,471	934
Leases	976	936
Employee provisions	1,520	4,004
Total no more than 12 months	5,692	7,976
<i>More than 12 months</i>		
Leases	6,960	7,900
Employee provisions	4,210	1,159
Other provisions	183	181
Total more than 12 months	11,353	9,240
Total liabilities	17,045	17,216

Note 7.1B Administered – current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
<i>No more than 12 months</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Trade and other receivables	21	34
Total no more than 12 months	21	34
Total assets	21	34
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
<i>No more than 12 months</i>		
Suppliers	5	3
Total no more than 12 months	5	3
Total liabilities	5	3

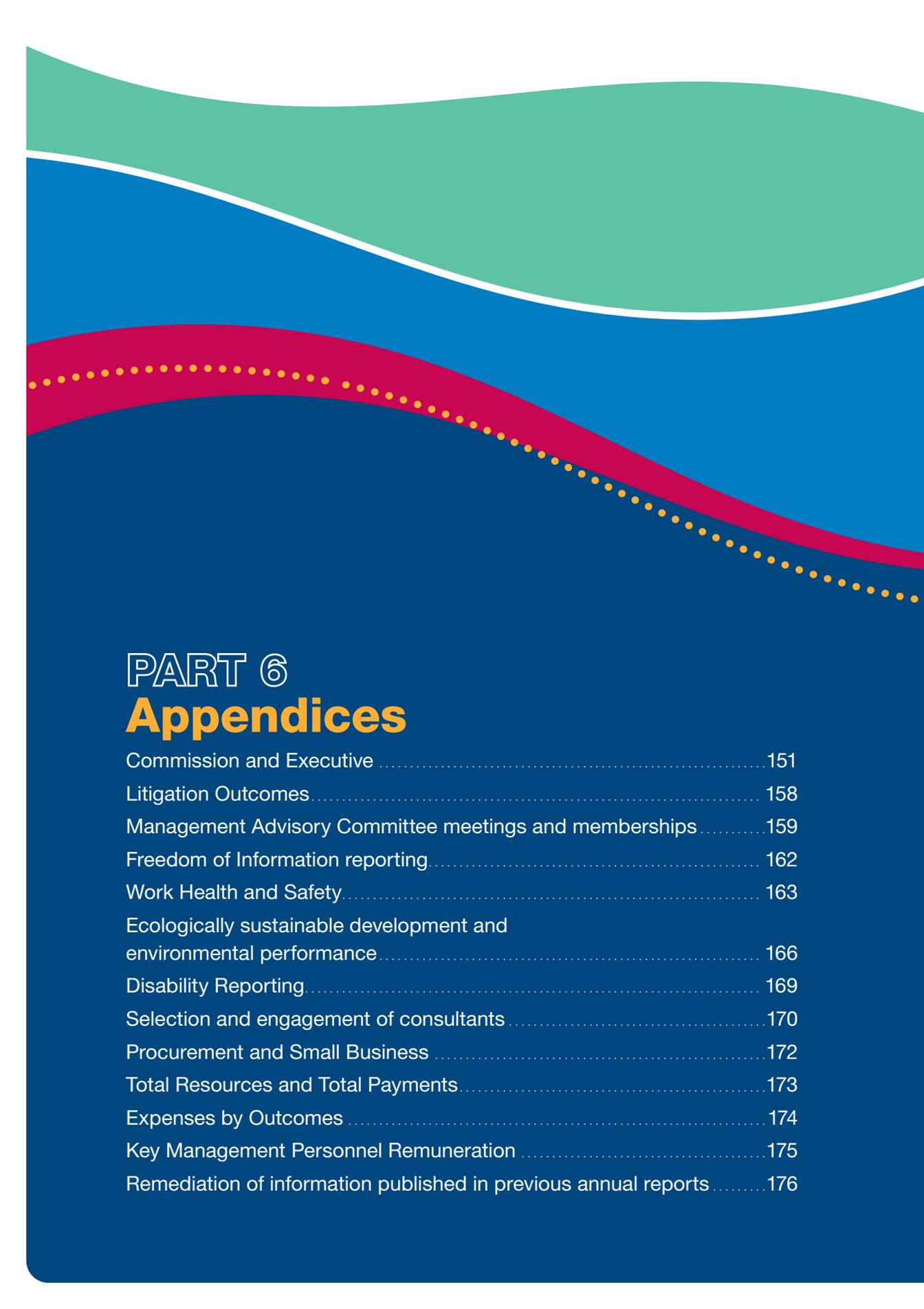
Note 7.2 Assets Held in Trust

Note 7.2A Assets Held in Trust	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'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.

<i>Cash at bank - monetary asset</i>		
As at 1 July	236	311
Receipts	7	-
Payments	(230)	(75)
As at 30 June	13	236
Total monetary assets held in trust	13	236





PART 6

Appendices

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APPENDIX 1

Commission and Executive

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 fishing. Future appointments to the Commission will take the new requirements into consideration.

The following Commissioners held appointments during the reporting period 2020–21:

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 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

Five Commission meetings were held in 2020–21. The table below shows the number of meetings Commissioners attended.

Commissioner	Meetings attended
Ms Helen Kroger	4
Mr Wez Norris	5
Ms Catherine Cooper	5
Mr Brett McCallum	5
Mrs Sevaly Sen	5
Dr David Smith	5
Mr Scott Spencer	5

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
- Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch – Ms Anna Willock
- General Manager, Operations Branch – Mr Peter Venslovas
- Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Branch – Mr John Andersen

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 2020–21. 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	\$6600
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	4	\$5638
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	\$5898

Permanent Advisers

The committee has regular observers attending including:

- Mr John Andersen (COO, Corporate Services Branch)
- Mr Steve Truong (A/g Chief Finance Officer)
- Mr Michael Roses (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Business Operational Support)
- Audit representatives from BellchambersBarrett (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

The role of AFMA's Research Committee is to advise the AFMA Commission on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for monitoring and research relevant to meeting AFMA's information needs and objectives and review finalised research projects in terms of delivery of outputs, and outcomes, adoption/impacts and required adjustment to AFMA processes. In doing so the primary functions of the committee are to:

- review and advise on research, monitoring and assessment priorities for Commonwealth fisheries
- review AFMA's five year research plans for Commonwealth fisheries
- provide advice to the AFMA Commission on allocation of AFMA research funds
- assess research, monitoring and assessment investments for the Commonwealth fisheries for consistency with management needs.

The committee held two meetings in 2020–21.

Membership

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

Permanent Advisors

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

Regular Observers

The committee also invites regular observers from the following agencies and departments to attend and provide expert advice:

- FRDC
- CSIRO
- CFA
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- ABARES
- Persons associated with Indigenous fisheries
- Persons associated with Recreational fisheries



Strategic Delivery Committee

The Strategic Delivery Committee met throughout 2020–21 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 2020–21 included development and implementation of the AFMA ICT Strategic Plan.

The Business Operational Support team provides co-ordination and administrative support to the Strategic Delivery Committee.

Membership

- Mr John Andersen (Chair and COO, Corporate Services Branch)
- Ms Anna Willock (Executive Manager, Fisheries Management Branch)
- Mr Peter Venslovas (General Manager, Fisheries Operations Branch)
- Mr Steve Truong (A/g Chief Finance Officer)
- Ms Claire van der Geest (Senior Manager, Fisheries Services)
- Mr Michael Roses (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Tod Spencer (Senior Manager, National Compliance Strategy)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Business Operational Support)

Information Governance Committee

To support the implementation of the new agency EDRMS, the TDS team established a new 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 assets.

The Information Governance Committee (the 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.

The committee provides a strategic oversight to managing information and records to reduce business risk, increase accountability, and improve operational efficiencies. The committee provides oversight to ensure information integrity and reliability, are searchable, accessible and that appropriate access controls are employed.

The 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.

The committee has progressed its first key deliverable in commencing the development of an overarching Information Management Strategy which will provide a pathway for meeting the requirements of the Australian Government's Building Trust in the Public Record policy.

Membership

- Mr Michael Roses (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 2020–21 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 2020–21 the committee reviewed AFMA's Security Governance hierarchy, responded to the Information Security Manual and "Essential 8" information security mitigation measures recommended by the Australian Cyber Security Centre, drafted a Data Breach Response Plan, Cyber Incident Response plan, and updated personnel security vetting procedures. In addition, the committee kept informed on the Cyber Security Project to further strengthen AFMA's cyber security posture and provided input and feedback through this project where required.

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 Michael Roses (Chief Information Officer)
- Mr Scott Connors (Senior Manager, Security and Property)
- Mr Dave Newton (ICT Operations Manager)
- Mr Gareth Peak (ICT Cyber Consultant and AFMA ITSA)
- Mr Ranjith Selvarajan (Network Engineer)



APPENDIX 2

Litigation Outcomes

The following table identifies civil litigation outcomes associated with matters open in 2020–21.

Matter	Fishery	Outcome/Status
Federal Court		
Australia Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd v Northern Territory of Australia [2021] FCA 414	Demersal & Timor Reef	In its decision dated 23 April 2021, the Court found in favour of the Respondents, which included the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries as the Third Respondent. Australian Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd has appealed this decision. The matter is listed for hearing in November 2021.
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 *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

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 four times in 2020–21, all via teleconference. The main item that the MAC dealt with was the redevelopment, approval and implementation of a new Harvest Strategy for swordfish in the ETBF.

The committee also discussed:

- a proposal to undertake 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)
- annual Total Allowable Commercial Catch setting process
- updates to arrangements to management of seabird interactions
- various outcomes from international meetings of the WCPFC and IOTC.



Great Australian Bight Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice in 2020–21, both via videoconference. 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 2021–22 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 2020–21 via videoconference. The committee provided a recommendation on the preferred harvest control rule for the red-leg banana prawn sub-fishery. The committee also discussed:

- proposed changes to the *Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan*
- NPF broodstock collection (including a progress report the *P. monodon* stock assessment); and
- annual monitoring of NPF performance indicators.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The committee met twice in 2020–21 both via video conference due to travel restrictions still in place during the second half of 2020.

The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission about amendments to the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan* to implement Government decisions on resource sharing.

The committee discussed:

- resource sharing, including amendments to the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*
- 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 once during 2020–21 via videoconference. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on the 2021 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 2021 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 four times during 2020–21 via videoconference. The committee made recommendations to the AFMA Commission on TACs for the SESSF and Small Pelagic Fishery 2021–22 fishing seasons and a total allowable effort for the Southern Squid Jig Fishery 2021 fishing season. The committee also considered:

- 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 2020–21, one via video conference in November 2020 and one face-to-face meeting in March 2021.

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
- the upcoming stock assessment for the HIMI Fishery toothfish stock and the potential to use explore using a more modern harvest control rule for this fishery in the future
- strategic research plans for both fisheries
- the implications of COVID-19 on the management of the fisheries including on monitoring arrangements and the potential to expand the use of EM in future, including creating a sub-committee to explore EM.



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 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 2020–21 financial year.

Health and Safety Initiatives

AFMA maintains a strong commitment to the health and wellbeing of all our employees and visitors. During 2020–21, the agency undertook initiatives ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and achieved good health and safety outcomes as a result.

This commitment includes 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 WHS information, policies, guidelines, and factsheets and a dedicated WHS site on the intranet. AFMA continues to provide WHS guidance to new employees through the AFMA Induction Program and all new employees are provided with information on their WHS obligations as well as ergonomic workstation setup.

The annual health and wellbeing program targeted a combination of physical and mental health initiatives. It was aimed at fostering a healthy workplace that enhances mental wellbeing, building personal resilience, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. As part of the agency's health and wellbeing approach, influenza vaccinations were offered to all staff.



A highlight of this year's program is the introduction of 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, AFMA introduced its Flexible Working Arrangement Policy, where staff can request approval to undertake their usual duties through working 3 days in the office and 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. The Health and Wellbeing Hub as part of AFMA's COVID-19 intranet site includes 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.

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 2020–21 AFMA recorded 11 incidents relating to accidents or near-misses (see Figure 1). This rate has decreased from 12 in 2019–20. Majority of the incidents recorded occurred in the latter half of the 2020–21 financial year. One of the key factors contributing to the slight increase of incidents at sea is the resumption of field-based activities following the temporary suspension of field duties, and remote work due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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.

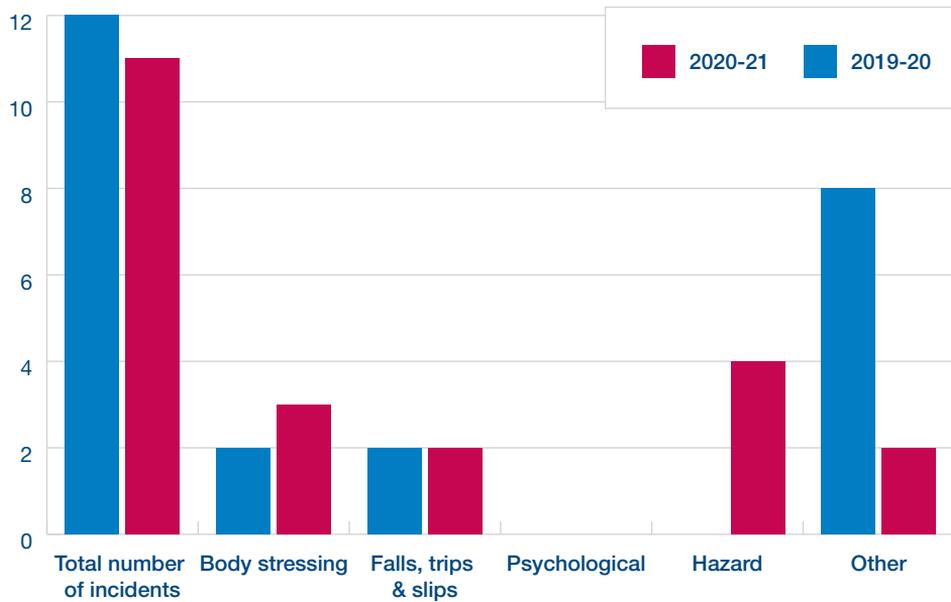


Figure 1: AFMA Work Health and Safety incidents reports comparison

Notifiable Incidents in 2020–21

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 2020–21 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's implementation of the ecological component of ecologically sustainable development is based on ecosystem elements relating to:

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

To support and implement an ecologically sustainable development approach, we draw upon ecological risk assessments for each Commonwealth fishery. ERAs involve a number of methods, including comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analyses. This approach screens out low risk activities, focusing on higher actual and potential risks within Commonwealth fisheries.

The results of these risk assessments for each fishery are consolidated into a priority list upon which an ecological risk management strategy is focused. A detailed ecological risk management strategy for each AFMA managed fishery has been prepared, clearly identifying how each species or group of species will be managed.

AFMA is transitioning to a Fisheries Management Strategy reporting framework where, on a fishery-by-fishery basis, all of the relevant parts of our strategies and management arrangements are compiled into a comprehensive document about each fishery. These Fisheries Management Strategies will be used for reporting purposes.

AFMA has completed and published ecological risk management reports for all Commonwealth fisheries to address identified fishing risks. The number of species remaining at high potential risk across all Commonwealth fisheries is 87, which is 4.3 per cent of all species assessed. It is expected that the number of “potential high risk” fisheries will reduce as they are reassessed under the revised ERA methodology using improved information gathered through increased observer coverage and the introduction of e-monitoring.

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 Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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. 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 Agriculture, Water and the Environment 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 2020–21 were made in accordance with the PGPA Act and related regulations including the Commonwealth Procurement Rules and relevant internal policy. The majority of consultancy services engaged during the 2020–21 were for fisheries research purposes. The selection and engagement of research consultants was primarily conducted through a limited tender because of the small pool of qualified providers for these specialised services.

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 2020–21, 24 new consultancy contracts were entered into and this resulted in expenditure of \$2.019 million for the period. In addition, 32 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during 2020–21 resulting in expenditure of \$3.362 million.

Expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts

Reportable consultancy contracts 2020–21	Number	Expenditure
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	24	\$2,018,961
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	32	\$3,362,156
Total	56	\$5,381,116

Organisations receiving a share of reportable consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21 (ABN)	Proportion of 2020–21 total spend in consultancy	Expenditure
CSIRO (Division of Fisheries) (41 687 119 230)	57.0%	\$3,065,088.37
The University of Adelaide (61 249 878 937)	14.9%	\$802,612.80
Fish Ageing Services Pty Ltd (77 134 707 145)	5.8%	\$311,637.70
Fishwell Consulting (62 569 313 345)	4.9%	\$262,444.60
AVAIL Information Management Services (17 125 677 401)	2.1%	\$115,406.10
Total of the Largest Shares	84.7%	\$4,557,189.57

Non-consultancy services

During 2020–21, sixty one new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$2.562 million. In addition, forty five ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts were active during 2020–21 involving total actual expenditure of \$7.195 million.

Expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts

Reportable non-consultancy contracts 2020–21	Number	Expenditure
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	61	\$2,561,989
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	45	\$7,195,192
Total	106	\$9,757,181

Organisations receiving a share of reportable non-consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21 (ABN)	Percentage of 2020–21 total spend in non-consultancy	Expenditure
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd (ABN exempt)	13.0%	\$1,266,502.57
Canberra Airport Pty Ltd (14 080 361 548)	12.6%	\$1,230,067.38
TrackWell (ABN exempt)	7.9%	\$772,324.50
NPF Industry Pty Ltd (32 126 584 727)	5.9%	\$580,405.00
National Indigenous Australians Agency (30 429 895 164)	4.9%	\$474,510.99
Total of the Largest Shares	44%	\$4,323,810.44



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 do not unfairly discriminate against small and medium enterprises and provide appropriate opportunities for small and medium enterprises to compete. AFMA's procurement policies specifically stipulate that officials should consider in the procurement process, value for money:

- the benefits of doing business with competitive small and medium enterprises when specifying requirements and evaluating value for money
- barriers to entry, such as costly preparation of submissions, that may prevent small and medium enterprises from competing
- small and medium enterprises capabilities and their commitment to local or regional markets
- the potential benefits of having a larger, more competitive supplier base.

APPENDIX 10

Total Resources and Total Payments

		Actual available appropriation 2020-21 \$'000	Payments made 2020-21 \$'000	Balance remaining 2020-21 \$'000
Ordinary annual services				
<i>Departmental appropriation</i>				
Departmental appropriation		20,430	20,369	61
s. 74 Retained revenue receipts		-	-	-
Total		20,430	20,369	61
Administered expenses				
Outcome 1		5,672	182	5,490
Total		5,672	182	5,490
Total ordinary annual services	A	26,102	20,551	5,551
Special Accounts				
Opening balance		10,606		
Appropriation receipts		20,369		
Non-appropriation receipts to Special Accounts		17,115		
Payments made			36,024	
Total Special Accounts	B	48,090	36,024	12,066
Total resourcing and payments (A+B)		74,192	56,575	17,617
Less appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations above and credited to special accounts and/or payments to corporate entities through annual appropriations		(20,369)	(20,369)	-
Total net resourcing for AFMA		53,823	36,206	17,617

Note: Departmental receipts and payments are made through the AFMA Special Account. All figures are GST exclusive.



APPENDIX 11

Expenses by Outcomes

Expenses for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia’s marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing.

Programme 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority	2020–21 Budget \$'000 (a)	2020–21 Actual expenses \$'000 (b)	2020–21 Variance \$'000 (a) - (b)
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,672	184	5,488
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	21,414	20,324	1,090
Special appropriation	-	-	-
Special accounts	14,665	14,836	(171)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	2,757	1,955	802
Total for Programme 1.1	44,508	37,299	7,209
Outcome 1 Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	5,672	184	5,488
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation ¹	21,414	20,324	1,090
Special appropriation	-	-	-
Special accounts	14,665	14,836	(171)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	2,757	1,955	802
Total expenses for Outcome 1	44,508	37,299	7,209
Average staffing level (number)	177	145	32

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

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

APPENDIX 12

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

During the reporting period ended 30 June 2021, AFMA had 10 executives who meet the definition of key management personnel.

The table below provides disaggregated information disclosed in Note 5.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration in AFMA's 2020–21 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	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits	Other long-term benefits			
Wez Norris	Chief Executive Officer	Full year	387,229	-	-	35,695	9,270	-	-	-	-	432,194
Anna Willock	Executive Manager	Full year	283,124	-	-	42,491	6,706	-	-	-	-	332,320
John Andersen	Chief Operating Officer	Full year	243,933	-	-	46,662	5,736	-	-	-	-	296,331
Peter Venslovas	General Manager	Full year	230,326	-	-	40,553	5,452	-	-	-	-	276,331
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
			1,416,455	-	-	207,283	27,164	-	-	-	-	1,650,902

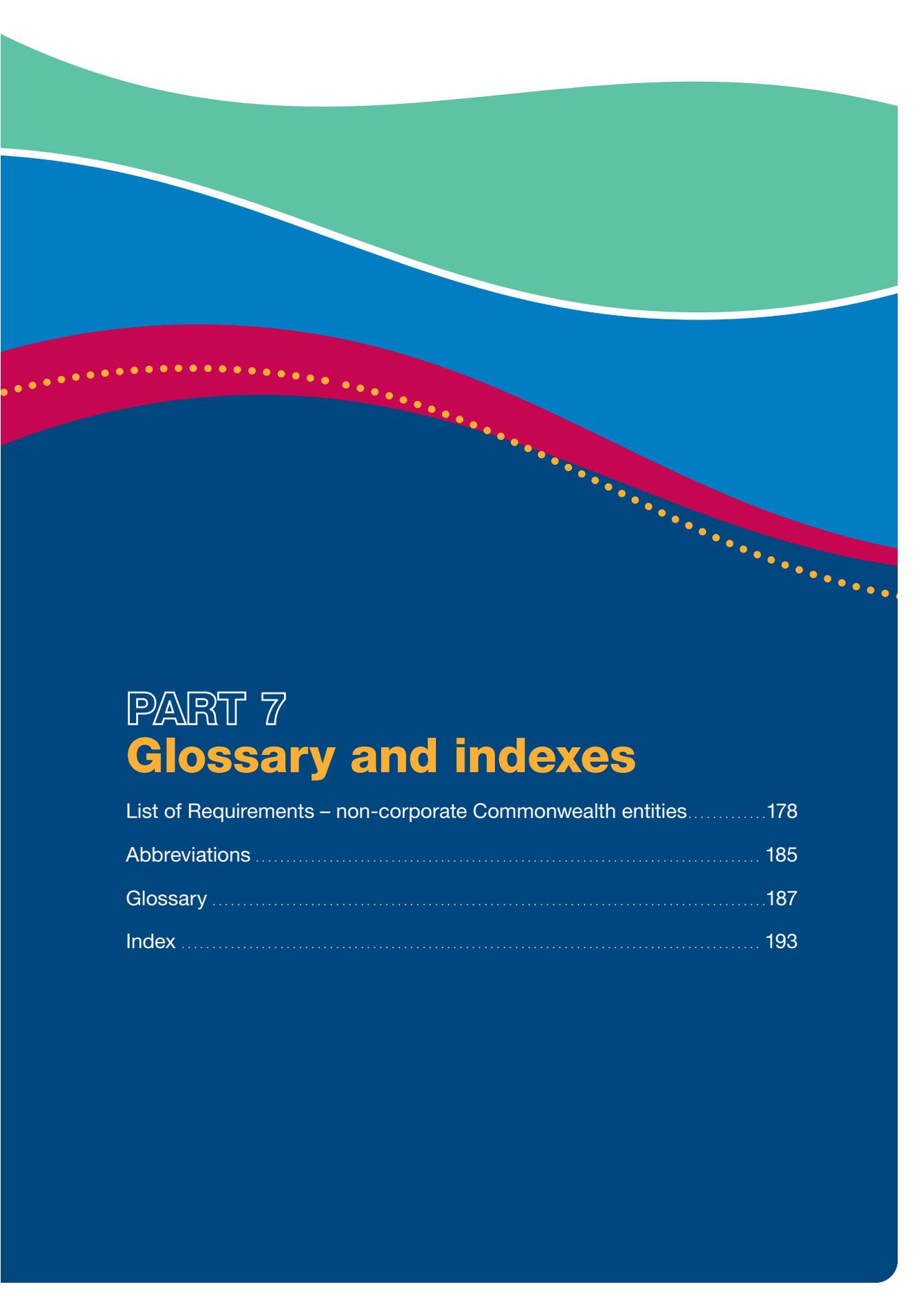
Notes:

1. The remuneration of the AFMA Chief Executive and AFMA Commissioners is made under the sub-section 7(3) and 7(4) of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973.

APPENDIX 13

Remediation of information published in previous annual reports

Annual Performance Statement 2016–17	
Performance Measure 1	
1.1(a) For economically significant stocks, improve the number of stocks assessed as being on target.	The number of stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield, assessed as being on target were incorrectly reported. Evidence obtained by Internal Audit identified five stocks as being on target, against reported figures of four in 2016–17.
1.1(b) For economically significant stocks that are assessed as not on target, improve the number that are heading towards their target reference point.	The number of stocks heading towards their target reference point have been incorrectly reported. Evidence obtained by Internal Audit identified two stocks assessed as heading towards their target reference point, against reported figures of four in 2016–17.
Annual Performance Statement 2017–18	
Performance Measure 1	
1.1(a) For economically significant stocks, improve the number of stocks assessed as being on target.	The number of stocks with harvest strategy targets based on maximum economic yield, assessed as being on target were incorrectly reported. Evidence obtained by Internal Audit identified five stocks as being on target, against reported figures of six in 2017–18.
1.1(b) For economically significant stocks that are assessed as not on target, improve the number that are heading towards their target reference point.	The number of stocks heading towards their target reference point have been incorrectly. Evidence obtained by Internal Audit identified seven stocks assessed as heading towards their target reference point, against reported figures of six in 2017–18.
Performance Measure 3	
3.3 Number of completed endorsed red tape reduction initiatives	<p>AFMA maintains a register of red tape initiatives completed throughout the financial year and publishes an update on progress of work performed on its website. The purpose of these initiatives are to minimise the complexity of regulation, while maintaining effective fisheries management.</p> <p>The number of red tape initiatives completed in 2017–18 have been incorrectly reported. Review of the register has identified that there were no initiatives completed in the 2017–18 reporting year.</p>



PART 7

Glossary and indexes

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List of Requirements – non-corporate Commonwealth entities

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)	Letter of transmittal		
17AI	iii	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)	v	Table of contents.	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	194	Alphabetical index.	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	186–193	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	178	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)	4	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)	Overview of the entity		
17AE(1)(a)(i)	15	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	19	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	22	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	22	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	22	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	22	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	153	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(b)	15	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		
	<i>Annual performance Statements</i>		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	22	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)	<i>Report on Financial Performance</i>		
17AF(1)(a)	119	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	174–175	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		
	<i>Corporate Governance</i>		
17AG(2)(a)	iii	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	iii	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	iii	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)	iii	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)	95	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	104	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to noncompliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy noncompliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
Audit Committee			
17AG(2A)(a)	153	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity’s audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	153	The name of each member of the entity’s audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	154	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity’s audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	154	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity’s audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	154	The remuneration of each member of the entity’s audit committee.	Mandatory
External Scrutiny			
17AG(3)	98	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity’s response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	158	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)	98	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the AuditorGeneral (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)	111–113	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)	115	<p>Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis, including the following:</p> <p>(a) statistics on fulltime employees;</p> <p>(b) statistics on parttime employees;</p> <p>(c) statistics on gender</p> <p>(d) statistics on staff location</p>	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	115	<p>Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis; including the following:</p> <p>Statistics on staffing classification level;</p> <p>Statistics on fulltime employees;</p> <p>Statistics on parttime employees;</p> <p>Statistics on gender;</p> <p>Statistics on staff location;</p> <p>Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.</p>	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	110	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)	110	Information on the number of SES and nonSES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	117	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	117	A description of nonsalary 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



PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
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
Purchasing			
17AG(6)	105	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory
Reportable consultancy contracts			
17AG(7)(a)	170	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)	170	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)	170	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)	170	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)	170	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

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(7A)(b)	170	A statement that “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.”	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts		
17AGA	170	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)	105	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 AuditorGeneral 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)	105	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)	172	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)	139	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory



PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
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)	122-149	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
Executive Remuneration			
17AD(da)	175-176	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)	105	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that “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.”	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	105	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	105	A statement that “Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity’s website].”	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	169	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	162	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)	176	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	54–93	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
ADC	Agency Data Capture
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BDM	Torres Strait Bechê-de-mer Fishery
BRDs	Bycatch Reduction Devices
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
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EDRMS	Electronic Document Records Management System
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>
FMA	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
FRDC	Fisheries Research Development Corporation
GVP	Gross Value of Production
HIMI	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
HSP	Harvest Strategy Policy



Abbreviation	Explanation
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
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
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
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
OMC	Operational Management Committee
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PIMT	Pandemic Incident Management Team
PSPF	Protective Security Policy Framework
PZJA	Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority
QBFP	Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol
QWP	Queensland Water Police
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SESSF	Southern and Eastern Scale fish and Shark Fishery
SFRs	Statutory Fishing Rights
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TEP	Threatened, Endangered and Protected species
TDS	Technology and Digital Services team
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WTBF	Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Glossary

Australian Fishing Zone

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, the Australian fishing zone means:

- a) the waters adjacent to Australia within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of Australia; and
- b) the waters adjacent to each external territory within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of the external Territory;

but does not include:

- coastal waters of, or waters within the limits of, a State or internal Territory; or
- waters that are excepted waters.

Biomass

Total weight of a stock or a component of a stock.

Biomass limit reference point

The point beyond which the risk to the stock is regarded as unacceptably high.

Bycatch

Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target, and which are 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 Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries (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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