



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Letter of transmittal

22 September 2023

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

Dear Minister

We have pleasure in presenting to you the annual report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with all obligations under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PGPA)*, *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* and the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

During 2022–23, AFMA continued to deliver regulatory and management services to Australian fisheries operators and the broader community. This has ensured sustainable and profitable Commonwealth fisheries that contributed approximately \$400 million in gross value of production. Compliance activities by AFMA officers helped ensure that these valuable and sustainable fish resources were not undermined by illegal fishing. AFMA has altered its management approach to minimise unacceptable impacts of Commonwealth fisheries on marine ecosystems and organisms and has recognised that AFMA cannot mitigate some environmental trends.

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

- prepared fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans
- put in place appropriate fraud prevention, detection, investigation, recording or reporting mechanisms that meet the specific needs of the agency, and
- taken all reasonable measures to appropriately deal with fraud relating to the agency.

We give you this annual report, which has been prepared for the purposes of section 46 of the PGPA Act, to present to the Parliament.

Yours sincerely



Helen Kroger
Chair



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

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User guide

This report provides details of the operations and performance of AFMA for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, as forecast in the *Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio Budget Statements 2022–23* and the *AFMA Corporate Plan 2022–25*.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Government requirements. It addresses all applicable obligations under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*; and annual reporting requirements set out in the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*, the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and other relevant legislation.

Review by Chair and CEO

The review by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer looks at AFMA's key achievements in 2022–23, and an outlook for 2023–24.

Overview of AFMA

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

Annual performance statement

Details AFMA's Annual Performance Statement 2022–23 explaining our major objectives, performance results and an analysis of those results.

This part also describes performance results in each fishery, including any significant changes to management arrangements and opportunities and challenges faced in meeting our performance objectives.

Report on financial performance

Consists of AFMA's financial statements for the 2022–23 financial year, as independently audited by the ANAO. These statements include financial performance, senior executive service (SES) remuneration, financial status, and cash flows during 2022–23.

Management and accountability

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

Appendices

Includes details of resource statements, employee statistics, key management personnel remuneration, and other management issues. The joint authority annual reports from the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and Queensland are also included in the appendices.

References

A list of annual report requirements as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Amendment (Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity Annual Reporting) Rule 2014* and the Resource Management Guide no 135 'Annual reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities' is provided at the end of the report. Also included is a list of abbreviations and acronyms, a glossary and an index.





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Review by Chair and CEO

Significant issues for us

The commercial fishing industry in Australia, including Commonwealth fisheries, is facing unprecedented challenges. These have significantly shaped the work of AFMA throughout 2022–23.

In response to climate change, the marine environment is changing more rapidly and more significantly than experienced in the past, and this is shifting species distribution, changing fish productivity, and altering habitats. In some cases, these changes are positive, supporting larger stocks than have been present in the past, but in most cases, the result is smaller and more vulnerable stocks. In a few cases, stock declines may occur even in the face of little or no fishing.

At the same time, competition between users of the marine estate is at an all-time high. In addition to AFMA's recently introduced spatial closures which have been implemented to enable rebuilding of some stocks, there has been offshore energy development, marine park reform and rezoning, oil and gas exploration and space launches that have or will directly affect the fishing industry.

Unless solutions can be found to enable co-existence, the increased demand for the marine estate from other users will continue to negatively impact the fishing industry's economic viability by limiting or removing access to some key fishing grounds. It may also pose increased ecological risk by compressing fishing effort into a smaller footprint and impede industry's ability to adapt to climate change.

Furthermore, several other economy-wide factors, including high fuel prices, labour shortages, high freight costs, high interest rates, and price inflation are impacting industry performance.

Inflation, growing stakeholder expectations, and reporting requirements lead to increasing complexity, requirements for engagement, and cost pressures within AFMA. In response, we have adapted our work to meet these challenges by exploring avenues for alternative and more efficient ways of doing business by using emerging technologies and reviewing policies and harvest strategies. We are promoting cross-jurisdictional collaboration and exploring further opportunities for co-management with industry.

Illegal foreign fishing is also a significant challenge for AFMA and poses a maritime security threat for the nation. This year saw a continuation of high incursion numbers by Indonesian fishing vessels in the north-west of the country, and a surge in illegal fishing by Papua New Guinea nationals in the Torres Strait. AFMA works within the whole-of-government maritime security infrastructure to address this risk, as well as working directly with Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and other regional partners.

Our performance and financial results

Our fisheries make a valuable contribution to the broader Australian community by providing employment, supporting economic development in regional areas, and generating export earnings. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production (GVP), that is the landed value of product, has been maintained at around \$400 million.

Ecologically sustainable development

The work AFMA started in 2021–22 to integrate climate impacts more strategically into the management of Commonwealth fisheries continued in 2022–23. More detail about climate impacts on fisheries is given in the outlook section below. However, given the rate of change in the marine environment, and in the space available to fisheries resulting from competing uses, it is becoming impossible to maintain the ecosystem at its historic state. The number of fish stocks that are expected to decline or not rebuild, even in the absence of fishing pressure, is expected to grow. While AFMA has already altered our management approach to minimise such results, and will continue to do so, it is recognised that some environmental trends extend well beyond AFMA's ability to mitigate.

During 2022–23, there was no change or increase in the number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment. The number of AFMA-only stocks assessed as 'subject to overfishing' remains low, noting that ABARES is considering whether a further two stocks—in addition to Jackass Morwong—should receive this classification in 2022.

Maximise net economic returns

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

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

ABARES provides commentary on likely and estimated NER trends in specific fisheries in its annual Fishery Status reports.

Compliance

AFMA has dedicated teams that monitor and investigate non-compliance by Australian fishers. The National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP) sets out AFMA's risk based, intelligence led compliance program targeting key threats to the sustainability of Commonwealth fisheries. The treatment of identified domestic compliance risks included boat inspections, fish receiver inspections, and vessel monitoring, though not at the planned rate.

The International Compliance and Engagement Program (ICEP) sets out Australia's multifaceted approach to responding to non-compliance by vessels from other countries that fish adjacent to Australia and those operating without authorisation inside Australian waters. International collaboration, including face-to-face fisheries meetings, resumed with the lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions. AFMA maintained greater than 90 per cent compliance with its international obligations as assessed by regional fisheries organisations.

Efficient, cost-effective, and accountable management

AFMA continues to meet its commitment to industry that it would keep costs recovered at or below the agreed rate. The levy amount to be collected for Commonwealth fisheries (excluding the Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) research component) in 2022–23 is \$12.861 million. This is a decrease of 7.3 per cent on the \$13.868 million levied in 2021–22. Levies decreased by \$0.9 million or seven per cent from prior year, primarily due to lower employee costs in 2021–22, which resulted in lower levies for 2022–23, and \$1.0 million levy relief for the South East Trawl sector.

AFMA's corporate overhead compared to total budget was 21 per cent, or four per cent below the target. The Commonwealth Fisheries Association was also satisfied that meaningful opportunity was given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting.

Over the past year, AFMA has continued work to offer more services digitally although information technology resourcing has impacted the pace of work. All fisheries have access to electronic logbooks (e-logs), electronic Catch Disposal Records (eCDRs), and eObserver, and the e-logs and eCDRs systems have been expanded to include new fishing methods.

Despite those efficiencies, AFMA faces ongoing budget pressure, especially when the growing challenge of how to monitor and manage changing ecosystems is added.

Outlook for the next reporting period

Our *Corporate Plan 2023–26* details how we expect our achievements against our purpose might be impacted.

Domestic fisheries management and enforcement

The outlook is continued significant competition for Australia’s marine estate from the offshore renewable energy sector (wind farm proposals), petroleum acreage release and seismic surveys, and consideration of new or expanded Marine Parks. If these competing marine activities result in the exclusion of established commercial fishing, they will continue to pose challenges to fishery viability as described above.

Climate impacts are expected to continue to change the productivity and status of important fish stocks in AFMA fisheries. We will continue to build climate risks into our decision-making processes, including our commission meetings, our management advisory committees and resource assessment groups, general management discussions and research.

The outlook for domestic compliance is similar to 2022–23, although climatic changes impacting fishing operations and spawning grounds could lead to instability and change the nature of compliance risks.

Our risk-based approach to domestic compliance will allow us to detect and respond to such changes.

International management and compliance

Briefly, our outlook is an increasingly complex geostrategic environment in the Indo-Pacific. International competition for maritime supremacy increases activities to secure energy supply, sea lines of communication and naval vessel access, which can compete with regular fishing activities. Displacement of fishing fleets through such competition, coupled with economic factors in the region, is likely to increase the prevalence of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in our region.

The outlook for international compliance and engagement with domestic rules and regulations involves communication, enforcement, strategic engagement, capability development and deployment of AFMA’s limited resources to high-risk threats. AFMA will continue to foster strategic partnerships with other agencies and international bodies to maximise cooperation in fisheries law enforcement.

Administration and finance

Australia’s economic performance impacts AFMA’s two funding sources—the Australian Government and the fishing industry (through fees and levies).

Industry viability is under threat as outlined above, and this drives an expectation of the agency to limit increases in fees and levies. The Australian Government budget is also subject to continual review against national priorities. It is likely the pressure on AFMA's budget will continue.

The heavy proportional reliance on cost recovery under the government cost recovery guidelines does not provide for flexibility to shift work priorities to meet cross-fishery and emerging priorities.

As a small Australian Public Service agency, AFMA competes with larger and more heavily funded agencies for the same talent in a limited pool. The national demand for digital, data and cyber skills is expected to negatively impact availability and retention of staff.

The labour market is also complex for other skill sets in compliance and enforcement, and corporate. In 2022–23, AFMA released its first ever strategic workforce plan. The focus in 2023–24 is on implementing that plan to address these issues.

Progress towards digital economies creates an environment of increased cyber challenges and potential for technological disruption. While emerging digital technologies have not yet realised their full commercial potential, the outlook is transformation of at least transport and communication in the agriculture portfolio. To ensure maintenance of essential fisheries services, AFMA expects to monitor digital, cyber and data needs and pursue technological change with AFMA's technology users.



Helen Kroger
Chair



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer







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Overview of AFMA

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is established under the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* (the FAA) to manage Australia's Commonwealth fisheries on behalf of the Australian community in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (FMA). Our purpose is to pursue the ecologically sustainable development (ESD) of Commonwealth fisheries for the benefit of the Australian community.

Our outcome

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



Our objectives

We fulfil our purpose by actively pursuing, and having regard to, our objectives.

Act and section	Summary of objective ¹
<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991 – section 6</i>	Implement efficient and cost-effective fisheries management.
<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991 – section 3</i>	Ensure the exploitation of fisheries and related activities is consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. ²
	Where Australia has obligations under international agreements, ensure the exploitation of fish stocks and related activities in the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) and the high seas are carried out consistently with those obligations.
	To the extent that Australia has obligations under international law or agreements, ensure that fishing activities by Australian flagged vessels on the high seas are conducted consistently with those obligations. ³
	Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries.
	Ensure accountability to the fishing industry and the Australian community in the management of fisheries resources.
	Achieve government targets in relation to the recovery of AFMA's costs.
	Ensure that the interests of commercial, recreational and Indigenous fishers are considered.
<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991 – section 3</i>	Ensure, through proper conservation and management measures, that the living resources of the AFZ are not endangered by over-exploitation.
	Achieve optimum utilisation of the living resources of the Australian fishing zone.

Note 1: Objectives that AFMA 'must pursue' are shaded blue. AFMA is to 'have regard to' the unshaded objectives.

Note 2: The principles of ecologically sustainable development are detailed in section 6A of the FAA.

Note 3: This objective is listed as one that AFMA must pursue in the FAA and as one that AFMA is to have regard to in the FMA.

In pursuing our objectives, we must ensure, as far as practicable, that measures adopted must not be inconsistent with the preservation, conservation, and protection of whales.

AFMA at a glance

 Staff
  Observer



AFMA fisheries officers activities included...



Of these, 7 were desktop inspections

Organisational structure

AFMA is organised into four functional areas:

- Fisheries Management Branch manages fisheries and provides specialist policy, environment/climate, economic and research input into management decisions.
- Fisheries Information and Services Branch supports the observer and e-monitoring programs and carries out licensing services, data management, and business intelligence.
- Corporate Services Branch includes specialised knowledge groups (such as human resources, communications and media, legal, finance, property, information technology) that enable the delivery of AFMA's purpose and outcome.
- Fisheries Operations Branch undertakes national and international compliance operations, as well as policy and strategic support for compliance activities.

Our organisational structure as of 30 June 2023 is presented below.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator the Honourable Murray Watt			
AFMA Commission Ms Helen Kroger, Ms Catherine Cooper, Mr Wez Norris, Mr Brett McCallum, Mr Scott Spencer, Ms Sevaly Sen, Dr David Smith			
AFMA Chief Executive Officer Mr Wez Norris			
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ms Anna Willock			
Fisheries Management Branch	Fisheries Information and Services Branch	Corporate Services Branch	Fisheries Operations Branch
		Chief Operating Officer Ms Mira Bacelj	A/g General Manager Mr Brendan Rayner
Northern Fisheries and Co-management Senior Manager Mr Brodie Macdonald	Innovation and Data Transformation Senior Manager Mr Andrew Powell	Legal and Parliamentary Services General Counsel Mr Angus Tye	National Compliance Strategy Senior Manager Mr Tod Spencer
Northern Fisheries Torres Strait Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Emma Freeman	Electronic Monitoring Senior Manager Mr Mike Gerner	Business Partnership and Strategy Chief Finance Officer Ms Jo Hobson	Compliance Operations (Darwin) Senior Manager Vacant
Demersal and Midwater Fisheries A/g Senior Manager Ms Sally Weekes		People, Capability and Engagement Senior Manager Ms Corinne Fox	International Compliance Policy Senior Manager Mr Viv Fernandes
Tuna and International Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Selina Stoute		Business Operational Support A/g Senior Manager Mr Brendan Kearney	
Policy, Environment, Economics and Research Senior Manager Mr Ryan Murphy		Technology and Digital Services Chief Information Officer Mr Peter Mann	
Climate Adaptation Senior Program Manager Ms Alice McDonald Senior Manager Mr Dan Corrie			

Programs administered by AFMA during 2022–23

Domestic compliance program

Our risk-based domestic compliance programs, and participation in the Australian Government's civil maritime surveillance and response arrangements improves management of Australian fish stocks. AFMA also provides fisheries management, licensing and domestic compliance services for the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984. Decisions under this legislation are made by the PZJA, which comprises the Commonwealth Fisheries Minister as Chair, with the Torres Strait Regional Authority and the Queensland Government as other members. Management and policy reform is of growing importance to the PZJA to ensure that the objectives of sustainable fisheries, economic development, and employment opportunities for traditional inhabitants, as well as the protection of the traditional way of life and traditional fishing can be achieved.

International compliance program

Engaging internationally is integral to improving the management of fish stocks within and beyond the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). Our activities include education, monitoring and enforcement to protect Commonwealth fisheries from illegal fishing, and engaging internationally to provide

specialist advice, as well as delivering capacity building programs to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing beyond Australia's borders.

Climate change program

Climate change challenges our understanding of, and ability to influence, fish stocks and marine ecosystems. We continue to improve our understanding of, and response to, the impacts of climate change through a number of projects, which are progressing from research to implementation.

Data transformation and electronic monitoring program

AFMA was provided \$20.1 million over the forward estimates in the 2021–22 Budget to reduce regulatory burden, increase productivity and improve environmental outcomes across Commonwealth fisheries. The Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring (DTEM) Program combines two inter-related projects:

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

Linked programs

AFMA's contribution to linked programs changed during this period because the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment ceased to operate and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was created on 1 July 2022.

There was no change to AFMA's contribution to the Department of Home Affairs' Border Enforcement Program.

AFMA provides the fisheries focus within the Australian Government Civil Maritime Surveillance and Response Program and is responsible for the administration of legislation on illegal fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone. AFMA deters and prevents illegal foreign fishing by carrying out education programs, cooperative enforcement operations, prosecution of offenders, confiscation of boats and capacity building projects.

Members of accountable authority

As a regulatory authority and non-corporate Commonwealth entity, AFMA comprises the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Commission and AFMA staff.

The CEO is the Accountable Authority under the PGPA Act as well as the Agency Head under the *Public Service Act 1999* and is also appointed as an AFMA Commissioner. The CEO is responsible for assisting the Commission in giving effect to its decisions. In addition, the CEO is separately responsible for exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers, and for functions under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*. The CEO is subject to Ministerial Direction with regard to AFMA's foreign compliance functions, and under the *Public Service Act 1999* is required to be responsive to government in implementing the government's policies and programs.

Members of AFMA's Commission

Ms Helen Kroger – Chair

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

Mr Wez Norris – Chief Executive Officer

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

Ms Catherine Cooper – Member

Catherine currently chairs the Environment Protection Agency of South Australia and Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority. Catherine is an industry leader and she was a finalist in both the 1997 and 1998 Telstra Business Women's Awards. She has extensive committee and board experience including as former Chair of the Fisheries Council of South Australia, the South Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee, and Aquaculture Advisory Council.

Mr Brett McCallum – Member

Brett has been a director of Bresal Consulting since November 2015. He has a Bachelor of Commerce and is a past Deputy Chair of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

He is currently chair of the Western Australian and South Australian Research Advisory Committee, the Australian Aquatic Animal Welfare Strategy Working Group, and the Offshore Snapper Fishery Advisory Committee in the Northern Territory. His expertise covers commercial fisheries management, government policy setting, natural resource management, economics, and business management. He has over 40 years' experience in peak fishing industry representation as Chief Executive of the WA Fishing Industry Council and the Pearl Producers Association. Brett has held senior managerial positions with several leading Australian fishing, pearling and exporting companies.

Mrs Sevaly Sen – Member

Sevaly is an applied economist with over 30 years' experience in fisheries in Australia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and Asia. Sevaly ran her own consultancy company in the UK, worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in southern Africa and the Institute of Fisheries Management in Denmark. Since moving to Australia in 1999, Sevaly runs her own consultancy business. She has been a member of the Fisheries Council of South Australia, the NSW Structural Adjustment Review Committee, and the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee. Currently she is a member of the Torres Strait Rock Lobster Working Group, is advisor to Sydney Fish Market on sustainability issues and coordinates an FRDC sub-program.

Dr David Smith – Member

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

Mr Scott Spencer – Member

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

AFMA Commissioners – attendance at Commission meetings

Five Commission meetings were held in 2022–23. The table below shows the number of meetings Commissioners attended.

Commissioner	Period as Commissioner within 2022–23	Meetings attended 2022–23
Ms Helen Kroger	Full year	5/5
Mr Wez Norris	Full year	5/5
Ms Catherine Cooper	Full year	5/5
Mr Brett McCallum	Full year	5/5
Mrs Sevaly Sen	Full year	5/5
Dr David Smith	Full year	4/5
Mr Scott Spencer	Full year	5/5







ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

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Annual performance statements

Statement of preparation

I, as the accountable authority of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), present the 2022–23 annual performance statements of AFMA. These statements are prepared for paragraph 39(1) (a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, and accurately present AFMA's performance in the reporting period, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act (section 16F of the PGPA Rule).



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

Results achieved

In 2022–23, AFMA planned to deliver outcomes across four goals with 14 performance measures. An overview of the results achieved for the performance measures and targets published at the beginning of the reporting period in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2022–25 and Portfolio Budget Statements is shown below.

Some of our performance measures and targets were designed to be implemented over a longer timeframe than the current reporting period. We consider these to be on track. Of the 14 measures, 11 were fully met, two were not met, and one measure could not be confirmed at this time due to the unavailability of ABARES data until October. Detailed analysis is provided on pages 25 to 53.

Goal	Measure	Target	Met	Partially met	Not met	
Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with principles of ecological sustainable development	1. The number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment	No change or increase	✓			
	2. The percentage of species assessed as 'residual High-Risk' under Ecological Risk Assessment	No change or decrease	✓ ¹			
	3. The number of AFMA-only stocks assessed as 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Zero			✓	
	4. AFMA advocates measures in relevant negotiations to address stocks shared with states and territories that are assessed as 'overfished' or 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Qualitative assessment		✓		
	5. Status of Wildlife Trade Operations (WTOs) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)	All WTOs maintained		✓		
	6. The number of stocks with target reference points based on Maximum Economic Yield (MEY), an agreed proxy thereof or a multi-stock harvest strategy	No change or increase		✓		
	7. Net Economic Return, as assessed in the ABARES Status of Fish Stocks Report	Positive trend over rolling three-year average			✓	

1. No Ecological Risk Assessments were finalised in 2022-23.

Goal	Measure	Target	Met	Partially met	Not met
Compliance with Commonwealth fisheries laws and policies and relevant international fishing obligations and standards	8. Treatment of identified domestic compliance risks as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP)	> 90 per cent of NCEP performance targets met			✓
	9. Incidence level of illegal foreign fishing vessels operating in the Australian Fishing Zone	Lower than previous three year average	✓		
	10. Compliance rate with international obligations as assessed in Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (implemented by AFMA)	> 90 per cent	✓		
	11. Cost recovery budget	≤ 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI)	✓		
Deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources	12. Corporate overheads compared to total budget	< 25 per cent	✓		
	13. Engagement with legislated peak body	Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting	✓		
	14. Number of services offered digitally	Increased trend in number of empirical data collection services offered electronically	✓		

Analysis of the factors that contributed to performance

Following is a detailed analysis of the positive and negative factors that contributed to AFMA's performance during the reporting period. This includes a summary of achievement of all other key activities planned to be undertaken to achieve AFMA's strategies.

Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with principles of ecological sustainable development

We manage Commonwealth fisheries on the basis that minimising the impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and ensuring sustainable harvests leads to better ecological and social outcomes for the Australian community.

We rely on rigorous science and stakeholder engagement in accordance with AFMA's Strategic Research Plan, as well as through our Management Advisory Committees (MACs), Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs), stakeholder forums, specialist working groups, workshops, and other advisory bodies and forums.

As published in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2022–23, AFMA has two strategies to ensure achievement of this goal:

1. Development and implementation of management arrangements that enables the sustainable harvest of fish resources.
2. Investing in science and applying the results to inform decision making on management of fish stocks and assessing the impact of commercial fishing on the broader marine environment.

Result: Performance measures 1 to 5

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 Target	2022–23 Actual
1 The number of stocks for which management measures are based on species-appropriate scientific assessment	No change or increase	No change	No change or increase	No change
2 The percentage of species assessed as 'residual High Risk' under Ecological Risk Assessment	No change or decrease	No Change	No change or decrease	No Change
3 The number of AFMA-only stocks assessed as 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Zero	One	Zero	Between One – Three ABARES preliminary assessment is three
4 AFMA advocates measures in relevant negotiations to address stocks shared with states and territories that are assessed as 'overfished' or 'subject to overfishing' in the ABARES Fishery Status Report	Qualitative assessment	Achieved	Qualitative assessment	Achieved
5 Status of Wildlife Trade Operations (WTOs) under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)	All WTOs maintained	Achieved	All WTOs maintained	Achieved

Analysis

Work to ensure that climate impacts are routinely and explicitly incorporated into the management of Commonwealth fisheries accelerated in 2022–23. Over the past 12 months, climate change has been added as a standing agenda item for all AFMA RAGs and MACs meetings where the management measures of Total Allowable Catches/Efforts (TAC/Es) are being discussed, and Climate and Ecosystem Status Reports (incorporating accessible information on environmental and climatic indicators) have been developed for eight Commonwealth fisheries. Advice and recommendations to the AFMA Commission on TAC/Es in priority fisheries now include a qualitative assessment of climate risks, including climate sensitivity information, and how impacts have been incorporated in advice. In addition, methods to account for environmentally driven productivity changes in stock assessments are being considered, climate adaptation workshops with stakeholders are being held in key fisheries, and a range of accessible communication materials on climate impacts on fisheries have been developed.

The Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) performance indicator has been noted as 'no change' because there have been no new ERAs finalised. Every Commonwealth Fishery has ERA and Ecological Risk Management (ERM) responses in place or under development through bycatch plans, data plans, harvest strategies, and research plans. To support the ERA/ERM framework, we continued work on updating and streamlining the ERM framework.

A draft of the streamlined ERA/ERM policy and guidelines was released for public comment. We will consider the comments and finalise these documents. We have updated three ERAs during this period, the updated ERAs are currently being assessed by our RAGs and MACs. Once approved, the results of these ERAs will be reported in the key performance indicators (KPIs) of next year's annual report.

We contributed to development of whole-of-government positions and participated in Regional Fisheries Management Organisation processes, managing migratory tuna species and, where agreed, reflected Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) agreements in domestic management arrangements.

We have continued to support the multi-species harvest strategy project team led by the CSIRO to develop a revised harvest strategy better suited to the dynamic and multi-species nature of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish Fishery (SESSF). The project is due to be completed by December 2023, and we have commenced work to specify and operationalise the harvest strategy beyond the end of the project. As part of this work, we have liaised with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to ensure that factors such as multi-species dynamics, climate adaptation, and ecosystem functions are considered in the review of the Harvest Strategy Policy.

As an interim approach, we also revised the SESSF assessment schedule to focus on priority stocks and allow redirection of resources to more strategic research priorities, including understanding the utility of Close-Kin Mark-Recapture (CKMR) methods as a source of fishery-independent monitoring for key SESSF species.

We implemented five spatial closures in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector (CTS) of the SESSF on 1 May 2023 to reduce mortality of at-risk species such as Jackass Morwong and John Dory. This measure was accompanied by a structural adjustment package for the CTS (administered by DAFF), which resulted in the surrender of 21 SESSF Trawl Boat Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) by 30 June 2023 (leaving 36 SESSF Trawl Boat SFRs in total). The economic impact of these two measures is not yet understood as they occurred late in the financial year.

In addition to substantial area closures, we continue to implement bycatch-only catch limits on certain species, such as Blue Warehou, Silver Trevally, and School Shark, as part of efforts to rebuild depleted species. However, the effectiveness of fisheries management measures is being reduced as climate change impacts suppress recovery of some species, particularly in waters of south-eastern Australia. While the ABARES Fisheries Status reports were not finalised at the time of publication, we understand that ABARES is considering whether School Shark and Blue Warehou, in addition to Jackass Morwong, should be classified as 'subject to overfishing', meaning that

performance measure three has not been met. AFMA continues to discuss with ABARES the rationale underpinning these considerations, as well as those for several other stocks that may be subject to status change from last year.

There was only one active negotiation regarding a shared domestic stock classified as overfished with a state agency during the reporting period. This was a continuation of discussions about changing arrangements for School Shark bycatch in South Australia's (SA) Marine Scalefish Fishery. We have not progressed the SA request for increased catch limits due to concerns for the stock. During the reporting period, we also proposed a national workshop on state-managed recreational catch of key Commonwealth species (including those that are classed as overfished) as a national research priority to the FRDC.

All the AFMA-managed fisheries maintained their WTO status. WTOs for both the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) were renewed for a period of three years during the reporting period.

Other key activities

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete	
Development and implementation of management arrangements that enables the sustainable harvest of fish resources	Review harvest strategies in the Northern Prawn, Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop, Southern Squid Jig, and Small Pelagic Fisheries.		✓		
	Review Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Swordfish Harvest Strategy, commencing in 2023.		✓		
	Revise harvest strategies in the Torres Strait Finfish Fishery (TSFF).		✓		
	Work with CSIRO to develop a multi-species harvest strategy approach for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fisheries (SESSF).		✓		
	Support the DAWE review of the Harvest Strategy Policy to ensure that it incorporates multi-species, climate, and ecosystem considerations.		✓		
	Revise and update Ecological Risk Management guiding documentation and processes.		✓		
	Use the <i>Climate Adaptation Handbook</i> (including as a framework for stakeholder consultation) to identify key ecological risks and potential adaptation responses in the SESSF fishery.		✓		
	Implement additional measures, including closures, to reduce fishing pressure on a number of species under pressure from climate-related variability in the trawl sector of SESSF.				✓
	Assess and prioritise potential management adaptations and develop a plan for implementation.			✓	

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
Investing in science and applying the results to inform decision making on management of fish stocks and the impact of commercial fishing on the broader marine environment	Stock assessments undertaken for Tiger and Redleg Banana Prawns, Bight Redfish, Blue-eye Trevalla, Blue Grenadier, Deepwater Shark East and West, Mirror Dory, Oreodory Smooth – other, Silver Trevally and Tiger Flathead.			✓
	Stock assessments undertaken for relevant Torres Strait fisheries (Black Teatfish and potentially White Teatfish and Spanish Mackerel), Mackerel Icefish, Macquarie Island Patagonian Toothfish.			✓
	Support research for assessments such as NPF fishing power, acoustic surveys for Orange Roughy and Blue Grenadier and biomass survey for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery to inform Total Allowable Catch (TAC) setting process.			✓
	Support research for assessments such as the TRL fishery independent survey and finfish biological sampling.			✓
	Hold Resource Assessment Group (RAG) meetings as scheduled.			✓
	Support the development of a multispecies Harvest Strategy for the SESSF.			✓
	Develop a plan to rollout the Climate Adaptation Handbook to identify key ecological risks and potential adaptation responses in priority fisheries.			✓
	Identify options to integrate consideration of existing and future climate impacts into Commonwealth fisheries regulatory and decision-making frameworks.			✓

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
	Identify alternative sources of fishery independent and environmental data to support stock assessment and management decisions.		✓	
	Revise SESSF assessment schedule to focus on priority stocks and allow redirection of some resources to more strategic research priorities.			✓
	Identify new or alternative research and monitoring to address management priorities, including emerging gaps, multi-species considerations, and climate and ecosystem effects.		✓	

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

In general, we pursue our economic objective by setting harvest level targets that seek to maintain each key commercial stock at a level that will support the Maximum Economic Yield (known as BMEY) of that stock, as set out in the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy. In some cases, alternative targets and/or proxies to BMEY may be used by AFMA to account for uncertainties, meet international arrangements, achieve ecological or stock recovery objectives, or seek fishery-wide (rather than species-specific) MEY.

As published in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2022–23, we have two strategies to ensure achievement of this goal:

1. Implement management arrangements that seek to maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the sustainable management of Commonwealth fisheries.
2. Improve monitoring and reporting on AFMA's economic objective.

Result: Performance measures 6 to 7

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 Target	2022–23 Actual
6 The number of stocks with target reference points based on Maximum Economic Yield (MEY), an agreed proxy thereof or a multi-stock harvest strategy	No change or increase	No change	No change or increase	No change
7 Net Economic Return, as assessed in the ABARES Status of Fish Stocks Report	Positive trend over rolling three-year average	No change	Positive trend over rolling three-year average	No change

Analysis

There are 16 key commercial stocks that continue to have MEY targets:

- Endeavour Prawn, Redleg Banana Prawn, Brown Tiger Prawn and Grooved Tiger Prawn in the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF)
- Bight Redfish, Blue-eye Trevalla, Blue Grenadier, Deepwater Flathead, Eastern School Whiting, Gummy Shark, Orange Roughy east, Pink Ling west, Pink Ling east, School Shark and Tiger Flathead in the SESSF, and
- Swordfish in the Eastern Tuna Billfish Fishery (ETBF).

The six stocks on MEY target are:

- Tiger Flathead
- Deepwater Flathead
- Eastern School Whiting
- Grooved Tiger Prawn
- Brown Tiger Prawn, and
- Redleg Banana Prawn.

The five stocks that are heading towards the MEY target are Orange Roughy east, Pink Ling east, Gummy Shark, Endeavour Prawn and Broadbill Swordfish.

The remaining five stocks that are assessed as not on MEY target and not heading towards MEY target are:

- Bight Redfish
- Blue Grenadier
- Pink Ling west
- Blue-eye Trevalla, and
- School Shark.

While these five stocks are assessed as not on MEY target and not heading towards MEY target, this measure relates to whether the economic potential is being maximised rather than being an indicator of the sustainability of these stocks.

Bight Redfish, Blue Grenadier and Pink Ling west are all assessed as being above the MEY target reference point but are not heading towards the MEY target (that is, they will remain above the MEY target).

Blue-eye Trevalla is assessed as being between the limit and MEY target reference point but not heading towards the MEY target. School Shark is assessed as being below the limit reference point. However, the latest assessment using CKMR genetic methods indicates that the stock had recovered slightly during the period from 2000–2017.

We have been collecting quota trade data since 2017 and we have worked with CSIRO and ABARES to develop an acceptable cleaning method to remove outliers from this data. Aggregated quota price lease information is now published on the AFMA website.

At its July 2022 meeting, the AFMA Commission considered and approved a statement clarifying how AFMA reports against the Net Economic Return (NER) objective and Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (CFHSP). It was agreed that this will be an interim statement pending the finalisation of a comprehensive guiding Fishery Management Paper (FMP) on NER reporting. Development of the new FMP is well progressed but finalisation, including stakeholder consultation, will occur once the CFHSP review is completed. A copy of the interim statement 'Reporting Performance against AFMA's Net Economic Return Objective' is available on AFMA's website. A review of the ABARES reports of NER over the last three years suggests that, while there are minor changes for some individual fisheries assessed or estimated, there has been no discernible increase or decrease in the average NER across Commonwealth fisheries.

Estimates of MEY for Tiger Prawn is updated biennially. The last assessment was completed in May 2022 and the next is scheduled for May 2024.



Other key activities

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
Implement management arrangements that seek to maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the sustainable management of Commonwealth fisheries	Set Total Allowable Commercial Catch limits for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five species in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery • four species in the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery • two species in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery • Patagonian Toothfish in the Macquarie Islands Toothfish Fishery • Southern Bluefin Tuna in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery • two species in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery • thirty-four stocks in the SESSF • two stocks in the East Coast Deepwater Trawl Fishery, and • seven stocks in the Small Pelagic Fishery. 			✓
	Set the total allowable effort for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), and • the Southern Squid Jig Fishery. 			✓
	Stock assessments undertaken for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiger and Redleg Banana Prawn • Bight Redfish • Blue-eye Trevalla • Blue Grenadier • Deepwater Shark east and west • Mirror Dory • Oreodory Smooth – other • Silver Trevally, and • Tiger Flathead. 			✓

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
	Stock assessments undertaken for relevant Torres Strait fisheries (Black Teatfish and potentially White Teatfish and Spanish Mackerel), Mackerel Icefish, Macquarie Island Patagonian Toothfish.			✓
	Engage industry through existing consultative fora and specific stakeholder advisory committee to identify enhancements to AFMA's data systems and expand AFMA's business intelligence capability including exploring possible tools and self-service capability for industry.			✓
	Incorporate all industry data collection programs into the Agency data capture platform.		✓	
	MEY estimated for the Tiger and Banana Prawn fisheries within the NPF.			✓
	Continue to improve AFMA's economic/financial information (quota trade prices) and consider fishery-specific economic indicators if possible.		✓	
Improve monitoring and reporting on AFMA's economic objective	Guidance on how AFMA measures performance against Net Economic Returns objective approved by the Commission.			✓

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

We apply the principles and strategies outlined in the Australian Fisheries National Compliance Strategy and AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy with a focus on approaches encouraging voluntary compliance by domestic fishers while maintaining an enforcement capability and taking deterrence action against conscious non-compliance.

We also lead responses and coordinate action with other government agencies to address threats caused by illegal foreign fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone. We engage with counterpart countries and international agencies, and actively participate in international forums, to combat foreign illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in areas on the high seas where Australia has an interest.

We also work alongside partners in building regional capacity to address IUU fishing. Our approach to international compliance is outlined in the International Compliance and Engagement Program (ICEP). The ICEP outlines five complementary components designed to effectively detect, deter and respond to IUU fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone and in waters where Australia has an interest.

As published in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2022–23, we have two strategies to ensure achievement of this goal:

1. Operate an effective domestic compliance regime using measures that are proportionate to the risks.
2. Detect and deter foreign IUU fishing.

Result: Performance measures 8 to 10

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 Target	2022–23 Actual
8 Treatment of identified domestic compliance risks as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP)	> 90 per cent of NCEP performance targets met	59.5 per cent of NCEP performance targets met with a further 35 per cent within threshold	> 90 per cent of NCEP performance targets met	55 per cent of NCEP performance targets met with a further 25 per cent within threshold
9 Incidence level of illegal foreign fishing vessels operating in the Australian Fishing Zone	Lower than previous 10 year average (20.4 Vessels)	337 vessels	Lower than previous three year average (142)	125 vessels (119 legislative forfeitures and six apprehensions)
10 Compliance rate with international obligations as assessed in Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (implemented by AFMA)	> 90 per cent	98 per cent	> 90 per cent	98 per cent



CASE STUDY: ENHANCING REGIONAL CAPACITY



From 31 October to 11 November 2022, officers from International Compliance Operations and AFMA Legal worked together with New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries and the South Pacific Community (SPC) to deliver several training modules and participate in the competency-based assessments (CBAs) for the SPC Certificate IV in Coastal Fisheries & Aquaculture course in Suva, Fiji.

The cohort consisted of nine female and 10 male fisheries officers from the Solomon Islands, Samoa,

Tonga, Fiji, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea. It is aimed to enhance students' investigative skills and expertise in fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance in a coastal setting.

The topics of the training included operational planning, powers of officers, occupational health and safety, statement writing, and case file preparation. The two-week in-person CBAs include a fish market inspection and culminates with an elaborate moot court scenario, where

students witness suspected offending and are expected to give oral testimony in a court setting, while being cross-examined by AFMA lawyers.

We provide ongoing support for this accredited course, as well as other similar capacity building initiatives, across the Pacific each year.

This program is funded under the Pacific ROU 77601 aimed to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Analysis

National compliance — domestic

The policy, risk assessment, and program reviews for Commonwealth fisheries are scheduled core functions within the Fisheries Operations Branch (FOB).

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

During 2022–23, AFMA used closed circuit television and surveillance to monitor and detect quota evasion by monitoring vessel offloads in key ports. We also engaged with state agencies for any assistance required in completion of essential inspections on Commonwealth and foreign vessels.

In 2022–23, 22 of the 40 NCEP performance targets were met, 10 were within threshold level and eight targets were not met, achieving 55 per cent.

During 2022–23, AFMA's NCEP continued with the four main components identified in the 2021–23 Risk Assessment.

The identified targeted risks of the program were:

- Torres Strait Fishery
- failing to record by catch discards
- domestic vessels landing catch in foreign ports, and
- quota evasion.

The main components of the program consisted of:

- national compliance education and communication
- general deterrence
- targeted risk (the identified risks are above), and
- maintenance.

The maintenance components of the program are previously identified risks which we have treated accordingly and now monitor as a business-as-usual function.

These monitored maintenance components are:

- quota reconciliation
- closure monitoring
- failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species
- bycatch mishandling, and
- vessel monitoring system (VMS) and electronic monitoring (EM).

Overview of the National Compliance and Enforcement Program achievements

National compliance education and communication

Our strategy is to promote voluntary compliance with the fisheries officers conducting education sessions and pre-season briefings at a variety of Commonwealth ports. The sessions assist Commonwealth fishers by providing information on how to comply with conditions and obligations.

During 2022–23, NPF pre-season briefings were conducted at Karumba, Cairns, and Darwin ports, one Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) pre-season briefing was conducted in Port Lincoln, one TRL season opening briefing on Thursday Island, one pre-season working group on Black Teatfish, and fisheries officers attended one fishing event, Seafood Directions.

Of the seven national compliance education and communication performance targets for 2022–23, three targets were met, three were not met and one was within threshold.

General deterrence program

AFMA fisheries officers conducted in-port inspections at Commonwealth ports, at-sea inspections, and fish receiver premise inspections as part of their regular duties. The presence of our fisheries officers acts as a deterrent to non-compliance activities, an opportunity for fishers to seek assistance and clarity with rules in place, and how fishers can best comply.

A total of 148 port visits occurred, 264 boat inspections conducted (10 at-sea inspections and seven desktop inspections) and 62 fish receiver premise inspections – a total of 326 inspections.

A high level of compliance was observed with 94.5 per cent of inspections requiring no further action. This was within threshold of the program voluntary compliance NCEP target rate of 95 per cent.

Investigations conducted as part of the general deterrence program:

- 183 matters were finalised
- 19 matters were carried over from 2021–22 financial year, and
- 11 matters to be carried over to 2023–24 financial year.

The 183 matters finalised had the following outcomes:

- 18 cautions issued
- 24 warnings issued
- two Commonwealth Fisheries Infringement Notices issued/paid, and
- two court action matters resulting in convictions. One matter resulted in a \$6,660 fine and \$9,000 forfeiture; and one matter resulted in a \$500 fine and court costs of \$103.60.

A further 137 matters required no further action.

Of the 10 NCEP performance targets for the general deterrence program, six NCEP targets were met, one was not met and three were within threshold.

Targeted risk overview

Torres Strait Fishery

AFMA fisheries officers in the Torres Strait participated in:

- 11 joint at-sea patrols
- seven aerial surveillance flights
- 29 port hub visits
- conducted 45 boat inspections, and
- 32 fish receiver premise inspections.

During May 2023, a Black Teat Fishery operation was conducted with seven offences detected, with those operators issued with cautions.

Of the seven NCEP performance targets for the Torres Strait Fishery program, four were met, one was not met and two were within threshold.

Failing to record bycatch discards

Commercial fishing may result in incidental catch or interaction with a species that is not retained for sale or not able to be sold (non-commercial). Discards are part of any catch and can be returned to the sea either dead or alive. Failing to report bycatch discards places constraints on data and presents significant challenges to bycatch management.

If unmanaged or unaccounted, bycatch discards may have a negative impact on the status of marine life including mammals, reptiles, seabirds, sharks, and bony fishes.

Only one incident was detected in 2022–23.

Of the two NCEP performance targets for the failing to record bycatch discards program, both targets were met.

Domestic vessels landing catch in foreign ports

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

Foreign officials undertake vessel inspections in foreign ports on behalf of Australia and in accordance with international agreements – Commission for the Conservation of

Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) conservation measures, port State measures, and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

The conducted inspections aim to ensure that all catch landed in foreign ports by AFVs meet Australian and International inspection, audit and documentation requirements, and that Australia implements its flag State responsibilities effectively by monitoring the activities of AFVs to the point where the product enters the market.

During 2022–23, nine inspections of AFV boat inspections in foreign ports were conducted by foreign officials in Port Louis, Mauritius, and Dunedin in New Zealand.

A further 16 desktop inspections were conducted by AFMA fisheries officers.

An additional seven Port State Measures Agreement/other inspections were conducted by AFMA fisheries officers in various ports.

Of the two NCEP performance targets for the domestic vessels landing catch in foreign ports program, one performance target was met, and one was not met.

Quota evasion

Quota evasion is the deliberate misreporting or non-reporting of the volume and/or species of catch caught in Commonwealth waters. All Commonwealth fishers are required to accurately report their catch to AFMA using Catch Disposal Records (CDRs).

Of the three NCEP performance targets for the quota evasion program, one target was not met, and two were within threshold.

Seabird mitigation measures — trawl fishery

Potential non-compliance with seabird mitigation measures in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector was identified late in the financial year through industry intelligence and addressed through a dedicated aerial surveillance operation. Three separate flights were completed and a total of eight trawl boats were observed and photographed while fishing. One potential breach was detected, with the operator mistakenly operating with an expired Seabird Management Plan (SMP). AFMA worked with the operator to develop a revised SMP, which is now in place.

Maintenance business as usual programs overview

Since the establishment of the risk-based program in 2009, there have been a number of identified risks, which were prioritised in previous years for treatment, that have been addressed through specific risk treatment programs. These risks are now at a manageable level and were monitored during 2022–23 as part of the maintenance program.

Quota reconciliation

There have been four incidents identified of operators breaching their 28-day over quota reconciliation conditions in 2022–23 (financial year to date) resulting in the operators being issued with official cautions.

The NCEP performance targets for the quota reconciliation program were met.

Closure monitoring

There were four suspected closure breach incidents reported in 2022–23. One matter resulting in the operator being issued with an official caution and three matters required no further action (no offence).

The NCEP performance targets for the closure monitoring program were met.

Failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species (TEP)

There were 22 incidents reported in 2022–23 with nine of the incidents requiring further investigation. The nine matters resulted in six operators being educated, one warning issued, one official caution issued, and one matter remains under investigation.

Of the three NCEP performance targets for the failure to report interaction/retention of protected or prohibited species program, two targets were met, and one was within threshold.

Bycatch mishandling

There were 12 incidents reported in 2022–23 with only six of the incidents requiring further investigation and one matter is still under assessment. The six incidents resulted in one operator being educated, and five incidents required no further action (no offence).

The NCEP performance targets for the bycatch mishandling program were met.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

There were two incidences of VMS non-compliance in 2022–23 with both resulting in the operators being educated.

VMS compliance rates averaged 98.0 per cent in 2022–23.

The NCEP performance target for the Vessel Monitoring System program was met.

Electronic Monitoring (EM)

There were 33 incidents of suspected EM non-compliance reported in 2022–23. Seven incidents required no further action (no offence), 23 incidents resulted in the operators being educated, and three incidents resulted in warnings being issued.

The NCEP performance target for the electronic monitoring program was not met.

Internal review and audit program overview

In accordance with the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy, AFMA recognises that a critical part of the NCEP is performance review. In line with this principle, the internal review and audit program aims to undertake systematic reviews of compliance and enforcement initiatives in the program.

Each internal audit and review program will undertake the following:

- Definition:** define the function of the initiative and what it is aiming to achieve.
- Assessment:** assess the initiative through its intended aims and identify potential gaps.
- Exploration:** explore successes and challenges of the initiative.
- Refinement:** explore the design of the initiative—aim and actual results
- Finalisation:** develop an internal review and audit report.

The first internal review and audit program of 2022–23 focused on examining the use of intelligence tools in field work support packs.

The NCEP performance targets for the internal review and audit program were within the threshold (being one review undertaken in the reporting period).

Our foreign operations in the Torres Strait continued to work to combat IUU fishing together with partner enforcement agencies. AFMA provided support to Maritime Border Command (MBC) with at sea responses together with legislated forfeitures throughout 2022–23.

We conducted one multi-agency operation during 2022–23. The operation generated a consolidated approach to compliance and enforcement through aerial and water asset placement together with intelligence and risk integration. This operation was further supported by Papua New Guinea National Fisheries Agency and focused on IUU fishing in the Torres Strait northern waters.

Through our Legal Section, we continue to work with MBC and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on matters related to traditional inhabitants in the Torres Strait. Questions of traditional fishing, relative to non-traditional fishing operations in the area that would impact on the capacity to protect the fauna and flora in the area, and by extension the traditional way of life of inhabitants continue to be explored and considered. We continue our work with the PZJA which is responsible for management of commercial and traditional fishing in the Australian area of the Torres Strait Protected Zone (TSPZ) and designated adjacent Torres Strait waters, including Papua New

Guinea. The Treaty requires the Australian and Papua New Guinean Governments to protect and preserve the marine environment and indigenous fauna and flora of the area. The Queensland Government also is involved with recreational fishing, charter fishing, and marketing.

International compliance — detect and deter foreign IUU fishing

Several factors contributed to AFMA's performance regarding its international compliance work and efforts to detect and deter foreign IUU fishing. The lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions led to a return to international face-to-face meetings. We were able to re-establish and further develop important international relationships allowing for greater collaboration and improved outcomes from international fisheries meetings. We were also able to use our productive working relationship with other Australian government agencies to progress whole-of-government outcomes.

We contribute to the prevention, deterrence, and elimination of IUU by implementing effective port State measures. Under the *Maritime Powers Act 2013*, AFMA officers may be authorised to board and inspect foreign fishing vessels issued a permit to enter an Australia port under the FMA. The inspections are undertaken to assess compliance with the FMA and to monitor compliance with international fishery agreements.

AFMA fisheries officers conducted seven port inspections on foreign vessels entering Australian ports between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023. During 2022–23, we participated in a range of international meetings including those held by regional fisheries bodies, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Regional Plan of Action on Responsible Fishing Practices, including combatting IUU Fishing and various subcommittees. We also participated in various bilateral meetings throughout 2022–23 to progress Australia's interests and provide capacity support.

We maintained greater than 90 per cent compliance rate with our international obligations as assessed by regional fisheries organisations. We participated in the compliance process and relevant meetings for all regional fisheries organisations to which we are a party, with Australia achieving only very minimal and minor non-compliance. We are responsible for implementing a subset of Australia's international fisheries obligations.

We are currently working to update legislative instruments consistent with Australia's obligations under international fisheries agreements and arrangements. Due to this work requiring domestic legislative changes, progress is ongoing.

We delivered a range of activities and participated in several multilateral surveillance operations to meet our capacity building commitments in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Under a Record of Understanding (ROU) with DFAT and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with DAFF, our engagement aims to strengthen regional capacity to deter IUU fishing and strengthen fisheries-specific monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) skills and cooperation.

Engagement with the Pacific has resulted in the delivery of competency-based training programs for coastal and offshore fisheries with the University of the South Pacific (USP). We have provided high seas boarding and inspection training to four Pacific Island Countries in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries. We have also created and launched the 'Fish Talk' application for smart phones, to assist officers overcome language barriers when boarding and inspecting foreign fishing vessels.

Under the MOU with DAFF, and in collaboration with CSIRO and the Nha Trang University, Vietnam, we have delivered the first part of a fisheries MCS training program to fisheries officers from Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea. We have also delivered targeted MCS capacity building activities to partner agencies in Vietnam, Thailand, and Singapore. Currently, we are progressing further MCS capacity building activities with partner agencies in East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Cambodia.

IUU fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in illegal fishing activity within the Australian Fishing Zone. COVID-19 restrictions also previously required the Australian Government to implement alternate enforcement measures,

with an increased focus on the legislative forfeiture of fishing gear and Foreign Fishing Vessels (FFVs), rather than apprehension.

Since 2020, there has been a marked increase in predominantly Indonesian FFV incursions into the Australian Fishing Zone. It is believed this is being driven by the loss of employment opportunities within the tourism industry during the pandemic and the loss of agricultural and other employment prospects due to Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja in 2021.

In 2022–23, we saw deep incursions within the Rowley Shoal Marine Park and, most recently, the Kimberley Marine Park. Legislative forfeiture (seizing gear and catch) has a lower deterrence effect than previous approaches of apprehension, prosecution, and repatriation. Some FFVs subject to a legislative forfeiture return to Australian waters soon afterwards.

This financial year there have been 119 FFVs subject to legislative forfeiture and six apprehensions undertaken. The recommencement of apprehensions and the successful prosecution of 36 fishers with charges all pertaining to the Territorial Sea is hoped to be a step toward genuine deterrence. Twenty-two, FFVs were destroyed.

As unlawful fishing activity within Australia's northern waters has continued, we have sought to support MBC patrol vessels by conducting a 14-day deployment with AFMA Fisheries Officers. These trips have resulted in the destruction of a FFV and large amounts of legislatively forfeited fishing gear being destroyed.

The contract vessel is further able to retrieve ghost nets and Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) as required. MBC have expressed that the contract vessel disposal functionality enables their patrol assets to interdict additional unlawful FFVs and allows MBC to continue to protect Australia's national interests from marine security threats.

In collaboration with Indonesia's Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources (PSDKP), we delivered two Public Information Campaigns in key ports in East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia. A total of five workshops were held to educate Indonesian fishers on maritime boundaries, the legal consequences, the risks to personal safety,

and the environmental damage caused by illegal fishing.

As part of a whole-of-government program, and in cooperation with Parks Australia, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and Australian Border Force, we manage the retrieval, disposal, and reporting of Abandoned, Lost, and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Australian waters. This financial year AFMA has disposed of 16 FADs, four ghost nets and some mooring lines recovered by both MBC assets and AFMA contractors.

Effective collaboration continues with MBC, Australian Border Force, and Parks Australia to address IUU fishing concerns.

Other key activities

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
Operate an effective domestic compliance regime using measures that are proportionate to the risks	Apply current risk assessment to develop the 2022–23 NCEP.			✓
	Create compliance risk management teams to develop intervention measures to target key threat areas.			✓
	Apply key performance indicators to monitor incident trends to assess whether compliance levels are improving, levelling out, or declining.			✓
	Use a mixture of education and stakeholder engagement strategies to promote voluntary compliance and undertake remedial action where needed. This includes the issuing of cautions, warnings, infringements notices and the prosecution of offenders, to deter non-compliant behaviour.			✓

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
	Collaborate with other regulatory and law enforcement organisations to deliver compliance activities.			✓
	Provide fee for service compliance and monitoring activities for state and federal counterparts.			✓
	Introduce a suite of legislative amendments to the <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984</i> and the <i>Torres Strait Fisheries Regulations 1985</i> to strengthen compliance measures.		✓	
	Further consider the implementation of provisions of the <i>Regulatory Powers (Standardisation Reform) Act 2021</i> into the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i> .		✓	
	Complete the consequential legislative measures in the effect of primary legislation being successfully passed.	✓		
	Review key licensing policies applicable to the Torres Strait.		✓	
Detect and deter foreign IUU fishing	Review international risks to Australia's fisheries management regime and update AFMA's International Compliance and Engagement Program to target identified risks.			✓
	Update legislative instruments that reflect Australia's international fisheries obligations under international law.		✓	
	Contribute subject matter expertise to engagement programs led by DFAT and DAFF.			✓

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
	Continue to deliver the fisheries component of Australia's monitoring and surveillance of the Australian maritime domain, including through support for the Australian Government Civil Maritime Security Program.			✓
	Develop and apply alternative measures to deter illegal foreign fishing.			✓
	Deliver the MCS capacity building and training components of the DAFF/AFMA MOU (South-East Asia Program) and any components of any DFAT-funded Pacific activities as they are rolled out.			✓
	Participate in multilateral international fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance operations.			✓
	Collaborate with international partners to assist their return to pre-COVID levels of monitoring and surveillance activities, including assisting with implementation of COVID-19 safe responses related to fisheries.			✓
	Support regional and international MCS forums to enhance regional capacity to address IUU fishing, including supporting the work of the International MCS Network, including participating in its Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop.			✓

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

Minimising cost recovery charges to Commonwealth concession holders through the efficient implementation of cost recovered activities remains a key AFMA commitment. In 2010, we made a commitment to industry that we would keep cost recovery at or below the rate applied in 2005–06 once adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. AFMA's cost recovered budgets for fisheries management have remained relatively consistent since 2005.

Pursuing initiatives to reduce regulation and administrative burden on those we regulate and applying the data we collect to better inform our stakeholders and support our science-based fisheries management decisions provides further opportunities to improve transparency and accountability. The Government committed to invest \$20.1 million over four years, commencing 2021–22, to reduce regulatory burden, increase productivity and improve environmental outcomes across Commonwealth fisheries.

We work with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for additional, formal co-management arrangements, in line with *Fisheries Management Paper 17: Co-management in Commonwealth fisheries*.

Enhancing our stakeholder engagement, including through meaningful consultation processes with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA), applying appropriate communication tools and increasing the level of public reporting, supports accountability to our stakeholders.

As published in AFMA's Corporate Plan 2022–23, AFMA has three strategies to ensure achievement of this goal:

1. Enhance business processes and systems, information flows and financial management arrangements to improve business efficiency.
2. Increase AFMA's performance, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.
3. Modernise and integrate AFMA's key data management systems in line with AFMA's Data Strategy to reduce regulatory burden, improve internal business intelligence and provide transparency of data and information to AFMA, the scientific/research community, fishing industry and the broader Australian community.

Result: Performance measures 11 to 14

Performance measures	2021–22 Target	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 Target	2022–23 Actual
11 Cost recovery budget	At or below 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI	Achieved	≤ 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI	Achieved
12 Corporate overheads compared to total budget	< 20 per cent	21.4 per cent	< 25 per cent	21 per cent
13 Engagement with legislated peak body	CFA is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting	Partially Achieved	CFA is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting	Achieved
14 Number of services offered digitally	N/A	N/A	Increased trend in number of empirical data collection services offered electronically	Achieved. The electronic logbooks and Catch Disposal Records systems were expanded to new fishing methods

Analysis

Engagement with peak body

When consulted on our engagement, the CFA provided the following feedback:

‘AFMA has improved its engagement at the CFA level. The AFMA Commission engages well with industry. There remain opportunities for further improvement. Of particular benefit in the last year has been improved interaction through CFA Roundtable meetings. This provides an opportunity for AFMA executives to have frank discussions with CFA members. Written and verbal reports by the CEO have provided insight into challenges to operations, such as staffing.’

The CFA response also raised one particular area of congratulations to AFMA (managing the process of reform and structural adjustment in the trawl fishery), and three areas of concern for ongoing improvement (complexity of management, the pace of Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring, and consistency and training for staff). AFMA will continue to work with the CFA on these, and other issues over the next 12 months.

Number of services offered digitally — Data Transformation

The demand for digital and data skills across the economy continue to impact delivery of the Data Transformation Program with high staff turnover and ongoing vacancies for many information technology positions.

Despite these challenges, progress was made with the modernisation of AFMA's data capture systems.

During 2022–23:

- e-log infrastructure was expanded to cover all Commonwealth fishing methods
- development commenced on quality assurance/quality control systems for all data collected through the agency data capture infrastructure
- significant progress was made digitising the collection of industry collected data, and
- a new in-field application was tried for the collection of digital reports from AFMA's Scientific Observer Program.

In addition to the continued rollout of digital reporting platforms, work commenced to redesign and simplify AFMA back-end data infrastructure. Rolling out these changes will be the focus of the Data Transformation program in 2023–24.

Electronic Monitoring

We remain committed to the delivery of a standards-based program, with a footage review centre to be brought in house. Competition for resources, staff turnover and market/procurement challenges have all contributed to delayed progress on this front.

Contract amendments have been implemented to ensure the continuation and delivery of electronic monitoring services while exploration and development of opportunities to internalise footage review continues. Technical business contractors have begun to develop and design the delivery of the solution and a proof-of-concept has been initiated to understand its viability.

Feasibility assessments to investigate the application of electronic monitoring in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector, Great Australian Bight Fishery, and Northern Prawn Fishery have been consulted in the Resource Assessment Groups. Data plans

for the fisheries are in development and trials will likely occur in the 2023–24 financial year.

We have invested in additional governance and program management to expedite the achievement of plans under both Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring.

Other key activities

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
Enhance business processes and systems, information flows and financial management arrangements to improve business efficiency	Continue annual reviews of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) in consultation with the CFA to ensure AFMA's CR model is efficient and fit-for-purpose.			✓
	Provide financial reports to the Commonwealth fishing industry of actual and budget cost recovery expenditure by AFMA CRIS activity groups and by individual fishery.			✓
	Provide information sessions with the fishing industry (as required) to step them through the CRIS document and the formulation of activity costs.			✓
	Make details of industry feedback on the draft budget and CRIS available to industry in the form of a change request register.			✓
	Review the structure and content of AFMA Corporate and Annual Operating Plan, including performance metrics.			✓
Increase AFMA's performance, accountability, and stakeholder engagement	Work with industry to seek reduced costs of doing business through remote meetings where appropriate. Offer a mixed model approach for face-to-face meetings.			✓
	Implementing AFMA's Data Strategy, including a Client Relationship Management system, enhancing and/or replacing key AFMA systems.		✓	

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
	Consult with the CFA and other key fisheries peak bodies on a final draft FMP for co-management. Finalise the FMP through its adoption by the AFMA Commission.			✓
	Develop and implement strategies and tools to enhance AFMA's capability to monitor timely feedback from stakeholders.			✓
	Conduct benchmarking, pop-up, and annual surveys.	✓		
	Collaborate with other government agencies with particular focus on recreational and Indigenous fishers.			✓
	Participate/sponsor fisheries events that support AFMA's objectives and explore opportunities for education campaigns.			✓
	Sponsor and support the indigenous engagement strategy project including participating as a member of the project steering committee and continue to liaise closely with the FRDC Indigenous Reference Group.			✓
	Work with key recreational fishing representatives to ensure that AFMA can obtain and understand recreational perspectives outside of issue-specific consultation through Management Advisory Committees (MACs).		✓	

Strategy	Key activities 2022–23	Not started	Partially complete	Complete
<p>Modernise and integrate AFMA's key data management systems in line with AFMA's Data Strategy to reduce regulatory burden, improve internal business intelligence and provide transparency of data and information to AFMA, the scientific/research community, fishing industry and the broader Australian community</p>	<p>Design, develop and implement the standards-based Electronic Monitoring program in consultation with stakeholders.</p>		✓	
	<p>Develop technical and fishery specific standards for the current Electronic Monitoring program users.</p>		✓	
	<p>Deliver hardware solutions and training to support the internal review process.</p>		✓	
	<p>Develop and commence trials in fisheries not currently using the electronic monitoring program.</p>		✓	
	<p>Continued expansion of the agency data capture platform, including developing a digital reporting platform for the collection of observer data (eobserver) and streamlining and incorporating industry data collection programs.</p>		✓	
	<p>Continue the development of the technology architecture that supports AFMA's Data Strategy outcomes, including the technical capability for sharing and accessing relevant data across key government agencies to support fisheries management decisions.</p>		✓	
	<p>Engage stakeholders through existing consultative fora to identify key data and information sought by stakeholders and commence exploration of possible avenues for sharing this data.</p>			✓



AFMA
FISHERIES

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT OFFICER



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Fishery reports

Introduction

Australia's Commonwealth fisheries are facing challenges on environmental and economic fronts. Changes in the marine environment are shifting species distribution, changing fish productivity, and altering habitats. Commercial fishing operations are also being impacted by offshore energy production, marine park reform and rezoning, oil and gas exploration and space launches. The high fuel and freight costs, chronic systemic labour shortages, and competition from cheap imported seafood that emerged during COVID-19 persisted for industry during 2022–23.

Gross Value of Production

The GVP is an indication of the economic value of fisheries. ABARES' most recent fishery statistics indicate that the annual gross value of Commonwealth fisheries production, that is the landed value of product, for 2022–23 has been maintained at around \$400 million.

Performance results discussed in fishery reports

Estimated catch totals for 2022–23

Estimated catch totals are taken from data compiled by AFMA from catch and effort logs and catch disposal records sourced from fishers in Commonwealth managed or jointly managed fisheries. These catch totals represent 'trunked' (processed) weight for the financial year July 2022 to June 2023.

Performance results

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

- Economic data presented in the reports are based on ABARES GVP data for Commonwealth fisheries and AFMA stock assessments.
- Data on fishing mortality and biomass are taken from Fishery Status Reports 2023 prepared by ABARES.

List of fishery reports

AFMA managed fisheries:

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

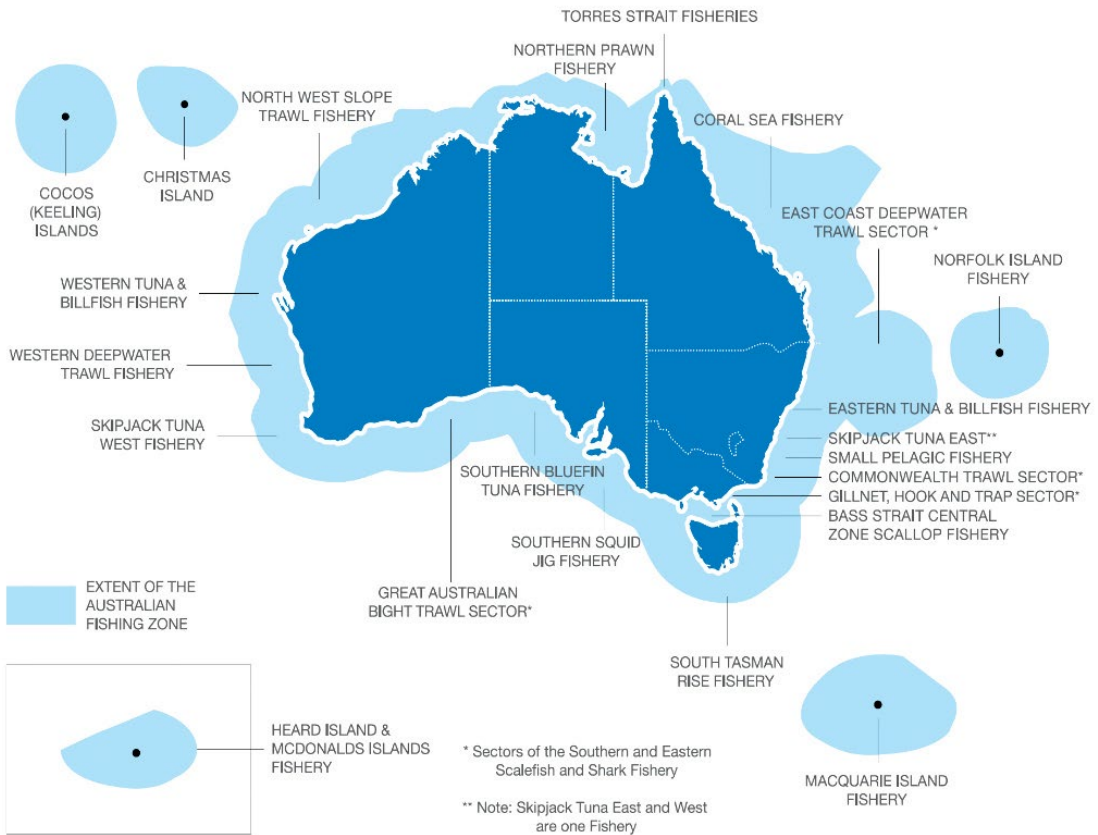
Joint managed fisheries:

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

High seas permits

Non-operational fisheries:


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



Map of Commonwealth Fisheries
 Photo courtesy AFMA Media Library

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
480 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commercial Scallop (<i>Pecten fumatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy*. The management arrangements include open and closed seasons, area closures, catch limits and size limits. There were no changes to the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* in 2022–23.

In consultation with the Scallop RAG and Scallop MAC, we are undertaking a review of the *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy*.

The review is focused on developing a strategy that better reflects the current state of the fishery, with decision rules that are scalable and can respond to changes in biomass, sustainability, and economic factors over time.

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

The 2022 fishing season opened on 12 July and closed on 31 December.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

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

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

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

A 3,862 tonne TAC for Commercial Scallop was set for the 2022 fishing season, of which 495 tonnes were caught. Four area closures were implemented to protect adult and juvenile Commercial Scallop, based on the outputs of the 2022 biomass survey and management arrangements within the fishery.

The TAC of 100 tonnes was set for Doughboy Scallop for the 2022 season, of which zero kilograms was landed.

Economic returns

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

To support the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Harvest Strategy, AFMA is considering developing an economic conditions index to inform management of the fishery, noting that it would not directly inform the TAC setting process but rather provide contextual information that can be considered by AFMA when making management decisions. This approach is already used in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery.

Stable catches and beach prices were maintained throughout the 2022 fishing season. Seven out of ten boats nominated to scallop licences fished in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery in the 2022 fishing season. This is reflected in the low catch for the 2022 fishing season due to fishers opting to reduce costs and fish closer to home and target the high-quality scallops that were reported in the Tasmanian fishery in 2022.

Coral Sea Fishery


ESTIMATED CATCH:
6.4 tonnes

(excluding aquarium sector)



Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Sea Cucumber sector: Black Teatfish (<i>Holothuria whitmael</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Sea Cucumber sector: Surf Redfish (<i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Sea Cucumber sector: White Teatfish (<i>Holothuria fuscogilva</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Sea Cucumber sector: Prickly Redfish (<i>Theleota ananas</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Sea Cucumber sector: Other Sea Cucumber species (11 spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Line Sector: Mixed reef fish and sharks	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Aquarium sector: Multiple species	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Lobster and Trochus sector: Tropical Rock Lobster (<i>Panulirus ornatus</i>) possibly other species	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

There is no statutory management plan for the Coral Sea Fishery. The Coral Sea Fishery is a multi-sector, multi-species fishery with four sectors: Sea Cucumber, Aquarium, Lobster and Trochus, and Line. These sectors are managed through input and output controls including limited entry, catch limits, spatial closures, move on provisions, size limits and catch-and-effort triggers. Fishers must hold permits to fish in the fishery. In January 2021, the Coral Sea Fishery was reaccredited under parts 13 and 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) until 6 January 2024.

Analysis of performance

Catch and effort in the Coral Sea Fishery remains relatively low. In the 2022–23 fishing season, four vessels were active in the fishery: one in the Line Sector, one in the Sea Cucumber Sector and two in the Aquarium Sector. No effort was recorded for the lobster and trochus sector.

In the Aquarium Sector, there was a total of 1,775 dive-hours recorded in 2022–23, which was slightly increased from 1,640 dive hours in 2021–22. In the Line Sector, there was a total of 73,000 hooks set in 2022–23, which was an increase from 58,403 hooks set in 2021–22. In the Sea Cucumber Sector there was a total of 80 dive hours which was an increase from 41 dive hours in 2021–22.

Catch in the Coral Sea Fishery (excluding the Aquarium Sector which records number of individuals) increased from 7.1 tonnes of fish products in the 2021–22 season to 15.5 tonnes of fish products in the 2022–23 season. Of this catch, approximately one-third was Sea Cucumber and the remainder was finfish. Catches in the Aquarium Sector were 31,292 aquarium species individuals in the 2022–23 season, a slight decrease from the previous 34,808 individuals in 2021–22.

There are changes of stocks status for some Sea Cucumber species including Black Teatfish, White Teatfish, Surf Redfish, and 'other' Sea Cucumber species, which are now classified as uncertain. This change was based on the most recent ABARES fishery status report assessments and reflects the uncertainty in the available evidence for these species.

External reviews

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

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
438 tonnes
 (Patagonian Toothfish)

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Patagonian Toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006*. It is managed through a system of output controls in the form of individually transferable quotas, which are allocated as SFRs under the management plan. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. There were no changes to the *Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006* during the 2022–23 fishing season.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

In March 2021, the AFMA Commission set the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery TAC for Patagonian Toothfish at 635 tonnes for the 2022–23 and 2023–24 fishing seasons. The Macquarie Island Toothfish stock assessment has been divided into three regions, noting that the toothfish within these three regions are considered to be a single stock. Industry agreed to, as far as possible, adopt a fishing strategy endorsed by the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Resource Assessment Group, which spreads fishing effort across the three regions.

Status of bycatch

Bycatch is generally low in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery. Catch limits of 50 tonnes for any one bycatch species were set for 2022–23 and 2023–24, consistent with previous years. These catch limits were not exceeded in 2022–23 and have never been exceeded for any one species in a season.

External reviews

The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. A surveillance audit was conducted in May 2022 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard. The fishery also commenced reassessment under the Marine Stewardship Council's new more rigorous standard in 2022. The MITF was recertified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council in January 2023.



Northern Prawn Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
5,526 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
White Banana Prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus merguensis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Brown Tiger Prawn (<i>Penaeus esculentus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Grooved Tiger Prawn (<i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue Endeavour Prawn (<i>Metapenaeus endeavouri</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Red Endeavour Prawn (<i>Metapenaeus ensis</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Redleg Banana Prawn (<i>Fenneropenaeus indicus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

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

The fishery relies on a size and sex-based stock assessment model for Brown and Grooved Tiger Prawn; a biomass dynamic assessment model for Blue Endeavour Prawn; a quarterly age based biological stock assessment model for Redleg Banana Prawn; and the White Banana Prawn Harvest Strategy, for which the operational objective is to allow sufficient escapement to ensure an adequate spawning biomass and achieve MEY from the fishery. There is no formal stock assessment for the White Banana Prawn fishery.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

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

All 52 boat SFRs were used during the 2022 Tiger Prawn season. The last stock assessment for Brown and Grooved Tiger Prawn was completed in 2022 and determined that the stocks are not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. The management objective of MEY is also assessed against an annual target reference point, which is a spawning stock size equal to that which is estimated to produce MEY. Both Brown and Grooved Tiger Prawn spawning stocks were assessed as being below the target in the 2022 assessment at 66 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, but above the limit reference points. As a result of concerns for low recruitment in the Tiger Prawn stocks, and issues within the base case model which impacted the estimation of the total allowable effort, a pre-season decision was made to shorten the 2022 Tiger Prawn season by a month and, as such, the fishery closed early on 1 November 2022.

All 52 boat SFRs were used during the 2023 Banana Prawn season (1 April to 15 June 2023). The total catch of Banana Prawn increased from 3,618 tonnes in 2021 to 4,029 tonnes in 2022. These catch levels are below average and were most likely impacted by lower rainfall across key catchments. The in-season catch-rate trigger for Banana Prawn season was breached this year prompting the early closure of

the fishery on 10 June 2022. This trigger is designed to pursue MEY within a season by triggering an early closure when catch rates drop below the annually agreed level.

The harvest strategy was updated for the Tiger Prawn bioeconomic stock assessment model to incorporate the Red Endeavour Prawn stock as a sensitivity run alongside Brown and Grooved Tiger Prawn and Blue Endeavour Prawn. Consultation is underway about whether to include climate change in the harvest strategy, to ensure consistency with the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy, and up-to-date byproduct species triggers.

Status of bycatch

The ecological risk assessments (ERAs) undertaken for the Tiger Prawn sub-fishery and the Banana Prawn sub-fishery were considered and accepted by the Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group and the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committees in 2022.

Under both ERAs there were four sawfish species assessed as potentially being at high risk for the period 2013–2017: Narrow Sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*), Dwarf Sawfish (*Pristis clavata*), Green Sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*), Freshwater Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*).

The latest report for long-term bycatch sustainability assessment project monitoring interactions with bycatch species was finalised in June 2022. Under the project there were 14 species that could be assessed (including 10 sea snake species, the Narrow Sawfish, Pipefish, and the Brown-Striped Mantis Shrimp) for the period 2010 to 2019, no significant declines in catch rates were observed.

The Bycatch Strategy for the NPF, which was finalised in early 2021, focuses on improving information on interactions with sawfish species, including identifying how sawfish interact with the fishing gear, particularly around the Turtle Excluder Devices used in all fishing nets.

Economic returns

During the most recent financial year (2021–22) the NPF GVP was \$91.7 million, making it one of the highest valued Commonwealth managed fisheries. A modest increase in GVP in 2021–22 was driven by higher Banana Prawn catch. The fishery is broadly (across the two key species groups – Banana and Tiger Prawn) managed to pursue MEY. Overall fishing effort limits (fishing gear and season lengths) are set on the result of outputs from the bio-economic model for Tiger and Endeavour Prawn. Additionally, the normal season length may be reduced using catch-rate triggers in the Banana and Tiger Prawn sub-fisheries to account for annual variability in these stocks.

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

Priority issues

A key priority over the next few years is for the NPF to find ways to reduce the impact of fishing on the sawfish species, specifically Narrow Sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*).

The NPF interactions with sawfish species are predominantly with Narrow Sawfish (more than 90 per cent based on data from the ongoing NPF Bycatch Monitoring project). Further research and fieldwork is underway with cooperation from NPF operators, including using net mounted cameras to characterise the interaction between the animals and the fishing gear, and population analysis through CKMR techniques. It is hoped that this research can lead to fishing gear modification to prevent these animals from being caught and contribute to population estimates of the species.

Throughout 2021–22, the NPF has continued to play a key role as a source of Black Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) for aquaculture broodstock. Due to limited data covering Black Tiger Prawn catches historically there is a low level of confidence in the stock assessment outcomes for this species. We have agreed to continue collecting high-quality data for a further assessment in 2024. Considering this uncertainty, no changes were made to the management arrangements for 2023.

External reviews

The NPF has held Marine Stewardship Council certification since 2012, with the most recent re-assessment occurring in 2016 (the fishery is currently certified until mid-2023). A final draft report and determination was released in May 2023 that provisionally determined that the fishery should be re-certified².

² The NPF was successfully re-certified in July 2023

North West Slope and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries



ESTIMATED CATCH:
NWS
85.8 tonnes



ESTIMATED CATCH:
WDT
12 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
North West Slope Trawl Fishery Scampi (<i>Metanephrops australiensis</i> , <i>M. boschmai</i> , <i>M. velutinus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery Bugs (<i>Ibacus</i> spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery Ruby Snapper (<i>Etelis carbunculus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023. *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

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

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

Analysis of performance

During the past five years, North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries have generally experienced relatively low levels of fishing effort.

In the 2021–22 fishing season the NWSTF catch was 85.8 tonnes, a slight decrease from the 2020–21 of 87 tonnes. The WDWTF experienced an increase in catch to 12 tonnes in the 2021–22 season from 5 tonnes in 2020–21. The relatively limited levels of effort are due in part to permit holders accessing more lucrative fisheries in adjacent fishery areas.

A review of the North West Slope and Western Deepwater Trawl fisheries harvest strategy was undertaken during 2022–23, with stakeholders meeting in November 2022 to consider the review outcomes. In May 2023, the AFMA Commission approved the revised harvest strategy which is now in force.

External reviews

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

Small Pelagic Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
23.7 tonnes



Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Australian Sardine (<i>Sardinops sagax</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue Mackerel, east/west (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Jack Mackerel, east/west (<i>Trachurus declivis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Redbait, east/west (<i>Emmelichthys nitidus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) is managed in accordance with the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009*. The management arrangements include SFRs, area based catch limits and rules governing the gear that may be used. There were no changes to the *Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009* in 2022–23.

Analysis of performance

Harvest strategy

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

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

A research priority to further refine the Harvest Strategy was identified for funding during 2022–23 and will be considered for funding in 2024–25.

Sustainability and economic returns

DEPM surveys continue to be updated for the eastern zone stocks, enabling TACs to remain at maximum levels. Results of the 2020–21 survey for Redbait (east) was used to inform the 2022–23 TAC for this stock. TAC determinations for other stocks were informed by previous survey results and remain at the same tier level as 2021–22.

Fishing effort in 2022–23 was focused in the eastern area of the fishery and was greater than the previous year, with catches of Blue Mackerel (east) and Jack Mackerel (east) contributing to most of the increase in catch from the 2021–22 fishing season. Notwithstanding these increases, the TACs for each of the seven target stocks remain undercaught. Over the last three seasons, catches have been between 13,000 and 20,000 tonne, indicating the incentives to fish in the SPF remain good.

Status of bycatch

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

The number of dolphin interactions in the 2022–23 fishing season were much lower compared to 2021–22.

We are currently reviewing the SPF Dolphin Strategy and the interim management arrangements implemented in 2021–22 remain in place while this review is underway. As part of the interim management arrangements, we changed the way that the maximum interaction rate is implemented. The interaction rate is used as a performance indicator only while the SPF Dolphin Strategy is under review. The existing management arrangements associated with the number of dolphin interactions remain in place.

The CSIRO is currently undertaking an ERA for the purse seine sector of the SPF which is due for completion in 2023 and will inform the development of additional management arrangements if required.

External reviews

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

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

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
17,199 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors				
Blue Grenadier (<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Blue Warehou, eastern zone (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Final assessment pending	Overfished
Blue Warehou, western zone (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Blue-eye Trevalla (<i>Hyperoglyphe antarctica</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Gemfish, eastern zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Gemfish, western zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Gulper Shark (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i> , <i>C. moluccensis</i> , <i>C. zeehaani</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Jackass Morwong, eastern zone (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Overfished	Subject to overfishing	Overfished
Jackass Morwong, western zone (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean Perch (<i>Helicolenus barathri</i> and <i>H. percoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Pink Ling (<i>Genypterus blacodes</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Ribaldo (<i>Mora moro</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Silver Trevally (<i>Pseudocaranx georgianus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Commonwealth Trawl Sector				
Deepwater Shark, eastern zone (multiple spp.)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Deepwater Shark, western zone (multiple spp.)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Eastern School Whiting (<i>Sillago flindersi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Flathead (<i>Neoplatycephalus richardsoni</i> and 3 other spp.)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
John Dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Mirror Dory (<i>Zenopsis nebulosa</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean Jacket, eastern zone (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange Roughy, Cascade Plateau (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange Roughy, eastern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange Roughy, southern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Orange Roughy, western zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Uncertain	Overfished
Oreodory – other; 3 spp. (<i>Neocyttus rhomboidalis</i> , <i>Allocyttus niger</i> , <i>A. verrucosus</i>)	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain	Uncertain
Oreodory – smooth: (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>) Cascade Plateau	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Oreodory – smooth: (<i>Pseudocyttus maculatus</i>) Non-Cascade Plateau	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Uncertain	Uncertain
Redfish, eastern (<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished
Royal Red Prawn (<i>Haliporoides sibogae</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Silver Warehou (<i>Seriola punctata</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector				
Alfonsino (<i>Beryx splendens</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector				
Bight Redfish (<i>Centroberyx gerrardi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Deepwater Flathead (<i>Neoplatycephalus conatus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Ocean Jacket, western (<i>Nelusetta ayraud</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Orange Roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain	Not subject to overfishing	Uncertain
Shark Gillnet and Shark Hook sectors				
Elephantfish (<i>Callorhynchus milii</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Uncertain	Uncertain
Gummy Shark (<i>Mustelus antarcticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Sawshark (<i>Pristiophorus cirratus</i> , <i>P. nudipinnis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
School Shark (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>)	Uncertain	Overfished	Final assessment pending	Overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, Fishery Status Reports 2023, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

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

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

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

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

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

Stock assessments were updated in 2022 for a number of SESSF species. The assessments for Bight Redfish, Blue Grenadier and Gemfish west estimated that the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, was above the target reference point, whereas the assessment for flathead produced an estimate equal to the target reference point.

Assessments for Blue-eye Trevalla (slope), Mirror Dory (east), Mirror Dory (west) and Silver Trevally, estimated that the current biomass, or a proxy thereof, is between the limit reference point and the target referent point.

For species assessed as being between the limit and target reference points, catches are set at a level that will allow the stock to build to the target. Smooth Oreodory (other) continues to be assessed based on the outputs of the 2019 ERA, as well as recent catch and effort data, which shows recent fishing mortality is sustainable.

Commonwealth rebuilding strategies are in place for Blue Warehou, eastern Gemfish, Redfish, School Shark and Orange Roughy. These strategies typically implement incidental TACs and management arrangements to prevent targeting and promote recovery of the stock to the limit reference point. The performance of the strategies is reviewed annually by the relevant RAG, and each undergoes a thorough review every five years. Five-year reviews of the Orange Roughy and Blue Warehou rebuilding strategies were completed in 2021, and the revised rebuilding plans were published in 2022.

Jackass Morwong and John Dory were assessed as overfished in late 2021. Since then, we have implemented management arrangements to reduce the catch of both species, including significantly reduced TACs and a series of five spatial closures in the south east (which came into effect on 1 May 2023) aimed at constraining catches and discards of at-risk species.

The implementation of the spatial closures was accompanied by a structural adjustment package of \$24 million to reduce the number of trawl boat concessions, to manage the transfer of effort and ensure that the remaining fleet was economically viable. The structural adjustment process concluded in June 2023 and resulted in the voluntary surrender of 21 trawl boat concessions, leaving 36 trawl boat concessions in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector.

We commenced a five-year review of the eastern Gemfish rebuilding strategy in 2020 and were scheduled to commence a review of the Redfish rebuilding strategy in 2021. However, significant changes to management arrangements in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector were progressed during 2022 (and implemented on 1 May 2023) to ensure that fishing mortality of at-risk species is significantly reduced. We will reconsider the timing for the substantive reviews of the eastern Gemfish and Redfish rebuilding strategies now that these changes have been implemented. We will continue to review the relevant data for all rebuilding species on an annual basis to ensure the objectives of the strategies continue to be met.

Reliability of information

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

In June 2021, we engaged ABARES to undertake an independent analysis comparing logbook data with EM collected data for retained and discarded commercial and bycatch as well as protected species interactions in the GHAT. The analysis showed that the congruence between logbook data and EM is good for retained catches of the main target species, but there was lower congruence for discarded catch, byproduct and protected species. Additionally, vessel-level variability and species identification issues were flagged as possible drivers for lower congruence. The analysis provided us a better understanding of the reliability of both sources of information as an accurate representation of commercial fishing operations and will inform future consideration of the EM program. In 2022, based on the results of this analysis, the Shark Resource Assessment Group recommended the use of logbook data to determine discard estimates for shark species to be used in stock assessments.

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

Biological data collection across the various sectors of the SESSF has returned to normal following the easing of all COVID-19 travel restrictions. The SESSF Resource Assessment Group (SESSFRAG) continues to review the available data in August each year, prior to stock assessments being undertaken.

Status of bycatch

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

- otter board trawl method in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- Danish seine method in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector
- otter board trawl method in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector
- shark gillnet method in the Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
- scalefish automatic longline, and
- various shark and scalefish hook methods in the GHAT.

Under the recently finalised ERAs there were 21 individual species assessed across the sectors as potentially being at high risk for the period 2012–16. These consisted of 14 species in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector (otter board trawl and Danish seine), one species in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector (also high risk in the CTS), and seven species in the gillnet sector of the GHAT. There were no high-risk species identified for any of the hook methods in the GHAT.

A bycatch and discarding workplan has been developed for the Commonwealth Trawl Sector to mitigate the impact to species identified as high risk in this sector. The drafting of bycatch and discarding workplans for the Great Australian Bight and GHAT sectors have been flagged as priorities in 2023–24.

We continue to focus on minimising seabird interactions in the SESSF by monitoring compliance with boat-specific Seabird Management Plans. We worked closely with the trawl industry to develop mitigation options to further reduce seabird interactions with otter board trawl boats by providing feedback on designs and ultimately assessing whether proposed approaches meet the requirements for an exemption to the biological material retention requirements introduced in 2019–20. To date, seven boats in the Commonwealth Trawl Sector have successfully implemented alternative mitigation and were provided exemptions. We report effort, review rates and seabird interactions annually against the Seabird Threat Abatement Plan for all longline hook methods. From May 2023, the use of seabird feather kits was included for all hook methods in the GHAT to support research to improve seabird identification.

A comprehensive review of the Upper-Slope Dogfish Management Strategy was completed in 2020–21. The strategy was finalised in late 2022 and a monitoring program has commenced that will establish the baseline relative abundance of dogfish and support monitoring through time.

Internal reviews

No internal reviews were completed during 2022–23.

External reviews

Three operators within the Commonwealth Trawl Sector of the SESSF now have Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. Two of these certificates apply the harvest of Blue Grenadier and one to the harvest of Royal Red Prawn.

The Great Australian Bight Industry Association received MSC certification for the harvest of Bight Redfish, Deepwater Shark and Gummy Shark in August 2023 and the Orange Roughy Eastern Zone trawl fishery entered MSC assessment in the same month.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
146 tonnes



Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Gould's Squid (<i>Nototodarus gouldi</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The Southern Squid Jig Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* and the *Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy*. The management arrangements include regulating the type and amount of fishing gear able to be used. There were no changes to the *Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005* in 2022–23.

The *Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy* was reviewed in 2022–23 to simplify and include an additional catch and effort trigger that more closely reflects the current state of the Southern Squid Jig Fishery. A broader, more holistic review of the *Arrow Squid Fishery Harvest Strategy* will be considered once additional data has been collected to inform appropriate analyses.

External reviews

No external reviews were completed during 2022–23.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

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

Effort and catch in the Southern Squid Jig Fishery continues to vary between seasons and has been relatively low in recent years. Estimated catch for 2022–23 was 146 tonnes which was lower than 2021–22 but relatively consistent with catches in recent years. An ongoing challenge for the squid fishery is locating commercially viable aggregations of squid, an issue exacerbated by a small fleet size. Despite low catches, the price received remains high.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
4,032 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (<i>scientific name</i>)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Striped Marlin (<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>) south-west Pacific	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Bigeye Tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>) south-west Pacific	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The fishery continues to be managed in accordance with the *Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery Management Plan 2010* and conservation and management measures mandated by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of which Australia is a member.

The fishery is managed through output controls (total allowable commercial catches and individually transferable quotas) and input controls (e.g., limited entry). In 2021, the AFMA Commission agreed to manage Striped Marlin through a constant catch approach. This approach was used to inform the AFMA Commission when setting the 2023 Striped Marlin Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC).

At the eighty-sixth AFMA Commission meeting (November 2022), the Commission decided to modify the ETBF Harvest Strategy. The Commission noted, when making the modification to the ETBF Harvest Strategy, that the purpose of the modification is to explicitly account for recent low catch levels compared to the TAC. In doing so, we avoid unnecessary TAC reductions. The modification has been designed and tested assuming the level of recent under catching ceases from 2025 onwards. A further review of the harvest strategy is scheduled to commence in 2024. The proposed modification has been recommended by the Tropical Tuna MAC (TTMAC) and Tropical Tuna RAG (TTRAG). These new decision rules are intended to remain in place until the scheduled 2023 review of the Harvest Strategy is complete; that is, assuming extreme under-catch continues, these rules are likely to guide TACC setting for the 2023 and 2024 seasons.

Performance criteria detailed in the fishery management plan were met in 2022–23.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

Overall, ETBF catches of key commercial species have remained constant from 2021 and 2022. A relatively high proportion of the TACC was caught for Yellowfin Tuna, Albacore and Striped Marlin. There has been a minor increase of Swordfish in 2022 and less than half the catch limit set for Bigeye Tuna was caught.

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

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

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

Fishery management arrangements

Since 2015, boats in the ETBF have been required to have a system of cameras and sensors installed to monitor all fishing operations. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring to verify the logbook records. Ten per cent of all longline shots (minimum of one shot per boat, per month) are reviewed and compared to the logbook reports.

Regular feedback reports are provided to ETBF operators to inform them of their reporting performance. ABARES undertook a secondary evaluation of the reliability of electronic monitoring and logbook data for informing fisheries science and management (Emery et al 2023).

At a high level, the findings of the secondary evaluation indicate that the overall level of congruence (similarity between EM and logbook data) for the ETBF was:

- superior for key commercial species compared to byproduct/bycatch species
- higher for retained than discarded catch, and
- higher for TEP groups (i.e., seabirds, marine turtles, and marine mammals) than at a species taxonomic level.

External reviews

ETBF was declared an approved wildlife trade operation on 17 August 2022 for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Diversity Act 1999*. This declaration is valid until 19 August 2025.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
5,972 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

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

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

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

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

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

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

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

Economic returns

The majority of the SBT TAC continues to be taken by the purse seine sector in South Australia, for subsequent grow out. In the 2021–22 fishing season 4,957 tonnes were taken by the purse seine sector compared to 4,592 tonnes in the previous season.

The amount of SBT taken by longliners on the east coast depends primarily on access to available quota and the seasonal availability of fish. In the 2021–22 fishing season, 1,015 tonnes was caught compared to 1,052 tonnes in the previous season.

External reviews

SBTF was declared an approved wildlife trade operation on 7 November 2022 for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Diversity Act 1999*. This declaration is valid until 11 November 2025.



Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery



 **ESTIMATED CATCH:**
145 tonnes

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Albacore (<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Yellowfin Tuna (<i>Thunnus albacares</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Bigeye Tuna (<i>Thunnus obesus</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished	Subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not Overfished
Striped Marlin (<i>Kajikia audax</i>)	Subject to overfishing	Overfished	Subject to overfishing	Overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

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

and after the Commission determined that the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) limits for Yellowfin Tuna of 2,000 tonnes remain and in making this decision the Commission noted that the TACC consistent with Australia’s current obligations to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). Efforts by IOTC this year to review the interim yellowfin tuna rebuilding plan 21/01 failed to reach any agreement.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

The Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) has continued to operate at low levels of effort. In 2022–23, catch levels for the main target species have generally been constant from year to year. Domestically, the current proportion of catches for all the key commercial species are not considered to be of concern to the regional stock status. We cooperate with DAFF to encourage the IOTC to implement robust catch controls and country-specific allocations to rebuild overfished stocks and manage all stocks into the future.

Fishery management arrangements

Since July 2015 active boats in the WTBF have been required to have EM installed to monitor all fishing operations. Footage is recorded when fishing operations are occurring to verify logbook records.

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

External reviews

The WTBF was declared an approved wildlife trade operation on 11 November 2022 for the purposes of the *Environment Protection and Diversity Act 1999*. This declaration is valid until 11 November 2025.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery



ESTIMATED CATCH:
2,775 tonnes
 (Patagonian Toothfish)

ESTIMATED CATCH:
1,021 tonnes
 (Mackerel Icefish)

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Mackerel Icefish (<i>Champscephalus gunnari</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Patagonian Toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Management plans/arrangements

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery is managed in accordance with the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* and the conservation measures mandated by CCAMLR. All operations conducted in the fishery were compliant with the performance criteria outlined in the management plan. There were no changes to the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* during 2022–23.

Analysis of performance

Status of fish stocks

The AFMA Commission set the HIMI Fishery TAC at 2,510 tonnes for Patagonian Toothfish and 2,616 tonnes for Mackerel Icefish for the 2022–23 fishing year based on the stock assessments results.

Status of bycatch

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

External reviews

The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). A surveillance audit was conducted in August 2021 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard. The fishery also commenced reassessment under the MSC's new more rigorous standard in 2022 and was recertified as sustainable by the MSC in January 2023.

High Sea Permits



Major species:

- Yellowtail Kingfish
- Redthroat Emperor
- Blue-eye Trevalla
- King Morwong
- Jackass Morwong
- Sea Bream Snapper
- Reef Ocean Perch
- Flame Snapper
- Patagonian Toothfish

Management plans/arrangements

High Seas Permits allow Australian flagged vessels to fish for non-highly migratory species in the areas of water covered under the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). High Seas Permits are granted for up to five years, with a season running from 1 January to 31 December (1 December to 30 November for Williams Ridge). There are currently six High Seas Permits. Five vessels are permitted to fish in the SPRFMO area and five vessels are permitted to fish in the SIOFA area. The main gears used by High Seas Permit holders are midwater trawl, demersal trawl and automatic longline (demersal longline).

In 2022–23, a number of amendments to SPRFMO and SIOFA CMMs were adopted. These amendments were implemented domestically through changes to permit conditions.

With regards to SPRFMO, amendments related largely to VMS reporting obligations and the use of seabird feather kits. With regards to SIOFA, permit conditions were last amended in December 2020 to allow fishing on Williams Ridge for Patagonian toothfish (SIOFA CMM2020/15 Management of Demersal Stocks) and to allow trap fishing for lobsters in accordance with Australia's updated Bottom Fishing Impact Assessment.

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

Analysis of performance

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

Non-operational fisheries

Commercial operators did not operate in the following Commonwealth fisheries during 2022–23.

Norfolk Island Fishery

The Norfolk Island Inshore Fishery and the Norfolk Island Offshore Demersal Finfish Fishery do not have formal management plans and there are no commercial fishing concessions.

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

Skipjack Tuna Fishery

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Indian Ocean Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished
Western and Central Pacific Ocean Skipjack Tuna (<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Not overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

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

There has been no annual effort in either the Eastern or Western Skipjack Tuna fishery since 2008 for economic reasons. There were no new management arrangements implemented in the fishery in 2022–23. There are 12 current Eastern Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits and nine Western Skipjack Tuna Fishery permits, however no Australian vessels are currently targeting Skipjack Tuna.

South Tasman Rise Fishery

Stock status of target species

Common name (scientific name)	Latest available status assessment			
	2021		2022	
	Fishing mortality	Biomass	Fishing mortality	Biomass
Orange Roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished	Not subject to overfishing	Overfished

Source: Butler, I, Patterson, H, Bromhead, D, Galeano, D, Timmiss, T, Woodhams, J and Curtotti, R 2023, *Fishery Status Reports 2023*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

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

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

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







REPORT ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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Overview of financial performance

Departmental operating results

For the year ended 30 June 2023, the overall financial result for AFMA is a deficit of \$3.4 million which is \$1.4 million higher than the budgeted deficit of \$2.1 million. The total comprehensive loss was \$0.576 million, the major difference arising from the revaluation of assets up by \$2.831 million for the 2022–23 year. AFMA's assets are revalued once every three years. The next asset revaluation review will occur in 2025–26.

During 2022–23, revenue from government increased by five per cent to \$22.1 million (\$21.0 million in 2021–22) consistent with budget. Revenue from levies and license fees decreased by 13 per cent from budget to \$13.1 million (\$14.0 million in 2022–23), the result of lower employee expenditure in 2021–22 and the associated impact on cost recovery in 2022–23. Revenue from contracts with customers decreased by seven per cent from budget to \$3.7 million (\$3.5 million in 2022–23) due to lower VMS revenues from the States.

During 2022–23, AFMA operating expenses increased to \$42.4 million (from \$37.2 million in 2021–22). Employee expenses increased by \$2.9 million to \$22.1 million mainly due to an increase in leave provisions arising from the impact of bond rate increase. Supplier expenses increased by \$2.1 million, including increases in research and to both domestic and international travel, returning to normal levels after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Departmental assets and liabilities

As at the 30 June 2023, AFMA's total assets increased by \$3.7 million to \$38.9 million (\$35.2 million in 2021–22). Cash and cash equivalents decreased by \$1.4 million to \$13.0 million (\$14.1 million in 2021–22), reflecting the operating deficit. Trade and other receivables increased by \$3.4 million to \$8.3 million (\$4.8 million in 2021–22) primarily due to underspend of the Departmental Capital Budget due to the delay in commencement of the DTEMP. Non-financial assets increased by \$1.3 million to \$17.6 million (\$16.3 million in 2021–22), the major difference being the revaluation of assets.

Total liabilities decreased by \$0.5 million to \$15.9 million (\$16.3 million in 2021–22) that primarily related to the reduction in lease liabilities offset by an increase in the leave provision from the impact of the increase in the bond rate.

Administered income and expenses

During 2022–23, AFMA administered expenses on behalf of the Commonwealth Government amounted to \$0.6 million, a decrease of \$0.7 million from the prior year reflecting decreased disposals of illegal foreign fishing vessels. This result was \$5.3 million lower than budget due to lower than forecast illegal foreign fishing vessel apprehensions.

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audit report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

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

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

Australian National Audit Office



Bradley Medina
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
8 September 2023

Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Certification

Primary financial statements

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Overview

Notes to the financial statements

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 - 1.2: Own-source revenue and gains
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 - 2.2: Non-financial assets
 - 2.3: Payables
 - 2.4: Interest bearing liabilities
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3. **Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government**
 - 3.1: Administered – financial assets
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Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Finance Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsections 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

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



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer
08 September 2023



Jo Hobson
Chief Finance Officer
08 September 2023

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	22,146	19,283	22,693
Suppliers	1.1B	17,398	15,255	16,876
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,562	2,565	3,471
Finance costs	1.1C	84	90	76
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	170	2	-
Impairment loss on financial instruments		1	7	-
Foreign exchange losses		18	27	-
Total expenses		42,378	37,229	43,116
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	3,705	3,494	3,980
Rental income	1.2B	76	161	135
Interest		-	5	-
Levies and licence fees	1.2C	13,079	14,004	14,845
Total own-source revenue		16,860	17,664	18,960
Gains				
Resources received free of charge		45	45	45
Total gains		45	45	45
Total own-source income		16,905	17,709	19,005
Net (cost of) / contribution by services		(25,473)	(19,520)	(24,111)
Revenue from Government	1.2D	22,066	21,035	22,066
Surplus / (deficit) on continuing operations		(3,407)	1,515	(2,045)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		2,831	(17)	-
Total comprehensive income / (loss)		(576)	1,498	(2,045)

Budget variances commentary

Employee expenses were lower than the Budget by \$0.5 million due to lower average staffing levels throughout 2022–23. This was partially offset by an increase in employee leave provision expenses arising from bond rate increases.

Depreciation expenses were \$0.9 million lower than the Budget due to underspends of Departmental Capital Budget for the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Projects.

Own-source revenues were lower than the Budget by \$2.1 million primarily due to lower levy revenues of \$1.8 million, which was due primarily to lower employee expenditure in 2021–22 and the associated impact on cost recovery in 2022–23.

Other comprehensive income was higher than the Budget by \$2.8 million due to asset revaluation in June 2023, which increased values of land (\$0.7 million) and buildings (\$2.1 million).

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	13,010	14,054	13,672
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	8,281	4,845	4,845
Total financial assets		21,291	18,899	18,517
Non-financial assets				
Land	2.2A	2,475	1,775	1,775
Buildings	2.2A	12,248	11,594	9,787
Plant and equipment	2.2A	928	1,416	1,853
Computer software	2.2A	1,649	1,208	4,411
Other non-financial assets	2.2B	289	301	301
Total non-financial assets		17,589	16,294	18,127
Total assets		38,880	35,193	36,644
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	3,269	3,000	2,229
Other payables	2.3B	581	470	1,241
Total payables		3,850	3,470	3,470

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4A	6,596	7,537	6,311
Total interest bearing liabilities		6,596	7,537	6,311
Provisions				
Employee provisions	5.1A	5,274	5,174	5,174
Other provisions	2.5A	187	185	185
Total provisions		5,461	5,359	5,359
Total liabilities		15,907	16,366	15,140
Net assets		22,973	18,827	21,504
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		22,861	18,138	22,861
(Accumulated deficit)		(6,283)	(2,875)	(4,921)
Total equity		22,973	18,827	21,504

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

Budget variances commentary

Trade and other receivables were \$3.4 million higher than the Budget primarily due to underspends of Departmental Capital Budget for the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Projects.

Non-financial assets were \$0.5 million lower than the Budget primarily due to lower than forecast asset additions in 2022–23 relating to delays in the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Projects. This was partially offset by \$2.8 million increase from 2022–23 revaluation of land and buildings which also increased equity reserves.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Statement of changes in equity

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	18,138	13,720	18,139
Adjustment for errors	1	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	18,139	13,720	18,139
Transactions with owners			
Departmental capital budget	4,722	4,418	4,722
Total transactions with owners	4,722	4,418	4,722
Closing balance as at 30 June	22,861	18,138	22,861
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(2,875)	(4,390)	(2,876)
Adjustment for errors	(1)	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	(2,876)	(4,390)	(2,876)
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(3,407)	1,515	(2,045)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(3,407)	1,515	(2,045)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(6,283)	(2,875)	(4,921)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	3,564	3,581	3,564
Adjusted opening balance	3,564	3,581	3,564
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	2,831	(17)	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	6,395	3,564	3,564

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	18,827	12,911	18,827
Adjusted opening balance	18,827	12,911	18,827
Comprehensive income/(loss)			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(3,407)	1,515	(2,045)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	2,831	(17)	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(576)	1,498	(2,045)
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Departmental capital budget	4,722	4,418	4,722
Total transactions with owners	4,722	4,418	4,722
Closing balance as at 30 June	22,973	18,827	21,504

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

Accounting policy

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) and Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Budget variances commentary

The closing balance of equity is \$1.5 million higher than the Budget. The variance is due to the lower than budgeted operating results of \$1.4 million in 2022–23 and \$2.8 million revaluation of land and buildings.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Cash flow statement

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		22,066	21,035	22,066
Sales of goods and rendering of services		4,116	3,360	4,115
Net GST received		1,490	1,300	-
Levies and licence fees		13,075	13,998	14,845
Total cash received		40,747	39,693	41,026
Cash used				
Employees		21,935	19,782	22,693
Suppliers		18,861	16,075	16,831
Interest payments on lease liabilities		82	88	76
Total cash used		40,878	35,945	39,600
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities		(131)	3,748	1,426
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		882	1,394	5,104
Total cash used		882	1,394	5,104
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(882)	(1,394)	(5,104)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed equity – departmental capital budget		1,238	910	4,722
Total cash received		1,238	910	4,722
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,268	1,276	1,426
Total cash used		1,268	1,276	1,426
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		(30)	(366)	3,296
Net increase in cash held		(1,043)	1,988	(382)

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		14,054	12,066	14,054
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	2.1A	13,010	14,054	13,672

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

Budget variances commentary

Operating activities

Employee cash payments were lower than the Budget by \$0.8 million due to lower average staffing levels in 2022–23. Supplier cash used were higher than the Budget by \$2.0 million primarily due to gross up of GST payments of \$1.7 million which was not budgeted for.

Levy receipts were lower than the Budget by \$1.8 million due to lower employee expenditure in 2021–22 and the associated impact on cost recovery levies in 2022–23.

Investing activities and financing activities

Total purchases of property, plant and equipment were \$4.2 million lower than the Budget primarily as a result of the delay in the Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring project.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered schedule of comprehensive income

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Suppliers		557	1,267	5,839
Total expenses		557	1,267	5,839
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fees and fines		154	99	-
Total non-taxation revenue		154	99	-
Total revenue		154	99	-
Gains				
Reversal of write-downs and impairments		10	-	-
Total gains		10	-	-
Total income		164	99	-
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		(393)	(1,168)	(5,839)
Surplus/(deficit)		(393)	(1,168)	(5,839)

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

Budget variances commentary

Suppliers expenses were \$5.3 million lower than the Budget. Costs for the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels were lower due to lower vessel apprehensions than budgeted.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered schedule of assets and liabilities

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Trade and other receivables	3.1A	66	185	185
Total financial assets		66	185	185
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		66	185	185
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.2A	24	254	254
Total payables		24	254	254
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		24	254	254
Net assets/(liabilities)		42	(69)	(69)

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

Budget variances commentary

Administered receivables were lower than the Budget by \$0.1 million due to write-offs following annual assessment. Items were previously impaired.

Decrease in payables compared to the Budget due to higher vessel activity in May/June 2023.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered reconciliation schedule

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	(69)	16
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		
Income	164	99
Expenses	(557)	(1,267)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government:		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Annual appropriations	755	1,148
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to Official Public Account	(251)	(65)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	42	(69)

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

Accounting policies

Administered cash transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by AFMA for use by the Government rather than AFMA is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by AFMA on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the statement of cash flows in the schedule of administered items and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Administered cash flow statement

for the period ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Fees		303	-	-
Net GST received		70	99	-
Total cash received		373	99	-
Cash used				
Suppliers		877	1,182	5,839
Total cash used		877	1,182	5,839
Net cash flows from/(used by) operating activities		(504)	(1,083)	(5,839)
Cash from Official Public Account				
Appropriations		755	1,148	5,839
		755	1,148	5,839
Cash to Official Public Account for:				
Appropriations		(251)	(65)	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		-	-	-

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

Budget variances commentary

Cash used by operating activities were \$5.2 million lower than the Budget as a result of lower supplier expenditure as explained under the Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income. Cash received higher than the Budget by \$0.3m due to higher fees and fines received during 2022–23.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Overview

Objectives of AFMA

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objectives of AFMA are to pursue the implementation of efficient and cost effective fisheries management consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development and maximising the net economic returns for the Australian community from the management of Australian fisheries for which the Commonwealth has legislative responsibilities.

AFMA has a single outcome: The ecologically sustainable development of Commonwealth fisheries for the benefit of the Australian community, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing. All of the financial information contained in these financial statements were incurred in pursuit of this outcome.

The activities contributing toward this outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by AFMA in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by AFMA, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

Administered activities for AFMA involve the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels on behalf of the government.

The AFMA is located at Level 3, 15 Lancaster Place, Majura Park, ACT 2609.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR); and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

Cost recovery

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

AFMA collects levy amounts prescribed under the Fishing Levy Amendment (2022–23 Levy Amounts) Regulations 2022 (Fishing Levy) and the Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment (Levy Amount) Regulations 2022 (TSPF Levy). Amounts prescribed in the Fishing Levy are collected in three equal instalments in January, April and May, whilst amounts prescribed in the TSPF levy is collected in one instalment in April.

New accounting standards

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

AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards- Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates (AASB 2021-2)

AASB 2021-2 amends AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2. The amending standard requires the disclosure of material, rather than significant, accounting policies, and clarifies what is considered a change in accounting policy compared to a change in accounting estimate.

AASB 2021-6 amends the Tier 2 reporting requirements set out in AASB 1049, AASB 1054 and AASB 1060 to reflect the changes made by AASB 2021-2.

AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards- Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 2021-6)

The details of the changes in accounting policies and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements. This amending standard is not expected to have a material impact on AFMA's financial statements for the current reporting period or future reporting periods.

AASB 2021-2 and 2021-6 have been early adopted by AFMA with effect from 1 July 2022.

Taxation

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

Reporting of administered activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the schedules of administered items and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Events after the reporting period

There have been no significant subsequent events after the reporting period that impact on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Financial performance

This section analyses AFMA's financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Note 1.1 Expenses

Note 1.1A Employee benefits	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Wages and salaries	16,638	15,869
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	2,164	1,917
Defined benefit plans	884	849
Leave and other entitlements	2,460	648
Total employee benefits	22,146	19,283

Accounting policy

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

Note 1.1B: Suppliers	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Research	4,766	4,466
Surveillance and compliance	1,562	1,867
Consultants and contractors	5,017	4,438
Travel and meetings	1,981	863
Information technology and communications	1,728	1,557
Training and development	383	256
Building repairs and outgoings	319	367
External audit fees provided free of charge	45	45
General administrative	1,186	1,095
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	16,987	14,954
Services rendered	16,851	14,709
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	16,987	14,954
Other suppliers		
Workers compensation expenses	388	292
Short-term leases	23	9
Total other suppliers	411	301
Total suppliers	17,398	15,255

AFMA does not have any short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2023.

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

Note 1.1C: Finance costs	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Interest on lease liabilities	82	88
Unwinding of discount	2	2
Total finance costs	84	90

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

Note 1.1D: Write-down and impairment of other assets

Asset write-downs and impairments from:

Impairment of property, plant and equipment	132	2
Revaluation decrements	38	-
Total write-down and impairment of assets	170	2

Note 1.2 Own-source revenue and gains

Note 1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers

Rendering of services	3,705	3,494
Total revenue from contracts with customers	3,705	3,494

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

Major product / service line:

Regulatory Services	2,898	2,751
Other revenue	807	743
Total revenue from contracts with customers	3,705	3,494

Accounting policy

Revenue from contracts with customers

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

- Regulatory services which primarily consists of fees for services for observers, logbooks and licensing, vessel monitoring services provided to both industry and State Governments and other regulatory compliance services. Fees for services and compliance services are recognised over time based on actual costs incurred.
- Other revenues which primarily consist of service contracts with related Commonwealth Government entities for enforcement and research activities. Other revenue enforcement activities are recognised over time as expenses are incurred for each project. Research services are recognised at a point in time when milestones have been met.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Note 1.2B: Rental Income	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Operating lease:		
Thursday Island office	76	161
Total rental income	76	161

Leasing commitments receivable

AFMA in its capacity as a lessor sub-leases office accommodation on Thursday Island. As at 30 June 2023, there is one sub-lease arrangements that expires in January 2032 and rental income is paid one year in advance. This note should be read in conjunction with Note 2.2.

Maturity analysis of operating lease income receivables		
Within 1 year	113	-
One to two years	116	-
Two to three years	120	-
Three to four years	123	-
Four to five years	127	-
More than 5 years	547	-
Total undiscounted lease payments receivable	1,146	-

Note 1.2C: Levies and licence charges		
Levies and licencing charges	13,079	14,004
Total levies and licence charges	13,079	14,004

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

Note 1.2D: Revenue from Government		
Appropriations		
Departmental appropriation	22,066	21,035
Total revenue from Government	22,066	21,035

Accounting policy

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when AFMA gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Resources received free of charge

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

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Financial position

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

Note 2.1 Financial assets

Note 2.1A: Cash and cash equivalents	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash in special accounts	12,137	13,035
Cash on hand or on deposit	873	1,019
Total cash and cash equivalents	13,010	14,054

The closing balance of cash in special accounts does not include amounts held in Trust: \$27,000 in 2023 (\$55,000 in 2022). See Note 4.2 Special Accounts and Note 7.2 Assets held in Trust for more information.

Accounting policy

Cash and cash equivalents

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

- (a) cash on hand
- (b) funds in bank accounts, and
- (c) cash in special accounts.

Note 2.1B: Trade and other receivables		
Good and services receivables		
Goods and Services	518	440
Total goods and services receivables	518	440

Goods and receivables at 30 June 2023 are primarily associated with provision of vessel monitoring services

Appropriations receivables		
Appropriation receivable	7,053	3,569
Total appropriations receivables	7,053	3,569
Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	430	372
Statutory receivables	94	91
Total other receivables	710	836
Total trade and other receivables (net)	8,281	4,845

Credit terms for Goods and Services were within 30 days for 2023 (2022: 30 days).

Accounting policy

Financial assets

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

Note 2.2: Non-financial assets

2.2A: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant & equipment and intangibles	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer software \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022					
Gross book value	1,775	16,396	2,099	7,467	27,737
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(4,802)	(683)	(6,259)	(11,744)
Net book value as at 1 July 2022	1,775	11,594	1,416	1,208	15,993
Additions:					
By purchase	-	179	-	-	179
Internally developed	-	-	-	703	703
Right of use assets	-	235	92	-	327
Reclassification of assets	-	165	(165)	-	-
Revaluations and impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	700	2,086	45	-	2,831
Revaluations recognised in net cost of services	-	-	(38)	-	(38)
Impairments recognised in net cost of services	-	(26)	-	(93)	(119)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(561)	(389)	(169)	(1,119)
Depreciation on right of use assets	-	(1,424)	(19)	-	(1,443)
Disposals	-	(319)	(84)	(119)	(522)
Accumulated amortisation of disposed assets	-	319	70	119	508
Total as at 30 June 2023	2,475	12,248	928	1,649	17,300
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by:					
Gross book value	2,475	17,000	947	7,958	28,380
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(4,752)	(19)	(6,309)	(11,080)
Total as at 30 June 2023	2,475	12,248	928	1,649	17,300
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets		6,006	73		

1. The above table discloses all property, plant and equipment including those subject to operating leases. AFMA owns one building which is partially sublet to Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for \$110,000 per annum indexed at 3%. This asset incurred depreciation of \$43,334 during 2022–23.

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

As at 30 June 2023 AFMA has contractual capital commitments of \$314,285 (\$20,143 related to property, plant and equipment, \$214,383 related to intangible asset development and \$79,759 related to land and buildings).

Accounting policy

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions for AFMA's Canberra office. These costs are included in the value of AFMA's buildings with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Leased Right of Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 AFMA has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition.

Revaluations

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

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

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

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to AFMA using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2023	2022
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and Equipment	4 to 13 years	4 to 13 years

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

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2023. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if AFMA were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Intangibles

AFMA's intangibles comprise purchased and internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of AFMA's software assets are 3 to 10 years (2022: 3 to 10 years). All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2023.

Fair value measurement

AFMA deems transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at the end of the reporting period. No transfers between levels occurred during 2022–23.

Accounting judgements and estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements with respect to the fair value of land and buildings. The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value of similar properties as determined by Jones Lang Lasalle Advisory Services Pty Ltd in June 2023. In some instances, AFMA buildings are purpose-built and may in fact realise more or less in the market.

No accounting assumptions and estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

Note 2.2B Other non-financial assets	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Prepayments	289	301
Total other non-financial assets	289	301

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

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

Note 2.3 Payables

Note 2.3A: Suppliers	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Trade creditors	-	3
Accrued expenses	2,392	2,226
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	877	771
Total supplier payables	3,269	3,000

Settlement is usually made within 20 days.

Note 2.3B: Other payables		
Wages and salaries	581	470
Total other payables	581	470

Note 2.4 Interest bearing liabilities

Note 2.4A: Leases	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Lease liabilities	6,596	7,537
Total lease liabilities	6,596	7,537

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$1,302,474 (rounded to nearest thousand).

Maturity analysis – contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	1,549	1,332
Between 1 to 5 years	4,824	4,705
More than 5 years	429	1,690
Total leases	6,801	7,727

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

Note 2.5 Other provisions

Note 2.5A: Other provisions	Provision for restoration \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022	185	185
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	2	2
Total as at 30 June 2023	187	187

AFMA currently has 1 (2022: 1) agreement for the leasing of premises which have provisions requiring AFMA to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. AFMA has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation for the Majura Park office in Canberra.

Accounting policy

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

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government

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

Note 3.1 Administered financial assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Note 3.1A: Trade and other receivables		
Fees and charges		
Fees and charges receivable – external parties	74	280
Total fees and charges receivable	74	280
Other receivables		
Accrued Revenue	-	108
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	24	44
Total other receivables	24	152
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	98	432
Less impairment allowance		
Fees and charges	(32)	(247)
Total impairment allowance account	(32)	(247)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	66	185

Receivables are expected to be recovered within 12 months.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2022: 30 days).

Note 3.2 Administered – liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Note 3.2A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	-	218
GST payable	24	36
Total suppliers	24	254

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Funding

This section identifies AFMA's funding structure.

Note 4.1 Appropriations

Note 4.1A: Annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')						
Annual appropriations for 2023						
	Annual appropriation \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ² \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2023 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ¹ \$'000	
Departmental						
Ordinary annual services	22,066	-	22,066	22,066	-	
Capital Budget ²	4,748	(26)	4,722	1,238	3,484	
Total departmental	26,814	(26)	26,788	23,304	3,484	
Administered						
Ordinary annual services						
Administered items ¹	5,839	-	5,839	755	5,084	
Total administered	5,839	-	5,839	755	5,084	

Notes:

1. The variance of \$5,084,000 for Administered funds remained as unspent and will be returned to consolidated revenue.
2. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No 1, 3, 5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts. During 2022–23 \$26,000 was withheld under section 51 of the PGPA Act.

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

Notes:

1. The variance of \$4,640,000 for Administered funds remained as unspent and will be returned to consolidated revenue.
2. Departmental Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No 1, 3, 5). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

Note 4.1B: Unspent annual appropriations (‘Recoverable GST exclusive’)	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Departmental		
Cash and Cash equivalents	873	1,019
Supply Act (No. 1) 2022–23 (Capital Budget – DCB) – Non Operating	1,978	-
Supply Act (No. 3) 2022–23 (Capital Budget – DCB) – Non Operating	2,744	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021–22 (Capital Budget – DCB) – Non Operating	2,331	3,569
Total departmental	7,926	4,588
Administered		
Supply Act (No. 1) 2022–23	1,678	-
Supply Act (No. 1) 2022–23	3,406	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2021–22	4,640	4,640
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020–21	2,363	2,363
Supply Act (No. 1) 2020–21	3,127	3,127
Total administered	15,214	10,130

Note 4.2: Special accounts

	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) ¹		AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money) ²	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	14,054	12,066	55	13
Increases:				
Appropriation for reporting period	23,304	21,945	-	-
Levies and licensing charges (Fisheries Administration Act 1991 – Section 94C)	13,075	13,998	-	-
Other receipts	5,605	4,660	17	42
Total increases	41,984	40,603	17	42
Available for payments	56,038	52,669	72	55
Decreases:				
Employee payments	(21,935)	(19,782)	-	-
Supplier payments	(18,861)	(16,075)	-	-
Interest payments on lease liabilities	(82)	(88)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(882)	(1,394)	-	-
Principal repayments on lease liabilities	(1,268)	(1,276)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	(45)	-
Total decrease	(43,028)	(38,615)	(45)	-
Total balance carried to the next period	13,010	14,054	27	55
Balance represented by:				
Cash – held in the Official Public Account	12,137	13,035	-	-
Cash – held in AFMA bank accounts	873	1,019	27	55
Total balance carried to the next period	13,010	14,054	27	55

1. Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; section 80.
Establishing Instrument: *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*; section 94B.
Purpose: Payment or discharge of the costs, expenses or other obligations incurred in the performance or exercise of the functions and powers of the Authority.
2. Appropriation: *AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money)*
Establishing Instrument: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; section 78.
Purpose: For amounts that are held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.
The closing balance of AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account represents amounts held in trust. See 7.2A Assets Held in Trust for more information.

Note 4.3 Regulatory charging summary

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	13,970	14,813
Total amounts applied	13,970	14,813
Expenses		
Departmental	13,794	13,577
Total expenses	13,794	13,577
Revenue		
Departmental	13,970	14,813
Total revenue	13,970	14,813

Cost recovered activities:

AFMA undertakes cost recovered activities for the provision of Fisheries Management functions within the Commonwealth fisheries sector, including the following activities:

- Management of Domestic Commercial Fisheries
- Data collection and management
- Research
- Licensing/Registration and Revenue Collection
- Policy Support

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

Note 4.4: Net cash appropriation arrangements

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) – as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(576)	1,498
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	759	795
Less: lease principal repayments	(1,268)	(1,276)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	358	2,430

1. Depreciation and amortisation expenditure represented above refers to the government funded portion of AFMA's total depreciation and amortisation charges. In 2022–23 AFMA received \$360,000 (2021–22: \$357,000) in funding for depreciation and amortisation through cost recovery arrangements.

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

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

People and relationships

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

Note 5.1 Employee provisions

Note 5.1A: Employee provisions	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Leave	5,274	5,174
Total employee provisions	5,274	5,174

Accounting policy

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits wholly settled due within twelve months of end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including AFMA's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the work of an actuary as at 30 June 2023. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and redundancy

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

Superannuation

Staff of AFMA are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) and other member funds external to the Public Sector.

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

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

AFMA makes employer contributions to the employees' superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. AFMA accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions.

Accounting judgements and estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, AFMA has made the judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements with respect to the liability for employee provisions. The liability for long service leave has been estimated using present value techniques in accordance with the shorthand method as per FRR 24.1 (a). This takes into account expected salary growth, attrition and future discounting using Commonwealth bond rates.

No accounting assumptions and estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

Note 5.2: Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity.

AFMA has determined the key management personnel to be Commissioners, Executive Officers and the Chief Executive Officer. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,470,340	1,561,176
Post-employment benefits	230,633	228,993
Other long-term employee benefits	33,354	32,821
Termination benefits	70,000	-
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,804,327	1,822,990
The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are:	14	11

1. The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by AFMA. The number of KMP was 14 (2021–22: 11) which is three higher than the prior year and is primarily due to three officials undertaking the Chief Operating Officer position for part of 2022–23 financial year and another official acting in a General Manager position for part of 2022–23 financial year.

Note 5.3: Related party disclosures

Related party relationships

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

Transactions with related parties:

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

Significant transactions with related parties can include:

- the payments of grants or loans
- purchases of goods and services
- asset purchases, sales transfers or leases
- debts forgiven, and
- guarantees.

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

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Managing uncertainty

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

Note 6.1 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

AFMA was awarded \$65,500 for costs associated with a Federal Court Case settled in 2022–23. AFMA has no quantifiable or unquantifiable contingent liabilities or contingent assets for departmental or administered.

Note 6.2 Financial instruments

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

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

Accounting policy

Financial assets

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

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

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

Comparatives have not been restated on initial application.

Financial assets at amortised cost

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

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

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Impairment of financial assets

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

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

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

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

for the period ended 30 June 2023

Other Information

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

Note 7.1A Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	13,010	14,054
Trade and other receivables	8,281	4,845
Other non-financial assets	289	301
Total no more than 12 months	21,580	19,200
More than 12 months		
Land	2,475	1,775
Buildings	12,248	11,594
Plant and equipment	928	1,416
Computer software	1,649	1,208
Total more than 12 months	17,300	15,993
Total assets	38,880	35,193
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	3,269	3,000
Other payables	581	470
Leases	1,452	1,275
Employee provisions	1,449	1,533
Total no more than 12 months	6,751	6,278
More than 12 months		
Leases	5,144	6,262
Employee provisions	3,825	3,641
Other provisions	187	185
Total more than 12 months	9,156	10,088
Total liabilities	15,907	16,366

Note 7.1B Administered – current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Trade and other receivables	66	185
Total no more than 12 months	66	185
Total assets	66	185
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	24	254
Total no more than 12 months	24	254
Total liabilities	24	254

Note 7.2 Assets held in trust

Note 7.2A Assets held in trust	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Monetary assets		
Financial assets held in trust are also disclosed in Note 4.2: Special Accounts in the table titled AFMA Service for Other Entities and Trust Monies.		
Cash at bank – monetary asset		
As at 1 July	55	13
Receipts	17	42
Payments	(45)	-
As at 30 June	27	55
Total monetary assets held in trust	27	55



AFMA
FISHERIES



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FISHERIES
OFFICER



MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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Management and accountability

Governance structure

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

Our CEO is responsible for performing and exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers and assisting the Commission, including giving effect to the decisions of the Commission. Our staff are responsible for supporting the CEO to meet the CEO's responsibilities as AFMA's accountable authority under the PGPA Act and the agency head for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The Commission is subject to limited government policy direction as stated in section 91 of the FAA.

The Commission is responsible for performing and exercising the domestic fisheries management functions and powers of AFMA. The AFMA Commission oversees AFMA's domestic fisheries management functions including the determination of TACs and TAEs, and domestic compliance and monitoring programs. The Commission comprises six independent Commissioners with expertise in natural resource management, economics, legal and governance matters, research and fishing industry operations and the CEO.

Committees

To support AFMA's Executive to ensure organisational accountability and transparency, AFMA has a range of committees to oversee specific areas of risk. The committees document their considerations and report to the Executive through summary reports and meeting minutes and their terms of reference are reviewed every one to two years.

Audit and Risk Committee provides independent advice to the CEO on the appropriateness of AFMA's:

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

The Committee meets at least four times per year and arrangements are in place for out of session consideration of matters throughout the year. The Committee is authorised, within the scope of its role and responsibilities, to:

- obtain any information it requires from any employee or external party (subject to any legal obligation to protect information)
- discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations)
- request the attendance of any employee, including the CEO, at Committee meetings, and

- obtain legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities.

The AFMA Audit and Risk Committee comprised three independent members throughout 2022–23. Due to expiry of multi-year contracts on 31 December 2022, there was a change of membership in January 2023. Only the Chair, Mr Geoff Knuckey, continued services into 2022–23.

The AFMA Audit and Risk Committee Charter is available at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/corporate-and-reports/audit-and-risk-committee-charter>

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)	Additional Information (including role on committee)
Mr Geoff Knuckey	Significant Board and Audit Committee experience in the private and public sector. Strong financial reporting and management skills attained through professional and management roles. Highly developed appreciation of business, financial and reputational risk and appropriate governance frameworks.	4	4	\$12,375	Chair
Ms Mary Harwood	Extensive experience as a senior executive in the Commonwealth Government. Design and delivery of major government initiatives related to natural resource management. Knowledge of all aspects of program management including governance, risk oversight and management, financial control and delivery.	2	2	\$2,200	Member

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)	Additional Information (including role on committee)
Mr Don Cross	Chartered accountant with extensive experience in internal audit and assurance services, financial audit services, technical skills in accounting and assurance, financial management, risk management, program management and evaluation.	2	2	\$3,403	Member
Ms Diana Hamono	<p>Involved in the profession of internal audit, specialising in IT audit, for 36 years, both in the public and private sector.</p> <p>Former Internal Audit Partner of a professional services firm in Canberra.</p> <p>Master's degree in Information Studies (Knowledge Management), Diploma in Security (Risk Management), certified in the governance of enterprise ICT, a Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Professional Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia).</p> <p>Specialises in information, knowledge, and data management and improving data and information management practices to allow for more efficient decision making and use of government resources.</p> <p>Accredited Department of Finance Gateway Assurance Reviewer having conducted numerous reviews of major and complex Government programs in recent years.</p>	2	2	\$2,292	Member

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience (include formal and informal as relevant)	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held	Total annual remuneration (GST inc.)	Additional Information (including role on committee)
Ms Susan Ryan	<p>More than 25 years' experience in risk and advisory firms, including as a Principal in a Big 4 accounting firm and as a Managing Director of a global consulting firm.</p> <p>Held positions in the Senior Executive Service in two Australian Government agencies.</p> <p>Strong background in internal audit, risk advisory and assurance services to a range of public and private sector organisations, including in the natural resource management sector.</p> <p>Chartered Accountant, Diploma of Fraud Control, member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia).</p> <p>Specializes in risk management, fraud prevention and detection and internal control redesign.</p>	2	2	\$3,152	Member

Electronic Monitoring Steering Committee

provides advice and recommendations on all matters relevant to the development and implementation of the EM program.

Data Transformation Steering Committee

provides advice and recommendations on matters relevant to the development and implementation of data transformation relating to the DT&EM Program.

Information Management Governance Committee

provides a strategic approach to for the management of all AFMA information assets, such as records and data to support the achievement corporate goals and objectives.

Management Advisory Committees

are statutory committees established by AFMA under section 56 of the FAA. Each fishery is covered by a Management Advisory Committee:

- Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector Management Advisory Committee
- Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- South East Management Advisory Committee
- Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee

- Torres Strait Prawn Management Advisory Committee
- Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The Management Advisory Committees provide advice to AFMA and the AFMA Commission on the preparation of management arrangements, the operation of the relevant fishery and reporting to AFMA on scientific, economic and other information on the status of fish stocks, sub stocks, species (target and non-target species) and the impact of fishing on the marine environment. This advice is required to be evidence-based and address biological, economic and wider ecological factors affecting the performance of the fishery. Committee advice assists AFMA and the AFMA Commission in its role to regulate commercial fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, particularly the setting of catch limits and conditions.

The membership of Management Advisory Committees is available on AFMA's website.

Research Committee advises the AFMA Commission on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for monitoring and research relevant to meeting AFMA's objectives. The primary functions of the Research Committee are to:

- review and advise on research, monitoring and assessment priorities for Commonwealth fisheries

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

The Research Committee met three times in 2022–23 (in July and August 2022 and February 2023).

Risk Management Committee provides oversight from a cross-agency perspective on the management and control of AFMA's business risks and to support the implementation of the agencies risk management framework.

Security Governance Committee reviews and monitors AFMA's security governance arrangements against the security threats and vulnerabilities identified by the Australian government and faced by AFMA in delivering its objectives.

Strategic Delivery Committee informs strategic decisions of projects being undertaken across AFMA, including prioritisation of these projects against the organisational objectives. The SDC also provides oversight over the key projects being undertaken across the agency, making resourcing decisions and providing guidance.

Work Health and Safety Committee provides comprehensive advice and guidance to the AFMA decision makers on managing hazards and risks in the workplace to meet the AFMA obligations outlined in the HSMA and WHS Act legislation.

Workplace Consultative Committee reviews and monitors the implementation of the AFMA's Enterprise Agreement and associated guidelines and policies. The committee is represented by employees, agency and union workplace delegates and AFMA management.

Strategic planning framework

Corporate plan

AFMA's corporate plan is the primary planning document that sets out how we will achieve our purpose over a four-year period. The corporate plan is complemented by the annual operational plan, section plans and individual performance agreements. Performance reviews and reporting are consistent with our obligations under

the FAA, and whole-of-government requirements under the PGPA Act and Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014. The contribution of these plans and reports to achieving our outcome and objectives is shown on the next page.

Legislation

Fisheries Administration Act 1991

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013

Portfolio Budget Statement

The PBS describes the financial resources that AFMA expects to use over the next four years. The PBS also details AFMA's strategic direction and the manner in which AFMA will measure performance over the next four financial years.

Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan describes, in greater detail than the PBS, AFMA's corporate goals, strategies and focus over the next four financial years.

Annual Operational Plan

The AOP explains the actions that AFMA will undertake over the next 12 months to pursue the areas of focus and deliver on the goals and strategies identified in the Corporate Plan.

Annual Report / Annual Performance Statement

The Annual Performance Statement is included as part of AFMA's Annual Report. The statement provides an assessment of the extent to which AFMA has succeeded in achieving its purpose.

REGULATOR PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

AFMA Commission

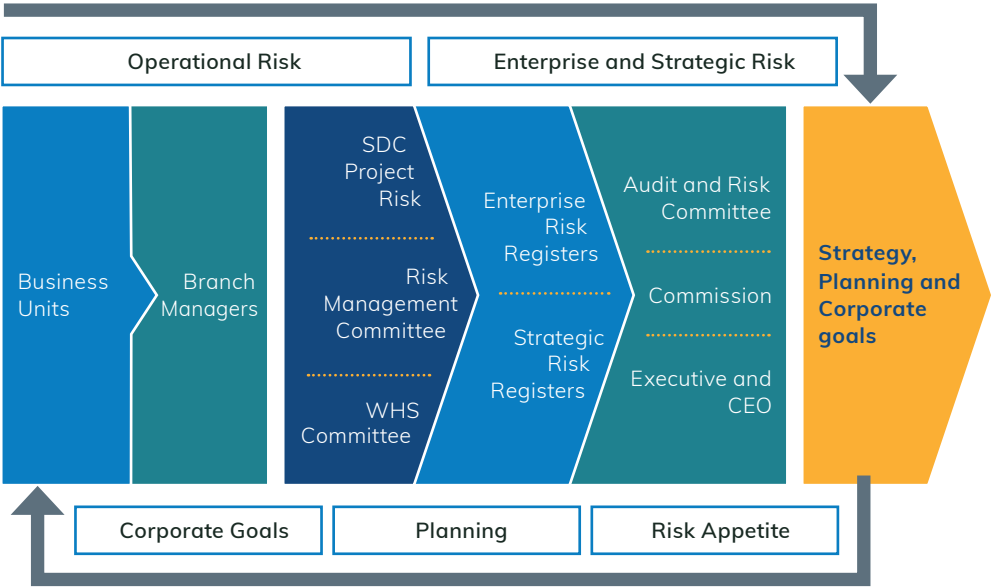
Quarterly Reports

Section Plans

Risk management

The effective management of risk is integral to achieving our objectives and overarching outcome. Our Risk Management Framework comprises policy, guidance, business processes and organisational culture which promotes effective risk management. To support the framework, we developed a statement of Risk Appetite. This statement articulates our position with regards to specific risk categories, enabling staff to assess and monitor risks within agreed parameters for official activities.

AFMA's management of risk is embedded into business-as-usual processes, with all staff able to contribute risks to registers at enterprise and strategic levels. The registers use consistent language and refer to the Risk Appetite statement. Entries in the enterprise and strategic risk registers are overseen by the Risk Management Committee comprised of senior representatives from across AFMA, and AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee.



Internal audit

AFMA's Strategic Internal Audit Plan sets out AFMA's internal audit strategy for the coming three calendar years and is updated annually based on emerging risks and areas of focus. The last plan was prepared in June 2020 and expired in December 2023, requiring formation of a new three-year in 2022–23. In determining the 2022–23 program, covering the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025, AFMA's executive considered portfolio priorities, prior-year audits and areas for improvement, as well as emerging operational risks. AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee also reviews the program and suggests areas for audit attention.

AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee reviews all finalised internal audit reports and so informed, provides advice to the CEO. The internal audit service provider role involves providing independent and objective assurance to add value and improve AFMA's operations.

In 2022–23, our internal auditor, BellchambersBarrett, completed the following reviews:

- ICT Investment Review
- Performance Statement Audit
- Freedom of Information
Legal Governance
- Financial Integrity Review, and
- Records Management.

The five completed internal audits made 22 recommendations in total. Following the Audit and Risk Committee meeting in May 2023, there were 10 recommendations

outstanding from 2022–23 (seven of which arose from the Records Management audit finalised in April 2023).

Control environment

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

Conflicts of interest and probity

We require new starters to complete declarations of real or apparent conflicts of interest as part of their onboarding procedures. Each year we require our staff to complete refreshed declarations of real or apparent conflicts of interest. In 2022–23, 86% of employees completed declarations in which 26 disclosures were made.

When conducting procurements, staff involved in assessing procurements are required to follow the principles and processes on our procurement intranet site. Complex or high value procurements require the completion of probity and conflict of interest declarations from staff involved in evaluating the responses before they assess responses. Complex procurements have access to probity advice from our procurement team or specialised external probity (legal) advisers.

Fraud control and prevention

As a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, AFMA complies with section 10 of the PGPA Rule by establishing and maintaining an effective Fraud Control Framework. Our Fraud Control Framework establishes a foundation to prevent, detect, respond to, and report fraud affecting AFMA. The framework is enhanced by plans, policies and procedures, systems and internal controls, financial management and assurance activities, and the Risk Management Framework.

AFMA is committed to nurturing and promoting an anti-fraud culture; adheres to the Australian Government's Fraud Control Framework 2017's 'Fraud Rule' and endeavours to apply the Fraud Policy and Guidance in line with best practice.

There were no incidents of fraud in 2022–23. We conducted a fraud risk assessment and concluded that all identified fraud risks were accurately assessed and appropriate controls were in place.

We are planning to enhance fraud awareness among staff through various mechanisms in the coming financial year.

Gifts and benefits

Our staff are asked to think carefully before accepting gifts, especially where there may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest. AFMA's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy requires our staff to report all gifts or favours received in the course of their work for AFMA using a gifts and benefits declaration form.

Where possible, staff are encouraged to simply decline a gift in the first place. There are instances where the giving and receiving of gifts is an accepted and culturally necessary part of doing business (for example with traditional fishers or international representatives), but these gifts must still be reported.

To report these gifts, our staff are required to submit a request to the Manager Human Resources, Workplace Group for consideration and approval by the relevant delegate. Depending on the value and nature of the gift, a decision will then be made, by the Senior Manager, People, Capability and Engagement Section and/or the Chief Executive Officer, as to whether or not the staff member can keep the gift.

In 2022–23, a total of five gifts were declared.

Compliance with finance law

AFMA maintains a register of PGPA compliance breaches, including breaches of 42-day AusTender reporting requirements; Whole-of-Australian Government contract breaches, credit card misuse and any other PGPA breaches. Breaches are reported in monthly Executive governance reports so that appropriate action can be taken to remedy the non-compliance. Remedial actions include managerial caution, further training, and additional quality assurance measures.

In 2022–23, there were no significant non-compliance issues with finance law that warranted reporting to the Minister.

External scrutiny

There were no significant developments in external scrutiny of AFMA during 2022–23.

Business continuity

To address the risk of significant disruption to business operations, AFMA has a Business Continuity Plan, which provides guidance to AFMA Management in establishing alternative arrangements, enabling the priority allocation of resources to ensure continuation of critical business processes following a disaster.

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

Management of human resources

Managing and developing employees

Employee profile

As at 30 June 2023, AFMA employed 174 employees. Of these 144 were ongoing and 31 were non-ongoing employees.

Our geographic footprint extends beyond Canberra. We have offices in Darwin, Thursday Island and Lakes Entrance.

A further 23 staff were engaged as casual field observers who undertake duties on Commonwealth commercial fishing vessels and are based at various locations around Australia.

At the end of the reporting year, almost half of our workforce were 45 years of age or under, 47 per cent were women and the highest proportion of employees were at the APS Level 6 classification. Women comprised 45 per cent of the Executive Level cohort and the percentage of employees who have self-reported as having a disability is 2.3 per cent and 4 per cent identifying as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Strategic Workforce Plan

AFMA's Strategic Workforce Plan 2022–2025 provides the framework for initiatives supporting AFMA staff. The implementation of this four-year plan aims to ensure the agency continues to have a workforce that is equipped to meet future priorities and demands. During this first year of implementation, the following action items were progressed including:

- a review and refresh of position descriptions for critical roles
- streamlined recruitment processes and practices including developing an Employee Value Proposition and strategic approach to attraction and hiring activities
- establishing a workforce dashboard prototype that captures and reports on workforce data that is relevant to business delivery
- delivering targeted learning and development initiatives focusing on engagement, leadership and project management, and
- comprehensive scoping of a talent and succession planning model.

Employment programs

AFMA partnered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the recruitment and delivery of the annual Graduate Development Program. The program includes a combination of on-the-job-training, mentoring and a formal training program. We engaged two graduates in the 2022 and 2023 intakes.

AFMA continues to support and participate in a variety of whole-of-government career pathways. These includes the Australian Government Graduate Program, Indigenous Graduate Program, and Indigenous Australian Government Program.

Diversity and inclusion

AFMA is committed to fostering a diverse workplace free from discrimination and harassment, an environment that recognises

and values the individual differences of employees, and fosters the contributions of people with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

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

In the 2023 APS Census, 71% of employees believed that AFMA supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture.

During 2022–23, AFMA supported several Diversity initiatives including:

- hosting various events to raise awareness of diversity, such as National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day, Wear it Purple and International Day of People with Disability
- AFMA Enterprise Agreement (EA) and Flexible Working Arrangements policy provides flexible working and leave arrangements to support employees' caring responsibilities, religious commitments, and attendance at cultural events, and
- re-establishing our internal Diversity Working Group to further drive progress and implement the commitments made in AFMA's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Training and development

AFMA continues to build a culture of continuous learning and resilience to adapt to change and meet the challenges of our environment, stakeholders and agency objectives.

In 2022–23, employees were provided with access to a range of training opportunities including eLearning, in-house training, and external opportunities such as coaching and studies assistance.

The focus and investment for agency wide training and development is identified in AFMA's annual Corporate Training Program. This year's program aligned with AFMA's Strategic Workforce Plan 2022–25, that identified future skills and capabilities required of the workforce to foster a high-performance culture and included:

- professional development for all AFMA's Executive Level 1 and 2 cohort participating in a Leadership Capability training package, and
- Prince2 Project Management Training, in which eleven employees participated and completed.

During the reporting year, all employees were required to undertake mandatory eLearning training modules. These modules included:

- privacy awareness
- psychological health and safety in the workplace
- responsibilities under the Commonwealth Resource Management Framework, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, and
- frameworks within the APS.

In 2022–23, all new starters completed the 'Induction to AFMA' program which consists of APS induction modules covering topics such as Integrity in the APS, WHS for Workers, Managing Performance (for managers), Privacy Awareness, Diversity and Inclusion, Fraud Awareness and Security Awareness.

AFMA also provided employees with access to further development opportunities, including:

- successful sponsorship of one employee into the National Seafood Industry Leadership program, and
- two employees' attendance at the Public Sector Women in Leadership Summit in November 2022.

Staff engagement – APS Employee Census

The 2022–23 financial year saw AFMA employees participate in the Australian Public Service Employee Census survey (the Census). AFMA achieved an employee participation rate of 79 per cent.

AFMA's engagement level results showed that 91 per cent of employees are willing to go the extra mile for the agency and 87 per cent feel committed to AFMA's goals. The agency's wellbeing index increased by five points from the previous year's census to 69 per cent, along with the agency's innovation index score which increased by two points to 66 per cent. Employees' responses to the survey indicated that further work needed to be done in relation to attraction and retention, leadership, internal administrative processes, and work pressures.

Rewards and recognition

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

As part of AFMA's Strategic Workforce Plan implementations, new AFMA Reward and Recognition guidelines have been developed to help managers and employees identify different ways in which AFMA can recognise, acknowledge, and reward its employees. It demonstrates ways in which appreciation can be shown for the contributions made by staff at all levels and how to incorporate reward and recognition activities into everyday management practices. The new guidance on the application for recognising and acknowledging employee's performance and achievements include:

- informal and formal recognition
- branch recognition
- formal award recognition
- AFMA Achievement Awards, including two new award categories for 2023; Diversity and Inclusion award and Leadership Excellence Award, and
- recognition of length of service.

In 2022–23, six formal AFMA Achievement Awards were awarded, as well as nine Length of Service Awards, which included two 30 years of service in AFMA awards.

Work Health and Safety

AFMA recognises its responsibility and obligations as outlined in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all its employees, contractors, consultants, and visitors.

Health and wellbeing are considered to be of utmost importance and the need to integrate health and safety into all aspects of our work, whether in the office or in the field is paramount.

AFMA's Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Committee is a joint management and staff committee that:

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

The WHS Committee met four times during 2022–23.

In line with the new WHS Regulations for identifying and managing workplace psychosocial risks and hazards in the Commonwealth Jurisdiction, effective from 1 April 2023, consultation commenced with AFMA's WHS Committee to identify hazards and manage psychosocial risks relevant to AFMA's environment.

This work will include the implementation of appropriate procedures, policies, and guidance to minimise or eliminate risks so far as reasonably practicable.

Aligned with the *Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Respect at Work) Act 2022*, AFMA commenced reviewing and updating relevant agency policies and procedures. The new legislation introduces a 'Positive Duty' requiring employers to take reasonable and proportionate measures to eliminate sex discrimination, sexual and sex-based harassment, hostile work environments and victimisation, and confers new compliance and enforcement functions on the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

During this reporting year AFMA undertook a review of the Medical and Functional Fitness standards for our employees in Operational based roles, which resulted in new updated Medical Standards and Fitness for Duty requirements.

Health and safety initiatives:

During 2022–23, AFMA's annual Health and Wellbeing program included:

- the introduction of a Health Week – during the week employees had the opportunity to participate in various social physical activities as well as information and awareness sessions promoting and encouraging mental and nutritional health

- Healthy Lifestyle Initiative – this is offered in recognition of the mutual benefits for both employees and AFMA. Through the initiative, financial assistance was offered to employees to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing
- Influenza (flu) vaccinations – 56 employees and contractors were vaccinated, and
- monthly promotion of a range of webinars and other services on offer and accessible for employees through AFMA's employee assistance provider.

The program is further supported by a range of available resources on AFMA's intranet including information on the employee assistance program, online mental health training, and work health and safety fact sheets.

Incidents and hazards:

AFMA is required under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to create and maintain a safe and healthy work environment for all workers and record WHS data relating to incidents and hazards.

In 2022–23, AFMA recorded eleven incidents relating to accidents or near-misses (see Figure 1). The agency monitors and assesses all incidents and hazards and reports to the Commission and the WHS Committee. Where identified, modifications and changes to work practices and training and awareness programs are implemented.

Figure 1: AFMA Work Health and Safety incidents reports for 2022–23

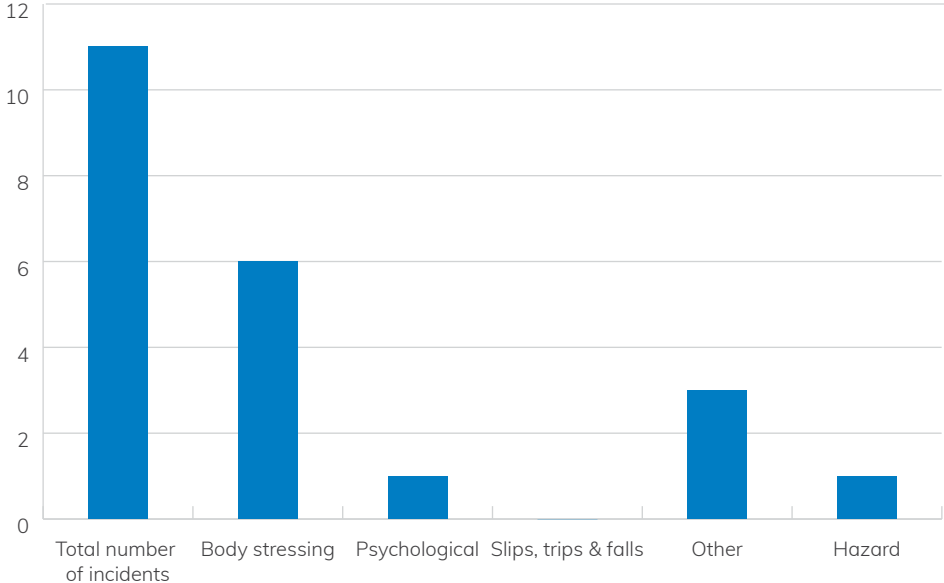
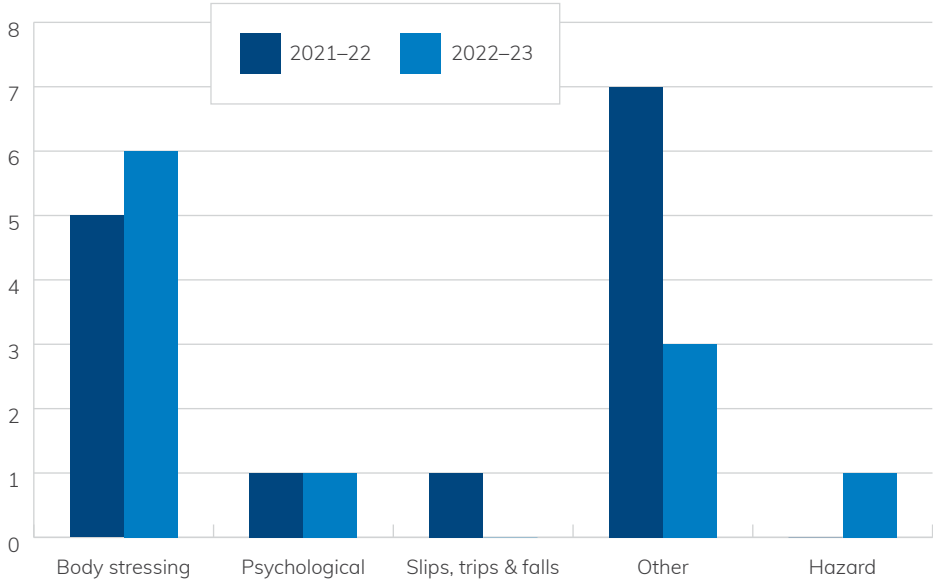


Figure 2: AFMA Work Health and Safety incidents reports comparison



Notifiable incidents in 2022–2023:

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

In 2022–23, there was one incident that was required to be notified to Comcare that fell within the definition of a Dangerous Occurrence under the *Work Health and Safety* legislation.

Workplace arrangements

In 2022–23, AFMA's non-SES employees were covered by the AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2016, and a determination made under section 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*, effective from 23 June 2023. SES remuneration and employment conditions are determined under subsection 24(1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Flexible working arrangements

AFMA offers employees a flexible working arrangement option to work three days per week in the office and two days per week at home. The take up of employees opting in this flexible working arrangement is 65% across the agency.

Individual flexibility arrangements

Individual Flexibility Arrangements were made with non-SES employees where they met the genuine needs of AFMA and the employee. The terms of employment that may be varied under the Enterprise

Agreement include (but are not limited to) hours of work, overtime rates, penalty rates, allowances, remuneration and leave.

AFMA entered 26 Individual Flexibility Arrangements with employees during 2022–23.

Carer Recognition Act 2010

AFMA complies with its responsibilities and obligations under the *Carer Recognition Act 2010* through working conditions set out in AFMA's Enterprise Agreement such as:

- special incorporated leave provisions which include, carers leave, concessional leave, purchased leave, allocation of long service leave which can all be utilised with or without pay, and
- flexible working arrangements which include part-time employment, compressed hours, working from home or remote localities.

This enables managers to consider and implement flexible work practices and to respond appropriately to the needs of employees with caring responsibilities, in a way that also complements and supports AFMA's business goals while encouraging work/life balance.







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APPENDIX 1:

Entity resource statements and resource for outcomes

Entity resource statement 2022–23

	Actual available appropriation for 2022–23 \$'000	Payments made 2022–23 \$'000	Balance remaining 2022–23 \$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Departmental			
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services ¹	31,320	23,304	7,926
Total departmental annual appropriations	31,320	23,304	7,926
Special accounts ²	56,038	43,028	13,010
Total special accounts	56,038	43,028	13,010
<i>less departmental appropriations drawn from annual/special appropriations and credited to special accounts</i>	-23,304	-23,304	0
Total departmental resourcing	63,964	43,028	20,936
Administered			
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services ¹	5,839	755	5,084
Total administered annual appropriations	5,839	755	5,084
Total administered resourcing	5,839	755	5,084
Total resourcing and payments for AFMA	69,803	43,783	26,020

1 Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2022–23 and Appropriation Act (No. 3) 2022–23. This may also include prior-year departmental appropriation and section 74 external revenue.

2 Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM) and other special accounts.

Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No.1, 3, 5) and form part of ordinary annual services items. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

Expenses by outcomes

Expenses for outcome 1

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

	Budget* 2022–23 \$'000	Actual expenses 2022–23 \$'000	Variation 2022–23 \$'000
	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Program 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1)	5,839	557	5,282
Administered total	5,839	557	5,282
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	22,066	22,066	0
Special accounts	19,005	18,110	895
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ¹	2,045	2,202	-157
Departmental total	43,116	42,378	738
Total expenses for Program 1.1	48,955	42,935	6,020
Outcome 1 totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act Nos. 1, 3 and 5)	5,839	557	5,282
Administered total	5,839	557	5,282
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	22,066	22,066	0
Special accounts	19,005	18,110	895
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ¹	2,045	2,202	-157
Departmental total	43,116	42,378	738
Total expenses for Outcome 1	48,955	42,935	6,020
	2022–23	2022–23	
Average staffing level (number)	177	153	26

* Full-year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2022–23 budget at Additional Estimates.

1 Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, amortisation expenses, make good expenses and audit fees.

APPENDIX 2: Employee statistics

PGPA Rule Section 17AG (4)(aa) – Management of Human Resources

All Ongoing Employees Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	3	0	3	6	0	6	0	0	0	9
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	3	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	5
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	50	0	50	55	9	64	0	0	0	114
NT	10	0	10	5	0	5	0	0	0	15
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	66	0	66	68	9	77	0	0	0	143

This table includes employees on long term leave as at 30 June 2023 and excludes the Chief Executive Officer. These figures relate to the nominal occupants of the position and not employees who may be acting at a higher classification as at 30 June 2023.

All Non-Ongoing Employees Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	8	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
Qld	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
SA	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tas	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Vic	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	2	3	5	2	0	2	0	0	0	7
NT	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	24	26	3	2	5	0	0	0	31

These figures include 23 observers who are engaged as APS 2/3 casual employees.

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(b)(i) -(iv) Australian Public Sector (APS) Classification and Gender

Australian Public Service Act Ongoing Employees Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
EL 2	11	0	11	5	0	5	0	0	0	16
EL 1	16	0	16	17	0	17	0	0	0	33
APS 6	31	0	31	30	6	36	0	0	0	67
APS 5	5	0	5	3	1	4	0	0	0	9
APS 4	3	0	3	8	2	10	0	0	0	13
APS 3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	66	0	66	68	9	77	0	0	0	143

These figures relate to the nominal occupants of the position and not employees who may be acting at a higher classification as at 30 June 2023.

Australian Public Service Act Non-Ongoing Employees Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
EL 1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 6	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
APS 5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
APS 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
APS 2	0	15	15	0	2	2	0	0	0	17
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	24	26	3	2	5	0	0	0	31

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(b)(i)-(iii) Employment type by Full time and Part time Status

Australian Public Service Act Employees by Full time and Part time Status Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total Ongoing	Full time	Part time	Total Non-Ongoing	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 1	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
EL 2	15	0	15	1	0	1	16
EL 1	33	0	33	1	2	3	36
APS 6	61	6	67	2	0	2	69
APS 5	8	1	9	1	0	1	10
APS 4	11	2	13	0	0	0	13
APS 3	3	0	3	0	7	7	10
APS 2	0	0	0	0	17	17	17
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	134	9	143	5	26	31	174

This table includes employees on long term leave as at 30 June 2023. These figures relate to the nominal occupants of the position and not employees who may be acting at a higher classification as at 30 June 2023.

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(b)(v) – Employment type by Location

Australian Public Service Act Employment type by location Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing	Total
NSW	0	9	9
Qld	9	6	15
SA	0	2	2
Tas	0	2	2
Vic	5	3	8
WA	0	0	0
ACT	114	7	121
NT	15	2	17
External Territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	143	31	174

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(b)(vi) Indigenous Employment

Australian Public Service Act Indigenous Employment Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Total
Ongoing	6
Non-Ongoing	1
Total	7

Diversity Profile

	NESB1	NESB2	Disability	Indigenous	Women	Men
APS 2 -4		3		3	15	25
APS 5 – 6	2	8	3	3	42	37
EL 1 – EL 2		4	1	1	23	30
SES		1			2	1
Total	2	16	4	7	82	93

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

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

Total SES includes AFMA CEO as at 30 June 2023.

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

Workplace agreements

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(c)(i) Employment Arrangements of SES and Non-SES employees

Australian Public Service Act Employment arrangements Current Report Period (2022–23)

	SES	Non-SES	Total
S24(1) determinations	2	0	2
Enterprise Agreement	0	171	171
Total	2	171	173

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(4)(c)(ii) Salary Ranges by Classification level

Australian Public Service Act Employment salary ranges by classification level
(Minimum/Maximum) Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Minimum Salary	Maximum Salary
SES 3	-	-
SES 2	-	-
SES 1	\$207,904	\$232,431
EL 2	\$134,613	\$156,938
EL 1	\$114,739	\$127,526
APS 6	\$93,273	\$103,143
APS 5	\$83,410	\$88,343
APS 4	\$75,684	\$80,919
APS 3	\$66,966	\$72,781
APS 2	\$61,178	\$65,298
APS 1	\$48,862	\$57,064
Other	-	-
Minimum/Maximum range	\$48,862	\$232,431

Performance pay

In 2022–23, AFMA did not provide performance pay to any employees.

APPENDIX 3: Key management personnel remuneration

PGPA Rule Section 17AD(da) – Executive Remuneration

Information about remuneration for key management personnel

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits			
Wez Norris	Chief Executive Officer	363,950	0	4,805	40,334	9,270	0	0	0	418,359
Anna Willock	Executive Manager	297,735	0	4,805	46,129	6,706	0	0	0	355,375
Peter Venslovas	General Manager	141,300	0	2,242	30,657	5,452	0	0	0	179,651
John Andersen	Chief Operating Officer	76,370	0	2,830	24,707	5,736	0	70,000	0	179,644
Claire Van Der Geest	General Manager	62,194	0	1,909	12,737	5,657	0	0	0	82,497
Mira Bacelj	Chief Operating Officer	24,393	0	342	3,266	533	0	0	0	28,535
Angus Tye	Chief Operating Officer (a/g)	162,609	0	4,357	25,937	0	0	0	0	192,904

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits			Total remuneration
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits	Termination benefits		
Brendan Rayner	General Manager (a/g)	39,505	0	590	4,982	0	0	0	45,077	
Helen Kroger	Commissioner (Chair)	80,115	0	0	11,961	0	0	0	92,076	
Catherine Cooper	Commissioner	40,058	0	0	5,981	0	0	0	46,038	
Brett McCallum	Commissioner	40,058	0	0	5,981	0	0	0	46,038	
Scott Spencer	Commissioner	40,058	0	0	5,981	0	0	0	46,038	
Sevaly Sen	Commissioner	40,058	0	0	5,981	0	0	0	46,038	
David Smith	Commissioner	40,058	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	46,057	
		1,448,460	0	21,880	230,634	33,354	0	70,000	1,804,327	

Notes:

- The remuneration of the AFMA Chief Executive and AFMA Commissioners is made under the sub-section 7(3) and 7(4) of the Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973.
- The number of KMP was 14 (2021-22: 11), which is 3 higher than the prior year and is primarily due to one official undertaking the Chief Operating Officer position for part of the 2022-23 financial year, one official undertaking the General Manager position, and another acting in a General Manager position for part of the 2022-23 financial year.
- The total KMP remuneration in 2022–23 is comparable to the prior year.

Information about remuneration for senior executives

Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average super-annuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits			
\$0-\$220,000	12	65,565	1,023	0	12,014	1,448	0	5,833	85,883	
\$220,001-\$245,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$245,001-\$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$270,001-\$295,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$295,001-\$320,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$320,001-\$345,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$345,001-\$370,000	1	297,735	4,805	0	46,129	6,706	0	0	355,375	
\$370,001-\$395,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$395,001-\$420,000	1	363,950	4,805	0	40,334	9,270	0	0	418,359	
\$420,001-\$445,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$445,001-\$470,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$470,001-\$495,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
495,001-....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Total remuneration bands	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits		Total remuneration	
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average super-annuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total termination benefits	Average total remuneration		
\$240,000–\$245,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$245,001–\$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$270,001–\$295,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$295,001–\$320,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$320,001–\$345,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$345,001–\$370,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$370,001–\$395,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$395,001–\$420,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$420,001–\$445,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$445,001–\$470,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$470,001–\$495,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$495,001–....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

APPENDIX 4: Purchasing

In 2022–23, AFMA made considerable advancements in enhancing performance related to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Our commitment to keeping our staff well-informed about procurement rule changes was reflected through an intranet refresh, regular internal communication, such as intranet news stories, updated templates, and targeted training sessions across the organisation.

To facilitate procurement and contract management activities, we have adopted a self-service model, empowering staff at all organisational levels to carry out these tasks within a well-defined framework. Our intranet provides easy access to all relevant policies, procedures, tools, and process maps for the convenience of our employees.

Consultancy and non-consultancy contract expenditure reporting

During 2022–23, 17 new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$1.504 million. In addition, 21 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$3.391 million.

The main category of purpose for which consultants were selected and engaged was research.

AFMA's policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants are based on the Commonwealth procurement rules. AFMA's procurement process for goods, services and consultancy services (or combinations of these) generally involves 4 core steps. These steps are planning; approaching the market; evaluating, approving, and entering into an arrangement; and managing the arrangement.

To procure research, we identify research needs through our Resource Assessment Groups and Management Advisory Committees after reviewing its five-year strategic research plan and specific fishery research plan. AFMA's Research Committee evaluates proposals and recommends projects for funding to the AFMA CEO. Selection and engagement of research consultants is through a limited tender process because of the small pool of qualified providers for these specialised services.

More details about the research process and timeline are available on AFMA's website at <https://www.afma.gov.au/afmas-research/advice-researchers>

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(7)(a)(i)-(iv) – Reportable Consultancy Contracts

Expenditure on Reportable Consultancy Contracts Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	17	1,504
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	21	3,391
Total	38	4,896

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy and non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.

PGPA Rule Section 17AG(7A)(a)(i)-(iv) – Reportable Non-Consultancy Contracts

Expenditure on Reportable Non-Consultancy Contracts Current Report Period (2022–23)

	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	74	5,368
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	38	6,402
Total	112	11,770

PGPA Rule Section 17AGA(2)-(3) – Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts

Organisations Receiving a Share of Reportable Consultancy Contract Expenditure Current Report Period (2022–23)

Name of Organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
CSIRO (Division of Fisheries)	41 687 119 230	3,071
University of Tasmania	30 764 374 782	452
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries QLD	66 934 348 189	128
AVAIL Information Management Services	17 125 677 401	151
Fishwell Consulting	62 569 313 345	145

Organisations Receiving a Share of Reportable Non-Consultancy Contract Expenditure Current Report Period (2022–23)

Name of Organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
Ventia Property Pty Ltd	16 618 028 676	2,084
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd	33 169 201 192	1,066
MTP Services Pty Ltd	61 610 143 863	678
NPF Industry Pty Ltd	32 126 584 727	673
Bhagwan Marine Pty Ltd	81 009 154 349	625

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.

APPENDIX 5: Other management issues

Australian National Audit Office access clauses

All contracts valued at \$100,000 or more (GST inclusive) that were executed during 2022–23 included standard Auditor-General access clauses.

Exempt contracts

The CEO did not exempt any contracts entered during 2022–23 from being published on AusTender on the basis that publication would disclose exempt matters under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Small business

We support small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website.

To ensure fair treatment and ample opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), AFMA implements procurement policies that uphold non-discrimination during competitive procurement processes.

In our day-to-day interactions with the fishing industry and the wider community, we recognise the importance of engaging with SMEs.

To support their involvement in procurement activities, we encourage our officials to prioritise value for money considerations and take into account the following factors:

- Benefits of engaging with competitive SMEs when specifying requirements and assessing value for money.
- Identification and mitigation of barriers to entry that may hinder SMEs from competing, such as costly preparation of submissions.
- Dividing large projects into smaller packages, providing more competitive opportunities for SMEs.
- Evaluating SMEs' capabilities and their commitment to local or regional markets.
- Commitment to improving on-time payment capabilities through the use of payment cards and implementing electronic invoicing, enabling five-day payment terms for suppliers who submit e-invoices.

By adopting these practices, we aim to foster increased participation of small and medium enterprises in procurement activities, contributing to a thriving and diverse business ecosystem. The statistics on small and medium enterprise participation in our procurement processes are accessible on the Department of Finance's website, demonstrating our commitment to transparency and accountability in supporting small businesses.

Advertising and market research

During 2022–23, we did not conduct any advertising campaigns reportable to or by the Department of Finance, or any advertising under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

AFMA attended the Seafood Directions Conference in September 2022 and the International Observers and Electronic Monitoring conference in March 2023. AFMA also purchased some marketing collateral for attendance by AFMA staff. AFMA's promotional merchandise stocks are used by the agency for events and programs each year.

AFMA sponsors conferences and has a presence at events, career days and conferences around Australia, including exhibition stands where promotional merchandise is required.

Grants

Information on grants awarded by AFMA during 2022–23 is available at [Grant Awards: GrantConnect \(grants.gov.au\)](https://www.grants.gov.au).

AFMA does not administer any grants under the *Commonwealth Grants Rule and Guidelines 2017*.

Disability reporting mechanism

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (the Strategy) is the overarching framework for inclusive policies, programs and infrastructure that will support people with disability to participate in all areas of Australian life. The Strategy sets out where practical changes will be made to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia. It acts to ensure the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into Australia's policies and programs that affect people with disability, their families and carers. All levels of government have committed to deliver more comprehensive and visible reporting under the Strategy. A range of reports on progress of the Strategy's actions and outcome areas will be published and available at <https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads>.

Disability reporting is included the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service reports and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at <http://www.apsc.gov.au>.

Freedom of information

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a section 8 statement in an annual report. Each agency must display on its website a plan showing what information it publishes in accordance with the IPS requirements.

Further information about the IPS is available on our website at [Information publication scheme | Australian Fisheries Management Authority \(afma.gov.au\)](https://www.afma.gov.au/information-publication-scheme).

Remediation of information published in previous annual reports

The previous annual report did not contain any significant statement on a matter of fact that has proved to be wrong in a material respect.



APPENDIX 6: Environmental matters

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

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

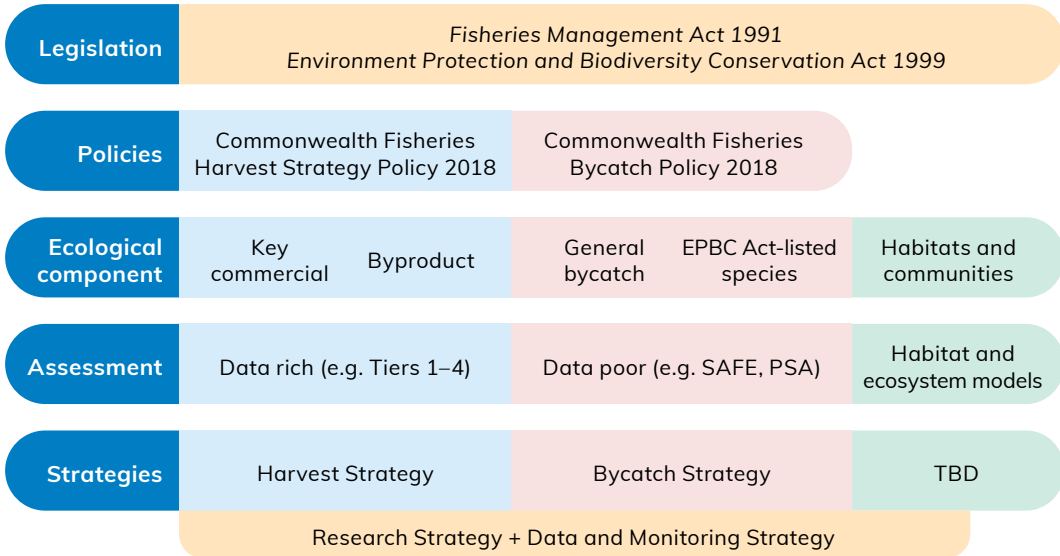
Commonwealth legislation requires that we pursue Ecologically Sustainable Development and as one part of this, ensure the ecological sustainability of species, populations, and ecosystems with which our fisheries interact. This requirement sits alongside other legislative objectives that we pursue, as outlined above.

In collaboration with the fishing industry, we pursue ecological sustainability through the implementation of:

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

The figure below outlines the linkages between legislation, policy, assessment, and management processes covered by ERM. ERM has multiple components and processes.

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



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

Outcome contributing to Ecological Sustainable Development

AFMA’s outcomes are directed at Commonwealth fisheries being ecologically sustainable, improving the net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries and managing efficiently and effectively. This approach reflects our commitment to pursuing management of Commonwealth fisheries in accordance with our legislative objectives and in partnership with others who also have an interest in sustainable management.

Effect of actions on the environment

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

Part 10 of the EPBC Act requires that all Commonwealth and Torres Strait Fisheries must be strategically assessed before a management plan is determined (Section 148) or where a determination is made that a management plan is not required for a Commonwealth fishery (Section 149). If a management plan is amended or replaced, or management arrangements change significantly in a fishery without a management plan, then a further assessment is required (Section 152). If a management plan remains unchanged no further strategic assessment is required. This process involves assessment of the impact of the fishery on matters of national environmental significance with particular emphasis on the impact on the Commonwealth marine environment. Without this approval a management plan cannot take effect.

Part 13 of the EPBC Act defines a number of offences in relation to listed threatened species and ecological communities, and also provides for accreditation of management plans or regimes (Sections 208A, 222A, 245, 265). The effect of accreditation is that certain actions are not offences if they are carried out in accordance with management plans or regimes. There is no requirement to remake the accreditation decisions unless the management plans or regimes change.

These accreditations impose a requirement on fishers to report any interactions with protected species to AFMA through our logbooks, which we in turn provide regular reports to the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water on fishers' behalf, thus reducing unnecessary duplication of reporting.

Part 13A of the EPBC Act covers the international movement of wildlife specimens. It provides for controls over the movement of regulated native specimens that are not on the list of exempt native specimens. Currently products from all assessed Commonwealth fisheries are on the list of exempt native specimens, although some are subject to the condition that the listing applies only while a wildlife trade operation is in force. This allows exports of marine species to be carried out while ensuring that they have been taken sustainably.

Actions to minimise impact on the environment

We take an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management to minimise the impact of commercial fisheries on the marine environment. The ERM Policy, and accompanying Ecological Risk Management Guide, provide a science and evidence-based structure for managing the impact of fishing on the marine environment. The framework uses ERA for the Effects of Fishing as the primary means of assessing the risks that fisheries may pose and provides a mechanism for the identification and

management of any identified risks. Revised methodologies in the ERA for the Effects of Fishing framework are being applied to fisheries as they are reassessed. The results of these assessments are reported in the performance section

Mechanisms for reviewing

A number of mechanisms exist for reviewing the effect of fishing on the environment. AFMA reviewed its ERM Framework and the Commission approved the ERM Guide and ERM Policy in April and June 2017 respectively and is currently part way through another review of the framework. We also regularly review individual elements of the ERM Framework through the ERM Steering Committee. This group of expert risk assessment fisheries scientists and fishery managers is tasked with providing strategic advice to the AFMA Commission and AFMA

Management on the direction, development, coordination and implementation of AFMA’s risk management framework. We are also subject to reassessment of all its fisheries under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water undertake the reassessments on a regular basis, ranging from a ten-year review cycle for fisheries granted exemptions to a more regular review process for fisheries granted wildlife trade operations.

Australian Public Service Net Zero 2030

Greenhouse gas emissions reporting has been developed with methodology that is consistent with the Whole-of-Australian Government approach as part of the APS Net Zero 2030 policy.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Emission Source	Scope 1 kg CO _{2-e}	Scope 2 kg CO _{2-e}	Scope 3 kg CO _{2-e}	Total kg CO _{2-e}
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	N/A	81,927	13,688	95,615
Natural Gas	-	N/A	-	-
Fleet Vehicles	8,068	N/A	1,988	10,057
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	329,195	329,195
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO_{2-e}	8,068	81,927	344,872	434,867

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the location based approach. When applying the market based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased LGCs and/or being located in the ACT, the total emissions for electricity, are below:

Emission Source	Scope 1 kg CO _{2-e}	Scope 2 kg CO _{2-e}	Scope 3 kg CO _{2-e}	Total kg CO _{2-e}
Electricity (Market Based Approach)	N/A	54,998	7,279	62,277
Natural Gas	-	N/A	-	-
Fleet Vehicles	8,068	N/A	1,988	10,057
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	329,195	329,195
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO_{2-e}	8,068	54,998	338,463	401,529

NOTE: CO_{2-e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent

APPENDIX 7: Litigation outcomes

The following table identifies civil litigation outcomes associated with matters open in 2022–23.

Matter	Fishery	Outcome/Status
Federal Court		
Australia Bay Seafoods Pty Ltd v Northern Territory of Australia [2022] FCAFC 180	Demersal & Timor Reef/Northern Offshore Fishery	This matter was heard by the Full Federal Court. Judgment was handed down on 4 November 2022. The appeal was dismissed, and the appellant was ordered to pay the respondents' costs of the appeal.
Statutory Fishing Rights Allocation Review Panel		
Nil		
Administrative Appeal Tribunal		
Nil		
Fair Work Commission		
Nil		

Significant matters

Nil

APPENDIX 8:

**Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report**

**Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report**

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fisheries Act 1988
(Northern Territory)



Anna Willock, Deputy Chief
Executive Officer, Australian Fisheries
Management Authority

Deputy to the Commonwealth Member,

Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister
for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Ian Curnow, Senior Executive Director
Fisheries, Northern Territory Department
of Industry, Tourism and Trade

**Deputy to the Northern Territory
Member,**

The Hon. Paul Kirby, Northern Territory
Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries

NTFJA Annual Report 2022-2023

Introduction

This is the annual report of the Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) and details the activities undertaken during the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 as well as information on the status of the fisheries.

The NTFJA has responsibility for the management of the Timor Reef Fishery, Demersal Fishery and Offshore Net and Line Fishery in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory.

Enabling legislation

The NTFJA was established in February 1983, under the then Commonwealth legislation (*Fisheries Act 1952*) to provide for the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory to jointly manage declared fisheries and fisheries resources in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory.

On 3 February 1995, the NTFJA, subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and the Northern Territory *Fisheries Act 1988*, assumed responsibility, in waters adjacent to the NT, for the Demersal, Timor Reef, Offshore Net and Line and Finfish Trawl Fisheries (the Finfish Trawl Fishery merged with Demersal Fishery in 2012). Day to day administration of these fisheries is provided by the Fisheries Division of the NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT).

Report on the status of fisheries managed by the Joint Authority

Tables 1 and 2 present a summary of the catches and status of the fisheries managed by the NTFJA. Detailed catch, effort and status information for each fishery are compiled regularly and published in the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports at: <http://fish.gov.au/reports/species>

The **Demersal Fishery** targets mainly red snappers (*Lutjanus malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*) and goldband snappers (*Pristipomoides spp.*). Painted sweetlips (*Diagramma pictum*) and cods (Family *Serranidae*) are key byproduct species. Fish traps and finfish trawl gear are the main fishing methods used in the fishery.

The **Timor Reef Fishery** primarily targets the higher-valued goldband snapper (*P. multidentis*) and other *Pristipomoides* species. Significant quantities of red snappers (*L. malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*), red emperors (*L. sebae*) and cods (Family *Serranidae*) are also harvested. The main fishing method used is fish traps, however between 2014 and 2018, a finfish trawl trial in the Timor Reef Fishery resulted in an increase in red snapper catch (Table 1).

The **Offshore Net and Line Fishery** targets black-tip sharks (*Carcharhinus tilstoni*, *C. limbatus* and *C. sorrah*) and grey mackerels (*Scomberomorus semifasciatus*). A variety of other sharks and pelagic finfish are also caught as byproduct.

Exploitation by the Fishing Tour Operator and recreational sectors is considered to be low across all three fisheries.

Updated stock assessments are underway with reports to be published later in 2023.

NTFJA Annual Report 2022-2023

In the TRF and DF there are 3 stocks of Saddletail Snapper, 3 stocks of Crimson Snapper and 4 stocks of Goldband Snapper. In 2020 all 3 stocks of Saddletail Snapper were classified as sustainable; Crimson Snapper stocks were all classified as sustainable apart from the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf where they were undefined; and Goldband Snapper stocks were classified as sustainable in the Timor and Arafura seas and undefined in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Joseph Bonaparte Gulf. Preliminary results from SAFE assessment indicated no species analysed were medium or high risk. This included bycatch and byproduct species and species of conservation concern.

In 2020 all target species of the ONLF (Grey Mackerel, Australian and Common Blacktip Shark, and Spot-tail Shark) were classified as 'sustainable', with the exception of the Gulf of Carpentaria Australian and Common Blacktip Shark stocks, which were classified as 'undefined'.

Table 1 Commercial catches (tonnes) of finfish from 2013-2022 by calendar year for DF- Demersal Fishery; TR- Timor Reef Fishery; ONLF- Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Species/stock	Fishery	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Goldband snappers	DF	392	349	280	324	341	291	223	230	194	283
	TR	353	257	305	222	194	382	256	254	423	334
Red snappers (<i>L. malabaricus</i> , <i>L. erythropterus</i>)	DF	1986	2160	2300	2518	2397	2526	2685	2653	2097	2489
	TR	240	182	250	408	337	391	136	62	149	143
Group (other) species	DF	419	456	527	724	729	672	621	825	751	756
	TR	157	154	250	268	262	202	123	91	128	108
Blacktip sharks (<i>C. tilstoni</i> / <i>limbatus</i>)	ONLF	97	66	37	36	63	30	44	138	112	69
Blacktip sharks (<i>C. sorrah</i>)	ONLF	23	18	10	4	15	12	23	40	37	19
Grey mackerel (<i>S. semifasciatus</i>)	ONLF	347	503	407	330	496	499	361	420	494	349
Other shark spp	ONLF	81	61	28	49	18	9	65	144	114	35
Other fin fish spp	ONLF	22	50	18	44	48	45	54	45	41	41

Table 2 Summary of status of assessed stocks in NTFJA Fisheries for DF - Demersal Fishery; TR- Timor Reef Fishery; ONLF- Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Species/stock	Stock Status
Goldband snappers (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2020)
Red snappers (<i>L. erythropterus</i>) (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2020)
Red snappers (<i>L. malabaricus</i>) (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2020)
Blacktip sharks (<i>C. tilstoni</i> , <i>C. limbatus</i> , <i>C. sorrah</i>) (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2020)
Grey Mackerel (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2020)

Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

An annual meeting of the NTFJA is held in the first or second quarter of each financial year (reporting period) or as required. At each meeting key issues within the NTFJA fisheries are

NTFJA Annual Report 2022-2023

discussed and decisions regarding these issues may be made. The 2022 NTFJA meetings minutes and decision record can be found at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>. The Commonwealth and Territory members of the NTFJA for the 2022/23 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 NTFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2022/23

Role	Commonwealth	Northern Territory
Member	Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Paul Kirby MLA, NT Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries
Deputy	Anna Willock, Executive Manager, Fisheries, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Ian Curnow, Senior Executive Director Fisheries, Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

Relevant OCS for the Northern Territory Joint Authority Fisheries

The links to the OCS for the NTFJA are below:

- Northern Shark Fishery (ONLF)
 - o <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/Arrangement-Between-the-Commonwealth-and-NT-for-the-Northern-Shark-Fishery.pdf>
- Demersal and Timor Reef Fishery
 - o <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/Arrangement-Between-the-Commonwealth-and-NT-for-the-Demersal-and-Timor-Reef-Fishery.pdf>

APPENDIX 9:

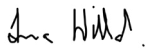
**Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report**

**Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report**

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fish Resource Management Act 1994
(Western Australia)



Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive
Officer, Australian Fisheries Management
Authority

Deputy to the Commonwealth Member,

Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister
for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Dr Rick Fletcher, Executive Director,
Department of Primary Industries and
Regional Development, Western
Australia

**Deputy to the Western Australian
State Member,**

The Hon. Don Punch, Western
Australian Minister for Disability
Services; Small Business; Fisheries;
Seniors and Ageing

WAFJA Annual Report 2022-2023

Introduction

This is the 21st annual report of the Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority (WAFJA). This report details the activities undertaken during the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and information on the status of the fisheries in the most recently available reporting period.

The WAFJA has responsibility for the management of the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery.

Enabling legislation

Sections 61-70 of the Commonwealth [Fisheries Management Act 1991](#) set out the establishment, functions, administration and reporting requirements for Joint Authorities.

Part 3 of the Western Australia [Fish Resources Management Act 1994](#) sets out complementary State legislation and other matters relating to the establishment, functions, administration and reporting requirements of the Joint Authority and the management of Joint Authority fisheries in Western Australia (WA). Attachments A, B and C provide the relevant arrangements under which the WAFJA operate.

Report on the status of fisheries managed by the Joint Authority

Table 2 presents a summary of the status of the fisheries managed by the WAFJA. Detailed catch and effort statistics are compiled annually and presented in the WA Fishery Status Reports, available for download at the WA Department for Primary Industries and Regional Development website at: <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Publications/Pages/State-of-the-Fisheries-report.aspx>.

Table 1: Species status and catch for the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery¹

Species	Status	Catch (2022/23)	Tonnes
Sandbar shark	Recovering	Total Sharks	0
Blacktip shark	Adequate		0
Fishing level	Acceptable		

¹ Note this fishery has been inactive since 2008/09 and therefore has not been reported in Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia since 2012/13. Source: Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2012/13: The State of the Fisheries eds. W.J. Fletcher and K. Santoro, Department of Fisheries, Western Australia, pp. 216-217.

Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

An annual meeting of the WAFJA is held in the first or second quarter of each financial year (reporting period) or as required. At each meeting key issues within the WAFJA fisheries are discussed and decisions regarding these issues may be made. The 2022 WAFJA meetings minutes and decision record can be found at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>. The Commonwealth and State members of the WAFJA for the 2022/23 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 3.

Table 2 WAFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2022/23

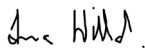
Role	Commonwealth	Western Australia
Member	Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Don Punch MLA, Minister for Disability Services; Small Business; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing
Deputy	Anna Willock, Executive Manager, Fisheries, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Rick Fletcher, Executive Director, Fisheries and Agriculture Resource Management, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

Relevant OCS for the Western Australia Joint Authority Fisheries

Following the transition of the Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery to sole WA jurisdiction in 2018, only one fishery remains under the WAFJA. The OCS for the Western Australian Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery can be found on the AFMA website at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>.

APPENDIX 10:**Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report****Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority Annual
Report**

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)*Fisheries Act 1994*
(Queensland)Anna Willock, Deputy Chief
Executive Officer, Australian
Fisheries Management Authority**Deputy to the Commonwealth Member,**Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister
for Agriculture, Fisheries and ForestryDallas D'Silva, Executive Director,
Fisheries Queensland; Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries**Deputy to the Queensland State
Member,**The Hon. Mark Furner MP, Queensland
Minister for Agricultural Industry
Development and Fisheries and Minister
for Rural Communities

Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

This report of the Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority (QFJA) meets the legislative requirements for Joint Authorities to report on the activities undertaken and decisions made during the relevant period, in this case 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. The Commonwealth and State members of the QFJA for the 2022/23 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 1 below.

The Commonwealth and the State of Queensland have been working to abolish the QFJA. The first step of this process was to transfer the fisheries under the QFJA to Queensland jurisdiction. This occurred during 2021 with the termination agreements for the Gulf of Carpentaria Grey Mackerel Fishery and the Gulf of Carpentaria Northern Demersal and Pelagic Finfish Fishery and new OCS agreements were signed by both parties resulting in no fisheries being under the authority of the QFJA. Due to this change, no meeting was held during the 2022/2023 financial year.

The termination agreements for the Gulf of Carpentaria Northern Demersal and Pelagic Finfish Fishery and the Gulf of Carpentaria Grey Mackerel Fishery appeared in the Commonwealth Gazette on 19 November 2021 and 22 November 2021 and can be found at:

- Grey Mackerel Fishery: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021G00880>
- Northern Demersal and Pelagic Finfish: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021G00876>

The Commonwealth and the State of Queensland have commenced the process of abolishing the QFJA which is scheduled to occur during the 2023/24 reporting period.

Table 1 QFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2022/23

Role	Commonwealth	Queensland
Member	Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The Hon. Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
Deputy	Anna Willock, Executive Manager, Fisheries, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Dallas D'Silva, Executive Director, Fisheries Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries







REFERENCES

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List of requirements

Below is the table set out in Schedule 2 of the PGPA Rule. Section 17AJ(d) requires this table be included in entities' annual reports as an aid of access.

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g)		Letter of transmittal	
17AI	iii	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h)		Aids to access	
17AJ(a)	v	Table of contents (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	209	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	200	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	192	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	ii	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a)		Review by accountable authority	
17AD(a)	2	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b)		Overview of the entity	
17AE(1)(a)(i)	10–11	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	13–14	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	11, 15	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	11	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	16	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	16–18	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	18	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	N/A	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c)	Report on the Performance of the entity		
	Annual performance Statements		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	22	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)(ii)	Report on Financial Performance		
17AF(1)(a)	94	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	154–155	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory
17AF(2)	N/A	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.
17AD(d)	Management and Accountability		
	Corporate Governance		
17AG(2)(a)	143	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	iv	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	iv	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	iv	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	134–144	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	143	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to noncompliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy noncompliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
Audit Committee			
17AG(2A)(a)	135	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(b)	135–137	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	135–137	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	135–137	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	135–137	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
External Scrutiny			
17AG(3)	144	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	N/A	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	N/A	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
Management of Human Resources			
17AG(4)(a)	144–147	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(aa)	156	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) statistics on full-time employees (b) statistics on part-time employees (c) statistics on gender, and (d) statistics on staff location. 	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	156–162	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis; including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics on staffing classification level • Statistics on full-time employees • Statistics on part-time employees • Statistics on gender • Statistics on staff location, and • Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous. 	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	162	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	162	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	163	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	166–167	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	163	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	N/A	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	N/A	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	N/A	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
Assets Management			
17AG(5)	N/A	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities	If applicable, mandatory
Purchasing			
17AG(6)	168	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory
Reportable consultancy contracts			
17AG(7)(a)	168–170	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	168	A statement that “ <i>During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]</i> ”.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	168	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(7)(d)	169	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
Reportable non-consultancy contracts			
17AG(7A)(a)	169	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	170	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts		
17AGA	170	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses			
17AG(8)	171	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory
Exempt contracts			
17AG(9)	171	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
Small business			
17AG(10)(a)	171	A statement that “[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	171	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	N/A	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that “[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury’s website.”	If applicable, Mandatory
Financial Statements			
17AD(e)	97–130	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
Executive Remuneration			
17AD(da)	164–167	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 23 of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(f) Other Mandatory Information			
17AH(1)(a)(i)	N/A	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that “During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity’s website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	172	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AH(1)(b)	172	A statement that “Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity’s website].”	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	172	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	173	Website reference to where the entity’s Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	173	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	174–178	Information required by other legislation	Mandatory

Below is a table of requirements for AFMA’s Annual Report from the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*. These requirements are additional to the PGPA Rule requirements. While the legislation does not specifically require this table to be included in AFMA’s annual report, it is included for completeness.

FAA reference	Part of the Report	Description	Requirement
87(a)	2–3	An assessment of the extent to which the operations of the Authority during the period have contributed to the objectives set out in the annual operational plan that relates to the period.	Mandatory
87(b)(i)	N/A	Variations (if any) of the annual operational plan taking effect during that period.	Mandatory
87(b)(ii)	58–90	Significant changes to plans of management and the introduction of new plans of management during that period.	Mandatory
87(b)(iii)	58–90	The effectiveness or otherwise of the operation of plans of management during that period.	Mandatory
87(b)(iv)	N/A	Any directions given to the Authority by the Minister under section 91 during that period.	Mandatory
87(c)	22–90	An evaluation of the Authority’s overall performance against the performance indicators set out in the annual operational plan that came into force at the beginning of that period.	Mandatory

Abbreviations and acronyms

The following table describes the abbreviations and acronyms used throughout the report.

Abbreviation	Explanation
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFV	Australian fishing vessel
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BMEY	Stock biomass required to produce maximum economic yield from the fishery
BMSY	A proxy of 0.48 times the unfished biomass, or 1.2 times the biomass at maximum sustainable yield
BSCZSF	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
CBA	Competency-based assessment
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CSBT	Commission for the Southern Bluefin Tuna
CCTV	Closed circuit television
CDR	Catch disposal records
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Commonwealth Fisheries Association
CFHSP	Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy
CKMR	Close-kin mark-recapture
CMM	Conservation and management measure
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRIS	Cost Recovery Implementation Statement
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Abbreviation	Explanation
CTS	Commonwealth Trawl Sector
DTEMP	Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program
eCDRs	electronic catch documentation records
elogs	electronic logbooks
eObserver	electronic observer data collection
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EM	Electronic Monitoring
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
ERM	Ecological Risk Management
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
ETBF	Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
FAA	<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>
FAD	Fish aggregation device
FFV	Foreign fishing vessel
FMA	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
FOB	Fisheries Operations Branch
FRDC	Fisheries Research Development Corporation
GHAT	Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
GVP	Gross Value of Production
HIMI	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
HSP	Harvest Strategy Policy
ICEP	International Compliance and Engagement Program
ICO	International Compliance Operations
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFMO	International Fisheries Management Organisations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Abbreviation	Explanation
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
MAC	Management Advisory Commission
MBC	Maritime Border Command
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCEP	National Compliance and Enforcement Program
NER	Net Economic Returns
NPF	Northern Prawn Fishery
NWSTF	North West Slope Trawl Fishery
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
OMC	Operational Management Committee
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PSMA	Port State Measures
PSPF	Protective Security Policy Framework
PZJA	Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority
QWP	Queensland Water Police
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
ROU	Record of Understanding
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SBTF	Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery
SESSF	Southern and Eastern Scale fish and Shark Fishery
SFRs	Statutory Fishing Rights
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SMP	Seabird Management Plan
SPC	South Pacific Community

Abbreviation	Explanation
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TAC	Total allowable catch
TAE	Total allowable effort
TACC	Total allowable commercial catch
TEP	Threatened, Endangered and Protected species
TDS	Technology and Digital Services team
TI	Thursday Island
TSFF	Torres Strait Finfish Fishery
TSPZ	Torres Strait Protected Zone
USP	University of the South Pacific
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDTF	Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery
WTBF	Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operations

Glossary

Australian Fishing Zone

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

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

but does not include:

- (c) coastal waters of, or waters within the limits of, a State or internal Territory, or
- (d) waters that are excepted waters.

Biomass

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

Biomass limit reference point

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

Bycatch

Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target, and which are always discarded.

Byproduct

Any part of the catch that is kept or sold by the fisher but is not the target species.

Demersal

Found on or near the sea floor (c.f. Pelagic).

Discard

Any part of the catch returned to the sea, whether dead or alive.

Effort

A measure of the resources used to harvest a fishery's stocks. The measure of effort appropriate for a fishery depends on the methods used and the management arrangements. Common measures include the number of vessels, the number of hooks set or the number of fishing days.

Electronic monitoring

Electronic monitoring uses sensors and cameras to monitor and record information on fishing activity in a targeted way. Sensor data and video footage is analysed retrospectively to provide information and verify logbooks according to the needs identified for that fishery.

Fisheries Management Act 1991

One of the two main pieces of legislation (along with the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*) that detail AFMA's responsibilities and powers.

Fishing concession

A Statutory Fishing Right, or a fishing permit, or a foreign fishing boat licence granted under the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Fishing permit

A type of fishing concession granted under Section 32 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to a person, authorising the use of a specified Australian boat by that person, or a person acting on that person's behalf, for fishing in a specified area of the Australian Fishing Zone or a specified fishery for specified species, using specified equipment.

Fishing season

The period during which a fishery can be accessed by fishers.

Gillnet

Type of passive fishing gear consisting of panels of net held vertically in the water column, in contact with the seabed, such that fish attempting to swim through the net are entangled. The mesh size of the net determines the size range of fish caught, as smaller fish can swim through the meshes and larger fish are not enmeshed.

GoFish

GoFish is AFMA's online business facility for fishers to submit their applications, view their record of fishing concessions as held by us, keep their contact details up to date, view quota and catch information, receive messages from AFMA and monitor progress of applications lodged with AFMA.

Harvest strategy

Strategy outlining how the catch in a fishery will be adjusted from year to year depending on the size of stock, the economic or social conditions of the fishery, conditions of other interdependent stocks or species, and uncertainty of biological knowledge. Well-managed fisheries have an unambiguous (explicit and quantitative) harvest strategy that is robust to the unpredictable biological fluctuations to which the stock may be subject.

Incidental catch

Any part of the catch that is not the target species, including bycatch and by-product.

Individual transferable quotas

Individual portions of a total allowable catch – units of quota – that allow the holder to catch that portion of the total allowable catch each season. The weight value of the individual transferable quotas changes in proportion to changes in the total allowable catch set for a species each season. Individual transferable quotas are fully tradeable and can be sold or leased to other fishers.

Key commercial species

A species that is, or has been, specifically targeted and is, or has been, a significant component of a fishery.

Logbook

Official record of catch-and-effort data completed by fishers. In many fisheries, a licence condition makes the return of logbooks mandatory.

Longline

Fishing gear in which short lines (branch lines or droppers) carrying hooks are attached to a longer main line at regular intervals. Pelagic longlines are suspended horizontally at a predetermined depth with the help of surface floats. The main lines can be as long as 100 kilometres and have several thousand hooks. Droppers on demersal longlines (set at the seabed with weights) are usually more closely spaced.

Maximum economic yield

The sustainable catch or effort level for a commercial fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised. Note that for most practical discount rates and fishing costs maximum economic yield will imply that the equilibrium stock of fish is larger than that associated with maximum sustainable yield. In this sense maximum economic yield is more environmentally conservative than maximum sustainable yield and should in principle help protect the fishery from unfavourable environmental impacts that may diminish the fish population.

Maximum sustainable yield

The maximum average annual catch that can be removed from a stock over an indefinite period under prevailing environmental conditions.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) box

The area of the Australian Fishing Zone where traditional fishing by Indonesian nationals is permitted.

Nautical mile

A unit of distance derived from the angular measurement of one minute of arc of latitude but standardised by international agreement as 1852 metres.

Net economic returns

A fishery net economic returns over a particular period are equal to fishing revenue less fishing costs.

Non-target species

Species that are unintentionally taken by a fisher or not routinely assessed for fisheries management. See also Bycatch.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement

An agreement between one or more states and the Australian Government giving individual or joint jurisdiction for a particular fishery that is in both coastal waters and the Australian Fishing Zone. When no Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreement has been reached, the fishery remains under the jurisdiction of the state out to three nautical miles, and of the Australian Government from three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles.

Output controls

Restrictions imposed on the quantity of fish that can be taken from a fishery within a specified period of time. This can be by either a competitive total allowable catch or a total allowable catch allocated to participants as individual transferable quotas.

Overfished

A fish stock with a biomass below the biomass limit reference point. 'Not overfished' implies that the stock is not below the threshold, and is now used in place of the status classification of 'fully fished' or 'underfished'.

Overfishing

A fish stock that is subject to fishing mortality that exceeds the fishing mortality reference point.

Pelagic fish

Inhabiting surface waters rather than the sea floor: usually applied to free swimming species such as tunas and sharks.

Precautionary principle

A principle asserting that a degree of scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation in situations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Quota

Amount of catch allocated to a fishery as a whole (total allowable catch) or to an individual fisher or company (individual transferable quota).

Quota management

A method of management based on output controls that allocates the total allowable catch among eligible operators as shares in the annual total allowable catch.

Reference point

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

Statutory Fishing Rights

Rights granted under Section 21 of the Fisheries Management Act 1991. The nature of Statutory Fishing Rights in a fishery is detailed in the plan of management that creates those rights. A Statutory Fishing Right may be a right to use a boat, a unit of fishing gear or a quantity of catch, or other rights as identified in the management plan.

Species

Members of a species of fish that can breed with one another and produce fertile (capable of reproducing) offspring. In this way, a species maintains its 'separateness' from other species; for example, the Yellowfin Tuna and Bigeye Tuna are two distinct tuna species whereas the general term 'tuna' includes all tuna species.

Stock

A functionally discrete population of a species that is largely distinct from other populations of the same species. Such a population may be regarded as a separate entity for management or assessment purposes. Some species form a single stock (e.g., Southern Bluefin Tuna) while others form several stocks (e.g., Albacore Tuna in the Pacific Ocean are divided up into separate Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific stocks).

Targeting

Fishing selectively for particular species or sizes of fish.

Target species

The species being actively sought by fishers.

**Torres Strait Protected Zone
Joint Authority**

An authority comprising the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources (Chairperson), the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority. The authority is responsible for monitoring the condition of the jointly managed fisheries in the Torres Strait and the formulation of policies and plans for their management.

Total allowable catch

The amount of fish of a particular species that can be taken from a fishery in a prescribed period. Total allowable catches are set for fish species managed either through individual transferable quotas or through competitive total allowable catches.

Uncertain

Status of a fish stock for which there is inadequate or inappropriate information to make a reliable assessment.

Undercatch and overcatch

Undercatch and overcatch provide for 'carry over' or 'carry under' of an amount of end of season quota between fishing seasons thereby allowing fishers the flexibility to catch a certain amount of fish over or under their quota, and debit or credit this to or from the following season's quota.

Vessel monitoring system

Electronic device that transmits the identity and location of a vessel.

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