



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

Management Arrangements Booklet 2026



Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Arrangements Booklet 2026

Important Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and accurate at the time of printing. However, the information provided is intended to serve as a guide only, and therefore AFMA will not be liable for any loss caused, whether due to negligence or otherwise, arising from the use of or reliance upon this booklet. The booklet is not intended to replace any conditions or requirements of an operator's concession; *The Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002*, *Fisheries Management Act 1991* and *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. Some of the items in this booklet may not apply to a particular fishing operation. Operators should refer to the key documents listed in this booklet.

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Copies are available on the [AFMA website](#) ("Commercial Fishers' - 'Management arrangements' – 'Management booklets' - 'Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery').

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1 Introduction

This 'Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) Management Arrangements Booklet 2026' is a guide to the management arrangements that will apply to BSCZSF concession holders during the 2026 season, which runs from 1 June to 31 December 2026.

Commercial scallop fishing in the Bass Strait commenced in the early 1970s and is managed under three jurisdictions. AFMA manages the BSCZSF (Figure 1), and the Victoria and Tasmania Governments manage zones generally out to 20 nautical miles (nm) from their respective coastlines.

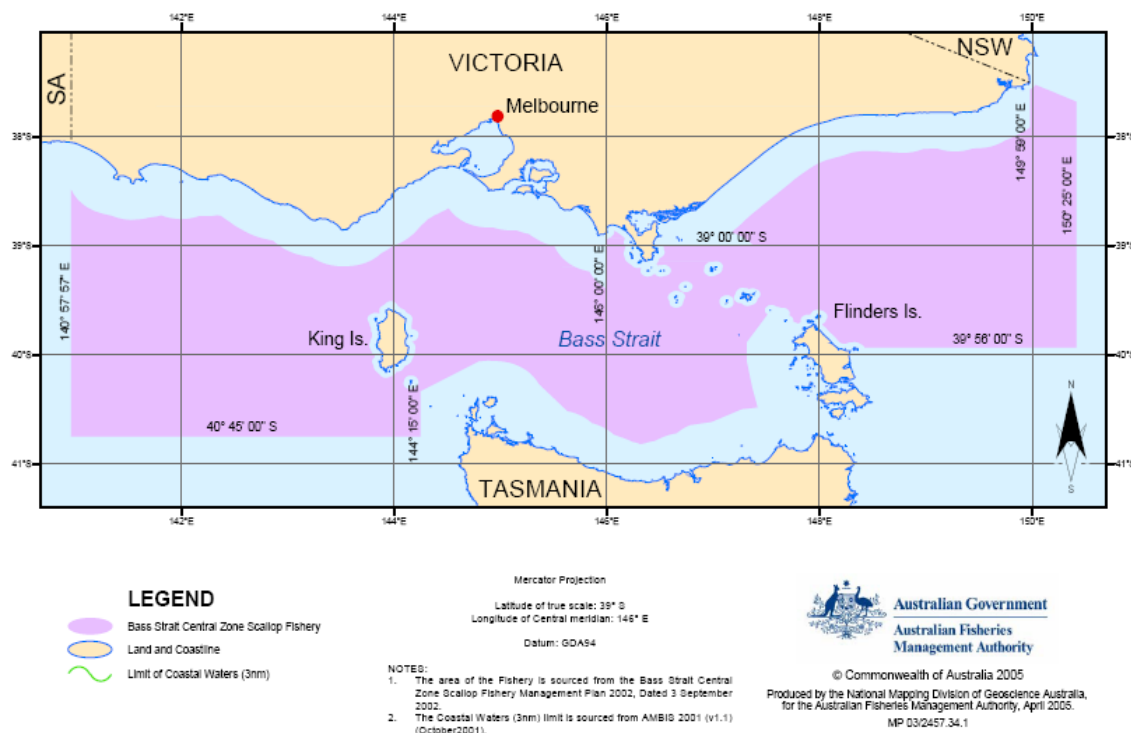


Figure 1. Area of the BSCZSF

Within the BSCZSF there are two species of scallop for which quota Statutory Fishing Rights (quota SFRs) have been granted:

- Commercial Scallop, *Pecten fumatus*, which is the main target species for the fishery; and
- Doughboy Scallop, *Chlamys (Mimachlamys) asperimus*, which is common throughout the Bass Strait but is rarely retained.

Further information on any of the BSCZSF management arrangements can be found on the [AFMA website](#) ('Commercial Fishers' – 'Management Arrangements') or by contacting one of the people listed in [Section 8](#).

2 Management of the fishery

The BSCZSF is managed in accordance with the [Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002](#) (the Plan). Management of the fishery is through a combination of output controls, such as total allowable catch (TAC) limits, and input controls such as spatial closures.

In addition, industry implements voluntary measures in cooperation with AFMA, including voluntary closures to protect juvenile scallop beds.

2.1 Arrangements for the 2026 Fishing Season

2.1.1 Fishing season dates

The 2026 BSCZSF fishing season will open on **1 June 2026** and close on **31 December 2026**. The seasonal closure provides protection following peak spat settlement events while optimising returns for concession holders over the Christmas period.

2.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

The TAC is the total catch of each species of scallop that may be retained by all concession holders in the BSCZSF during a given fishing season.

To fish for scallop in the BSCZSF in 2026 an operator will need to hold at least one quota SFR for each species of scallop. The amount of scallop an individual can catch in the 2026 season is determined by the number of quota SFRs that are held, and the TAC that is set for the fishing season. Details of the quota SFR conversion factors for the 2026 fishing season are provided in Table 1. To fish, a boat must be nominated to quota SFRs.

Table 1. TAC and quota SFR conversion factors for the **2026** fishing season

Species	TAC (tonnes)	Number of quota SFRs	Conversion factor (kg/SFR)
Commercial Scallop	150	444,500	0.33746
Doughboy Scallop	100	455,000	0.21978

2.1.3 Area closures

No area closures will apply during the 2026 season due to the low TACs set this year.

2.1.4 Processing at sea

The processing of scallop on board the boat is **prohibited** in the BSCZSF, except for the purpose of testing the quality of scallop meat.

To assist concession holders in deciding which areas to harvest in, the ability to test scallop meat quality by splitting the shell is allowed. Testing quality prevents resource wastage by reducing the risk of harvesting large quantities of scallop in poor condition.

2.1.5 Transfer of scallop between boats

BSCZSF concession holders **must not** possess scallop caught by another boat, or transfer scallop to another boat to be landed.

2.1.6 Retention of other species

BSCZSF concession holders **must not** possess species other than scallop.

2.2 Policy and legislation

The BSCZSF is managed through a combination of input and output controls as prescribed in the:

- [Fisheries Management Act 1991](#) (the Act) and associated amendments and temporary orders;
- the Plan and associated amendments, directions and determinations;
- the [BSCZSF Harvest Strategy 2015](#) developed in accordance with the *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2007*;
- closure directions (noting that there are no closure directions for the 2026 season); and
- conditions on quota SFRs.

It is the responsibility of BSCZSF concession holders to familiarise themselves with the above documents before they go fishing.

2.2.1 BSCZSF Management Plan

The objectives of the Plan are to:

1. manage the BSCZSF efficiently and cost-effectively for the Commonwealth;
2. exercise the precautionary principle in regard to the impact of fishing activities on non-target species and the long-term sustainability of the marine environment;
3. maximise economic efficiency in the exploitation of the resources of the fishery;
4. ensure accountability to the fishing industry and Australian community in the management of the fishery;
5. achieve government targets for cost recovery;
6. ensure resources are not endangered by over-exploitation; and
7. achieve the best use of living resources of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

Under the Plan, SFRs are issued allowing access to the BSCZSF. These rights authorise the take of Commercial and Doughboy Scallops under a TAC for each fishing season. Quota SFRs are tradeable, allowing operators to increase or decrease the amount of scallop they can take in a season.

The Plan details concession holders' responsibilities when fishing in the fishery area. AFMA may also make closure directions and TAC determinations under the Plan and the Act. In accordance with section 41A(2A) of the Act, AFMA must give the holder of each fishing concession seven days' notice before a closure direction takes effect.

"Fishing season" is defined at the start of each season by AFMA as defined in the Plan. AFMA must give the holder of each quota SFR at least 48 hours' notice before the start of a fishing season.

2.2.2 BSCZSF Harvest Strategy

TACs and area closures are set in accordance with the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy. The Harvest Strategy uses a tiered approach to setting TACs, management arrangements and investment in research services depending on the status of the resource. This allows investment through the levy base to be varied according to commercial interests in the resource. It also balances the risk of over-exploitation with obtaining knowledge on the status of the stock at the start of the season.

Further information on the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy can be found on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries management' – 'Management Tools' – 'Harvest strategies' - 'Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery').

2.3 Consultative Arrangements

2.3.1 Scallop Resource Assessment Group (ScallopRAG)

ScallopRAG provides advice and recommendations to the Scallop Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC), AFMA Management, the AFMA Commission and the AFMA Research Committee (ARC) on the status of commercial stocks, fishery economics, the impacts of fishing on the broader ecosystem and research priorities for the fishery.

ScallopRAG members for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 March 2027 are as follows:

- Professor Brendan Kelaher, Chair
- Dr Mark Grubert, AFMA member
- Dr Ryan Day, Scientific member
- Dr Don Bromhead, Scientific member
- Mr John Cull, Industry member
- Mr Stuart Richey, Industry member
- Mr Caleb Gardner, Economic member

If you have any queries regarding ScallopRAG please contact Yvette Lamont, Executive Officer on email: yvette.lamont@afma.gov.au or by phone: 08 8943 0320. Further information on the ScallopRAG can be found on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries management' – 'Fisheries Committees' – 'Resource assessment group' – 'Scallop Resource Assessment Group').

2.3.2 Scallop Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)

ScallopMAC is the primary consultative forum for management of the BSCZSF. ScallopMAC provides advice to AFMA Management and the AFMA Commission on issues related to management of the fishery, including TACs, closures, economics and research priorities. ScallopMAC is also responsible for establishing any sub-committees and working groups that may be required to further investigate a matter.

ScallopMAC members for the period 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2027 are as follows:

- Dr Daryl McPhee, Chair
- Dr Mark Grubert, AFMA member

- Professor Brendan Kelaher, Scientific member
- Mr John Hammond, Industry member
- Mr Stuart Richey, Industry member
- Mr Andrew Watts, Industry member
- Mr John Cull, Industry member
- Steve Mantzaris, Industry member
- Dr Sylvia Zukowski, Environment/conservation member
- Mr Caleb Gardner, Economic member

If you have any queries regarding ScallopMAC please contact Yvette Lamont, Executive Officer on email: yvette.lamont@afma.gov.au or by phone: 08 8943 0320

Further information on the ScallopMAC can be found on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries management' – 'Fisheries Committees' – 'Scallop Management advisory committees')

2.3.3 BSCZSF Industry Management Committee

The BSCZSF Industry Management Committee (the Co-management Committee) comprises of members as determined by ScallopMAC, ordinarily consisting of:

- a chairperson;
- two industry representatives from Tasmania; and
- two industry representatives from Victoria.

The Co-management Committee may agree upon fishing start and end dates within season dates, the order and timing of harvesting within open areas and the protection of juvenile or local spawning biomass within open beds as appropriate (which may include having regard to stock status within Tasmanian and Victorian waters).

The Co-management Committee must provide AFMA with:

- notification of agreed fishing start and end dates at least 24 hours before the commencement of fishing;
- notification of agreed voluntary closures to protect juvenile scallop beds that do not meet the discard rate of less than 20 per cent of scallop less than 85 mm at least five days prior to commencement; and
- prompt information regarding Co-management Committee agreed actions, implementation and outcomes, to allow consideration of agreed actions by ScallopRAG and ScallopMAC, before they make recommendations to AFMA.

Co-management Committee membership was reviewed by ScallopMAC in June 2025 and is as follows:

- Johnathan Hammond, Chair and Tasmanian representative
- Dusty Cull, Victorian representative

- Jake Watts, Victorian representative
- John Richey, Tasmanian representative
- Brad Milic (Atlantis industry representative observer)
- Bob Lister (Scallop Fisherman’s Association of Tasmania observer)

If you have any queries regarding the Co-management Committee, or if you would like to provide a report on conditions in the fishery for consideration by the Co-management Committee, please contact Jonathan Hammond at 0427 366 529 or jonathanhammond79@gmail.com.

3 Environmental management

3.1 Bycatch and discard workplan

AFMA is required to develop and implement fishery-specific Bycatch and Discard Workplans. Workplans are developed in consultation with industry and research partners to find practical and affordable solutions to minimising bycatch and discarding. Specifically, they aim to:

- reduce the number of high-risk species assessed through AFMA’s Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) process;
- minimise interactions with species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act);
- reduce discarding of target and non-target species to as close to zero as practically possible; and
- minimise overall bycatch in the fishery over the long-term.

The BSCZSF Bycatch and Discard Workplan can be accessed from the [AFMA website](#) (‘Research & Environment’ – ‘Protected Species’ - ‘Reducing Bycatch’ - ‘Bycatch and Discarding Workplans’).

3.2 Protected species interactions

3.2.1 How and when do I fill out a TEP form?

A Listed Marine and Threatened Species form (TEP Form: located at the back of your logbook) must be completed for all protected species interactions.

3.2.1.1 Reporting an interaction

- All interactions must be reported according to the instructions in your Daily Fishing Logbook.
- This means you need to circle yes in the box at the bottom of the logsheet and complete the Listed Marine and Threatened Species form (located at the back of your logbook). Return the form to AFMA with the corresponding logsheet.
- If there is an observer present, immediately inform them of the interaction. You are still required to report the interaction in your logbook.

- All interactions with seabirds must be reported in the same way.

3.2.1.2 What is an interaction with a protected species?

Interaction is defined in the Regulations as physical contact that:

- Occurs between an organism and one or more of the following:
 - An individual
 - A nominated boat
 - Any object on board or attached to, a nominated boat
 - A nominated boat's equipment (other than that being used by an observer) and
- Is of a kind that could cause the organism to be distressed

3.2.1.3 Which species do I need to report?

The EPBC Act establishes four categories of protected species in Commonwealth managed areas:

- **listed threatened species or ecological communities** (this includes the categories threatened, vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered) – species or communities whose survival is threatened, e.g. those with low population numbers or those which have had a reduction in habitat or distribution
- **listed migratory species** – to provide protection for species listed under the *International Convention on Migratory Species*
- **listed marine species** – listed to provide general protection to Australia's native marine wildlife to reduce the likelihood of population decline
- **all cetaceans** i.e. whales, dolphins and porpoises.

All whales, dolphins, seasnakes, turtles, seals and sea lions, syngnathids (seahorses, seadragons and pipefish), sawfishes (green, dwarf and freshwater), crocodiles, dugongs, sharks (great white, grey nurse, silky shark, shortfin mako, longfin mako and porbeagle) and all seabirds are protected under the EPBC Act. You must report all interactions with these species under the EPBC Act.

A full list of protected species is available on the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website](#).

1.1.1.1 AFMA assistance with reporting obligations

To assist operators in fulfilling their reporting obligations, AFMA provides a protected species interaction summary report to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on a quarterly basis; on behalf of fishers who report interactions in their logbook. These reports are published on the [AFMA website](#) ('Environment and research' – 'Protected species management' – 'Interaction reports').

1.1.2 Interactions with tagged wildlife

Researchers investigating wildlife will periodically tag animals (or use bands in the case of seabirds) to help improve the understanding of their biology and population.

Operators who capture a tagged animal should:

- record the details in the Listed Marine and Threatened Species form, with the band or tag number recorded in the appropriate section of the form.
- record the following details in the comments section: tag or band number and colour; species identification or description (photos are very useful); size; sex; and time, date and position of capture.
- if the tagged animal is captured alive, operators should record as many details as possible about the animal then release it as carefully as possible; noting the condition in which it was released. AFMA will arrange to notify the appropriate researchers.

Remember: Don't get caught, just report!

1.2 Ecological Risk Assessment

AFMA conducts Ecological Risk Assessments (ERA) to identify risks posed by fishing to the ecological sustainability of the species, habitats and communities with which Commonwealth fisheries interact.

The most recent ERA of the BSCZSF was completed in 2024 (Sporcic et al., 2024). This work describes the ERA process for the BSCZSF and provides a priority list of seventeen species which were scored at high-risk from the fishery due to lack of information. There have been no reported interactions with the high-risk species identified in the 2024 ERA since the implementation of the Bycatch and Discard Workplan.

A copy of the most recent ERA for the BSCZSF can be found on the [AFMA website](#) or 'fisheries management'- 'management-tools' - 'ecological risk management strategies' - 'Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery').

AFMA's approach to Ecological Risk Assessments and Management is outlined in [Fisheries Management Paper 14](#).

2 Data Collection

2.1 Daily Fishing Logbook

2.1.1 Electronic logbooks (e-logs)

Electronic logbooks (e-logs) are mandatory across all Commonwealth fisheries for the completion and transmission of logbook returns, including the BSCZSF.

E-logs must be submitted prior to the boat docking. Paper logbooks may be kept as back up and used in an emergency only.

Concession holders and their authorised agents must ensure they have an AFMA user ID before they can participate in the electronic submission of logbooks. All holders or agents submitting

the e-log MUST have their own AFMA user ID and password. For further information contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

To submit e-logs, a concession holder will need to purchase e-log software that is certified for the fishing method and fishery. Software has been developed for electronic catch disposal records (e-CDRs) which is the preferred option for logging records.

A list of the vendors who offer e-log and e-CDR software for Commonwealth operators is on the [AFMA website](#) ('Monitoring Tools' – 'Logbooks and elogs' – 'Electronic logbooks' – 'E-logs information' – 'Getting Started'). Details of vendors providing software for BSCZSF operators is in Table 2.

Concession holders have access to their submitted e-log information in their GoFish account.

Table 2. e-log and e-CDR software vendors for BSCZSF operators

Software vendor	Telephone	Email	Web site
CatchLog Trading Pty. Ltd	07 4033 1322	admin@catchlog.com	www.catchlog.com
OLRAC	03 5258 4399	olrac@olsps.com	elog.olsps.com

Further information on e-log and e-CDRs can be obtained from the AFMA website under Services on the [AFMA website](#) ('Monitoring Tools' - 'Logbooks and elogs' – 'E-logs information' – 'Where to get help') or by contacting the AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

2.1.2 Paper logbooks

Paper logbooks may be kept as back up and used in an emergency only.

The daily fishing logbook that is currently in use for the BSCZSF is the Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B). Detailed instructions on how to complete this logbook are provided inside the front cover.

The Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B) must be completed daily and submitted within three business days. A new column must be completed every time you move more than five nautical miles from your last haul and when you change from fishing to searching or searching to fishing. Details for the last day of the trip must be recorded before the boat docks at the end of each trip.

2.2 Catch Disposal Record (CDR)

2.2.1 Electronic CDRs

AFMA has developed electronic catch disposal records (e-CDRs) which is the preferred option for logging records. However, please note information above if using paper CDRs.

The CDR that is currently in use for the BSCZSF is the Commonwealth Scallop/Squid Catch Disposal Record (SCQ02B). Detailed instructions on how to complete this CDR are provided inside the front cover.

The SCQ02B was introduced at the end of the 2019 fishing season. This book includes a triplicate page to be provided to your buyer, as well as additional fields to record the contact details of your buyer. Fishers are not required to land to a fish receiver permit holder.

CDRs provide information on the landed commercial catch and serve to verify information recorded in the catch and effort logbooks. A copy of each completed CDR must be submitted (by the concession holder or their authorised agent) to AFMA within three business days of dispatch of a batch from the place of unloading.

If you don't send your logbook returns and CDR forms to AFMA on time you are in breach of requirement in the Act. AFMA may take legal action if you fail to complete your logbooks or CDRs in accordance with the instructions.

All fields, including an accurate weight, should be recorded on the CDR before the scallops have been moved from within the immediate proximity of the boat. Parts A and B of the CDR must be fully completed for each batch and signed by the concession holder or their authorised agent who should be the Master (Skipper) of the boat, before being submitted to AFMA. All fields must have the relevant information completed and any irrelevant fields indicated with a dash or N/A in that field.

2.2.2 Multiple batches

If an unload is spilt into multiple batches a separate CDR must be fully completed for each batch. The CDR must be completed before the batch is moved from the immediate proximity of the boat, even if all batches are going to the same destination. For example, if an unload is transported in three trucks to the same processing facility, three separate CDRs will need to be completed.

2.2.3 Recording an accurate weight

The holder must record the accurate weight of any scallop at the point of unload in order to complete Part A and B of the CDR.

To avoid any doubt, this means the holder must not transport any scallop taken under the concession before accurately weighing those scallops.

Accurately weighing means:

- a) Weighing the product using an approved and verified/certified weighing instrument in accordance with the [National Measurement Act 1960](#).
- b) Testing the accuracy of the scale before commencing to weigh by using a mass of a verified/certified weight in accordance with the National Measurement Act 1960.
- c) Taring the scale before weighing; by placing an empty container (identical to the one that will be used to weigh the product) on the scale and setting the scale's display to zero.
- d) Weighing the product using the tared scale and recording the weight as displayed by the scale.

2.3 Observer obligations

A fishing operator **must carry an AFMA observer upon request by AFMA**. The cost of observers is generally met by industry through levies, but some trips may be invoiced directly.

3 Licensing

3.1 Quota transactions

3.1.1 Nomination of a boat to quota Statutory Fishing Rights

Concession holders must nominate a boat against their quota SFRs before being permitted to fish in the BSCZSF. If required, the transaction can be done through GoFish or by AFMA on receipt of a completed [Boat Nomination \(BN\) form](#) with the [Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery \(SCA\) attachment](#).

3.1.2 Permanent transfer of quota SFRs

You may permanently transfer quota SFRs by filling out the appropriate application form and submitting it to AFMA.

AFMA must register the transfer of an SFR unless:

- the owner of the right (transferor) is being investigated for, or has been convicted of, a fisheries offence;
- the right has been suspended (including instances where the owner has requested a review of that suspension); or
- levies are due and not yet paid in full when transfer application is received.

3.1.3 Leasing of quota SFRs

Quota SFRs may be temporarily leased to another operator and are only applicable for the fishing season in which the lease has taken place.

PLEASE NOTE – All quota transactions (i.e. nominations, denominations, seasonal leases), can be completed through GoFish by registered users at NO COST. Any transactions, if done by AFMA from submitted paperwork, will incur a service fee.

3.2 Quota Management

3.2.1 Quota deduction and reconciliation

Quota is deducted from your total quota allocation using the verified weights detailed on Part B of each CDR. The information you record in your e-log is not used to deduct your quota from your allocation, although it may be used to cross check with other information.

You must hold quota before fishing and have enough to cover your entire catch for each trip.

AFMA may vary or amend a concession holder's entitlements in the current or subsequent years for

- any over catch not balanced with uncaught quota,
- discovered conviction, or
- where AFMA has reason to believe that catches were misreported.

Concession holders may also face administrative restrictions where catches have exceeded their quota holdings during the fishing season.

3.2.2 28-day quota reconciliation

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

If you are still over quota after the 28-day period for each landing, you will be subject to compliance action. You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure that you reconcile catch with quota prior to the due date. The only over-quota notification issued from AFMA is via GoFish – (see below for registration details if required) and concession holders are responsible for monitoring their own catch and quota holdings.

If you are not able to reconcile your over-quota amount within 28 days, please submit your exceptional circumstance reasons to AFMA's Licensing and Data Services before the due date. This information will be considered by compliance in determining the enforcement action to be taken. Further information on quota reconciliation can be obtained from the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – '28-day within season quota reconciliation').

3.3 Keeping track of your quota

3.3.1 Quota transaction statements

You can obtain a free quota holding and catch summary (QHS) or quota transaction statement (QTS), through GoFish. Alternatively, you can contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621, to obtain the statements for a fee.

The responsibility is on concession holders to ensure that they check their Quota Transaction Statements thoroughly and report any discrepancies or errors to AFMA.

3.3.2 Scallop returned to the water

The weight of any Doughboy or Commercial Scallop that you put back in the water will not be recorded on your CDR and will not come off your quota.

However, you should make sure that you estimate the weight of all Commercial and Doughboy Scallop that come up in your scallop harvester in your Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B). There is a section in the logbook to record the discarded percentage of your scallop catch.

3.3.3 GoFish

You can use GoFish for:

- updating contact information;
- viewing, exporting and printing QHS and QTS;
- quota reconciliation statement (Report for continuous 28-day reconciliation – the statement is located in GoFish under Documents);
- leasing or permanent transfers (if authorised) of quota SFRs (if transferable);
- nomination and denomination of quota SFRs;

- receiving all your correspondence from AFMA if you have ‘Opted In’ to receiving it electronically; and
- accessing your submitted e-log information in their GOFish account.

On the GoFish logon screen there is a function ‘New User’ which allows a person to sign up to use GoFish. NOTE: this function is only to give a new or existing client a GoFish logon, it does not negate the requirement to further authorise a person as an agent.

3.3.4 Instructions on how to get access to GOFish

Information for GoFish is available on the [AFMA website](#) (‘Fisheries Management’ – ‘GoFish Help’) or from AFMA Licensing and Data Services area on 1300 723 621.

Organisations (including companies and partnerships) will need to complete a [Registered Authorised Agent Nomination \(RA\) form](#) to authorise an individual (or individuals) as an agent to act on their behalf when using GoFish.

Some individual concession holders and agents may need to complete an [Electronic Participation Agreement form](#) for registration to gain access to GoFish, for assistance contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621 or licensing@afma.gov.au.

3.4 Scientific permits

Scientific permits are granted for the purpose of conducting scientific research in a specified area of the AFZ or in a specified fishery.

AFMA will only grant a scientific permit if:

- the application is made using the approved form;
- it provides sufficient information for the application to be assessed;
- the proposed activity is for a scientific research purpose; and
- is supported by a specific scientific research project plan.

Scientific permits are granted for a maximum duration of six months and are not transferable.

For further information on obtaining a scientific permit you can refer to the *Fisheries Management Paper 11* available on the [AFMA website](#) (‘Reporting and Accountability’ – ‘Fisheries management policies’ – ‘Scientific permits (FMP 11)’) or alternatively contact AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

3.5 Fishing in other Commonwealth Fisheries

You must hold a valid fishing concession to fish in any Commonwealth fishery. For information on requirements in other Commonwealth Fisheries please contact AFMA on 1300 723 621.

4 Annual management and research levies

Operators who own fishing concessions that attract a levy will receive three separate management and research levy invoices. Each invoice being one third of your total annual levy

amount payable on the fishing concession(s) you own on the date of invoicing. Levy invoices are issued in January, March and May every year.

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

4.1 How to pay your levies

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

It is important to note that while cheques are still accepted, the Australian Government is making changes to payment systems which will include winding back the use of cheques. If you currently use cheques to pay your levies and licensing fees, it would be advisable to familiarise yourself with the electronic payment options that AFMA offers.

4.2 Need more time to pay your levies?

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

For further information on levies, including invoice issue and due dates, please refer to the AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide for the year, available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Commercial Fishers' – 'Forms' – Resources' – 'Commonwealth fisheries levy rates and arrangements').

5 Compliance

5.1 Compliance overview

AFMA's compliance and enforcement program is designed to maintain the integrity of fisheries management arrangements and protect Australia's fishing resources. AFMA seeks to achieve a level of compliance consistent with its legislative objectives by maximising voluntary compliance and creating effective deterrents to non-compliance.

The main functions of the compliance program include:

- ensuring compliance with AFMA's domestic fisheries management measures;
- ensuring licensed boats comply with fishing conditions within the AFZ;
- ensuring that there are no unlicensed foreign boats operating in the AFZ;
- managing port access for foreign boats; and
- surveillance and apprehension of foreign boats fishing illegally in the AFZ.

The National Compliance and Enforcement Program is conducted via the use of a risk-based approach, which enables AFMA's resources to be targeted to the areas where they are most needed and where they will prove most effective. It involves a series of steps to identify and assess non-compliance risks and then apply appropriate enforcement actions to mitigate these risks.

Risk-based compliance has a range of benefits¹:

- **improved compliance outcomes** – AFMA can tailor or target compliance measures to effectively deal with the most significant non-compliance risks;
- **efficiency gains** – the target of compliance measures to the most significant risks ensures resources are concentrated in the areas where they are most likely to improve compliance outcomes; and
- **greater industry support for compliance programs/measures** – risk management processes are widely understood by the fishing industry and the community.

In addition to the risk treatment model, it is essential that AFMA maintains a general deterrence program. By maintaining a presence at fishing ports (and at sea) AFMA discourages those members of the fishing community who do not wish to comply with the rules and regulations. It also reassures those who are complying that non-compliant activity is likely to be detected. Further, AFMA officers can assist those wishing to comply (but not knowing how) by providing advice and/or instructions on operators responsibilities.

5.2 Navigation regulations

Regulations regarding navigation in closures can be found in Part 9 of subsection 86 (2a) of the [Fisheries Management Regulations 2019](#).

Under the Regulations a boat must maintain a speed over 5 knots when navigating in a closure. If the closure is in effect for less than 24 hours (such as daylight closures) the boat must either be stationary or travelling faster than 5 knots. A breach of the regulations is an offence of strict liability, equal to 25 penalty units, or \$5,250.

Speed is calculated via the boat's vessel monitoring system. Therefore, it is recommended that the most direct route is taken when travelling through a closure, so the boat does not appear to be navigating at less than 5 knots. If the boat is stationary within a closure, the boat is required to remain in that closure for greater than 30 minutes.

If the master of a boat is unable to comply with any of the navigation requirements due to an unforeseen emergency (e.g. crew safety, breakdowns etc.) then the master must contact AFMA as soon as possible to request an exemption from the regulation.

5.3 Exemptions from mandatory area closures

Applications for exemptions to the prohibition of navigation in protected zones will be considered for approval in exceptional circumstances.

¹ Source: Risk-based Compliance information is available at [The Better Regulation Office www.finance.nsw.gov.au/better-regulation](http://www.finance.nsw.gov.au/better-regulation)

An application for exemption to navigate in a protected zone must be made to an AFMA compliance officer in Canberra either by phone, fax or in person as follows:

- Phone: (02) 6225 5428 or
- Fax: (02) 6225 5442, or
- After hours: AFMA duty officer on 0419 205 329.

An exemption approval will be provided in writing where applicable.

The prohibitions on fishing and navigation in effect for the BSCZSF do not apply to other Commonwealth fisheries occurring in the same area as the BSCZSF.

5.4 Vessel monitoring system (VMS)

5.4.1 VMS reporting

It is the concession holder's responsibility to ensure that any boat nominated to their concession is fitted with a VMS of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved units. This register is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Vessel Monitoring Systems' – 'List of approved units').

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

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

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au

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

5.4.2 Directions to return to port

Under the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy, if a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting AFMA may request the boat to immediately return to and/or remain in port until the problem has been resolved.

5.4.3 Manual reporting

If a nominated boat's VMS unit stops reporting, the concession holder must ensure that the operator manually reports the boat's position at a frequency specified by AFMA.

The manual position reports must include:

- the boat's name
- the boat's distinguishing symbol

- the boat's present latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes)
- the date and time.

Manual position reports are to be made via:

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

Fax: (02) 6225 5440; or

Email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au

5.4.4 Temporary switch off (TSO) arrangements

A TSO is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated boat is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, the concession holder can apply for a TSO by completing an 'Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off' form. The request needs to be made prior to the VMS being switched off. A TSO is not automatically granted, and AFMA considers a variety of factors, including previous VMS non-compliance and whether the need is genuine before permission being granted.

Completed forms should be sent by Fax: (02) 6225 5440; email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au or post addressed to: Data Processing, AFMA, PO Box 7051, CANBERRA BC ACT 2610.

Further information is available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Vessel Monitoring Systems')

Note: Switching off a unit without first obtaining a TSO will constitute an offence. It is also an offence for a boat to be moved, from the place stipulated under the TSO, without approval from AFMA.

5.5 Illegal/suspicious fishing – Call CRIMFISH: 1800 274 634

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring or witness any suspicious activity involving fishing or fishing type activity (e.g. selling fish off the back of boats or vehicles whilst offering a reduced price, questionable landing sites etc.) you can either contact AFMA's Freecall CRIMFISH hotline on **1800 274 634** (1800 CRIMFISH) or you can contact AFMA's Duty Officer on 0419 205 329 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) as soon as possible after you discover the event. More information is available on the CRIMFISH page on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Compliance' – 'Report illegal fishing').

Reports may be made anonymously and all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence. Ideally any information supplied should be as detailed as possible to assist AFMA to investigate the incident and should include the following:

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

6 Contact details

BSCZSF Management

Mark Grubert – Manager	03 5155 6425
Yvette Lamont – Senior Management Officer	08 8943 0320
Email	scallop@afma.gov.au

Licensing and data services

Quota management and logbooks

Karen Cullen – Acting Licensing Services and Data Manager	(02) 6225 5452
Licensing and Data Services Officers	1300 723 621
Licensing and Data Services facsimile	(02) 6225 54440
Licensing and Data Services email	licensing@afma.gov.au
Levy invoicing and payment queries	invoices@afma.gov.au

Compliance

Duty Officer	0419 205 329
Compliance facsimile	(02) 6225 5442
Compliance email	domestic.compliance@afma.gov.au
Tod Spencer - Senior Manager National Compliance Strategy	(02) 6225 5312
Josh Froggatt – Manager – National Compliance Operations	(02) 6225 5467
VMS phone email enquiries (to report a unit breakdown or request temporary switch off)	(02) 6225 5542 vmsreporting@afma.gov.au
VMS email (for general enquiries)	vmsinfo@afma.gov.au
VMS fax:	(02) 6225 5440

Observers

Henry Oak - Observer Manager 0427 496 446

Observer duty phone 0427 496 446

State Fisheries

Tasmania

Department of Natural Resources and Environment –
Marine Resources 1300 720 647
[Commercial Fishing - NRE TAS](#)

Fishwatch 0427 655 557
[Fishwatch - Report Illegal Fishing](#)

Victoria

Victorian Fisheries Authority 136 186
[Commercial - VFA](#)

Industry Associations and Management Committees

Bass Strait Scallop Industry Co-Management Committee

Johnathan Hammond, Chair 0427 366 529
Email: lyenna@vision.net.au

Bass Strait Scallop Industry Representative Body

Brad Milic 0400 217 474
Email: brad@milicconsulting.com

Scallop Fishermen's Association of Tasmania Inc.

Bob Lister 0427 278 270
Email: boblister22@bigpond.com

Octopus fishers (potential gear interactions) - - Octopus fishers operate throughout the Bass Strait for the whole year. Their contact details have been provided to prevent gear interactions.

Craig Hardy 0409 581 278
Email: craig@topfishtas.com.au

Bradley Hardy 0419 205 486
Email: bradhardy5@hotmail.com

Michael Hardy

0488 670 888

Email: michael@topfishtas.com.au

Basslink Pty Ltd

General enquiries

(03) 9607 4700

Website

[Basslink](#)

Code of conduct for fishing and anchoring safely with Basslink is available [here](#).

7 Important documents

Commonwealth legislation and policy

[Fisheries Management Act 1991](#)

[Fisheries Management Regulations 2019](#)

[Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018](#)

[Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018](#)

BSCZSF legislative instruments

[Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002](#)

[Fisheries Management \(Logbooks for Fisheries\) Determination 2022](#)

[Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery \(Total Allowable Catch\) Determination 2026](#)

[Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery \(Fishing Season\) Determination 2026](#)

Management of the BSCZSF

[Harvest Strategy for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery](#)

Environmental management arrangements

[Ecological Risk Management report for the BSCZSF](#)

[BSCZSF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan](#)

Logbooks and forms

[AFMA Logbooks and Catch Disposal](#)

[AFMA Licensing and Quota Management Forms](#)

Appendix 1 - Acronyms

AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
BSCZSF	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
CDR	Catch Disposal Record
Elog	Electronic Logbook
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
ERM	Ecological Risk Management
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
the Plan	<i>Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002</i>
MPA	Marine Protected Area
QHS	Quota holding and catch summary
QTS	Quota transaction statement
RA	Authorised Agent form
ScallopMAC	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee
ScallopRAG	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Resource Assessment Group
SFR	Statutory Fishing Right
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
the Act	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
TSO	Temporary switch off
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System

Appendix 2 – Area closures outside AFMA’s jurisdiction

Fishing in Marine Parks

There are Australian Marine Parks within the Commonwealth waters of the BSCZSF. The marine parks of relevance to BSCZSF fishers are within the South-east Marine Parks Network. Marine parks that overlap the fishery include Apollo, Zeehan, Franklin, Boags, Beagle, Flinders and East Gippsland. Fishers who are currently fishing, or intend to fish, should be aware that some fishing methods are not allowed in marine parks. Please make sure you understand which fishing methods are allowed in each of the marine park zones prior to fishing.

[Class approvals](#) outline the areas where commercial fishing can occur, the fishing methods that can be used, and the conditions that need to be followed while operating or transiting through Australian Marine Parks.

For BSCZSF fishers using scallop dredges, this means you cannot fish in any zone of the marine parks in the South-east Marine Parks Network (see map at Figure 2).

Transiting is allowed through all marine park zone types (except Sanctuary zones). When transiting a zone where your fishing method is not allowed, you are required to: 1) keep all fishing gear stowed and secured, and 2) travel at more than 5 knots. More information about these marine parks can be found at the following links or by contacting marineparks@dcceew.gov.au.

Fish can only be processed in marine parks where your fishing method is allowed. This is for compliance purposes so that it’s clear to park surveillance officers where fish are being taken from. However, exceptions can be made for individual circumstances, where this rule creates operational constraints on normal fishing activities. Any exceptions need to be authorised by the Director of National Parks so please contact us to discuss if this applies to you.

Maps

Maps of marine park networks and individual marine parks are available, including Shapefiles, MIF files and KML files which can be downloaded to use on vessel hardware at:

<https://australianmarineparks.gov.au/maps/>.

Reporting illegal activity

If you witness or suspect illegal activities occurring within an Australian Marine Park, you are encouraged to report this activity. All reports are completely voluntary and anonymous, however, if you chose to include your personal details, you may be contacted to provide more information about your report.

You can report in one of two ways:

1. via the Australian Marine Parks reporting hotline on 1800 852 975 where you can talk to a Marine Parks Officer; or
2. via email to Marine.Compliance@dcceew.gov.au

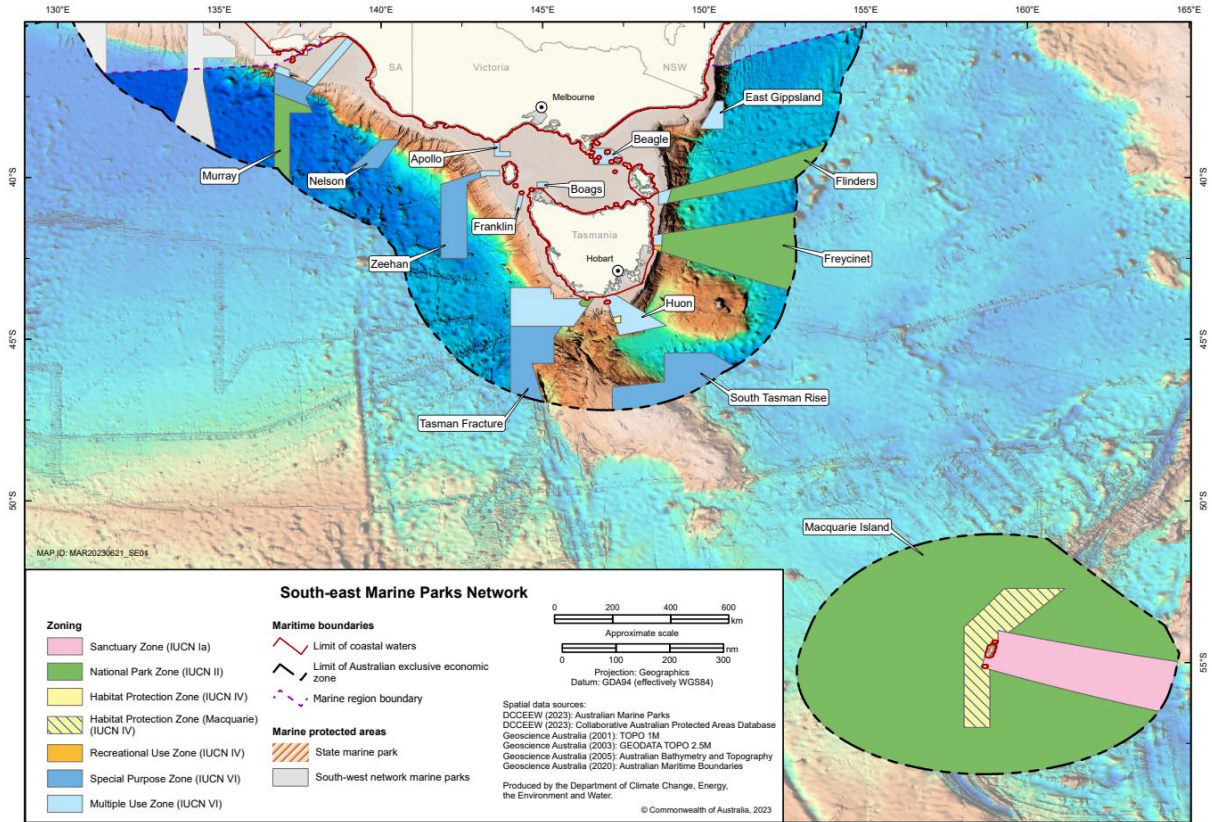


Figure 2. Map of the South-east Marine Parks Network