



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Management Arrangements Booklet 2023



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AFMA Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

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Important Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and accurate at the time of printing. However, the information provided is intended to serve as a guide only, and therefore AFMA will not be liable for any loss caused, whether due to negligence or otherwise, arising from the use of or reliance upon this booklet. The booklet is not intended to replace operator's concession conditions, the *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005*, *Fisheries Management Act 1991* or the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. Some of the items in this booklet may not apply to a particular fishing operation. Operators should refer to the key documents listed in this booklet. Web addresses for these documents can be found at the end of this booklet or they can be accessed via links on AFMA's website.

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Acronyms

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

Introduction

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

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

- *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (the Act);
- *Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005* and associated amendments, directions, determinations and temporary orders;
- *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*; and
- Conditions on Boat Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) certificates and Extracts of Register.

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

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

The Role of AFMA

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

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

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

The WTBF Management Plan and Associated Regulations

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

What season dates will apply?

The fishing season runs for 12 months commencing on **1 February 2023 and ending on 31 January 2024**.

What happens if I am fishing across the season dates?

If you leave port on or before 31 January 2023 and return on or after 1 February 2023 you are considered to have fished across seasons. This is permitted, but AFMA will distinguish between fish caught on the trip before 11.59pm on 31 January and fish caught after 12.00am on 1 February for quota purposes.

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

- The fish caught on shots that commenced before 11.59pm on 31 January 2023 must be recorded on the first CDR form and will count against quota in the 2022-23 season.
- The fish caught on shots that commenced after 12.00am on 1 February 2023 must be recorded on a second CDR form and will be counted against quota in the 2023-24 season.

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

What do I need to fish in the fishery?

Before Going Fishing

Access to the fishery is through longline, minorline or purse seine boat SFRs, and quota SFRs for each of the quota species (bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, broadbill swordfish, and striped marlin) granted under the Plan.

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

What concessions do I need to go fishing?

Longlining, Minorlining or Purse Seining

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

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

For information on monitoring your quota see the section entitled '*Keeping track of your quota*'.

Other Methods

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

How much quota do I hold?

The Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the WTBF have been set for the 2023 fishing season (1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024). The TACC and kilograms per SFR conversion factors for each quota species is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: TACC and kilogram per SFR conversion factors for each quota species in the 2023 fishing season.

Quota species	TACC (tonnes)	Total number of SFRs	Conversion factor (kilograms per SFR)
Bigeye Tuna	2,000	988,566	2.02313250
Yellowfin Tuna	2,000	988,508	2.02325120
Broadbill Swordfish	3,000	988,584	3.03464349
Striped Marlin	125	83,628	1.49471469

Example: If you hold 500 bigeye tuna SFRs, you should multiply the number of SFRs (500) by the kilograms per SFR conversion factor (2.02313250) to result in 1,011.566 kilograms of bigeye tuna available to catch for the fishing season ($500 \times 2.02313250 = 1011.566$).

You can check your quota holdings at any stage throughout the season by registering for GoFish, AFMA's e-licensing system. You can do this online at <https://www.afma.gov.au/services-for-fishers> or by contacting Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

International Maritime Organization number

As of 1 April 2020, all vessels 12 metres or above fishing in the WTBF must have an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number. An application form to apply for an IMO can be found at: <https://imonumbers.lrfairplay.com>.

If you have any further questions relating to getting an IMO number for your vessel, please contact the Licensing and Data Services team on **1300 723 621**.

Annual Management and Research levies

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

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

How to pay your levies

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

Need more time to pay your levies?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay an overdue levy. To request an

arrangement to pay, a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on **1300 723 621** to discuss payment options. There is a \$220 administration fee to enter into an arrangement and unpaid amounts attract a penalty at the rate of 20 per cent per annum, which is calculated daily. AFMA will suspend and may cancel fishing concessions if a levy remains unpaid and an arrangement has not been entered into.

For further information on levies, including invoice issue and due dates, please refer to the AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide for the year, available at www.afma.gov.au.

What species can I catch?

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

Quota Species

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

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

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

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

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

Non-Quota Species

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

Primary Species

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

- Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) - no catch limit;
- Northern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) - no catch limit¹;

¹See Table 2 and page 23 for reporting and identification requirements relating to Northern Bluefin Tuna.

- Rays bream (or Pomfret) (Family *Bramidae*) - no catch limit;
- Skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) - no catch limit;
- Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) - 35 tonne limit for the whole fishery per fishing year with a 10 fish trip limit per operator being imposed if the 35 tonne trigger limit is reached; and
- Other billfish (Family *Istiophoridae*) - note you are **not** permitted to land either Blue Marlin (*Makaira mazar*) or Black Marlin (*Makaira indica*).

Secondary Species

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

What forms do I have to fill in?

You should be aware of all the requirements for completing fishing logs and what is required before you go fishing. The use of paper logbooks is being phased out across Commonwealth fisheries. Electronic logbooks (e-logs) **have been mandatory since 1 January 2021** for **all** WTBF operators. This technology allows you to fill out and complete all of your logsheets electronically and submit them directly to AFMA online. Further information on the changes and requirements can be found on the AFMA website or by contacting AFMA at licensing@afma.gov.au

AFMA has developed electronic Catch Disposal Records (eCDRs) for Commonwealth fisheries which are available to WTBF operators and their fish receivers. A fisher can use their e-log software to submit an electronic Catch Disposal Record (eCDR). To enable a fisher to use eCDR both parties (the fisher and receiver) must agree to use the system. If one party doesn't want to use eCDRs then both the fisher and the receiver must continue to use the CDR paper version (PT02B) for their unloads of fish product.

For further information and requirements for eCDRs contact AFMA on 1300 723 621 option 2, or email licensing@afma.gov.au

Before you fish

Only the fishing concession holder may use the e-log lodgement service. If you wish to authorise persons (or the master of the boat) to complete and submit an e-log on your behalf, you may do so by completing and submitting a Registered Agents Nomination Form (RA form) to AFMA Licensing and Data Services. Please note new nominations will not take effect until AFMA has sent you written confirmation of the nomination. Further information on the RA forms can be obtained from AFMA Licensing and Data Services on **1300 723 621**.

If you have already nominated an authorised person under the paper logbook system, that nomination is also valid for e-logs and eCDRs. However, the authorised person must have a valid GoFish user ID and password to use the electronic lodgement.

To use e-logs and eCDRs you need to:

- Purchase e-log software
- Register for GoFish and e-logs

E-log software is provided by private companies and you will need to contact a software provider to have access to e-log reporting.

Completing an e-log

All logbook information must be recorded on a shot-by-shot basis and details for the last day of the trip must be recorded before the boat docks at the end of each trip.

AFMA will need a record from you to cover every day that the fishing concession is in force. Detailed information, including an e-log user guide for line boats and a list of suitable e-log service providers can be found on the AFMA website at <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks>.

Paper logbook must be kept as back-up

In case your e-log system fails you must keep a copy of the paper-based daily fishing log for your fishery on board your boat at all times during fishing operations, and note the following:

- Longline operators must complete the paper **AL06** logbook (Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing Log) and record details of each shot.
- Minorline operators must fill in a paper logsheet from the **LN01A or LN01B** logbook (Line Fishing Daily Fishing Log).
- You must ensure that the master of the boat (skipper) is nominated as an authorised agent for the concession holder **before** going fishing.
- You must ensure that the authorised agent signing the relevant logbook page was the master of the boat at the time the recorded fishing operation took place.
- You may sign the AL06, LN01A, or LN01B logbook page if you were the master of the boat when the recorded fishing operation took place.
- If you have more than one master of the boat on board during the fishing trip, each master must complete and sign a separate AL06, LN01A, or LN01B logbook page for each of the fishing operations which they had control over.

A CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD (PT02B) OR ELECTRONIC CATCH DISPOSAL RECORD (eCDR)

Paper CDR PT02B

- A **PT02B** CDR must be completed by WTBF operators at the time of landing. PT02B forms are numbered and accountable so if you make a mistake or damage a form and want to cancel it, you have to clearly mark it as cancelled and send it to AFMA.
- The PT02B requires the fishing concession holder, or authorised representative, to fill out Parts A and B of the document, and the AFMA Licensed Fish Receiver to fill in Part C. The instructions within the PT02B require that immediately upon receipt of the fish, the fish receiver must weigh the fish accurately and complete all sections of Part C.
- The accurate weight must be determined using certified scales. Aside from the instructions within the PT02B, the requirements relating to the weighing of fish are clearly outlined within each fish receiver permit.

- It is important to note that the AFMA Licensed Fish Receivers must not:
 - tare down the scales to account for ice or water loss;
 - amend the verified weight once it is obtained from the certified scales (i.e. do not attempt to account for ice/water loss); nor
 - use market verified weight data to fill in Part C of PT02B.
- Fish receivers are also reminded that the blue copy of the PT02B needs to be returned to AFMA within 3 calendar days of the date on which the fish were received.

eCDR

- A fisher can use their e-log software to submit an electronic Catch Disposal Record (eCDR) in place of using the paper form (PT02B).
- To enable a fisher to use eCDRs, firstly their fish receiver has to agree to use the Receiver's Portal to submit the receiver's part of the eCDR. Both parties (the fisher and the receiver) **must agree** to use the system if one party does not want to use eCDRs then both the fisher and receiver must continue to use the paper form (PT02B)
- All instructions within the PT02B for completing the form and conditions within the fish receiver permit relate to the eCDR.

A TRANSIT FORM (CTF)

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

The SBT CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

The purpose of the SBT Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) is to allow individual SBT to be tracked from the point of capture to the point of sale. Under the CDS the fish must be tagged and the following CDS forms are used:

- Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A);
- Catch Monitoring Forms (CMAU02C); and
- Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product (REAU02).

For full details of how to complete the CDS logbooks and forms please refer to the detailed instructions included under the “**SBT Catch Documentation Scheme**” section below.

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

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

VMS reporting

It is the concession holder's responsibility to ensure that any boat nominated to their concession is fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved VMS units.

This register can be found on the AFMA website under *List of approved units*, available at:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/vessel-monitoring>

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

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

After hours phone: (02) 6275 5818; or

Email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au

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

Please refer to the VMS conditions on your concession for more information

Manual Reporting

If a nominated vessel's VMS unit stops reporting the data required by AFMA at the frequency specified by AFMA, the concession holder will be required to manually report the vessel's position **at times and frequencies required by AFMA** unless otherwise specified. If the vessel is in port when the reporting issues is found, the unit must be repaired prior to the vessel leaving port.

Temporary Switch Off Arrangements

A Temporary Switch Off (TSO) is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated vessel is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, the concession holder can apply for a TSO by filling out an 'Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off' form. The request needs to be made and a TSO granted prior to the VMS being switched off.

Completed forms should be sent to AFMA via:

Fax: (02) 6225 5440

Email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au

Mail:

Data Processing
AFMA
PO Box 7051
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

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

Note: A TSO is not automatically granted, AFMA considers a variety of factors including previous VMS non-compliance and whether the need is genuine before permission being granted. Switching off a unit without

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

Observers

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

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

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

Electronic Monitoring (e-monitoring)

Do I need an e-monitoring system?

In the WTBF, you are required to have an e-monitoring system installed and functioning on your boat and to comply with EM Directions issued by AFMA under Section 40A(1) of the Act.

From 5 November 2020, a direction concerning e-monitoring systems came into effect which requires all concession holders using the pelagic longline method (including those fishing less than 30 days per season) to implement on-board e-monitoring systems and comply with e-monitoring obligations. The direction also requires concession holders to monitor the functioning of the e-monitoring system and provide certain information to AFMA.

The *Fisheries Management (E-Monitoring Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Direction 2021* can be found at: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00460>

Maintaining your e-monitoring system

You are required to keep your e-monitoring system in good working order at all times. This includes performing a system function test:

- Immediately after a data drive exchange
- Prior to each trip
- If there is suspicion of an issue
- After any periods of inactivity greater than 14 days

You are also required to ensure that the EM system is clean and records all fishing events. **Landings, cut-offs and discards, must occur as close as possible to the fish door in full view of the EM cameras.** The only exceptions to this is when the size or activity of the animal poses an increased risk to crew or vessel safety.

Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP) provide the e-monitoring equipment, installation and maintenance. If you experience any problems with your e-monitoring system, please contact AAP as soon as possible:

Archipelago Asia Pacific (AAP)

Phone: 02 6162 1192

Email: service@archipelago-ap.com.au

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

You must send your e-monitoring hard drives to AFMA on the first landing of each month, or sooner if the e-monitoring hard drive becomes 80% full.

Please note – should your EM system cause interference to your vessel communication systems, to such an extent that that it poses a risk to the safety of the vessel and/or crew, **you should pause or temporarily switch off the EM system to remove the interference and notify AFMA of the issue by sending an email to Tuna@afma.gov.au**. Please also notify AAP of the issue so that they can attempt to address it.

While I am fishing

Where can I fish?

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

- The part of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) that extends westward from Cape York Peninsula off Queensland (142°30'E), around the west coast of Western Australia and eastward, across the Great Australian Bight to 141°E at the South Australian/Victorian border. More precisely, the area bounded by a notional line:
 - commencing at the intersection of the northern coastline of Australia with the meridian of longitude 142° 09' E
 - then running north along that meridian to the intersection with the parallel of latitude 10° 28' S
 - then running west along that parallel to the intersection with the meridian of longitude 141° 20' E
 - then running north along that meridian to the intersection with the outer limit of the AFZ
 - then running generally westerly, southerly and easterly along the outer limit of the AFZ to the intersection with the meridian of longitude 141° E
 - then running north along that meridian to its first intersection with the southern coastline of Australia
 - then running generally westerly, northerly and easterly along that coastline to the point where the line began.
- Those parts of the AFZ that:
 - surround Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands; and

- extend toward the outer limit of the AFZ from a line every point of which is 12 nautical miles from the Australian territorial sea baseline.
- The high seas area of the Indian Ocean. Specifically, those parts of the high seas that are within the area of competence of the IOTC and west of 141° E.

The specific details and precise co-ordinates of the fishery area are described in Schedule 1 of the Plan. A map of the WTBF Area of Waters is displayed at the end of this booklet (Figure 3).

Fishing on the High Seas

When conducting fishing operations on the High Seas, the concession holder must ensure that:

- The boat is clearly marked with its international radio call sign according to internationally recognised standards;
- They report to AFMA (VMSreporting@afma.gov.au) prior to entering the High Seas and prior to landing;
- Fish in accordance with permit conditions,
- All fishing gear is properly stowed when transiting through another country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and
- They do not fish in another country's EEZ.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) Arrangements

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

Where can't I fish?

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

New management plans for a number of Australian Marine Parks came into effect on 1 July 2018. Fishers who are currently fishing, or intend to fish, should therefore be aware that some fishing methods are prohibited in marine parks. Please make sure you are aware and understand which fishing methods are allowed in each of the marine park zones prior to going fishing. Information on marine parks within Commonwealth waters can be found at <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/> with the two main marine parks relevant to the WTBF being:

The North-west Marine Parks Network

- General information: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/#north-west-marine-parks>
- Management plan: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/plans/>
- Maps: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north-west/maps/>

The South-west Marine Parks Network

- General information: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south-west/>

- Management plan: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south-west/plans/>
- Maps: [South-west maps | Australian Marine Parks \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

Northern network

- General information: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north/>
- Management plan: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/north/plans/>
- Maps: [North maps | Australian Marine Parks \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](#)

A map of Australian Marine Parks under active management plans is provided at the end of this booklet. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact marineparksauthorisations@awe.gov.au

Other Exclusive Economic Zones

You are not permitted to fish in another country's EEZ.

Size Limits

With the exception of striped marlin, there are no size limits for primary species in the WTBF. For striped marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish (a non-target species), it is an IOTC requirement that WTBF vessels shall not retain on board or land any catch smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) and shall return them immediately to the sea in a manner that maximizes post-release survival (but without compromising the safety of crew).

There is a minimum size limit of 450 mm applied to any school shark or gummy shark taken in this fishery. The measurement must be taken on a straight line from the middle of the gill furthest away from the mouth to the bottom insertion of the caudal fin.

Catch Limits

Commercial Species

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

Bycatch Species

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

You must record all retained and discarded catches of both commercial species and general bycatch species under the 'Catch Details' section of your logbook and any interactions with protected bycatch species under the 'Wildlife and other Protected Species' section of your logbook. Tables 3-6 display the State and Territory bycatch limits for each species that interact within the WTBF. The State and Territory restrictions apply to all waters extending out from the coastline of the respective State or Territory.

Baitfish

Fishing for bait is subject to the following limitations:

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

Any bait taken must only be used by the relevant holder fishing under a WTBF Boat SFR.

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

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Quota species
Bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Quota species
Striped marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>	Quota species - fish smaller than 60 cm LJFL cannot be retained
Broadbill swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Quota species
Longtail tuna	<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>	A maximum 35 tonne limit by the fleet per fishing year is in place for the ETBF and WTBF. A 10 fish trip limit per operator will be imposed should the 35 tonne trigger limit be reached in either fishery in any fishing year.
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Nil
Albacore tuna	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Nil
Northern bluefin tuna (NBT)	<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>	You must report to AFMA prior to landing NBT (via e-mail northernbluefin@afma.gov.au or fax 02 6225 5440) at least 1 hour before landing in port. Further information is provided in the NBT section below.
Southern bluefin tuna (SBT)	<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Any take of SBT must be done in accordance with the quota arrangements under the <i>Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995</i> .
Indo-Pacific sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	Fish smaller than 60 cm LJFL cannot be retained
Pomfrets and rays bream	Family <i>Bramidae</i>	No limit
Shortbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	
Moonfish	Genus <i>Lampris</i>	
Rudderfish	Genus <i>Centrolophus</i>	
Escolar/Oilfish	<i>Lepidocybium flavobrunneum</i> and <i>Ruvettus pretiosus</i>	
<i>Commonwealth waters restrictions (within WTBF)</i>		
Shark species - general	Family <i>Elasmobranchii</i>	20 sharks combined total EXCEPT for the species listed below
School shark	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	These species are managed in accordance with the <i>Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003</i> . Retention must be covered by quota, and in concordance with applicable size limits.
Gummy shark	<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>	
Elephantfish	Families <i>Callorhinchidae</i> , <i>Chimaeridae</i> and <i>Rhinochimaeridae</i>	

Sawshark	<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> and <i>Pristiophorus nudipinnis</i>	
Longfin mako shark	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Only dead on line sharks may be retained. All live sharks (including those in poor condition or showing minimal signs of life) must be released back into the water.
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	
Porbeagle shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	
Harrisons dogfish	<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i>	As with makos and porbeagles, only to be retained if dead, combined for all species*: Trips under 6 days – no more than 15kg whole weight per day Trips over 6 days - no more than 90kg whole weight per trip
Endeavour dogfish	<i>Centrophorus moluccensis</i>	
Southern dogfish	<i>Centrophorus zeehaani</i>	
Greeneye spurdog	<i>Squalus chloroculus</i>	
<i>Single jurisdiction high seas trips</i>		
Pelagic sharks	Family <i>Elasmobranchii</i>	No more than 100 sharks per trip, comprised of a maximum of 80 blue whaler shark (<i>Prionace glauca</i>)
Crocodile shark	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	No more than 20 sharks or rays
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	
Porbeagle shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	
Smooth hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	
Pelagic stingray	<i>Dasyatis violacea</i>	

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

Common name	Scientific name	Limits
Blue eye trevalla	<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>	No take
Blue grenadier	<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>	
Blue warehou	<i>Seriolella brama</i>	
Blue marlin	<i>Makaira mazara</i>	
Black marlin	<i>Makaira indica</i>	
Flathead	<i>Platycephalus</i> and <i>Neoplatycephalus</i> sp.	
Gemfish	<i>Rexea solandri</i>	
Jackass morwong	<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>	
John dory	<i>Zeus faber</i>	
Pink Ling	<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>	
Mirror dory	<i>Zenopsis nebulosus</i>	
Mobulid rays	Family <i>Mobulidae</i>	
Ocean perch	<i>Helicolenus</i> sp.	
Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	
Redfish	<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>	
Royal red prawn	<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>	
School whiting	<i>Sillago findersi</i>	
Silver trevally	<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>	
Spotted warehou	<i>Seriolella punctata</i>	
Black cod	<i>Epinephelus daemeli</i>	
Great white shark	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	
Grey nurse shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>	
Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	
Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	
Thresher shark*	Family <i>Alopiidae</i>	
* Time period and weight determined in accordance with permit conditions		

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

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Amberjack	<i>Seriola dumerili</i>	2 fish total per trip for all species combined
Black kingfish (Cobia) that are in waters East of the meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	
Yellowtail kingfish	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	
Australian bonito	<i>Sarda australis</i>	10 fish total per trip for all species combined
Australian spotted mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus munroi</i>	
Bar cod	<i>Epinephelus ergastularius</i>	
Cod	Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Dog toothed tuna	<i>Gymnosarda unicolor</i>	
Emperor	Families <i>Lethrinidae</i> and <i>Lutjanidae</i>	
Frigate mackerel	<i>Auxis thazard</i>	
Grouper	Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Hapuku	<i>Polyprion oxygeneios</i>	
Leaping bonito	<i>Cybiosarda elegans</i>	
Mackerel tuna	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	
Oriental bonito	<i>Sarda orientalis</i>	
Rainbow runner	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	
Rake gilled mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	
Shark mackerel	<i>Grammatorcynus bicarinatus</i>	
Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	
Spanish mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	
Trevally	Family <i>Carangidae</i> (except genus <i>Seriola</i>)	
Tropical snapper	Families <i>Lethrinidae</i> and <i>Lutjanidae</i>	
Tuskfish	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Wrasse	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Butterfly mackerel	<i>Gasterochisma melampus</i>	20 fish total per trip for all species combined
Shark	Subclass <i>Elasmobranchii</i> and Family <i>Serranidae</i>	
Slender tuna	<i>Allothunnus fallai</i>	
Wahoo	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	

Black kingfish that are in waters west of the meridian of longitude 129° East	<i>Rachycentron canadus</i>	No limit	
Mahi mahi (dolphinfish)	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	In waters off Western Australia <u>west</u> of meridian of longitude 129° East	200 fish limit per trip
		In waters off South Australia east of the meridian of longitude 129° East	No limit
		In waters off the Northern Territory (<u>east</u> of the meridian of longitude 129° East)	10 fish per trip

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

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions
Australian anchovy	<i>Engraulis australis</i>	No take
Australian salmon/tommy ruff	Genus <i>Arripis</i>	
Banded morwong	<i>Cheilodactylus spectabilis</i>	
Black bream	<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>	
Blue sprat	<i>Spratelloides robustus</i>	
Dusky morwong	<i>Dactylophora nigricans</i>	
Garfish	<i>Hyporhamphus melanochir</i>	
Grassy (rock) flathead	<i>Platycephalus laevigatus</i>	
King gar	<i>Scomberesox saurus</i>	
King George whiting	<i>Sillaginodes punctata</i>	
Luderick	<i>Girrella tricuspidata</i>	
Magpie morwong	<i>Cheilodactylus nigripes</i>	
Pilchard	<i>Sardinops sagax</i>	
Red mullet	<i>Upeneichthys vlamingii</i>	
Sea sweep	<i>Scorpius aequipinnis</i>	
Snook	<i>Sphyraena novaehollandiae</i>	
Sprat	<i>Clupea bassensis</i>	
Wrasse	Family <i>Labridae</i>	
Yellow eye mullet	<i>Aldrichetta forsteri</i>	
Yellow-finned whiting	<i>Sillago schomburgkii</i>	

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

Common name	Scientific name	Restrictions	
Bastard trumpeter	<i>Latridopsis forsteri</i>	20 kg per trip	200 kg total per trip for all species combined
Striped trumpeter	<i>Latris lineata</i>		
Blue groper	<i>Achoerodus gouldii</i>	50 kg per trip	
Snapper	<i>Pagrus auratus</i>		
Mulloway	<i>Argyrosomus japonicus</i>	100 kg per trip	
Yellowtail kingfish	<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	10 fish per trip	
Black reef leatherjacket	<i>Eubalichthys bucephalus</i>	200 kg per trip	
Chinaman leatherjacket	<i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>		
Parrotfish (or knifejaw)	<i>Oplegnathus woodwardi</i>		
Rough leatherjacket	<i>Scobinichthys granulatus</i>		

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

Table 7: Single jurisdiction high seas trip limits

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

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

Bycatch Handling

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

You must not mistreat bycatch. Mistreat means the taking of an action or actions, or the failure to take an action or actions, which results, or is likely to result, in the death of, injury to, or causing of physiological distress to any bycatch. 'Mistreat' does not include the taking, or failing to take, action to ensure the safety of the boat and its crew. If uncertain about Bycatch handling please contact AFMA Bycatch section on (02) 6225 5555. There is a list of principles to help you know what is and is not acceptable treatment of bycatch. These can be found at:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/bycatch-discarding/bycatch-reports-publications-id-guides>

Southern Bluefin Tuna

The WTBF Plan does not allow fishing for SBT. Any take of SBT must be done in accordance with the quota arrangements under the *Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995*. Therefore, only operators who hold SBT quota SFRs are permitted to take SBT when fishing within the WTBF.

Retention and Discarding of SBT

All dead SBT must be landed (retained) except those that are damaged by sharks to the point that they are not fit for human consumption.

Live SBT can be landed (retained) or released (providing they are in a live and vigorous state). SBT that are to be released must not be gaffed.

As stated in the E-monitoring section, all catch to **be released or discarded must be done so at the fish door in full view of the e-monitoring system**. All SBT retained or discarded must be reported on the logbook.

In relation to shark damaged fish please note the following:

- Discarded shark damaged SBT **will not be deducted** from the concession holder's quota. All shark damaged SBT that are discarded must be discarded in full view of the EM camera, with the damaged portion facing the cameras.

Table 8 below outlines permissible and unacceptable release conditions for SBT. Unacceptable releases may result in the SBT being deducted from your quota (at the average weight of SBT caught on that trip) and possible further compliance action.

Table 8: Permissible and unacceptable conditions for SBT release

SFR SBT release conditions	
Release live gaffed SBT	✗
Release live vigorous SBT at fish door	✓
Cut off any SBT (live or dead) away from fish door	✗
Release dead undamaged SBT	✗
Release dead damaged (beyond a point fit for human consumption) SBT after being bought on board and facing damaged section to EM camera	✓

If you catch SBT using longline or minor line methods, you are required to complete the e-log for line methods. To land SBT you must also complete the PT02B Catch Disposal Book as per the instructions contained in the book. All e-logs and CDR books can be obtained by contacting DataEntry@afma.gov.au. You must also complete additional paperwork specific to SBT (see below).

Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme

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

If you intend to target SBT before you go to sea make sure:

- 1) That all vessels being used are on the CCSBT register. Refer to 'common questions' for registration details.
- 2) Ensure that you have:
 - a) 50 AFMA approved SBT tags on board and that they are stamped with the current calendar year;
 - b) access to the Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A); and
 - c) access to Catch Monitoring Forms (CMAU02C).
- 3) If you are going to use the pelagic longline method and intend on entering the area of the WTBF East of Longitude 129°00' you must hold at least 2000kg of uncaught SBT quota before leaving port.

While you are at sea:

- 1) Tag each SBT, with an AFMA approved tag in such a way that the tag is not reusable, at the point of kill.
- 2) If you run out of tags at sea any untagged SBT must be kept on the vessel until tags can be obtained and the fish tagged.

When you land:

- 1) Weigh and measure each whole tagged SBT before freezing it and record each SBT on the Catch Tagging Form (CTAU02A).
- 2) Land your SBT to a Commonwealth Fish Receiver Permit holder who is registered, with AFMA, to receive SBT.

- 3) Fill out the Catch/Harvest Section of the Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C). This applies whether or not the SBT have been tagged (i.e. include details of any loined or filleted SBT).
- 4) Have the Catch/harvest Section of the Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C) validated by the fish receiver.
- 5)
 - a) If exporting, complete the Intermediate Product Destination Section as the SBT owner at time of export, and ensure that this section is validated by a Licensed Fish Receiver.
 - b) If SBT is sold domestically please ensure the Final Product Destination Section is completed. This section must be signed by the domestic buyer and ensure the yellow copy is sent to AFMA.
- 6) Give the white and yellow copies of the Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C) to the Fish Receiver Permit (FRP) holder and keep the green copy in the book.
- 7) Send the pink copy of the Catch Monitoring Form (CMAU02C) to AFMA within 3 business days of landing.
- 8) If you lose a tag and need to replace it, fax or email AFMA with the following details:
 - a) the old tag number (if known);
 - b) the new tag number;
 - c) the old Catch Tagging Form Number (if known);
 - d) the new Catch Tagging Form Number; and
 - e) the reason the tag was replaced.
- 9) Send AFMA a completed copy of the Catch Tagging Form (CTF) within 3 business days of landing.
- 10) Keep a copy of each completed form for your records.

Requirements when transporting fish from port of landing to the licensed fish receiver

If the SBT cannot be weighed and validated at the point of landing, you can transport the SBT to a licensed fish receiver provided you:

- complete the catch harvest section of the catch monitoring form leaving the weights and lengths blank;
- complete the catch tagging form leaving the weights and lengths blank; and
- send the white, pink and yellow catch monitoring forms and the white catch tagging forms with the SBT to the licensed fish receiver.

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

Note: Operators are no longer required to complete the Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Disposal Record (CR4A). All catches of SBT must be reported in e-logs or when using paper logbooks the Commonwealth Pelagic Fisheries Catch Disposal Record (PT02B) and in the CDS logbooks.

Northern Bluefin Tuna

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Processing Fish

There are specific landing requirements for tuna in the WTBF:

- Tuna (except NBT) cannot be processed at sea except for the removal of fins (except the caudal fin), gilling and gutting. Please see WTBF Longline Boat SFR conditions for more details.
- Billfish (except broadbill swordfish) must be landed with the caudal keel, pectoral and anal fins still attached to the carcass. **No other processing can be conducted.**
- Broadbill swordfish can be processed at sea, either by filleting or the removal of all fins.
- Bony fishes must not be landed in a form other than as a whole, gilled, gutted or headed fish or a combination of these forms.

- Sharks must be landed with their fins still attached to the carcass and it is forbidden to carry, retain or land shark livers unless the carcass from which the liver was obtained is also landed.

Figure 1: Processing cuts for Tuna

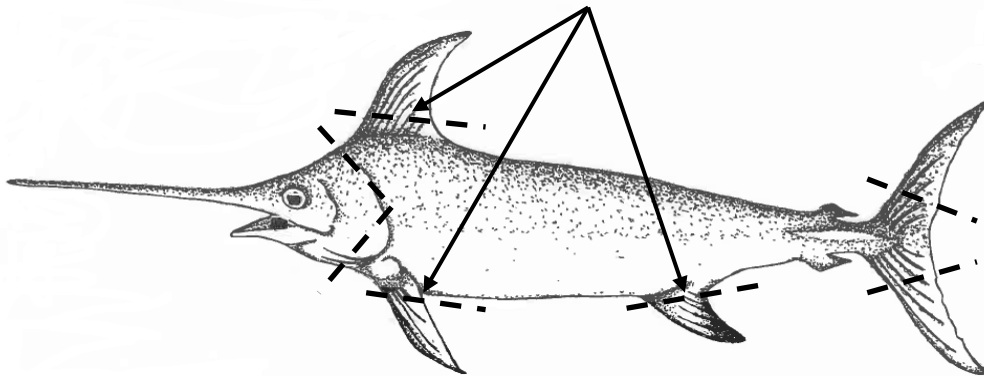
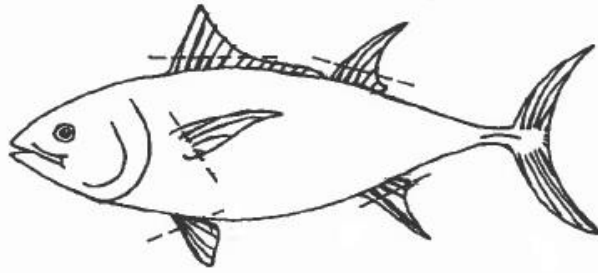


Figure 2: Processing cuts for Broadbill Swordfish

Protected Species

What is a protected species?

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

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

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

The most common protected species that you are likely to encounter in the WTBF include seabirds, turtles and marine mammals such as whales and dolphins. There are also a small number of sharks (great white, grey nurse, longfin mako and shortfin mako) and other fish listed under the EPBC Act. Please note that all protected species that are to **be released or discarded must be done so in full view of the e-monitoring system and in a way that ensures the safety of the crew.**

There are a range of other species that are protected and are encountered in other AFMA fisheries. These include sea snakes, sea lions, syngnathids (sea horses, sea dragons and pipefish), sawfishes (green and freshwater), crocodiles and dugongs.

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

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



Both identification guides are also available on the AFMA website; the Protected Species Identification Guide as a [PDF](#), and the Seabird Identification Guide as an [e-book or PDF](#) ([Seabird ID Guide 2013](#) ([afma.gov.au](#))).

Wildlife Interactions

What is an interaction with a protected species?

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

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

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

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

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

How do I report interactions with protected species?

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

How does this information get from AFMA to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water?

AFMA has formally agreed to provide the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) with 3 monthly summary reports of all protected species interactions, as reported

through AFMA logbooks. This streamlines the reporting arrangements and removes your responsibility for reporting interactions separately to both AFMA and DCCEEW.

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

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

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

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

Please contact the Tuna and International Fisheries Management Section via TunaandInternational@afma.gov.au.

Mandatory Seabird Requirements for Longline Fishing

At all times you must:

- Carry more than one assembled tori lines onboard
- Not discharge offal while setting
- Carry at least three Seabird feather kits onboard
- Comply with any further Seabird interaction obligations relating to the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP).

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

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

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

- A tori line is not required to be deployed when performing fishing operations between the hours of nautical dusk and nautical dawn, unless instructed by AFMA.
- Use only non-frozen bait;
- Weight longlines with either a minimum of:
 - 60g swivels at a distance of no more than 3.5m from each hook; or
 - 98g swivels at a distance of no more than 4m from each hook; or
 - 40g weights immediately adjacent to the hook, or at no more than 0.5m from the hook, with dead, non-frozen baits attached to the hooks; or
 - “hook shielding device” with a cap and weighing at least 38g may be deployed directly at the hook as an alternative.

Note: If you are fishing south of **40° South**, AFMA may require you to implement additional seabird mitigation measures as this is an area in which higher than average number of seabird interactions are possible.

Tori line specifications:

Your tori line must:

- Have an aerial extent of at least 100m for vessels ≥35m, or 75m for vessels <35m;
- Set up from a position on the boat that allows it to stay above the water for at least 75m from the stern (generally achieved by a tori pole of 6-7m in height);
- Have streamers attached at a maximum interval of 3.5m;
- Streamers should be maintained, ensuring that their lengths are as close to the water as possible.
- Have a towed line, material or object at the end of the line to give sufficient drag to meet the aerial coverage criteria.

Attachment A provides guidance on best practice tori line design.

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

There are four key steps you need to undertake if a seabird is killed while you are fishing:

1. **Hold up the dead seabird to the electronic monitoring camera for identification.** At a minimum, the seabird must be held in view of and in close proximity to the closest or most convenient electronic monitoring camera. First, the head and bill (for 3 seconds), then underside with one wing outstretched (for 3 seconds), then the back of the bird with one wing outstretched (for 3 seconds).
2. **Collect a feather sample using a Seabird Feather Collection Kit.** Feathers must be pulled out, not cut, with feathers collected from the belly side and back side of the seabird. Samples must be marked with an ID label which includes:
 - a. Date of interaction
 - b. Time of interaction
 - c. Latitude and Longitude of interaction
 - d. Fishing method; and
 - e. ID number
 - f. The bagged feather samples must be placed inside a second zip lock bag with absorbent material, then sealed, and posted to AAD using the reply paid envelope provided in the Seabird feather sample kit.
3. **Record the details of the interaction.** You must record the details of the interaction as required in your e-logs. If you are unable to use e-logs for the trip, you will need to record the interaction in your Australian Longline Daily Fishing Log (AL06), circle 'Yes' in the box at the bottom of the log sheet and fill out the 'Listed Marine and Threatened Species' form (i.e., as for any other protected species interaction).
4. **Comply with any additional Seabird interaction obligations relating to the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP).** AFMA will notify you in writing that you are required to comply with additional Seabird interaction obligations if, within any five-degree latitude zone, you meet one of the following criteria:

- a. You have interacted with more than one seabird and have exceeded the seabird bycatch rate (0.05 birds per 1,000 hooks), during any two of the last three consecutive TAP seasons (NB this can include the current TAP season).
- b. You have interacted with more than 10 seabirds in the current or previous TAP season.
- c. You have been found to have an unreported seabird interaction.

Once notified by AFMA, one of the following **seabird mitigation options** must immediately be implemented:

- a daylight setting ban (ensure that all longline hooks are deployed only during the hours between nautical dusk and nautical dawn); or
- amended line weighting of either;
 - 40g or greater attached within 0.5m of the hook; or
 - 60g or greater attached within 1m of the hook; or
 - 80g or greater attached within 2m of the hook; or
 - ACAP approved hook shielding devices on all hooks; or
- a northern shift in the area of operation (to at least 5 degrees north of the most northerly seabird interaction with the nominated vessel, as verified and notified by AFMA).

If, after implementing one of the seabird mitigation options listed above, either one additional albatross or two other seabirds are killed while your vessel is fishing, then one of the following additional mitigation measures must be immediately implemented:

- another mitigation measure from the list of seabird mitigation options above (that is in addition to the measure already implemented); or
- cease the use of live bait (if using) and only use dead bait; or
- relocate fishing activities to north of latitude 25 degrees south; or
- cease fishing using longlines for the remainder of the TAP season.

In each instance where additional mitigation is required, the period for which it needs to be applied ends when you are back below the **seabird bycatch interaction rate** (i.e., your rate is less than 0.05 birds per 1,000 hooks, calculated from the time you were notified by AFMA). If you again exceed the seabird bycatch interaction rate, all additional mitigation measures will reapply.

Why do I need to keep sample of seabirds killed during interactions?

Keeping a feather sample from dead seabirds allows us to properly identify the seabirds so we can better understand interactions in the fishery. This is also necessary to meet the requirements of the second Threat Abatement Plan for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2018). Further details about the requirements of the Threat Abatement Plan can be found at www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/threat-abatement-plans/approved.

How do I order more Seabird feather collection kits for my vessel?

Feather collection kits Developed by DCCEEW have been provided to operators by AFMA and operators must have at least three feather kits on board at all times. Feather samples can be ordered by sending an email to: Tuna@afma.gov.au. Please include preferred postal address, vessel name and number of kits required when ordering feather kits.

Mandatory Turtle Mitigation Measures for Longline Fishing

Circle hooks

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

De-hooking device

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

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

Line cutting device

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

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

Retention and Reporting of Mako and Porbeagle Sharks

Under the EPBC Act taking and retaining of longfin mako, shortfin mako and porbeagle sharks is prohibited in Commonwealth waters. There are exceptions to these prohibitions where species are caught as bycatch in the ETBF and WTBF in the following specific circumstances:

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

Interactions with these species can be recorded on e-logs. To accurately record these species on the AL06 paper logbook, please follow the following process.

- Where the sharks are released alive operators are instructed to enter the code '**RA**' in the catch details section of the logbook under 'Discarded/Retained code' column.

The use of this code will allow AFMA to determine if a fish was released alive as is required under the EPBC Act and allow for better understanding as to how these species interact with the fishery.

Compliance

Illegal Fishing

Domestic Offences

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring, contact AFMA's Compliance Duty Officer on **02 6275 5818** as soon as possible after you discover the event. Reports may be made anonymously and would ideally include the following:

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

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

All information received will be treated as strictly confidential.

Foreign Fishing Offences

If you sight a foreign vessel that you believe may be involved in illegal fishing, please contact Australian Border Force on free call **1800 009 623** (attended 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). All information received will be treated as strictly confidential. You may also contact the AFMA Compliance Duty Officer on **02 6275 5818** for foreign fishing offences.



Transshipping Catch

Transshipment (transferring fish taken from one vessel to another vessel) of fish or fish product is prohibited in the WTBF.

After I Get Back From Fishing

Fish Receivers

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

A CDR must be completed for each consignment of fish sent to each different receiver and all fish landed in the WTBF must be recorded on the CDR, using either the paper version or the eCDR.

After completing a paper CDR:

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

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

Who can sign forms?

Only the concession holder or their authorised agents are allowed to sign logbooks, CDRs and transit forms. To nominate an authorised agent to do specific things on your behalf, you will need to complete an Authorised Agent Nomination form (AA form) available on AFMA's website at [Forms for fishers | Australian Fisheries Management Authority \(afma.gov.au\)](http://www.afma.gov.au/forms-for-fishers)

Keeping Track of Your Quota

You are responsible for monitoring your own quota to ensure you have enough to cover your fishing activity at all times. Please note that the 2023 season will finish on **31 January 2024**.

Quota Transaction Statements

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

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

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

GoFish

In addition to Quota Transaction Statements, concession holders can access **GoFish**. This is an online service to allow concession holders to conduct transactions and to keep track of their concessions. The service enables fishers working in most AFMA-managed fisheries to obtain instant online access to their current holdings, including full history of quota transactions conducted during the current season. Fishers

can apply for access to the new service by visiting the AFMA website at www.afma.gov.au or by contacting AFMA Direct on **1300 723 621**.

How will AFMA monitor catch and quota during the season?

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

Conversion Factors

When AFMA receives your CDR forms, the weights, process codes and species form the basis for the calculation of processed weight to whole weight. The calculated whole weight is the weight that will be deducted from your quota holdings. The current conversion factors used by AFMA for the four WTBF target species and SBT are outlined in Tables 9 and 10.

Table 9: Conversion factors for processing of quota species

	Whole	Gilled and gutted	Headed and gutted	Trunked	Damaged	Filleted	Gutted
Bigeye tuna	1	1.1	1.25	1.5	1.5	-	-
Yellowfin tuna	1	1.1	1.25	1.5	1.5	-	-
Broadbill swordfish	1	1.1	1.25	1.25	-	1.75	-
Striped marlin	1	1.1	1.5	1.5	-	-	1.1

Table 10 Conversion factors for processing of SBT

	Whole	Form A - Gilled and gutted (gill plates and tail removed)	Form B – Gilled and gutted (tail and gill plates remain)	Headed and gutted
Southern bluefin tuna	1	1.176	[1.12 x processed weight]+1	1.27

Quota Reconciliation

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

If you are still over quota after the 28-day period for each landing you will be subject to compliance action. You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure that you reconcile catch with quota prior to the due date. The only over-quota notification you will receive from AFMA is via GoFish. If, due to exceptional

circumstances, you cannot reconcile you must contact AFMA prior to the due date. Further information on quota reconciliation can be obtained from the AFMA website (<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/28-day-quota-reconciliation/>).

Undercatch and Overcatch

Undercatch and overcatch provisions along with determined weights have been set for the 2023 fishing season and are outlined in Table 11. The purpose of these provisions is to provide some practical flexibility when fishing close to your quota limit at the end of the season.

Table 11: Determined percentage of overcatch and undercatch for WTBF quota species

Quota species	Determined percentage (overcatch – s4.5)	Determined percentage (undercatch – s4.6)	Determined weight (s4.5) (kg)
Bigeye tuna	10	10	2,000
Yellowfin tuna	10	10	2,000
Broadbill swordfish	10	10	2,000
Striped marlin	10	10	2,000

Overcatch

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

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

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

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

Undercatch

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

Determined Weight

In the WTBF, the determined weight for the 2023 season is 2,000 kg. This is the amount that you can catch in addition to the 10% overcatch already allowed, without facing prosecution. The amount you exceed your 10% overcatch by will be deducted from your holdings in the following season at the rate of two for one, i.e. 4,000 kg will be deducted for a 2,000 kg overcatch.

Transfer of a Statutory Fishing Right (SFR)

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

For a transfer to take effect close to the end of the season, a completed application must be received by AFMA in the approved form, by no later than **5:00pm EST 14 January 2024**.

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

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

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

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

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

Transfer forms are available on the AFMA website at www.afma.gov.au.

AFMA Quota Administration Policy

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

How is the fishery managed internationally?

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

Landing in a Foreign Port

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

- have obtained the appropriate foreign port permit or approval;
- provide AFMA 48 hours prior notice of intention to unload in a foreign port, including the vessel details, proposed foreign port of unloading, the estimated time and date the boat will arrive at the port, and quantities of all species on board the boat;
- ensure all fishing gear remains stowed and secured when transiting through any other country's exclusive economic zone;
- where the boat has entered any foreign fishing jurisdiction from the high seas for the intention of mooring in port, the boat must travel to port by the most direct route possible, unless approval for fishing within the jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
- where the boat leaves any foreign port, the boat must travel directly to the high seas by the most direct route possible unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
- not partake in fishing activity within any foreign fishing jurisdiction during a trip unless approval for fishing within that jurisdiction has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat;
- not partake in any unloading activity within any foreign port unless an approval for unloading within that foreign port has been obtained from that country in respect of the boat and;
- co-operate with inspections by foreign fisheries officers authorised by other signatories to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

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

Contact Details

Management

Selina Stoute	Selina.Stoute@afma.gov.au	0428 513 635
<i>Senior Manager, Tuna and International Fisheries</i>		07 4069 0015

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

Kate Martin	Kate.Martin@afma.gov.au	(02) 6225 5392
<i>Manager</i>		
Sara Murphy	Sara.Murphy@afma.gov.au	(02) 6225 5386
<i>Senior Management Officer</i>		
<i>Vacant</i>		
<i>Senior Management Officer</i>		
WTBF Fax		(02) 6225 5440
WTBF Email	Tuna@afma.gov.au	
Tuna TAP Email	TunaTAP@afma.gov.au	

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Matt Daniel	Matt.Daniel@afma.gov.au	(02) 6225 5338
<i>Manager</i>		

Logbook and Licensing Administration

Anne Shepherd		(02) 6225 5361
<i>Manager, Licensing and Data Services</i>		
Karen Cullen		(02) 6225 5452
<i>Logbook/Data Administration Officer</i>		
Logbooks Fax		(02) 6225 5440
Logbooks Email	DataEntry@afma.gov.au or elogs@afma.gov.au	
Licensing and Data Services Email	licensing@afma.gov.au	

Protected Species Interactions

bycatchprogram@afma.gov.au	(02) 6225 5555
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Domestic Compliance

AFMA Direct	1300 723 621
Josh Froggatt	(02) 6225 5467
<i>Manager, Domestic Compliance</i>	
Tod Spencer	(02) 6225 5312
<i>Senior Manager, National Compliance Strategy</i>	0409 463 736
Ash Mooney	(02) 6225 5376
<i>Manager, Intelligence Unit</i>	

VMS

Tod Spencer	(02) 6225 5312
<i>Senior Manager, National Compliance Strategy</i>	0409 463 736
Ashleigh Tomlinson	(02) 6225 5364
<i>A/Manager Monitoring and Surveillance</i>	
Eric Appleyard	(02) 6225 5454
<i>Senior Monitoring Officer (VMS)</i>	
Rebecca Kaltoum	AusVMS@afma.gov.au
<i>Senior Monitoring Officer (VMS)</i>	(02) 6225 5345

Additional Contacts

CRIMFISH	1800 274 634
Duty Officer (after hours contact)	dutyofficer@afma.gov.au
Compliance Fax	(02) 6225 5442
Compliance Email	MCS@afma.gov.au
Intelligence Email	Intelligence@afma.gov.au

Observers and Electronic Monitoring

Tamre Sarhan	(02) 6225 5332
<i>Manager, Observer Program</i>	
Duty Officer	0427 496 5428
Rebecca Darcy	rebecca.darcy@afma.gov.au
<i>Manager, E-Monitoring</i>	(02) 6225 5477
Archipelago Asia Pacific	(02) 6162 1192

E-monitoring Email e-monitoring@afma.gov.au

E-monitoring System service@archipelago-ap.com.au

Maintenance and Repairs Email

State Fisheries

Tasmania	Wild Fisheries Management Branch, Department of Primary Industry, Water & Environment	(03) 6165 3000 1300 368 550
South Australia	Fisheries Division, Department of Primary Industries and Regions Fishwatch hotline	(08) 8226 0995 (Head Office) 1800 065 522
Victoria	Victorian Fisheries Authority	136 186
New South Wales	New South Wales Fisheries	1300 550 474
Queensland	Queensland Fisheries Service	(07) 3404 6999

WTBF Internet Links for Relevant Documents

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2005

www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2005L03187

Fisheries Management Act 1991

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00546>

Fisheries Management Regulations 2019

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01167>*Fisheries Management (Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) Regulations 2011*

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01167>

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

www.dcceew.gov.au

AFMA legislation page

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

AFMA logbook page

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/logbooks-and-catch-disposal>

AFMA licensing forms

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/forms-fishers>

Commonwealth Harvest Strategy

[Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy and Guidelines - DAFF \(agriculture.gov.au\)](#)

Figure 3: Area of the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

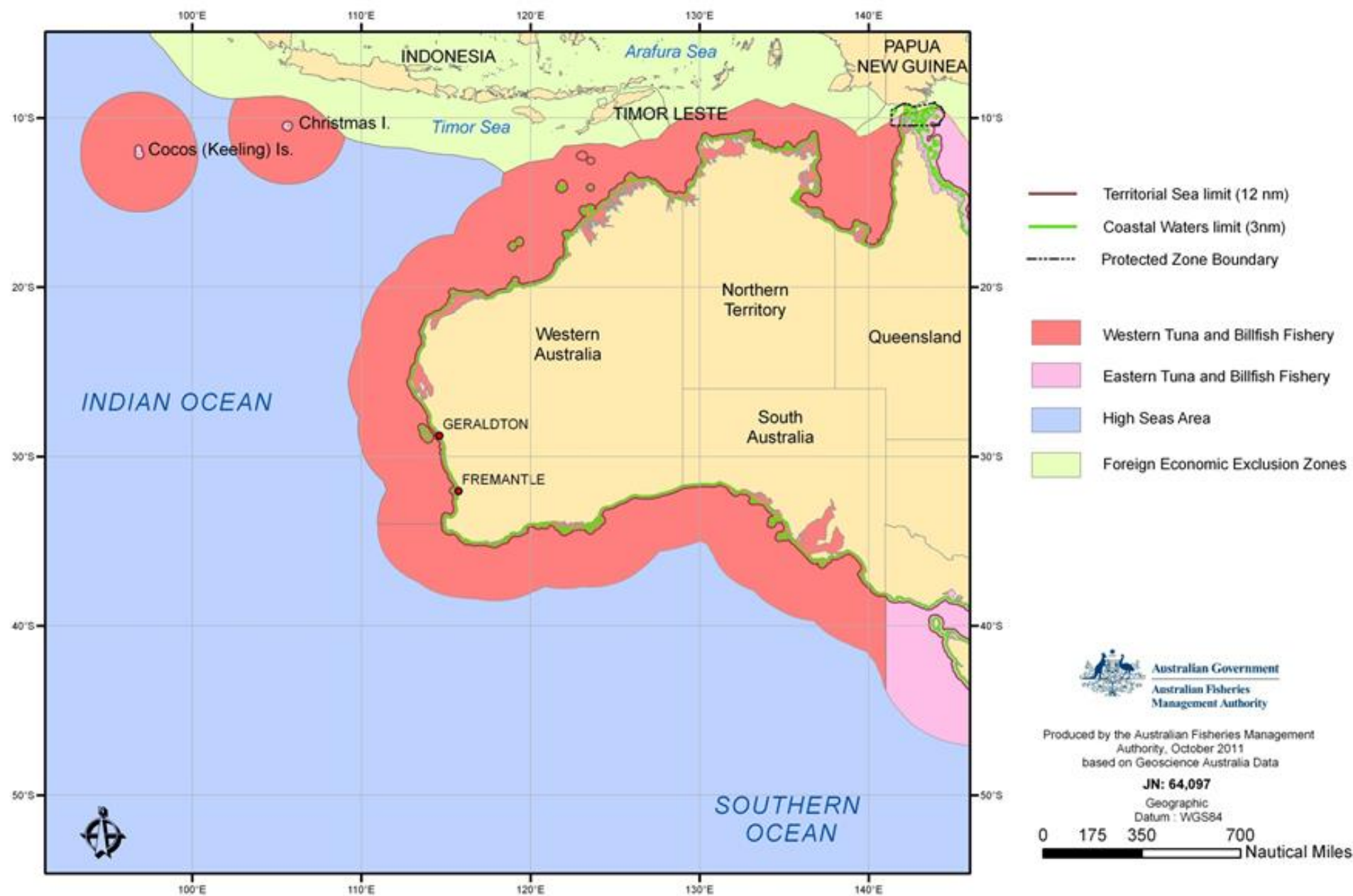


Figure 4: North-west Marine Parks Network

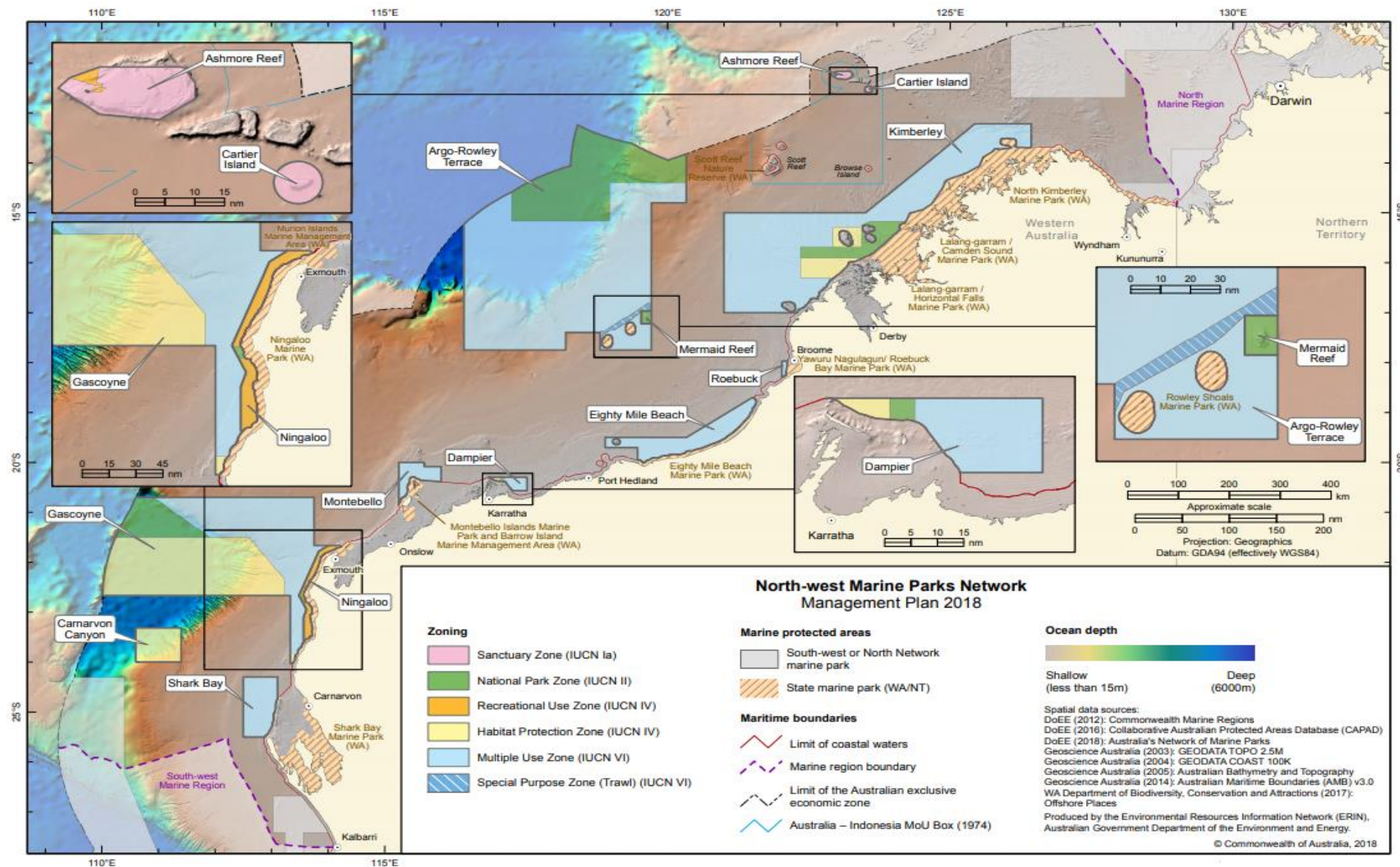


Figure 5: South-west Marine Parks Network

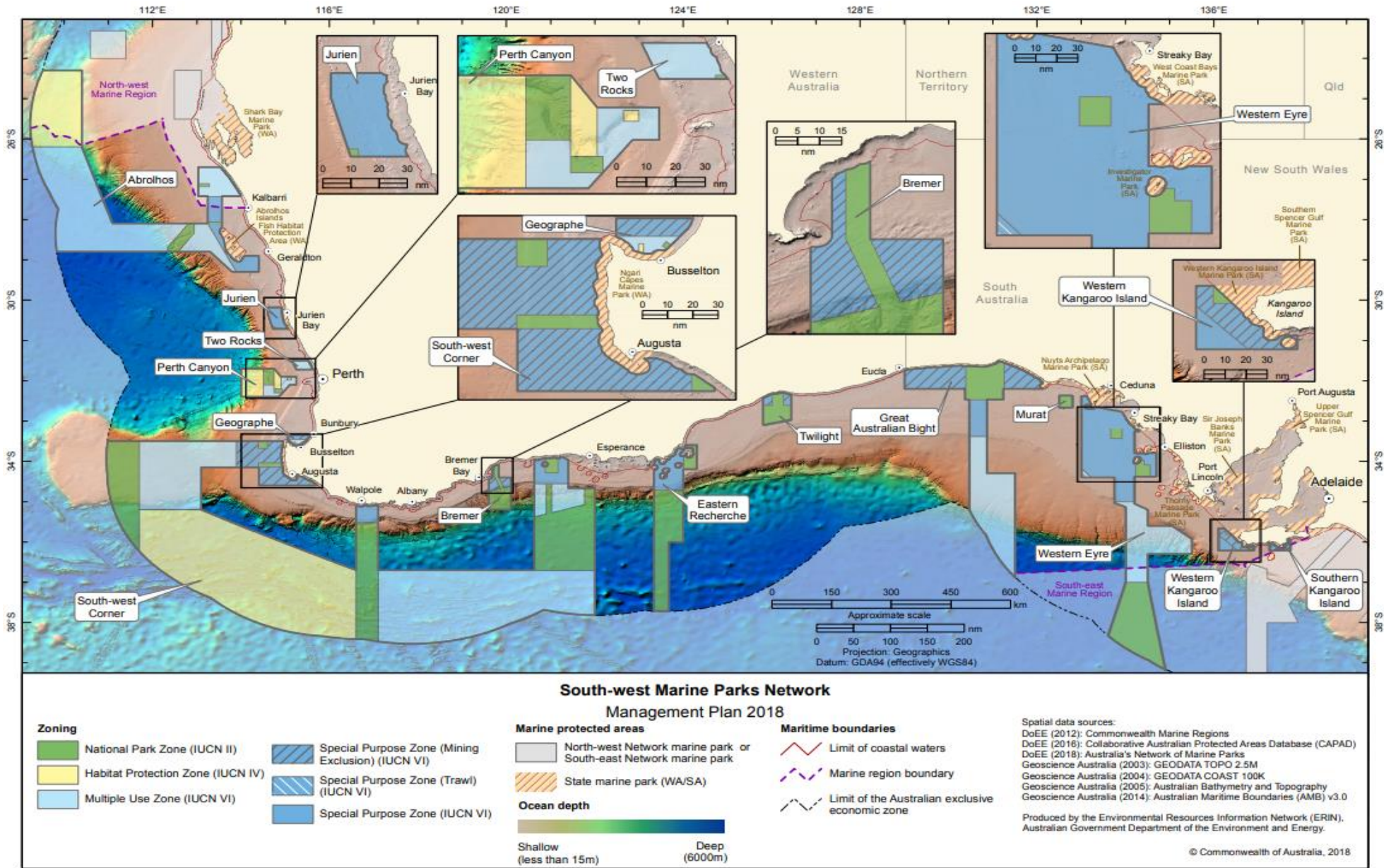
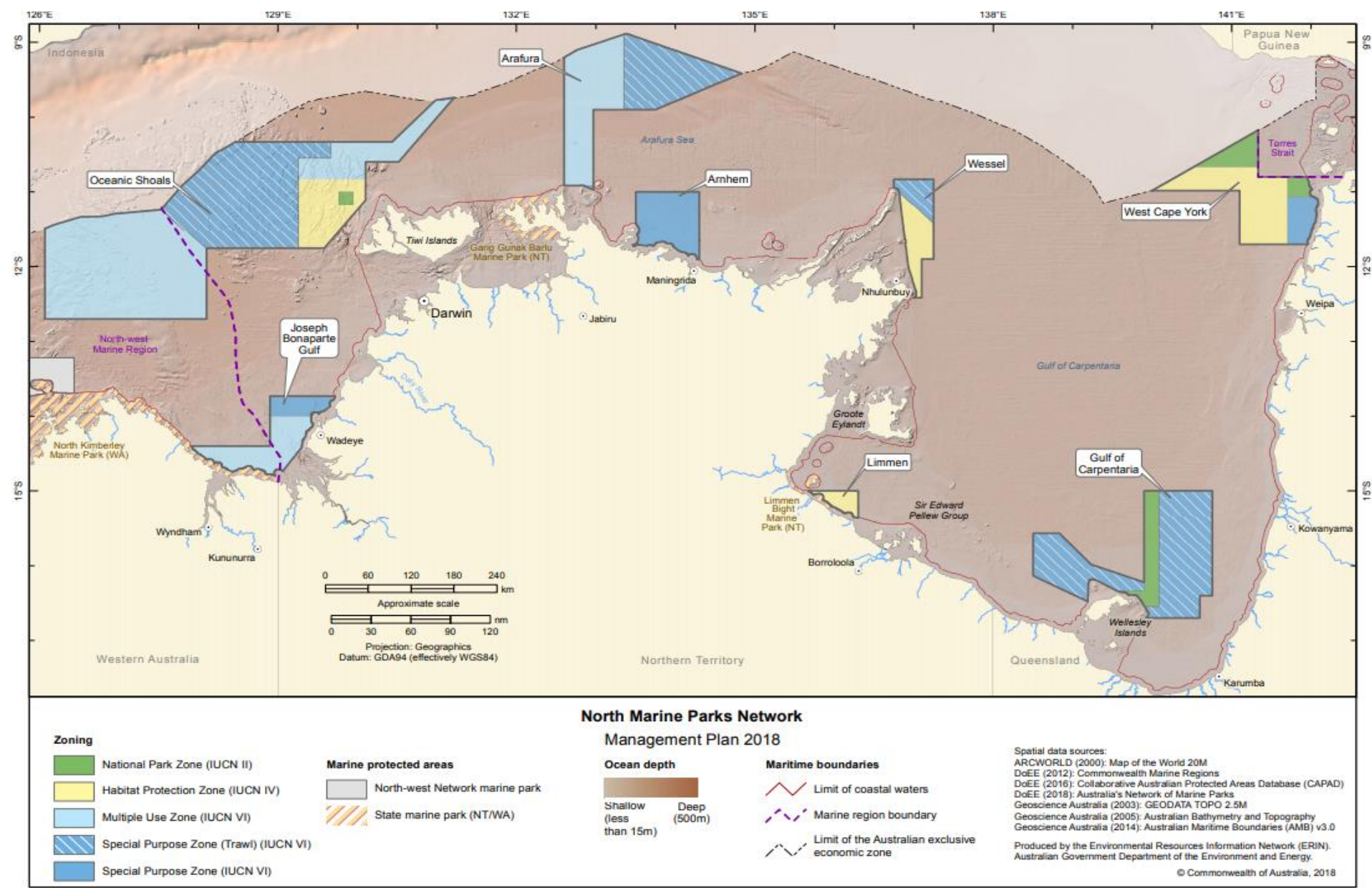


Figure 6: North Marine Parks Network



Attachment A: Tori lines – information to assist in design and implementation

The following document is a collaboration between AFMA, Tuna Australia and known seabird mitigation experts to support best practice in tori line construction and performance. AFMA encourages you to use the information provided in this document to guide your thinking about tori line construction and performance and work with AFMA and Tuna Australia if you have any ideas about how to improve Tori line performance.

Minimum Requirements

According to permit conditions all WTBF longline vessels **must** carry on board **more than one** tori line, with a minimum of one deployed during gear setting, and one maintained as a spare (in case of breakage or if operators wish to deploy paired tori lines).

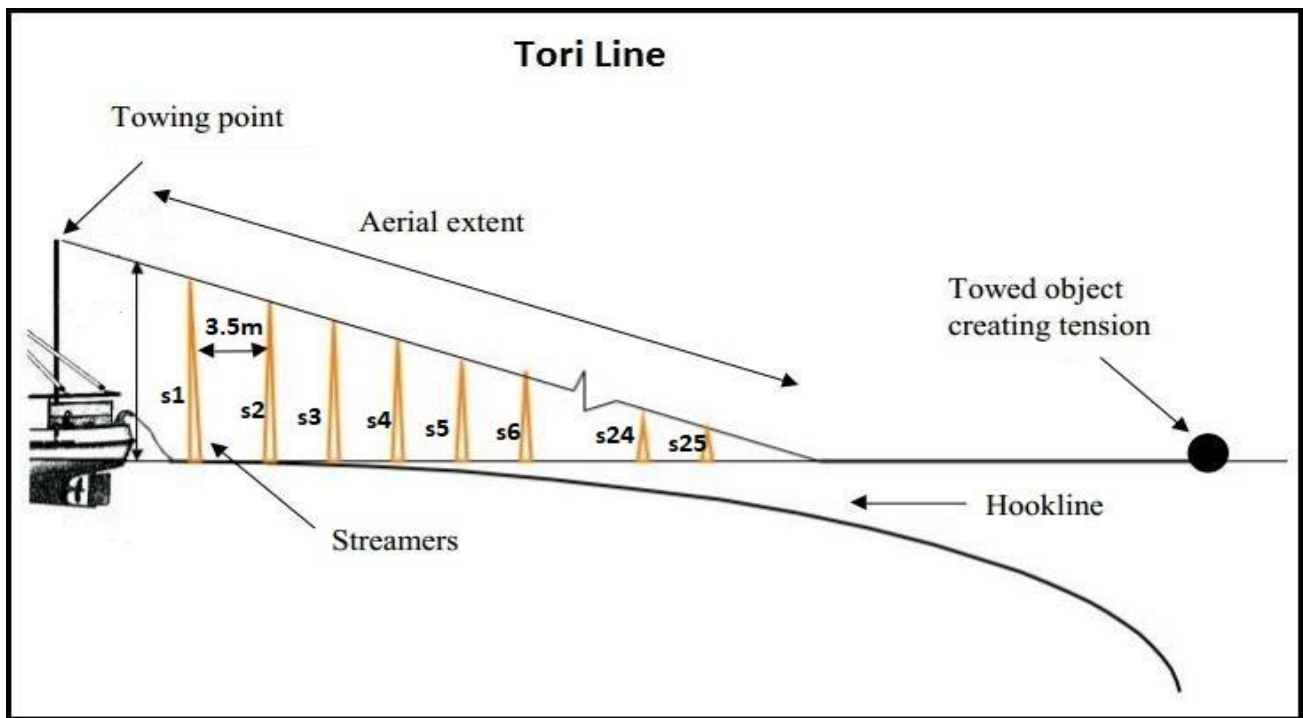
Each tori line must:

- be **fully constructed** in a form ready to deploy.
- be deployed from a position on board the boat and utilise a towed drogue so that the tori line remains above the water surface for a **minimum of 75 metres**² from the stern of the boat; A drogue is defined as any object or material attached to the end of the tori line to increase drag sufficiently to achieve the required aerial coverage.
- have streamers attached to it with a maximum interval between the streamers of 3.5 metres;
- have streamers maintained to ensure their lengths are as close to the water surface as possible.

Tori lines **must be deployed** prior to longlines entering the water and at each point where hooks enter the water. The only exceptions to this are if you are:

- fishing north of the parallel of latitude 25 degrees South
- performing fishing operations between the hours of nautical dusk and nautical dawn

² For vessels under 35m. For vessels 35m or over the requirement is 100m. (IOTC Resolution 12/06 & ACAP Best Practice advice).



Tori Line information

A tori line should comprise the following elements:

1. **Backbone** – the line itself suspended above the water for at least 75 meters² from the stern, from which streamers hang.
2. **Streamers** - single or paired and attached to the backbone and hanging down as close as possible to the water.
3. **Towed line or object (Drogue)** – an object, material or line attached to the end of the tori line backbone to create drag. This acts to raise and keep the shape of the tori line and attached streamers above the water behind the boat and keeps the tori line positioned above the area of longline hook deployment.
4. **Tori pole and attachment point** – the attachment point of the tori line to the boat. Using a pole to further elevate the tori line may be necessary to increase aerial extent behind the boat.

The aerial extent of a tori line (under calm conditions) is affected by a combination of the attachment height, the weight of the bird scaring portion of the line, and the drag provided by the in-water section of the line. Fishers will need to determine an attachment height that best suits operations. The basic underlying principle is the higher the point of attachment of your tori line, the greater your aerial extent will be.

For each of the tori line components listed above, there are different materials that can be used, and different design features or approaches to using them. Each have their own pros and cons, but as long as

your tori line can meet the 75m aerial extent and ensure streamers reach as close as possible to the water, there is some flexibility in what materials and design elements work best on your boat and for your crew.

The following sections provide information on each of the tori line components above, including possible materials for construction and where to source them.

1. Backbone

The backbone comprises the line component of the tori line suspended in the air above the water, spanning the attachment to the vessel and then to the water, and from which streamers are hung down to the water. For vessels under 35m, the backbone should be a minimum of 100m long, with at least 75m suspended above the water.

The ideal design is a backbone material that is:

- **Light**, to help increase aerial extent,
- **Strong**, to endure the significant strain that can be exerted by the combination of drag material and sea conditions, and;
- **Doesn't cause hook-ups** on the longline gear being deployed.
- **Colourful** and visible to seabirds (orange is highly visible to some seabirds and contrasts well with the water)

One of the materials that best met these criteria in a recent longline fishery trial was **Dyneema spearfishing line** (an example being Dyneema 2mm). This material is being trialled by a vessel in the ETBF and the initial feedback is positive.

Various materials are used by WTBF operators for the tori line backbones. Some common materials are listed below and the pros and cons of each are provided for your information. **Whatever you choose to use as a backbone material, ensure it is strong, light and visible.**

Line type	Pro's	Con's
Spearfishing reel line (e.g. Dyneema 2mm)	Generally lighter than traditional ropes to help increase aerial extent of tori line. Strong, long lasting. High visibility colours (e.g. orange). Very tightly woven so less prone to hook ups with gear than rope options	Higher cost than rope or monoline
Monoline	Readily available, less prone to hook ups with gear. Strong. Moderately cheap.	Heavier (so more difficult to achieve aerial coverage). More stretch than rope or spearfishing line. Less visible. Difficult to retrieve, coil and store in a bin (Requires a reel).

Traditional rope	Readily available, cheap, and low stretch.	Not long lasting, heavier than spear fishing line, harder to handle, and can be much more prone to hook ups with gear.
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2. Streamers

Streamers are the primary “bird deterrent” component of the tori line that are intended to deter seabirds for accessing baited hooks underneath. The key features of good streamer set-up are:

- Length – the streamers must hang down to reach as close to the water surface as possible
- Colour – the streamers should be a bright colour that contrasts well with the water (e.g. orange, yellow, fluoro green) and visible to birds
- Light weight – to help maximise the aerial extent of the tori line
- A material that doesn’t hook up / catch on deployed longline gear (or tears when it does)

Depending on the backbone they can be permanently attached or clipped on at the point of deployment.

Recent trials in the longline fishery in New Zealand determined that suitable materials included:

- Beautori line rubber tubing
- Kraton rubber tubing

A number of boats in the ETBF are currently trialling these streamer materials. Plastic pallet strapping is another alternative being trialled to good effect. Tuna Australia can assist you in sourcing these materials.

Attaching streamers to the backbone can be done in a number of ways. Again, the weight of the attachment mechanism should be considered relative to its function. For example:

- Some ETBF operators attach streamers on to swivels built into or attached to the backbone. This reduces the amount of tangling of streamers on the backbone – but does add some weight – which may affect aerial extent.
- Zip ties or crimps – less weighty – but more likely to have streamer tangles
- Clipping streamers on with small shark clips – however this adds significant weight and reduces aerial extent.
- Consider adding additional shorter streamers (e.g. using plastic pallet strapping) in between the mandatory streamers to increase visibility.

AFMA and Tuna Australia are discussing alternate (and lighter) streamer configurations with seabird mitigation experts and will provide an update if recommended specifications change.

Streamer spacings and lengths

The following table provides guidance in relation to streamer lengths and spacings that your tori line will require, depending on the attachment height of the tori line to your vessel.

NOTE - This is a rough guide only and you will need to fine tune the lengths of your streamers to ensure they are **just touching** the water. Fine tuning is needed because streamer lengths is impacted by factors such as backbone and streamer weights, which cause different amounts of sag, as will the effectiveness of the drogue/towed material.

The table below describes how long a streamer should be at a set point on the tori line, depending on the attachment point height above sea level, and the distance from the tori pole. Streamer numbers go from 1-25, with s1 being the closest to the tori pole. You can see this numbering system in the tori line diagram on the previous page. If your tori pole is exactly at the stern, you would start with s1. If your tori pole is set back from the stern, you might not attach streamers until the line is over the water, at s2 or s3. For example, if your tori line is attached 7m above sea level in calm conditions, and the tori pole is 6m back from the stern, the first streamer would be at s2 (7m from the attachment point), and 6.45m long. The next streamer would be s3 (10.5m from the attachment point), and it would be 6.18m long.

Streamer Number	Distance from attachment point (m)	Attachment height		
		6m	7m	7.5m
		Streamer length (m)		
s1	3.5	5.76	6.72	7.2
s2	7	5.53	6.45	6.91
s3	10.5	5.3	6.18	6.62
s4	14	5.06	5.9	6.33
s5	17.5	4.83	5.63	6.04
s6	21	4.59	5.36	5.74
s7	24.5	4.36	5.09	5.45
s8	28	4.13	4.82	5.16
s9	31.5	3.89	4.54	4.87
s10	35	3.66	4.27	4.58
s11	38.5	3.43	4	4.29
s12	42	3.19	3.73	3.99
s13	45.5	2.97	3.46	3.7

s14	49	2.73	3.18	3.41
s15	52.5	2.49	2.91	3.12
s16	56	2.26	2.64	2.83
s17	59.5	2.03	2.37	2.54
s18	63	1.79	2.09	2.24
s19	66.5	1.56	1.82	1.95
s20	70	1.33	1.55	1.66
s21	73.5	1.09	1.28	1.37
s22	77	0.86	1.01	1.08
s23	80.5	0.63	0.73	0.79
s24	84	0.39	0.46	0.49
s25	87.5	0.17	0.19	0.2

Please note that the attachment heights are meters above the sea surface, not just above the deck.

3. Towed line or object

To achieve the required aerial extent of the tori line it is necessary to attach additional in-water towed line, material, or object (drogue) to the end of the tori line backbone to create drag and lift.

Experience indicates that towing a solid object can create the required drag but can cause significant problems in hooking up on longline hooks or beacons and floats, creating often unacceptable operational problems and delays for fishers.

Drag created through the attachment of sufficiently long lengths (>200m) of towed line works well. In doing this there are two key considerations:

- Line type
- Line length

There are a range of line types that have been used in the fishery from monoline, rope (tarred and untarred), dyneema and other options. The key consideration is a line type that has the least likelihood of

catching on hooks and beacons. In this regard, some braided ropes may not be appropriate. Smooth or tightly woven line materials that hooks are likely to slide along or off are best.

Once you have a material that minimises hook-ups, you will need to determine what length is sufficient to create the drag needed to provide the tori line with at least 75m aerial extent. Potentially this can be hundreds of meters (e.g. 200 – 400 m) of line.

In deploying such long lengths of line, it may be difficult to retrieve the line by hand and may require backing the boat down the line or utilising a manual reel or electric winch. Installing a connection point at the end of the tori line will assist in separating the tori line from anchoring system for easier retrieval onto a hose reel or similar. Consider wrapping the connection point with electrical tape or similar to remove this as a potential hook up point.

Note - It may also be necessary to have different towing/drag options to suit different sea conditions. The drogue should be able to be changed to a heavier or lighter system in response to prevailing conditions. Previous trials have shown that heavier sea states require more weight on the end of the system in order to maintain the shape of the tori line.

4. Other design features

Other design features currently used by fishers include:

Breakaway pressure release clips or tear points – to release the tori line from the vessel if there is a hook up on the longline gear. Multiple breakaway points are recommended; between the tori line backbone and vessel, between tori line backbone and drogue rope, between drogue rope and towed object (if present).

A recovery rope can be considered (a rope attaching the tori pole to the backbone), to allow recovery if the pressure clip releases on a hook-up. Consider breakaway points as potential places for hooks to catch on.

1. **Adjustable tori line position** – tori lines should be placed slightly leeward of baited hooks to prevent entanglements with branch lines. In crosswinds, the attachment point and backbone of the tori line should be adjusted to leeward in such a way that foraging birds, which typically approach from windward, are deterred from attacking baited hooks. AFMA and Tuna Australia are seeking advice on systems that allow this positional change and will communicate findings to industry shortly.
2. **Storage** – finding a suitable storage solution when not in use is an operational consideration. Using a standard hose reel may damage the streamers over time, rendering the tori line ineffective. Some operators use large plastic blue drums which allow the tori line to be stored in looser coils, but this may not be practical if your towed material of choice is several hundred meters of mono.

5. Other things you can do to reduce seabird bycatch

ETBF skippers and crew members have identified a range of additional measures that can further reduce the likelihood of catching a seabird. For example, on fishing trips where the vessel is operating in an area with many seabirds and/or the birds present are exhibiting diving/bait attacking behaviour:

- **Bait deployment** – ensure that baited hooks are distributed into an area facilitating fast sinking of bait (i.e. prop wash is not bringing bait to surface)
- **Voluntary night setting** – voluntarily set the gear at night until the abundance of seabirds is reduced or absent
- **Voluntary relocation** – decide to move fishing location, potentially by steaming to a separate location overnight to reduce seabird following
- **Deploy two tori lines** - increase coverage to prevent seabirds attacking baits. This may only be feasible in calm conditions (as winds may cause lines to tangle).
- **Slow the vessel longline setting speed down** - reduce tension on the mainline and allow baits to sink more quickly or have more time to sink while under the tori line. This may require adding drag to the towed section to ensure aerial extent is maintained.
- **Hook live baits in-front of the top dorsal fin (rather in the mid back) or in the mouth** – influences the downwards swimming direction of live bait and reduces exposure of baited hooks to seabirds at the surface. AFMA and Tuna Australia may look to investigate this idea further via trials.