

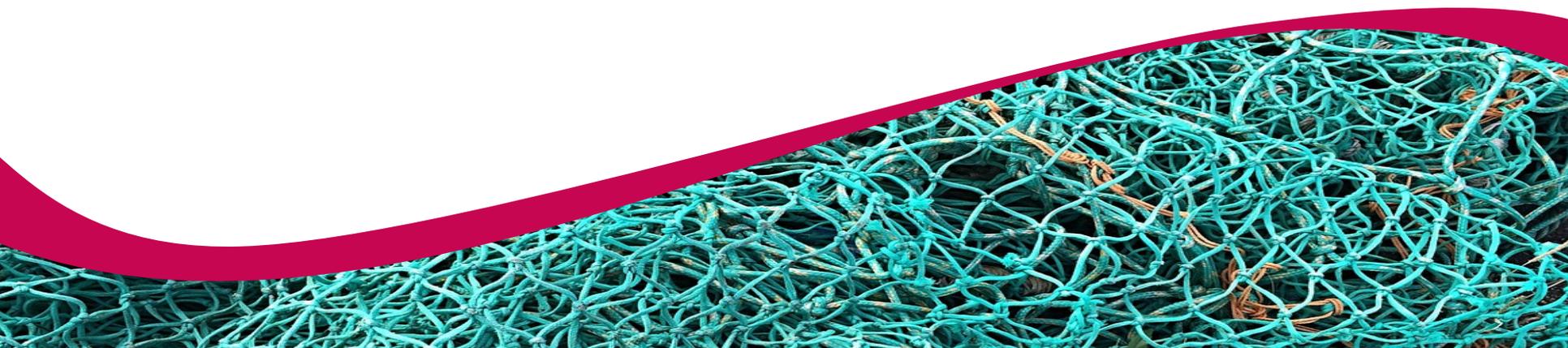


Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Annual Public Meeting

8 March 2023



AFMA acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country.

We recognise their connection to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and their Elders, past, present and emerging.

This Annual Public Meeting will be audio and video recorded using Microsoft Teams for information purposes.

AFMA may edit and/or publish the recording on its public website. By continuing to be in this meeting, it is assumed you have provided AFMA with your consent to be recorded (audio and video) and for the recording to be published on AFMA's public website.

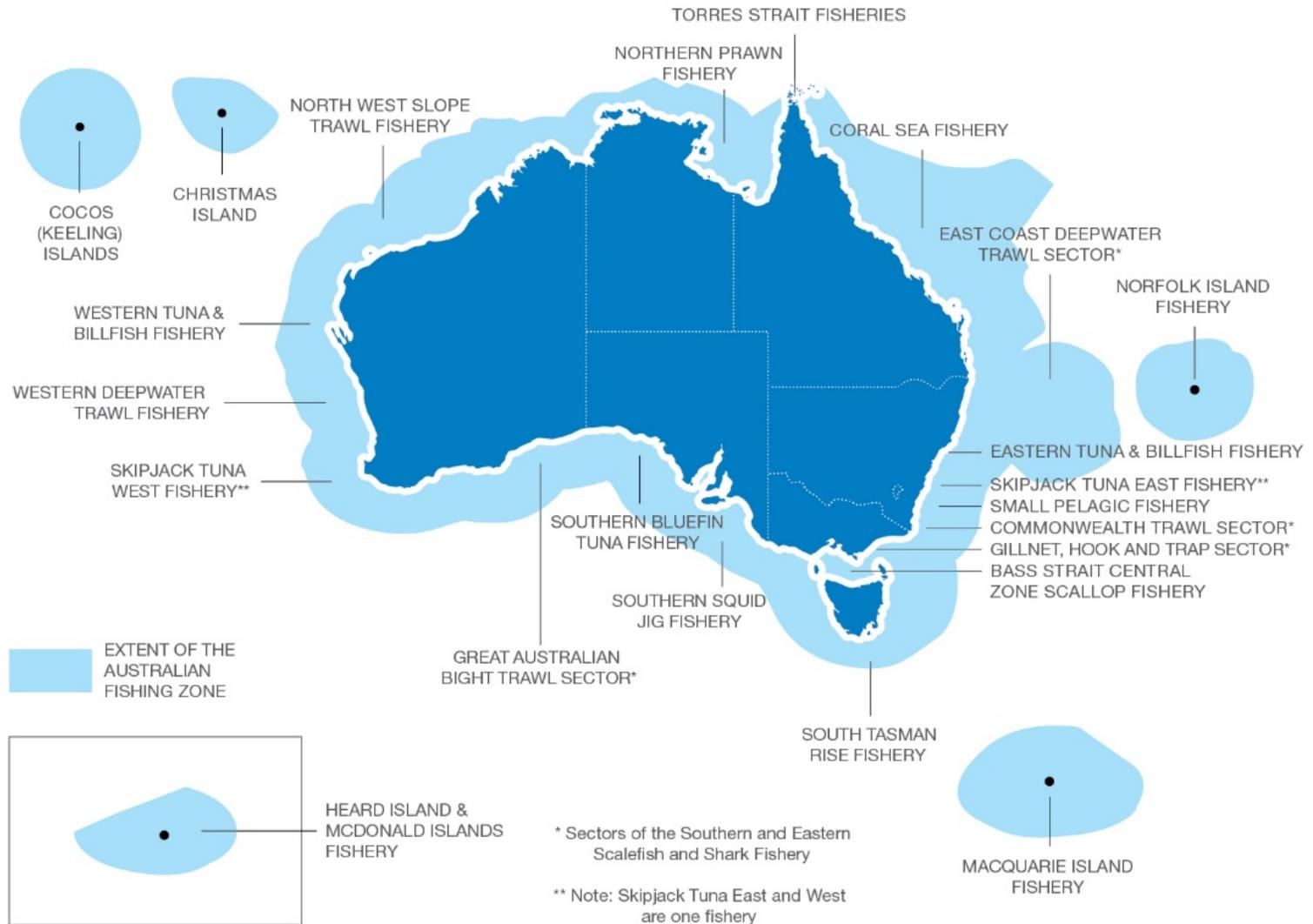
Alternatively, you have the option to participate in the meeting without having your image or voice recorded by disabling the video and audio functions.

You may also ask questions or make comments by typing in the chat box.

At a glance

- AFMA is the regulatory authority for Australia's Commonwealth fisheries.
- "Commonwealth" generally means from 3 nautical miles to the edge of the EEZ, plus high seas fishing
- OCS arrangements with States/NT
- 170 total staff (as at 28 February 2023) in:
 - Four offices (146 staff)
 - Observers (24 staff)





Status of fisheries

FIGURE 1.3 Fishing mortality status (number of stocks), 2004 to 2021

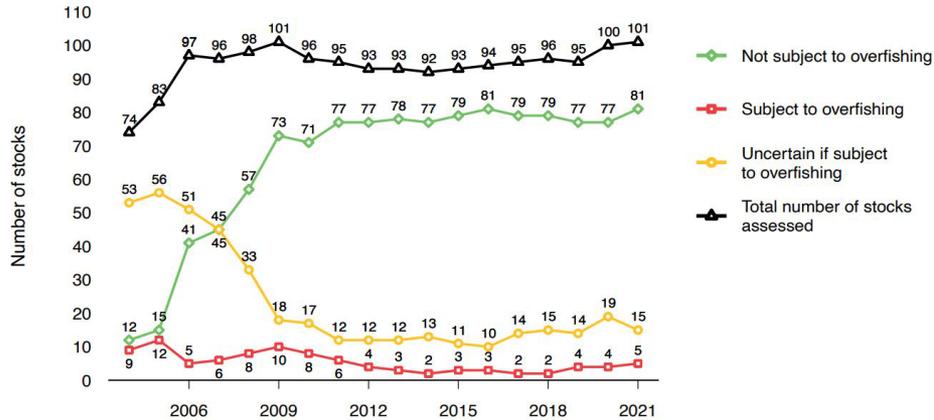


FIGURE 1.4 Biomass status (number of stocks), 2004 to 2021

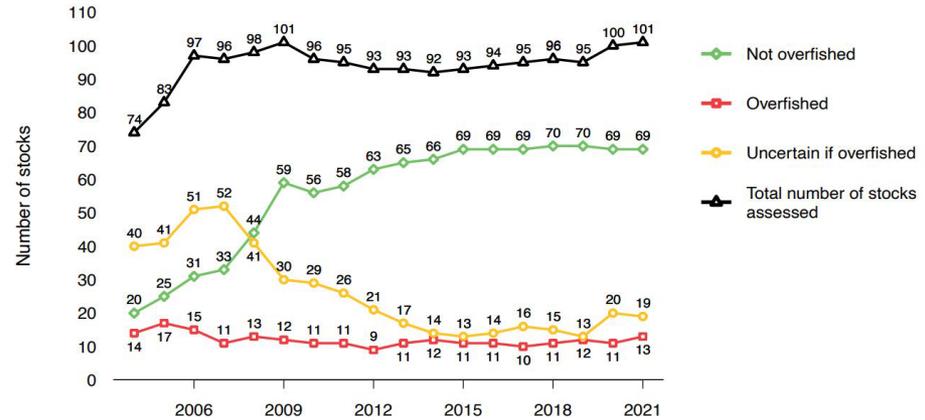
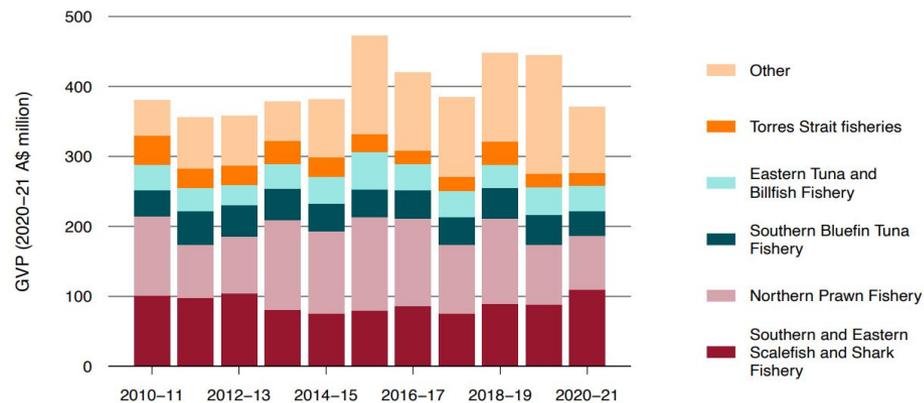


FIGURE 1.5 Gross value of production of fisheries managed solely or jointly by the Australian Government, 2010-11 to 2020-21



Notes: GVP Gross value of production.

AFMA: The Commission, and legislated objectives

- Independent Commission responsible for domestic fisheries management.
- Commissioners are expertise-based – fisheries management, recreational or indigenous matters, science, economics, natural resource management, governance, business and public policy.

“must pursue” Objectives:

- efficient and cost-effective fisheries management
- ecologically sustainable development
- maximise net economic returns
- accountability to the fishing industry and community
- compliance with international agreements in EEZ and high seas
- achieve government targets in relation to the recovery of AFMA’s costs.

AFMA: a Commission and legislated objectives

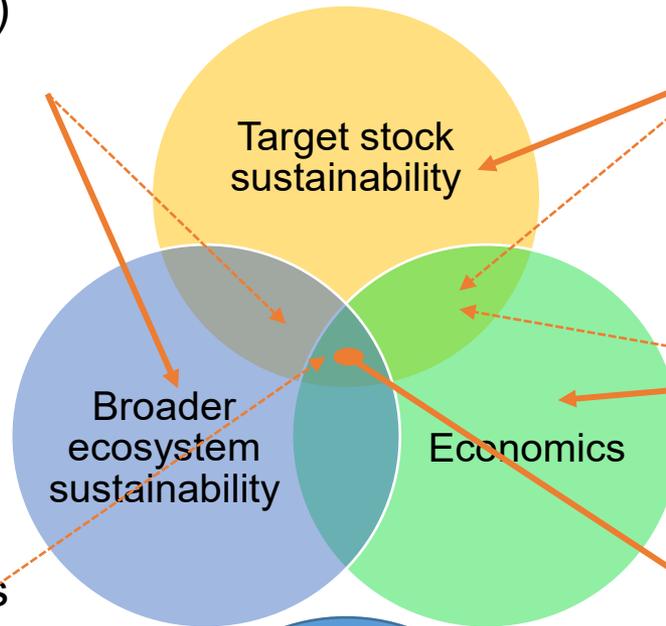
“have regard to” Objectives:

- accounting for commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers' interests
- living resources not endangered by over-exploitation
- optimum utilisation of living resources

Policy environment

Bycatch policy (minimise)
ERAs
Issue-specific mitigation strategies (TEPs)

Harvest strategy policy
– TAC Setting
ITQs (generally)
Technical measures



Monitoring NER
Developing indicators

Cost Recovery Guidelines
CRIS
PGPA

MACs and RAGs
Commission-industry
Senate estimates
Annual reporting

The impacts of climate change

A changing climate is having significant impacts on marine ecosystems and fisheries worldwide. All Commonwealth fisheries contain valuable species that are sensitive to climate change.

We have invested in a number of projects to build our understanding of climate change impacts on Commonwealth fisheries.

The AFMA Climate Adaptation Program is:

- Integrating information and research on climate impacts into decision-making processes, including RAGs, MACs and the Commission
- Using the Climate Change Adaptation Handbook to identify adaptation options, in consultation with industry and stakeholders,
- Developing management responses to climate impacts, and feeding climate considerations into policy and legislative reviews

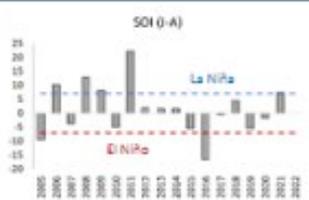
Draft Example



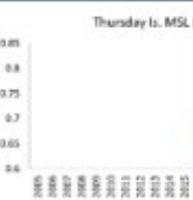
Indicators



2022 was another La Niña year



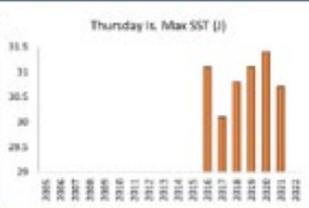
Southern Oscillation Index was 12.2 over the wet season



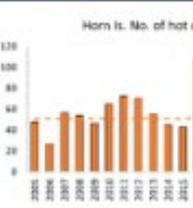
Min. Mean Sea Level was down from previous year



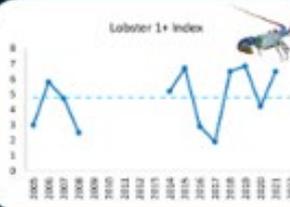
Wind...



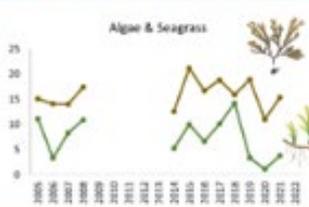
Max. sea surface temperature (°C) in January was similar to 2021



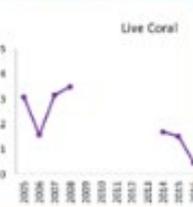
Number of hot days was above the average



Lobster 1+ index was above the long-term average



Algae & seagrass (% cover) both up from 2020



Coral (% cover) continues to increase since 2018

Fishers' Observations

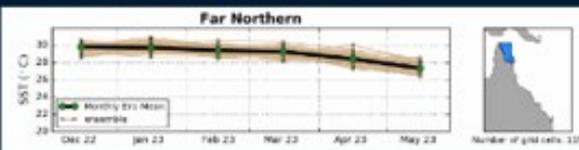
- Unusual movement of Kaiar in the Eastern islands (around Erub), with movement heading towards the Central islands (Poruma) since the start of the season.
- For the last three years, Kuki (north west winds) have come late (January/February) but this year Kuki is early with wind & rains having started in November.
- A number of double skin/soft Kaiar seen
- Lots of small Kaiar on the reef top
- A lot of fine white sand moving around, more than normal, covering the bottom including

Securing Australia's fishing future

Draft Example

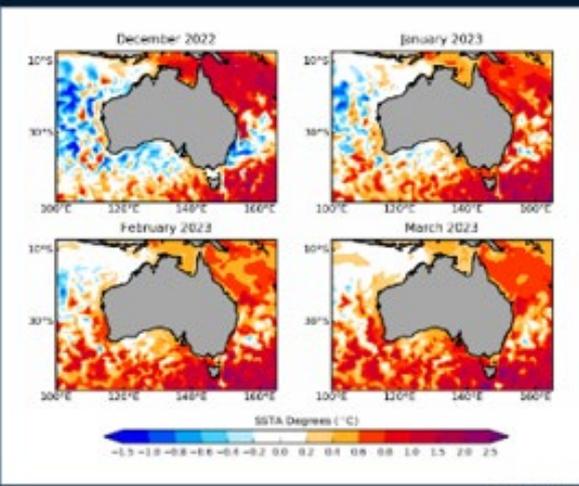


Seasonal Forecasts



Sea surface temperature

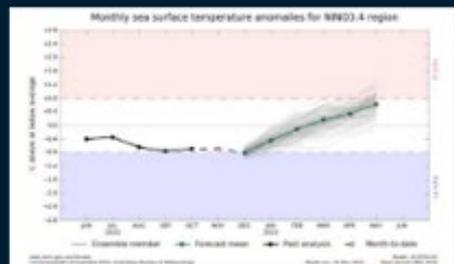
Water temperatures for the northern Great Barrier Reef (closest to Torres Strait) are forecast to be about 30 °C in December 2022 and January 2023, decreasing to approximately 27 °C by May 2023.



Between December 2022 and March 2023, water temperatures will be between 0.2 – 1.5 °C above the long-term average water temperature.

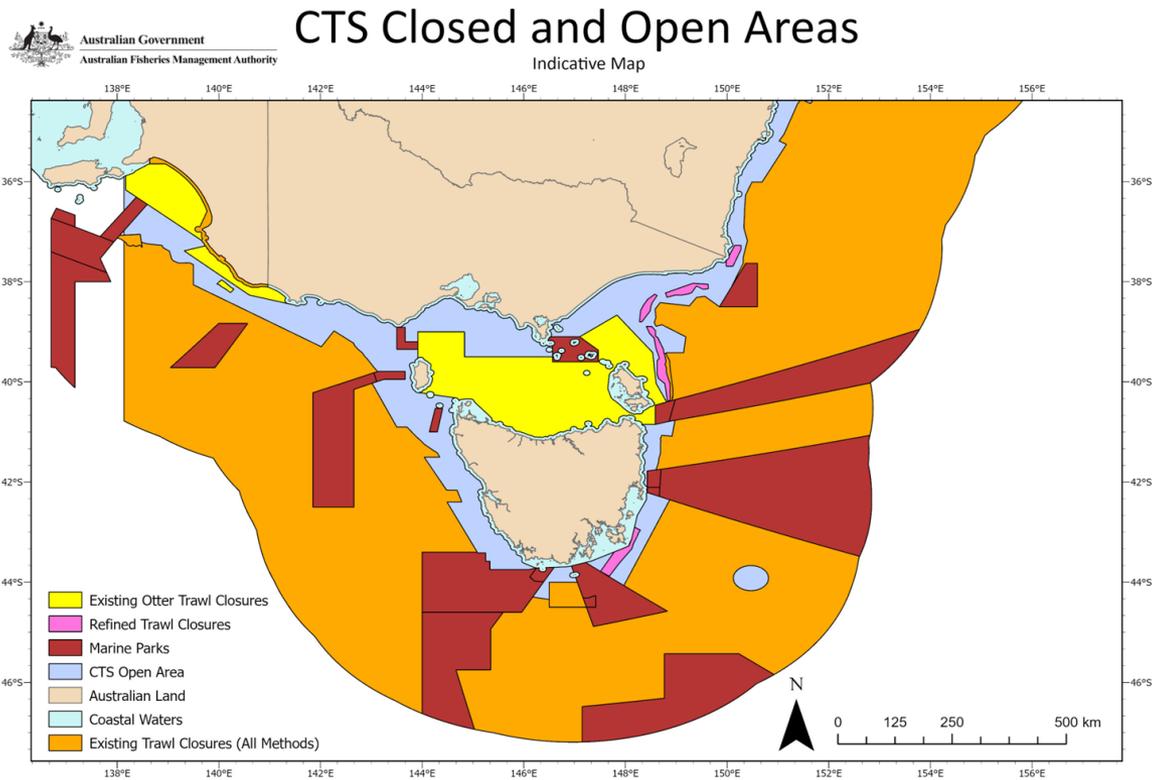
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is forecast to remain in a La Niña phase during December 2022 and return to ENSO-neutral values during January or February 2023. A La Niña phase typically produces wetter years.



Further Information:

Spatial squeeze

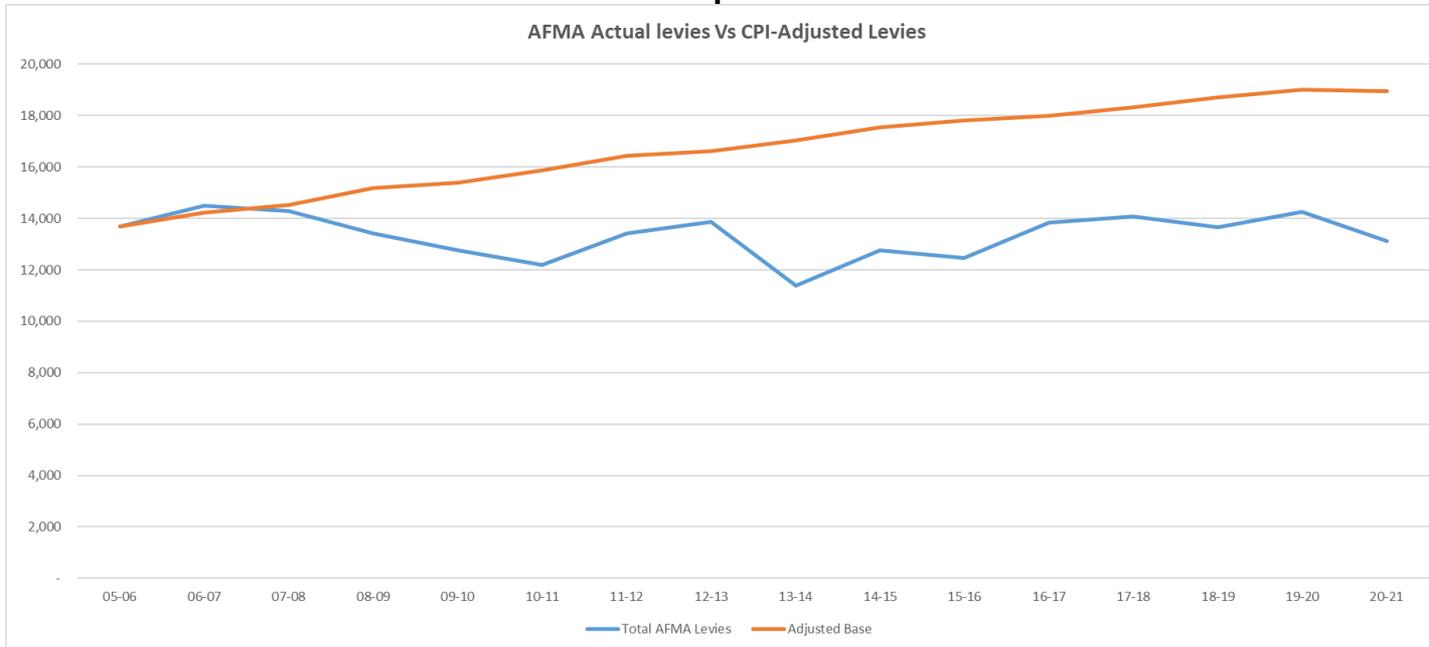


AFMA management costs

Total budget ≈ \$41 million

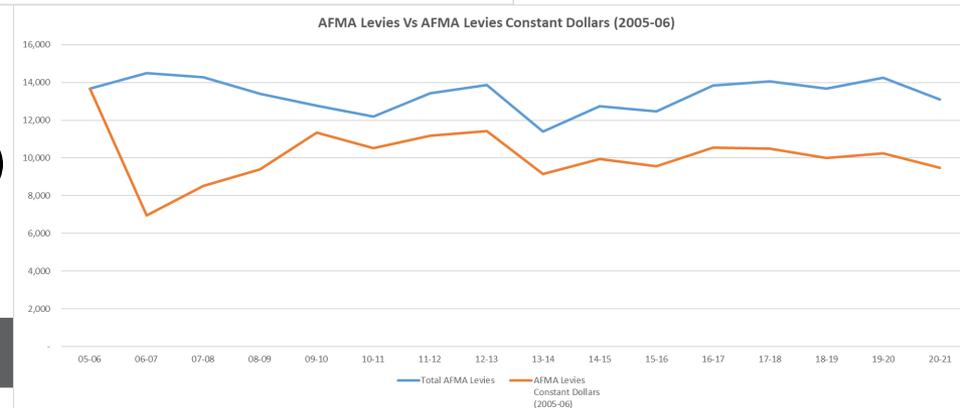
Levy ≈ \$14 million

AFMA committed to keep levies below the 2005-06 level once adjusted.



Cumulatively outperformed benchmark by more than \$52 million.

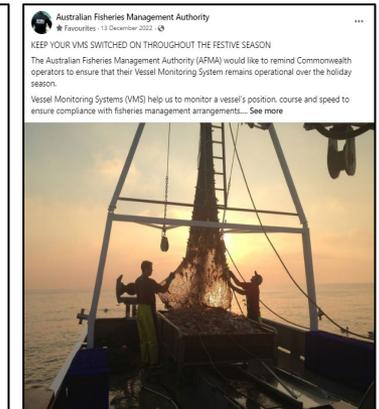
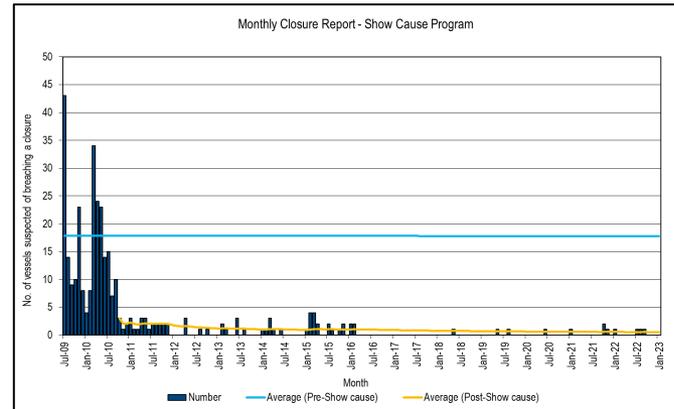
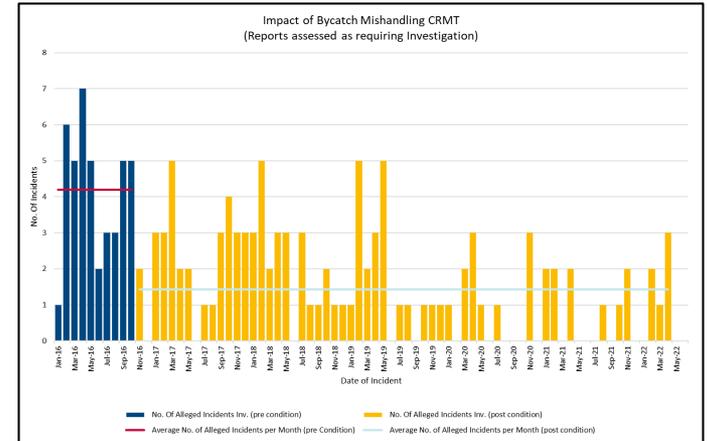
In constant dollar terms, AFMA levies are now \$5.8 million (42%) lower than 2005-06.



National Compliance and Enforcement Program

To **deter illegal fishing** in Commonwealth fisheries and the Australian Fishing Zone, we use a **risk based** program that comprises of:

- Communication and education
- General deterrence
- Targeted risks
- Maintenance of previously targeted risks



International Compliance and Engagement Program

 Australian Fisheries Management Authority
19 December 2022 · 🌐

PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN - ROTE, INDONESIA

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority, in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, delivered a joint public information campaign (PIC) in Rote, Indonesia from 30 November to 1 December 2022.

The PIC was attended by 296 Indonesian fishers, as well as local government officials and members of the broader fishing community. Its aim was to increase fishers' awareness about the consequences of illegal fishing.

Workshops were held in the ports of Papela and Ba'a, and featured presentations focussing on maritime boundaries and encouraging fishers to make better choices to minimise environmental damage and risks to personal safety.

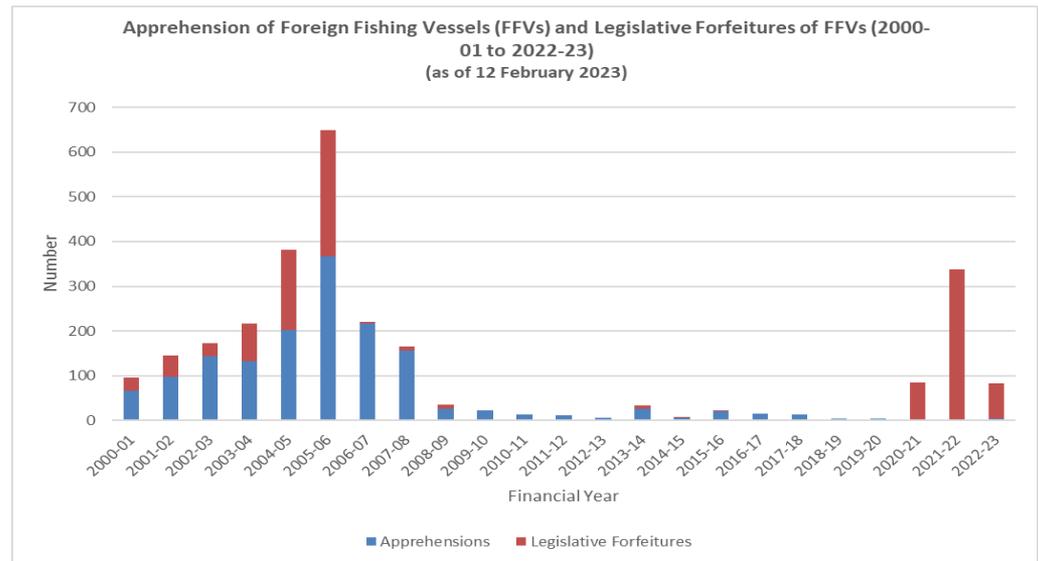
You can find more information in our article <https://www.afma.gov.au/.../public-information-campaign...> or on our <https://www.afma.gov.au/illegal-unreported-unregulated...> webpage.



A multifaceted program to combat **international** Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

Program includes:

- effective **enforcement** and **monitoring**
- regional **cooperation**
- **diplomatic** representations
- **International engagement** measures (**capacity building, education and outreach** programs).



Independent monitoring

Observer Program:

- 24 AFMA observers placed on domestic and, if required, foreign boats to collect reliable, verified and accurate information on the fishing catch, effort and practice — feeds into management.
- Around 2,150 days at sea per year (focused in the Southern Ocean).
- Most observers have a marine / fisheries science or commercial fishing background
- Additional training in sampling techniques including the collection of otoliths (fish ear bones) and biological samples such as the sex and length of a fish.

Independent monitoring

Electronic Monitoring Program:

- Over 90 per cent coverage of fishing on 75 vessels in 4 fisheries, minimum 10 per cent audit rate
- We are moving to a standards based EM program to increase the flexibility and adaptability of the tool to meet fishery specific data needs
- Expand the tool where needed across other Commonwealth fisheries to meet specific data needs
- Consideration of greater integration with tools such as e-logbooks
- Working nationally and internationally on EM program development.

Stakeholder engagement

2021 AFMA Stakeholder Perceptions survey:

AFMA committed to undertaking a stakeholder survey every two years under its framework for self-assessment.

The objectives of the research were to measure overall stakeholder satisfaction with AFMA's performance and performance in the following domains:

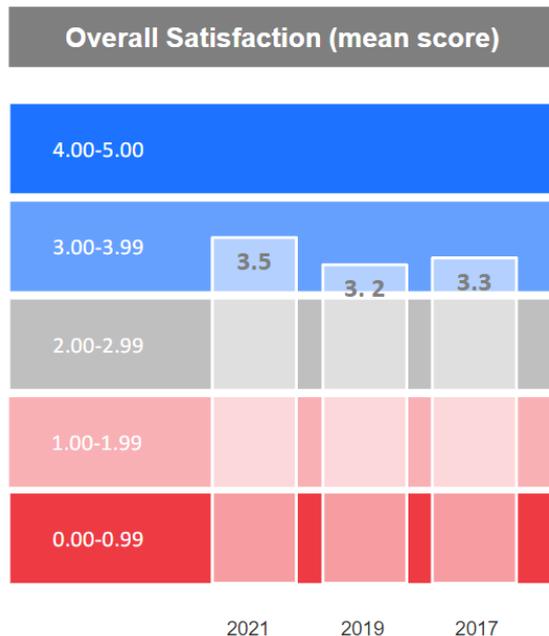
- Overall stakeholder satisfaction
- AFMA's decision making
- Service delivery
- AFMA's domestic compliance program
- AFMA's communication and consultation with its stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement

2021 AFMA Stakeholder Perceptions survey

- Stakeholders' satisfaction with AFMA's current performance has grown slightly since 2019, with a mean score of 3.5 recorded, and over three in five stakeholders (62%) either satisfied or very satisfied with AFMA.
- In 2021, confidence in AFMA's ability to detect instances of non-compliance has significantly increased and returned to 2017 levels.

Overall satisfaction with AFMA's Performance



Confidence in AFMA's compliance and enforcement activities



Looking ahead

