



Australian Government

**Australian Fisheries
Management Authority**



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**Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation**

BOAT OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL 2026-2027

Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery



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- *Fisheries Management Act 1991*;
- *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*;
- *Fisheries Management (Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures) Direction 2021*;
- *Fisheries Management (E-monitoring Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery) Direction 2026*;
- *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003*, and the associated legislation;
- Conditions on Boat SFR certificates and permits;
- Marine Pollution Laws; and
- Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2018-19.

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PREFACE

The Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association Inc. (GABIA) and the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery (GABTF) are leading the way in fisheries management through collaboration with government to ensure the ecological and economical sustainability of the fishery. This collaborative approach aims to build trust between industry and government, enhance transparency and ensure the fishery is managed efficiently and effectively.

The GABTF is part of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (SESSF). The main target species in the GABTF are Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead which are primarily caught with demersal trawl. There is also a developing slope fishery in which Western Gemfish and other slope species are targeted sporadically. The GABTF is relatively small fishery with only ten boat statutory fishing rights (SFRs) and six companies. All SFR owners are members of GABIA. The GABTF recently received Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification which validates the environmental credentials of the fishery.

As a fishing boat operator in the GABTF, you have a key role in the management of your fishery. The way you operate this boat is of critical importance to its owner, GABIA, the partnership with government and the long term future of the fishery.

This operational manual is intended to provide you with the working knowledge required to meet standards of practice either developed or fully supported by GABIA. In meeting these standards you will continue to lead the way in fisheries management, ensure your own future and set an example for others to follow.

Photo: GABIA



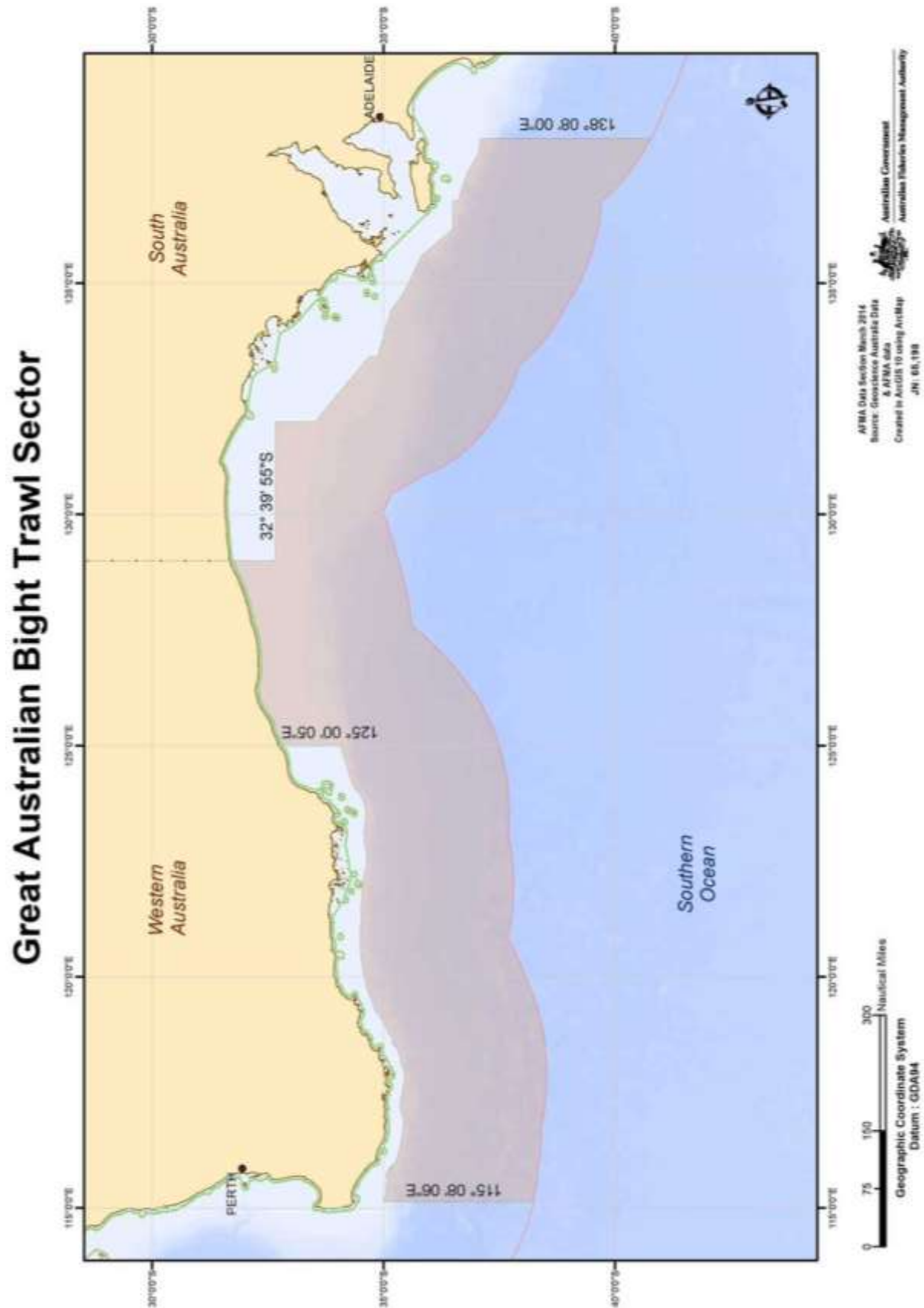
The vision of the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery is to be a sustainable and profitable demersal and midwater trawl fishery, built through a co-management approach with all stakeholders, to supply high quality fresh and frozen product to domestic and overseas markets.

AREA OF THE GABTF

The area of the commonwealth GAB Trawl Sector is the part of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of the 200 metre isobath South of Australia with the meridian of longitude 115° 08' 06" E, and running progressively as described below.

1. South along that meridian to its intersection with the outer limit of the AFZ.
2. Generally easterly along that outer limit to its intersection with the meridian of longitude 138° 08' 05" E;
3. North along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of latitude 37° 05' 55" S;
4. Westerly along the geodesic to 37° 02' 55" S, 137° 47' 05" E;
5. North-westerly along the geodesic to 36° 48' 55" S, 137° 24' 05" E;
6. westerly along the geodesic to 36° 36' 55" S, 136° 47' 05" E;
7. north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of latitude 36° 29' 55" S;
8. west along that parallel to its intersection with the meridian of longitude 136° 10' 05" E;
9. north-westerly along the geodesic to 35° 49' 55" S, 135° 36' 05" E;
10. westerly along the geodesic to 35° 26' 55" S, 134° 48' 05" E;
11. north-westerly along the geodesic to 35° 09' 55" S, 134° 25' 05" E;
12. westerly along the geodesic to 34° 52' 55" S, 133° 25' 05" E;
13. north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of latitude 34° 41' 55" S;
14. north-westerly along the geodesic to 33° 56' 00" S, 132° 30' 00" E;
15. westerly along the geodesic to 33° 32' 00" S, 132° 00' 00" E;
16. north along that meridian to its intersection with the parallel of latitude 32° 39' 55" S;
17. west along that parallel to its intersection with the boundary between the adjacent areas of South Australia and Western Australia;
18. north along that boundary to its intersection with the outer limit of coastal waters of southern Australia;
19. generally westerly along the outer limit of the coastal waters of Western Australia to its intersection with the meridian of longitude 125° 00' 05" E;
20. south along that meridian to its intersection with the 200 metre isobath; and then
21. generally westerly along that isobath to the point where the line began.

AREA OF THE GABTF (CONTINUED)



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1. BOAT SPECIFIC OPERATIONS

Boat Owners and skipper can add information regarding operations specific to their vessels in the GABTF to this section. Items may include:

- Boat information
- Emergency procedures
- Workplace health and safety
- Code of conducts
- Shooting and hauling procedures
- Inductions

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2. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS

CARD 2A:

INTRODUCTION TO HACCP

Background

Good product handling practices are important for delivering high quality product and maximising boat income and profit.

Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) is an internationally recognised system for ensuring good product handling. This is a proactive system that aims to prevent food safety hazards from occurring. The system involves identifying and monitoring certain points in the production process at which food safety hazards may occur. These are known as critical control points (CCPs). If the monitoring result at a CCP is not within safe limits, then a pre-planned action is undertaken to ensure the hazard does not occur. Another method for ensuring product quality is through traceability. Traceability means keeping track of fish after they are caught, and through the transportation, processing, and distribution phases. GABIA HACCP guidelines are available from the GABIA EO.

GABIA has developed a guide to HACCP and on-line resources to train crew in understanding HACCP. This guide can be provided on request to boats.

Your Responsibilities

- Ensure all crew are adequately trained in HACCP.
- Ensure all crew comply with the boat's HACCP plan.
- Ensure all record keeping is accurate and up to date.

References

Product Traceability: A Desktop Study for GABIA from AFMA Co-management section, 2009.

Contact Details

GABIA EO: Keith
0437675573

Photo: AFMA



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3. REPORTING

CARD 3A:

DAILY FISHING LOGS

Background

The daily fishing log program is one of the most important tools for gathering information on fishing catch and effort. Daily fishing log information is used by fisheries managers and researchers to assess fish stocks and gain a picture of the changes in the fishery over time. Accurate reporting in daily fishing logs is essential to ensure that fisheries remain sustainable and profitable.

The GABTF has implemented electronic daily fishing logs (E-logs). For more information please contact AFMA or the GABIA EO.

Your Responsibilities

- Complete the Southern and Western Trawl Daily Fishing Log (SWT01A or its E-log replacement).

Where E-logs are not used:

- Return the original white copy of the daily fishing log pages to AFMA within three days of the completion of each fishing trip.
- Clearly mark any spoiled or incorrectly completed daily fishing log pages and return these to AFMA.
- Ensure an authorised agent of the concession holder completes and signs the daily fishing log.
- If you wish to authorise another person to complete the daily fishing log and/or Commonwealth managed fisheries transit forms, you must obtain approval from AFMA by completing the authorised agent nomination form (RA). Note new nominations will not take effect until AFMA has sent written confirmation of the nomination.

Contact Details

AFMA Data section: 1300 723621

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

E-logs email: elogs@afma.gov.au

Photo: AFMA



CARD 3B:

CATCH DISPOSAL RECORDS

Background

A catch disposal record (CDR) must be completed on landing. The CDR form provides details on the species caught and their accurate weight. CDRs are designed to verify catch landings and provide information for fisheries management purposes.

Your Responsibilities

- Always land fish to a person holding a current fish receiver permit.
- Complete the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery CDR (GAB2C or its E-log replacement) within 50 metres of the landing point.
- Return the original white copy of the CDR to AFMA within three days of unloading.
- The yellow and blue copies of the CDR must accompany the fish to the receiver and must be completed before the fish are placed with any other fish that are not part of the consignment.
- Clearly mark any spoiled or incorrectly completed CDR forms and return these to AFMA.
- If you have multiple receivers, you must complete a separate CDR for each receiver.
- Complete the Commonwealth managed fisheries transit form (CTF) when landing fish and using multiple vehicles to transport the fish to one receiver. A transit form must be carried by each vehicle and the last vehicle shall carry the CDR, except where the fish are being carried to an 'exempt' fish receiver.
- If you wish to authorise another person to complete the CDR forms, you must obtain approval from AFMA by completing the authorised representative nomination form (AA).

Contact Details

AFMA Data section: 1300 723621
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573



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4. BYCATCH AND DISCARDS

CARD 4A:

REPORTING BYCATCH

Background

Bycatch refers to the part of catch made up of non-target species. Bycatch is an issue of concern for the sustainability of the marine ecosystem and must be minimised to the greatest extent possible.

There is a number of industry initiatives in the GABTF that assist in quantifying and reducing bycatch, including:

- the GABTF Bycatch and Discard Workplan which outlines actions that will be undertaken in the GABTF to address bycatch and discarding issues
- gear modifications pursued by industry, including the move to T90 extensions and/or cod ends on all nets used for fishing on the shelf
- area closures
- investigation of seabird mitigation measures, including offal management and mitigation devices
- individual vessel management plans
- production of a GABIA bycatch and discards flier to assist in accurate reporting of bycatch and discards in daily fishing logs.

Your Responsibilities

- Take all reasonable measures to ensure that bycatch is kept to a minimum.
- Comply with initiatives to address bycatch issues.
- Suggest any new ideas for reducing bycatch to the boat owner, concession holder, or the GABIA EO.

References

Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery Bycatch and Discarding Workplan, 2018-19
GABIA Recording Discards flier, see Card 4C.

Contact Details

AFMA Bycatch and discards section: 1300 723621
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Photo: AFMA



CARD 4B:

RECORDING DISCARDS

Background

Discarding is the general practice of returning the unwanted part of the catch including undersize or unwanted commercial species to the sea. There is a strong community perception that discarding species of potential commercial value is wasteful. Discarding should be minimised as much as possible.

Despite the general misconception within industry that reporting discards will lead to compliance action, GABTF operators have been reporting discards for some years. It is important that as a GABTF operator you continue to record discards (including unwanted quota species) correctly so that scientific and economic assessments about the fishery are accurate. For example, reports of greater levels of juvenile quota species being discarded could be an indication of a recruitment event in the fishery.

Your Responsibilities

- You must record all the following details in your daily fishing log on a shot-by-shot basis:
 - – total discards of each quota species
 - – total discards of non-quota fish species, including “mixed fish”
 - – total discards of non-quota sharks and relatives
 - – total discarded sponge.
- Quota species are Deepwater Flathead, Bight Redfish, School Shark, Gummy Shark, Saw Shark and Elephantfish. **Do not** include discards of these species in the “other mixed fish” category.
- If possible, provide more specific species and weight details rather than using the total “other mixed fish” category. **Do not** include sharks, stingrays, stingarees and skates in the “other mixed fish” category. Record these separately down to species level where possible.
- **Do not** include any discard weights in more than one of the above categories

References

Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery Bycatch & Discarding Workplan, 2018-19
GABIA Recording By-catch, see Card 4C.

Contact Details

AFMA Bycatch and discards section: 1300 723621
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 4C:

GABIA BYCATCH AND DISCARD FLYER

RECORDING BYCATCH

Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery (GABTF)

YOU NEED TO RECORD DISCARDS IN YOUR LOGBOOK

Over the last few years, GABTF skippers have successfully made more accurate recordings of discards in GAB logbooks! We need to keep up this good work.

Why is recording bycatch important?

Bycatch (that part of the catch that is caught and then discarded) has become an increasingly global issue. Apart from sustainability concerns about discarding it is generally perceived as a 'waste' to throw fish and other bycatch over the side. It is an issue that fishers can no longer ignore.

The **GABTF Bycatch and Discarding Workplan** aims to:

- respond to high ecological risks assessed through AFMA's Ecological Risk Assessment and other assessment processes;
- avoid interactions with species protected under environmental law (EPBC Act 1999) ;
- reduce discarding of target species to as close to zero as practically possible; and
- minimise overall bycatch in the fishery over the long-term.

What must be recorded on a daily shot-by-shot basis in logbooks...

Total discarded catch of:

1. **Sponge**
2. **each quota species** (fish and shark)
3. **non-quota fish species** including 'mixed fish' (do not include sharks and relatives in this category).
4. **non-quota sharks and relatives**. Do not include these species groups in the 'mixed fish' category:
 - i. **Sharks**
 - ii. **Stingrays**
 - iii. **Stingarees**
 - iv. **Skates**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you require more information about any of the issues raised or have any concerns or suggestions about reducing bycatch in the GABTF, please contact:

Keith Rowling, GABIA Executive Officer
0437 675 573 keith@nmac.com.au

Example of filling out discard information

Southern and Western Finfish Trawl Daily Fishing Log SWT01A

For each shot and species/component of catch:

Step 1 Estimate weight to be discarded

Step 2 Record estimated discard weight

Step 3 Record discard code

Catch and Effort – SWT01A Daily Fishing Log Original Copy – Send to AFMA

Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Box 700
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2600

Date: 15 / 10 / 04 **Log No:** **Page No:**

Boat Name: Deep Blue **Dist. Symbol:** LFB123 **TRIP DATES**

EXTENDED NON-FISHING I did not work between 6/10/04 and 14/10/04 **NON-FISHING CODE (Circle)** ☒ In Port ☐ Bad Weather ☐ Other Fishery ☐ Whisk? **Departed:** 15/10/04 **Returned:** 15/10/04

Trawl Details	SHOT 1				SHOT 2				SHOT 3				
	GAB	WOW	SPF	HS	GAB	WOW	SPF	HS	GAB	WOW	SPF	HS	
Gear No. (non gear mesh)	Ground	1	Net	2	Ground	1	Net	1	Ground	1	Net		
Grid and mesh size (mm)	Mesh (square or diamond)	100	S	D	100	S	D		40	S	D		
Ground gear size (mm)	9	inch			9	inch							
Trawl method (circle one for each section)	OT	PA	OT2	DEM	OT	PA	OT2	DEM	OT	PA	OT2	DEM	
Start time of shot	0400				1700				1715				
Start position (degrees)	Latitude	3	2	2	5	Latitude	2	9	1	1	7	Latitude	4
End position (degrees)	Longitude	1	2	9	5	Longitude	1	1	2	1	3	Longitude	1
End time of shot	0550				1920				2230				
Average trawl depth	420	m	fair		240	m	fair		120	m	fair		
Trawl depth average temp	8				14				14				
Shot valid (circle)	Yes	No			Yes	No			Yes	No			

CATCH DETAILS	Estimate weight (kg) of each species	Weight Kept	Form Code	Weight Discarded	Dis. Code	Weight Kept	Form Code	Weight Discarded	Dis. Code	Weight Kept	Form Code	Weight Discarded	Dis. Code
Deepwater Flathead	FLD	320	W			100	W	3	DM	1000	W	2	DM
Bight Redfish	REB	200	W			300	W			320	W		
Orange Roughy	ORO												
Chinaman Leatherjacket	LJC												
Yellowtail Bream	BYB					80	W						
Big Scale Bream	BSB					100	W						
Killifish	KIF												
Smooth Dory	SDO												
Latchet	LAT												
King Dory	KDO												
Minor Dory	MDO												
Gardfish	GEM												
Ruby Snapper	SRP												
Royal Jobfish	JOH												
Tang Snapper	SNP												
Arrow Shark	SGR					40	W						
Deepwater Hags	BHS												
Gummy Shark	SHG												
School Shark	SHS												
Saw Shark	SHW												
Elephant Shark	SHL												
Angel Shark	ASH	60	TR										
Albatross	ALB												
Blue Mackerel	MAS												
Jack Mackerel	MAJ												
Yellowtail Snapper	YSN									4000	W		
Flathead	FLA									1000	W		
Whiskery sharks						20	YR						
Barroo						30	YR						
Mixed fish		100	TR	200	UM	320	UM			300	UM		
Sponge				20	UM	10	UM			8	UM		

Recording other "Mixed fish" and Sponge

After estimating quota species discards and recording them, simply estimate the remainder of the discards as "Mixed fish" and/or "Sponge", then record the estimated discard weight and appropriate discard code of each, for each shot



Discard Codes

NQ = No Quota

MP = Market Price

US = Under Size

UM = Un-marketable

DM = Damaged

Quota species

Simply record the estimated weight discarded. The appropriate discard code must also be recorded.

In this example, for shot 2 of the day, the operator retained 300kg of whale and discarded 3kg of damaged (DM) Bight redfish

A reminder – total discarded catch of these species/groups must be recorded:

- each quota species (e.g. deepwater flathead, bight redfish etc.)
- other (mixed fish) (do not double count i.e. do not include quota or shark species in this mixed discard figure);
- sharks and relatives (sharks, stingrays, stingarees, skates)
- sponges

NOTE: you must still record retained catch for each species – this has not changed.

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5. DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH

CARD 5A:

OBSERVERS

Background

The AFMA observer program provides a valuable data collection and verification service to the fishing industry, managers and researchers. The role of observers is to collect independent, accurate and reliable data on Commonwealth fishing operations, catches and interactions of boats and fishing gear with wildlife and the environment.

Observers do not have the authority to direct fishing operations, provide operational advice or act in an enforcement role. However, they are required to report all illegal fishing activity. Observers may be placed on your boat from time to time. You will be contacted by AFMA's observer section if you are required to host an observer.

Your Responsibilities

- Facilitate the carriage of observers and ensure they have adequate food and accommodation.
- Assist the observer in completing their duties with safety and integrity.
- Allow the observer to have access to parts of the boat to which the observer reasonably requires access.
- Allow the observer to use facilities and equipment that the observer reasonably requires to undertake their duties on board the boat.
- Provide the observer with access to information that the observer reasonably requests in relation to the boat, its equipment or fish taken using the boat.
- Allow the observer to leave the boat upon request from AFMA.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.
Fisheries Management Regulations 2019.

Contact Details

AFMA Observer Manager: (02) 6225 5344

Observer duty phone: 0427 496 446

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Photo: AFMA



CARD 5B:

GABTF SLOPE SPECIES SAMPLING

Background

Catch sampling provides important information about the fishery, including the number of fish at each age class. This information is used to conduct population analyses and stock assessments. Crew based catch sampling also provides a cost effective alternative to observers.

The Great Australian Bight Research Assessment Group (GABRAG) has identified six species that need to be sampled:

Western Gemfish	Pink Ling	Blue-Eye Trevalla
Blue Grenadier	Hapuku	Ribaldo

The amount you need to sample depends on the type of fish and how much you catch.

- For Blue Grenadier and Western Gemfish: if you catch more than 300kg in any shot, or more than 3000kg in any trip, then you must provide a sample.
- For Pink Ling, Hapuku, Blue-Eye and Ribaldo: if you catch more than 50kg in any shot, or more than 200kg in any trip, then you must provide a sample.

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of the species that need to be sampled and the catch thresholds for sampling as described above.
- Provide samples by:
 - randomly selecting fish and placing them into bins. Clearly label the bins as 'research', and label them with the date, time, shot weight, sample weight, position of shot and boat name; or
 - For ISMP sampling randomly selecting 100 fish and recording the length measurement for every fish and collecting otoliths from 50 fish, in accordance with GABIA's fish sampling instructions.
- Before unloading contact the GABIA EO and inform them of the samples or data that you have collected.

Contact Details

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Photo: Lauren Brown, 2003



CARD 5C:

DEEPWATER FLATHEAD AND BIGHT REDFISH LENGTH FREQUENCY SAMPLING

Background

GABTF operators have agreed to collect length frequency samples for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish. This provides a cost effective way to collect data for stock assessment. This process is to be undertaken to supplement dedicated fishery independent sample collections.

Your Responsibilities

Retained Catch – Sorted (ungraded)

On a shot by shot basis, or otherwise when operations permit sample collection:

1. Select a sample of ungraded fish of Deepwater Flathead and/or Bight Redfish prior to sorting (one to two bins of each species)
2. Weigh or estimate the total catch weight of each species from the shot (only the species to be sampled) and record this weight on the length-frequency form
3. Weigh the sample for each species and record this sample weight on the length frequency form
4. Measure all fish, ensuring the snout of the fish is aligned with the end of the ruler, the body is straight, and the mouth is closed. Measure the fish using the length measurement type (TOT Flathead) or (LCF Redfish). Round each measurement down to the nearest whole cm
5. Mark the length of each fish in the appropriate box on the form (refer to the attached demonstration form)
6. Once all fish have been measured, complete the remaining fields on the form, including the total number of fish by size class and integrated scientific monitoring program (ISMP) zone (refer to the attached map of ISMP zones)
7. Send the completed forms with your logbook pages to GABIA at the address below.

Discard – Non-retained

The GAB Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish stock assessment process does not currently include data on “small / undersize” fish which may be used as an indicator of pre-recruits and a measure of future fishable biomass. To support the potential for developing a future index of recruitment to be used in the stock assessment and quota setting processes, crew are asked to also sample non-retained fish of the primary (quota) species. The length based data will inform the presence of specific year classes and the number may be used as an indicator of the abundance of each year class.

Sampling Protocol

Once the catch has been initially sorted and retained fish binned and before returning discards to the sea, check for the presence of “small” Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish.

Any Flathead or Redfish that are to be discarded should be binned and measured on a separate Crew Based Data sheet following the same protocols as the retained fish. Where there is more than one bin of small fish, measure and count all non-retained fish.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery, Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector, At-sea Length Frequency Sampling Guidelines.

Fish Sampling Instructions for Species in the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery, May 2007, GABIA.

GABIA Vessel Sample Collection Flier, April 2009.

Contact Details

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Send forms to:

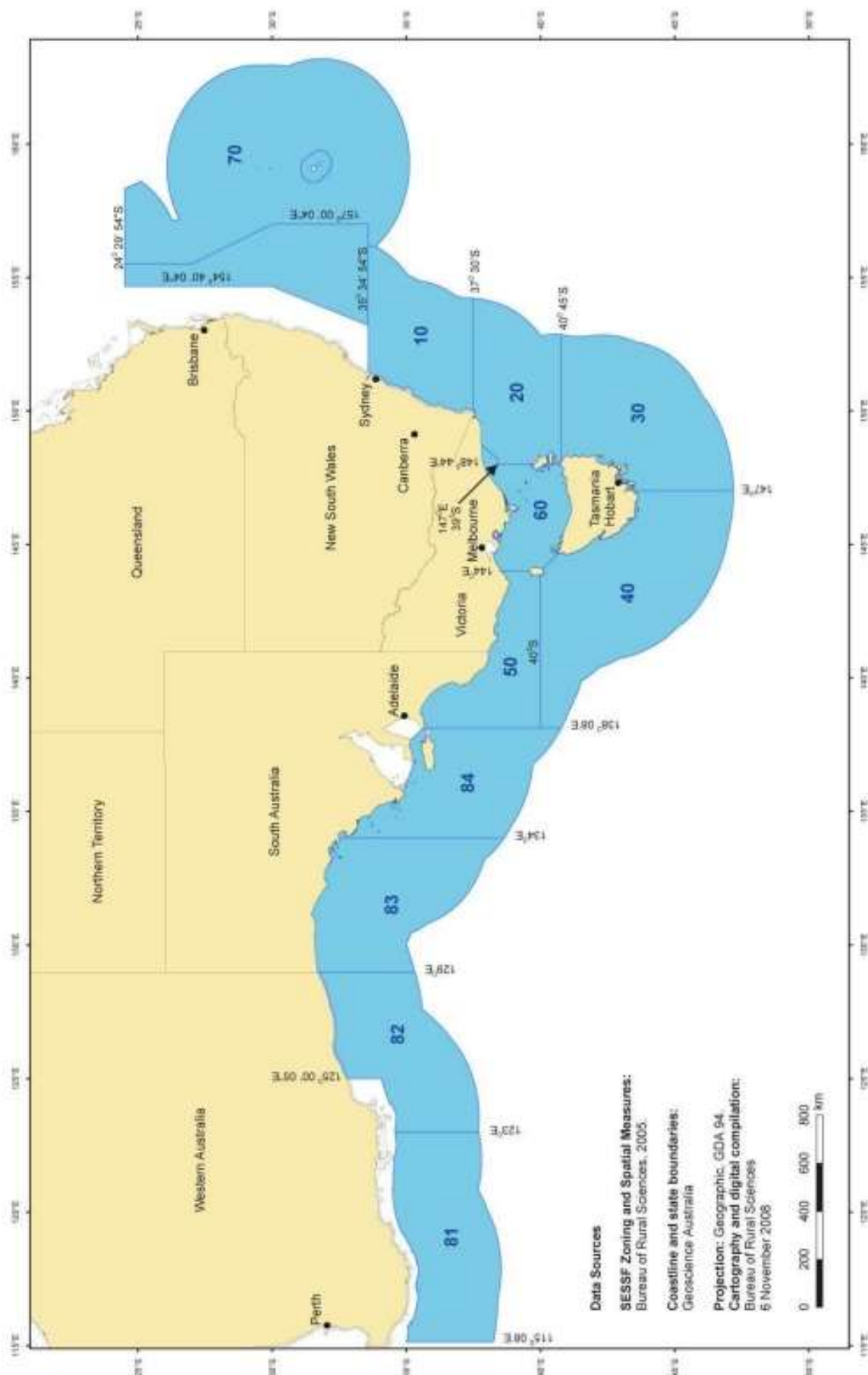
GABIA

PO Box 291 Enfield Plaza SA 5085 or keith@nmac.com.au

CARD 5C:

DEEPWATER FLATHEAD AND BIGHT REDFISH LENGTH FREQUENCY SAMPLING (CONTINUED)

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Zones



CARD 5D:

OCEAN JACKET SAMPLING

BACKGROUND

GABTF operators have agreed to collect length frequency samples and whole fish samples of Ocean Jacket for CSIRO.

This provides a cost-effective way to collect data for a stock assessment and an exploration into the effect of marine heat waves on this species of increasing importance in the fishery.

This process is to be undertaken to supplement dedicated fishery independent sample collections.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Collecting length frequency data

For each shot, when operations permit, sample collection should:

1. Estimate the weight of the retained and the discarded Ocean Jacket caught in the shot record this weight on the retained and discarded length-frequency forms;
2. Select a random sample of Ocean Jackets from both your retained and discarded catch (one bin of each, or the whole catch if it is less than one bin);
3. Measure all fish, ensuring the snout of the fish is aligned with the end of the ruler, the body is straight, and the mouth is closed. Measure the fish using the length measurement type (TOT) as shown on the back of this page. Round each measurement down to the nearest whole cm;
4. Mark the length of each fish in the appropriate box on the form (refer to the attached demonstration form);
5. Once all fish have been measured, complete the remaining fields on the form, including the integrated scientific monitoring program (ISMP) zone; and
6. Pass on completed forms to Raptis with the fish, or post them to GABIA EO.

Collecting whole fish samples

For each trip, the intention is to collect one bin (separate to the length sampled fish) of mixed whole fish for later onshore biological sampling by AFMA observers at the Lincoln Marine Science Centre.

1. From one shot (in a trip), and before sorting fish, take a bin of fish of varied sizes and put aside for later port sampling.
2. Label bin with date, location and vessel name.
3. On landing contact Dave at SARDI to organize collection.

M: 0427 267 087

CONTACT DETAILS

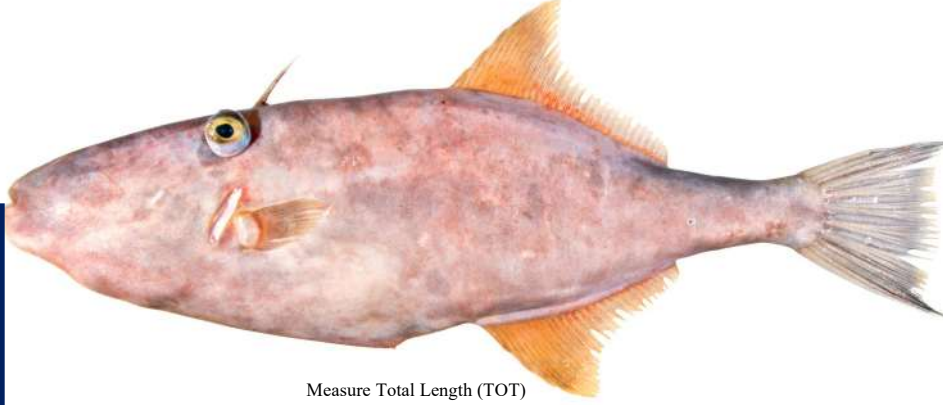
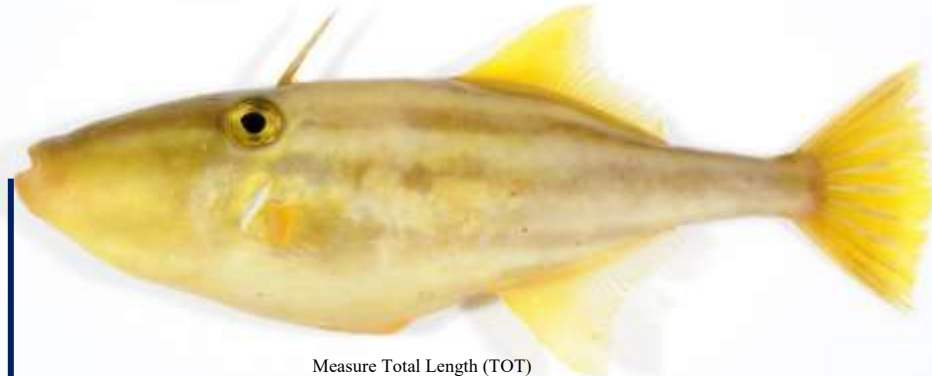
Rikki Taylor
rikki.taylor@csiro.au
0456 886 347

GABIA EO
Keith Rowling
0437 675 573

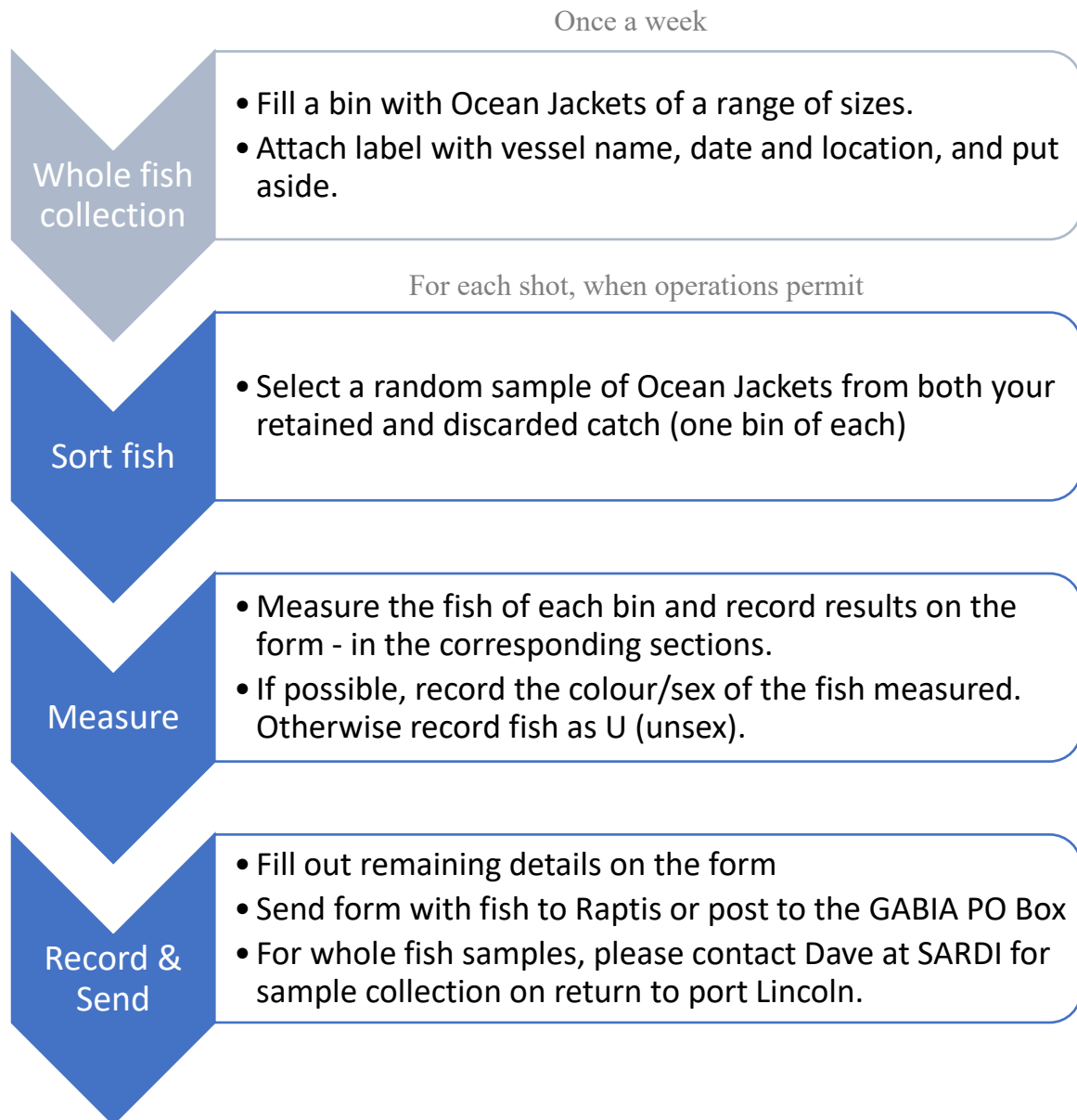
PO Box 291
Enfield Plaza
SA 5085

SARDI
David Delaine
0427 267 087

Appropriate length measurements and species information.

Species Name	Picture and Measurement codes	Species Code
Ocean Jacket <i>Nelusetta ayraudi</i>	Adult Male:  Measure Total Length (TOT) Adult Female and Juveniles:  Measure Total Length (TOT) Photos: CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection	CSIRO code: 37465006

Flow chart:



Ocean Jacket sampling

Date: 04/07/2025				Vessel: Sapphire			Retained spp catch weights						
Sampler: RIKKI TAYLOR				Zone: 81			Sample: 18 kg		Total: 83 kg				
Trip #: 130741				Depth (m): 45			Discarded spp catch weights						
Shot #: 0645				End Time: 0830			Sample: 15 kg		Total: 29 kg				
Retain	Tally			Totals			Discard	Tally			Totals		
	Purple (M)	Yellow (F)	Unsex	M	F	U		Purple (M)	Yellow (F)	Unsex	M	F	U
15							15						
16							16						
17							17						
18							18		1			1	
19							19		1			1	
20							20		11			2	
21							21		1			1	
22							22		1			1	
23							23	1	111		1	3	
24							24	1			1		
25							25		1			1	
26		1					26	11			2		
27		1					27						
28	1			1			28						
29	11			2			29						
30	1	11		1	2		30						
31	11			2			31						
32		1			1		32						
33	11	1		2	1		33						
34		1			1		34						
35	11			2			35						
36	1	1		1	1		36						
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55							55						

For further details: rikki.taylor@csiro.au

CARD 5E:

FUTURE RESEARCH IN THE GABTF

Background

Research programs are important to help develop fisheries in the GABTF, and ensure fishing is ecologically and economically sustainable. Some of the research programs undertaken in the GABTF have included fishery independent surveys and the integrated scientific monitoring program.

GABIA periodically review and consolidate the research and monitoring programs undertaken in the GABTF. This review has helped to ensure that research remains cost effective and efficient, and it also helps to guide the future research activities that will be undertaken in the fishery.

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of the research and assessment programs in the GABTF.
- Assist with research in the GABTF as required.

Contact Details

AFMA: 1300 723621

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Photo: AFMA



6



6. WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

CARD 6A

PROTECTED SPECIES INTERACTIONS

Background

Some species need to be protected to aid their recovery from population declines, and to ensure their long term survival. *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) protects:

- listed threatened species and ecological communities;
- listed migratory species;
- listed marine species; and
- all cetaceans.

You must report all interactions with protected species in accordance with the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*. It is not an offence to have an interaction with a protected species if you are acting in accordance with the management arrangements of the fishery and taking reasonable steps to avoid an interaction or injury. It is an offence not to report this interaction.

An ‘interaction’ means any physical contact that a person, boat or gear has with a protected species that causes death, injury or stress to the species. This includes, for example, collisions, catching, hooking, netting, entangling or trapping of a protected species.

Some of the protected species that are found in the GABTF include all seabird species, seals, sea lions, sea horses, sea dragons, pipefish, Great White Sharks and Grey Nurse Sharks. AFMA’s Protected Species ID Guide can help to identify these species.

Remember: don’t get caught, just report!

Your Responsibilities

- Ensure you are familiar with the protected species relevant to the GABTF.
- Take all reasonable measures to avoid interactions with protected species.
- If an interaction results in injury to a protected species, you must do everything practical to give aid to the animal.
- Report all interactions according to the instructions in your daily fishing log. Do this by circling ‘yes’ in the box at the bottom of the logsheet and completing the wildlife and other protected species form (located in the back of your daily fishing log).

- If there is an observer present, immediately inform them of the interaction, however you are still required to report the interaction in your daily fishing log.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) protected species listing website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protect/index.html>

Protected Species ID Guide, AFMA and the National Heritage Trust, 2006.

AFMA Seabird ID Guide for commercial fishers in southern Australia, 2014

ebook: [https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-](https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/seabird_id_guide.pdf)

[02/seabird_id_guide.pdf](https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/seabird_id_guide.pdf) <https://www.afma.gov.au/protected-species/seabirds>

Contact Details

AFMA Environment section: 1300 723 621

Example of ETP Logbook form

Australian Fisheries Management Authority.
PO Box 7051
Canberra MC ACT 2610

WILDLIFE AND OTHER PROTECTED SPECIES FORM – SWT01B

Please use one form per shot

Logbook No.

Boat Name

Distinguishing Symbol

Shot Number

Start of Shot Time
(24 hrs)

Date of Interaction

Corresponding logbook page no.

Observer on board (tick box)

Yes

No

Great White Shark / Grey Nurse Shark / Whale Shark / Seahorse / Pipefish / Sea Dragon / Seabird / Turtle / Sea Snake / Seal / Dolphin / Whale / Dugong

Species Name Be specific, one line for each individual (refer to list)	No of Sea Horses	Time at which interaction occurred (24hr)	Latitude/Longitude of interaction		Caught During Fishing Operation (tick one box only)			Hooked or Entangled (tick one box only)		Band or Tag Number	Life Status (tick one box only)	
			dd mm	ddd mm	dd	mm	Hooked	Entangled	Alive		Dead	Injured

Comments

- Is there anything else that you believe to be important information? (i.e. female, male, adult, juvenile)
- Where was the animal tangled/hooked? (flipper, mouth, wing, entire body, swallowed hook, etc.)
- Where in the gear was the animal tangled/hooked (top metre of net near the float line, mid section of net, bottom section of net near purse wire and rings, etc.)?
- How was the animal released?

I certify the information which I have provided on this form to be a complete and accurate record.

Concession Holder/Authorised Agent Signature and Date

Concession Holder/Authorised Agent Printed Name

Original Copy – Send to AFMA

CARD 6B:

TAGGED WILDLIFE

Background

Researchers investigating wildlife will periodically tag animals or use bands to help understand aspects of their biology and population status. Researchers are very interested in encounters and observations of tagged animals made by fishers.

If you have an encounter with tagged wildlife, record as many details as practicable in the wildlife and other protected species form in your daily fishing log. If possible, record the band or tag number in the allocated box and any other details in the comments section, such as size, sex or a description of the animal. Photos are also useful to help identify the animal.

Your Responsibilities

- If you have an encounter with a tagged animal, record as much detail as practicable in the wildlife and other protected species form located at the back of your daily fishing log. AFMA will notify the appropriate researchers.
- If the animal is alive, record as many details as possible, then release it carefully noting the condition in which it was released.
- If the animal is dead, you are encouraged to retain the tag or band and return it to the appropriate authority.

Contact Details

AFMA Environment section: 1300 723 621

Photo: Noa Younse, Istockphoto



CARD 6C:

SEABIRD INTERACTIONS

Background

Seabirds are attracted to fishing boats because they provide an easily accessible food source.

However, all seabirds are listed species under the EPBC Act and they can be injured through interactions with the fishing boat. The warp lines are a particular threat to seabirds.

While research shows that seabird interactions are uncommon in the GABTF, there are practical measures that can be used to further reduce these interactions. Industry has worked closely with AFMA to develop seabird management plans that have been specifically tailored for each boat in the GABTF. These plans will help reduce seabird interactions.

AFMA approved SMPs are compulsory for all Commonwealth otter board trawl boats in the SESSF. SMPs identify and set out individually tailored mitigation measures that help reduce seabird interactions with warp wires. SMPs include physical devices to reduce seabird interactions and measures to manage the discharge of biological waste from boats to reduce seabird attraction and interaction.

Trawl fishers in the South East Trawl and Great Australian Bight fisheries must comply with one of the following mitigation measures:

- bird bafflers;
- water sprayers; or
- pinkies with zero offal discharge.

While bafflers have been shown to reduce interactions with seabirds, there are still instances where boats interact with seabirds in high-risk areas. To ensure interactions with seabirds are minimised, additional management arrangements were introduced in the 2025-26 SESSF season, which require zero discharge of biological material for trawl boats when fishing gear is deployed during daylight hours in areas of the GAB Trawl Sector.

When fishing in the area of the Commonwealth GAB Trawl sector (as described in Schedule 1, Part 2, clause 3 of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003) during Daylight Hours, the concession holder must not, except when authorised by AFMA to do so, discharge clearly visible Biological Material while fishing gear is in the water.

Biological material is defined as whole fish, or any fish based biological material not being retained, traditionally referred to as discards or offal, but does not include small hard parts such as scales, fins or fish oil. The definitions of biological material allow for the discarding of sensitive large animals such as sharks and rays as well as small items such as oil and scales that reflect the reality of wet boat operations. Sharks, rays and protected species which are alive and have a reasonable likelihood of post-capture survival should be returned to the water quickly and carefully.

Where a holder has received written authorisation from AFMA to allow for the discharge of Biological Material during Daylight Hours whilst fishing gear is in the water, a copy of that exemption must be carried with, or outlined in, the seabird management plan.

Your Responsibilities

- Ensure all crew understand and comply with your boat's seabird mitigation options.
- Ensuring all mitigation equipment is deployed in accordance with the plan.
- Manage all discards and offal in accordance with the Seabird Management Plan.
- If an interaction occurs, comply with your responsibilities for threatened species interactions, including your reporting obligations (refer to card 6a).
- Report any occupational health and safety issues that arise from seabird mitigation measures to the boat owner and/or concession holder.
- Copies of the vessel specific Seabird Management Plan and any written authorisations from AFMA regarding discharge of Biological Material must be carried on board.
- Any ideas of ways to reduce seabird interactions should be raised with the boat owner and/or concession holder or be referred to the GABIA EO.

References

AFMA Seabird By-catch Operational Guidelines for Commonwealth Species - https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/seabird_bycatch_operational_guidelines.pdf

AFMA – Protected Species Identification Guide - <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/protected-species-id-guide.pdf>

Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector, Bycatch and Discarding Workplan 2018-19.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water protected species listing website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/protect/index.html>

Daley, R, Knuckey, I., Dowdney, J., Williams, A., Bulma, C., Sporcic, M., Fuller, M., Smith, T. (2007). Draft Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing.

Contact Details

AFMA Bycatch and discards section: 1300 723621

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 6D:

BOAT SPECIFIC SEABIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Boat Owners and skippers should ensure that all boat specific Seabird Management Plans are kept on board any boat operating within the fishery and are available for inspection at any time.

Seabird Management Plans are expected to be prescribed by Boat SFR condition in 2026. Non-compliance with a Seabird Management Plan may lead to action by AFMA for non-conformance.

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7. POLLUTION AT SEA

CARD 7A:

MARINE POLLUTION

Background

It is not an environmentally or socially acceptable practice to dump rubbish into the sea. Marine pollution reflects poorly on the fishing industry and damages its reputation. Marine pollution can damage boats and harm animals.

Australian laws restricting the discharge of certain types of rubbish have been in place since 1990 and all boat operators should be aware of these restrictions. There are severe penalties for discharging rubbish at sea, with fines up to \$1.3 million.

The Department of the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has determined that ***'Injury and fatality to vertebrate marine life caused by ingestion of, or entanglement in, harmful marine debris*** as a Key Threatening Process.

For the purpose of consideration of listing of harmful marine debris as a threatening process, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) defines harmful marine debris as land sourced plastic garbage, fishing gear from recreational and commercial fishing abandoned into the sea, and ship sourced, solid non-biodegradable floating materials disposed of at sea. In concordance with The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) 73/78, TSSC defines plastic materials as: bags, bottles, strapping bands, sheeting, synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets, floats, fibreglass, piping, insulation, paints, and adhesives. This nomination would also include, under the definition of marine debris, fishing gear such as hooks, fishing line and wire trace. The threatening process includes entanglement in, and ingestion of, harmful marine debris

Your Responsibilities

- Understand and comply with pollution laws.
- Do not throw any plastics into the sea.
- Do not discharge any rubbish within 12 nautical miles from land.
- Minimise onboard rubbish, for example by using crockery instead of disposable plates and cups.
- Make all efforts possible to retrieve lost fishing gear. If this is not possible, then report the position of the lost gear to the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC-Australia).
- Boats greater than 12 metres in length must have MARPOL information placards on display.

- Boats over 400 tonnes must have a waste management plan and maintain a rubbish record book in accordance with MARPOL requirements.
- Report any sightings of illegal rubbish discharge to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority or the local authorities.

References

DCCEEW website:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/publications/ta-p/marine-debris-2018>

Australian Maritime Safety Authority website:

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/marine-environment/marine-pollution>

Contact Details

Australian Maritime Safety Authority: 1800 627 484

Rescue Coordination Centre: 1800 641 792 or (+61) 2 6230 6811

Contact the GABIA EO if you require MARPOL
information placards: Keith 0437675573

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8. LICENSING AND QUOTA MANAGEMENT

CARD 8A:

GOFISH

Background

GOFish is AFMA's online business facility.

GOFish can be used for:

- viewing, exporting and printing quota holding and catch summaries and quota transaction statements;
- leasing boat statutory fishing rights (SFRs), quota SFRs and individual transferable quotas (ITQs);
- permanent transfers of boat SFRs, quota SFRs, ITQs and permits;
- nomination and denomination of boat SFRs, permits and quota SFRs to and from boats;
- submitting applications for scientific permits, fish receiver permits and condition variations; and
- updating your contact details.

To register for GOFish you need to complete the appropriate forms and return them to AFMA. These forms can be found at:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/gofish-help>

Your Responsibilities

- register for GOFish.
- your contact details are kept up to date.

References

AFMA website:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/gofish-help>

Contact Details

To access GOFish:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/gofish-help>

To contact AFMA staff in regard to a GOFish problem, you can call 1300 723621 from 8am – 5.15pm AEST Monday to Friday. You can also email AFMA licensing to report a problem at any time.

CARD 8B:

FISHING CONCESSIONS

Background

You must have a valid fishing concession to fish in any Commonwealth fishery. For the GABTF, this is comprised of statutory fishing rights (SFRs) including:

- a boat SFR; and
- quota SFRs allowing you to take a certain quantity of GABTF quota species.

All concessions must be nominated to an Australian boat.

Certificates are issued for each type of SFR. The certificate of boat SFR lists the conditions for fishing, and you must fish in accordance with these conditions.

The Fisheries Management Act 1991 requires AFMA to maintain a Register of SFRs. All details on this register are public and cannot be withheld. This register is available by request from AFMA.

Your Responsibilities

- Have a valid fishing concession.
- Have a copy of your fishing concession on board the boat at all times.
- Fish within the conditions and areas of your concession.
- Do not fish outside the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ) without a valid high seas' concession. This can be obtained by submitting a completed HS1 application form to AFMA and paying the application fee.
- Do not engage in fishing inside the AFZ and on the high seas in the same trip without prior written permission from AFMA.

References

Fisheries Management Act, 1991.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

Contact Details

AFMA Licensing section: 1300 723 621 or Licensing@AFMA.gov.au

CARD 8C:

MANAGING QUOTA

Background

In the GABTF certain species are managed under statutory fishing rights (SFRs). These are:

- Bight Redfish
- Deepwater Flathead
- Orange Roughy, Albany/Esperance zone
- School Shark
- Gummy Shark
- Saw Shark
- Elephantfish.

Concession holders must have uncaught quota prior to the commencement of a fishing trip. It is important to monitor catch against quota holdings at all times. This can be done using AFMA's online business facility, GOFish (refer to card 8a). There are penalties and legal ramifications for catching in excess of your quota holdings.

Quota may be leased or permanently traded in the SESSF. To do this, you need to make arrangements with another SESSF operator or a quota broker and complete the appropriate forms online (using GOFish) or mail the completed hardcopy forms to AFMA.

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

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

If you will not be able to reconcile your over-quota amount within 28 days, please submit your exceptional circumstance reasons to AFMA's Licensing and Data Section 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 on the 28-Day Quota Reconciliation in AFMA's Fisheries page
<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/28-day-within-season-quota-reconciliation>.

Your Responsibilities

- Monitor your catch against quota holdings.
- Ensure all catches of quota species can be covered with uncaught quota SFRs.
- If your quota holdings are exceeded, you must reconcile these catches with quota within 28 days.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

Contact Details

AFMA Licensing section: 1300 723 621 or Licensing@AFMA.gov.au

GOFish:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/gofish-help>

CARD 8D:

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH

Background

Total allowable catch (TAC) refers to the total amount of a particular species that may be caught by all concession holders combined during a fishing year. TACs are based on scientific and industry input provided through the Resource Assessment Group (RAG). TACs are set by the AFMA Commission following consideration of RAG and scientific advice, recommendations from GABIA and comment from Management Advisory Committees (MACs).

Table: 2026-27 SESSF TACs for GABTF species.

QUOTA SPECIES	2026/27 TAC (T)
Bight Redfish	873
Deepwater Flathead	940
Elephant fish	114
Gummy Shark	1595
Orange Roughy (Albany/Esperance zone)	50 (incidental)
Saw Shark	525
School Shark	446 (incidental)

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of the TACs for each species in the GABTF.
- Maintain awareness of the total fishery catch against the TAC.
- Cover your over quota position to prevent compliance action.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723 621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 8E:

OVERCATCH AND UNDERCATCH

Background

In some fisheries AFMA allows limited flexibility to catch slightly more or slightly less than your allocated quota for that season, and to carry this surplus or deficit into the following fishing season. This system helps address the issue of varying fish abundance between seasons and allows planning of the best time to take catches in order to maximise returns.

Overcatch refers to catching more than your allocated quota for a particular species in a fishing season. In some circumstances AFMA may set a percentage of overcatch that is allowed, which will be subtracted from your quota allocation for that species in the following season.

The AFMA Commission may also set a determined amount. This is an amount, in addition to the percentage of overcatch, which an operator may take under certain conditions without committing an offence.

Undercatch refers to catching less than your allocated quota for a particular species in a fishing season. AFMA may allow a certain amount of this uncaught quota to be credited in kilograms to the following season. Undercatch is not transferable.

Your Responsibilities

- Know the overcatch, determined amount and undercatch provisions applying to each species in the fishery for each season.
- Monitor your catch against quota holdings.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

AFMA Policy - <https://www.afma.gov.au/reporting-and-accountability/fisheries-management-policies/managing-undercatch-and-overcatch-quota>

Contact Details

AFMA Licensing section: 1300 723 621 or
Licensing@AFMA.gov.au

Photo: AFMA



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9. HARVEST STRATEGY

CARD 9A:

HARVEST STRATEGY FOR DEEPWATER FLATHEAD AND BIGHT REDFISH

Background

A harvest strategy sets out the management actions necessary to achieve defined biological and economic objectives in a fishery. Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish are managed under a harvest strategy based on sound scientific and industry information.

GABIA and AFMA, with input from the South East Management Advisory Committee (SEMAC), the South East Resource Assessment Group (SERAG) and the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group (SESSFRAG), have agreed to a proactive, innovative and demonstrably precautionary blueprint for management and research arrangements in the GABTF. The arrangements are consistent with the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy, GABTF Future Direction Vision Statement and *Fisheries Management Act 1991* objectives.

A harvest strategy, which is reviewed annually, has been adopted for the GABTF. The GABTF harvest strategy contains control rules to maintain stocks in the fishery at ecologically sustainable levels. The GABTF program of research and assessments provides scientific rigor and confidence among industry and AFMA. The research and monitoring undertaken in the GABTF ensures there is adequate data and information to implement a high quality harvest strategy and is forward-planned to maximise cost-effectiveness and efficiency.

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of the harvest strategy, TAC setting, assessment and monitoring work undertaken annually in the GABTF.
- Adhere to any industry responsibilities under the harvest strategy for the GABTF.

References

Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP) and Guidelines 2018. GABTF Future Direction Vision Statement.

Harvest Strategy Framework for the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery 2009 (Amended 2026) - [SESSF TAC Recommendations to the Commission 2020-21 - Attachment A Updated to the SESSF Harvest Strategy](#)

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 9B:

GABTF SLOPE SPECIES DEVELOPMENT

Background

The slope and mid-water fisheries in the GABTF are yet to be developed to any great extent. For some species there is not enough information to calculate TACs. To address this issue, GABIA, SERAG, SESSFRAG and SEMAC have implemented a strategy for increased data collection and research to ensure that these species are managed sustainably. Section 5 of this manual highlights the need for collection of slope species in the GABTF. (See table overleaf.)

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of the GABTF development strategy.
- Comply with requirements for fishing species listed in the development strategy as necessary.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 9B:

GABTF SLOPE SPECIES DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Table: Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery slope species development strategy.

SPECIES	TRIGGER TO COLLECT BIOLOGICAL DATA	TRIGGER FOR DATA COLLECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASSESSMENT PLAN	CEASE FISHING FOR THAT SPECIES	COMMENCE STOCK ASSESSMENT
Gemfish	Currently collected	400t	500t/year	1000t/3 years
Blue Grenadier	Currently collected	400t	500t/year cease fishing. If a spawning aggregation is found, trigger an acoustic survey (500t) and operator collects 100 whole fish.	1000t/3 years
Ling	Currently collected	100t	250t	250t
Blue-eye Trevalla	Currently collected	100t	250t	–
Ribaldo	Currently collected	100t	250t	–
Hapuka	Currently collected	100t	250t	–
Gulper sharks	Code of practice by industry to not target these species in addition to area closure.	–	2t	–
Deepwater sharks (Black/Brier)	Code of practice by industry to not target these species in addition to area closure.	–	–	–
Chinamen Leatherjacket	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	–	–	–
Angel Shark	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	–	–	–
Jackass Morwong	Management measures on Bight Redfish and Deepwater Flathead influences catch.	–	–	–

10



10. CATCH REQUIREMENTS

CARD 10A:

INCIDENTAL CATCH LIMITS FOR STATE MANAGED SPECIES

Background

GABTF boat SFR holders are subject to a variety of catch restrictions under Commonwealth law.

When fishing in waters of the Commonwealth GABTF, catch of the following finfish, molluscs and crustaceans must be in accordance with the following Offshore Constitutional Settlement (OCS) State catch limits for South Australia and Western Australia. The limits refer to trip limits.

Please remember the information presented in this manual is a guide only and should not be taken to replace South Australia, Western Australian or Commonwealth fisheries law.

Table: Incidental catch limits for state managed species.

FINFISH		
SPECIES	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Billfish	Prohibited	Prohibited
Black Cod	Prohibited	Prohibited
Great White Shark	Prohibited	Prohibited
Grey Nurse Shark	Prohibited	Prohibited
Tuna and Tuna-like Species	Prohibited	Prohibited
Australian Anchovy		Prohibited
Australian Salmon		Prohibited
Banded Morwong		Prohibited
Bastard Trumpeter		Maximum 20kg*
Black Bream		Prohibited
Blue Groper		Maximum 50kg*
Blue Sprat		Prohibited
Dusky Morwong		Prohibited
Garfish		Prohibited
Grassy (Rock Flathead)		Prohibited
King Gar		Prohibited
King George Whiting		Prohibited
Luderick		Prohibited
Magpie Morwong		Prohibited
Mulloway		Maximum 100kg*
Pilchard		Prohibited
Red Mullet		Prohibited
Sea Sweep		Prohibited
Snapper		Prohibited
Snook		Prohibited

CARD 10A: INCIDENTAL CATCH LIMITS FOR STATE MANAGED SPECIES (CONTINUED)

FINFISH		
SPECIES	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Sprat		Prohibited
Wrasse		Prohibited
Yelloweye Mullet		Prohibited
Yellow-finned Whiting		Prohibited
Striped Trumpeter		Maximum 20kg*
Yellowtail Kingfish		Maximum of 10 fish*

- a total combined incidental catch of 200kg for these finfish.

MOLLUSCS		
SPECIES	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Arrow Squid		No incidental catch limit
Red Ocean Squid		No incidental catch limit
Southern Ocean Arrow Squid		No incidental catch limit
Yellowback Squid		No incidental catch limit
Scallops		Prohibited
Abalone		Prohibited
Specimen shells or shellfish (class Gastropoda)		Maximum 50kg combined*
All other molluscs		Maximum of 500kg except those species listed with no incidental catch limits *

- A total combined catch of 500kg for these molluscs

CRUSTACEANS		
SPECIES	WESTERN AUSTRALIA	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Deepwater Prawn		No incidental catch limit
Red Prawn		No incidental catch limit
Prawn (Family Penaeidae)	Prohibited	Prohibited
Royal Red Prawn		No incidental catch limit
Scarlet Prawn		No incidental catch limit
Carid		No incidental catch limit
Lobster (Family Palinuridae)	Prohibited	Prohibited
Bay Bug		Maximum 200kg
Giant Crab		Maximum of 5 crabs *
Other Crustaceans		Maximum of 50kg *
Coral	Prohibited	Prohibited

- A total combined catch of 50kg for these crustaceans

Note: In the initial drafting of the OCS between the Commonwealth and South Australia, Red Snapper (*Centroberyx gerrardi*) was erroneously identified as a predominantly state-caught species and was put under the control of South Australia. Later, it was realised that Red Snapper was a common name for Bight Redfish which is one of the major target species in the Commonwealth GABTF. Bight Redfish are not limited by the OCS arrangement.

Your Responsibilities

- Adhere to incidental catch limits.
- Report discards of any of these species in your daily fishing log.
- Avoid fishing in areas/at times when this may result in catches that exceed limits.

References

Fisheries Management Regulations 2019.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

CARD 10B:

LANDING AND PROCESSING CATCH

Background

The SESSF Management Plan imposes a ‘no processing at sea’ condition on all fishing concessions in the GABTF to ensure quota species can be readily identified. Scalefish must be landed either:

- whole;
- gilled; or
- headed and gutted.

Shark finning is not permitted. Fins must be landed attached to the carcass. Landing shark livers only is not permitted, however they may be landed separated from the carcass.

Gummy and School Shark must be at least 45cm in length when measured from the rearmost gill slit to the ventral insertion of the caudal fin.

The following table provides a summary of the landing and processing requirements for sharks, rays, Dogfish and Elephantfish.

Table: Summary of requirements for landing/processing.

SPECIES	HEAD	BELLY FLAPS	PECTORAL FINS	DORSAL FINS	CAUDAL FINS	PELVIC FINS	CLASPER S
Sharks	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗*	✓	✓
Angel sharks	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗*	✓	✓
Banjo sharks	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Dogfish (Family Squalidae)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗*	✓	✓
Chimaeras (Elephantfish)	✓	✓	✓	✗ 1st dorsal may be removed	✗	✓	✓

✓ May be removed

✗ Must not be removed

* Tail tip may be cut off at sub terminal notch

Photo: AFMA



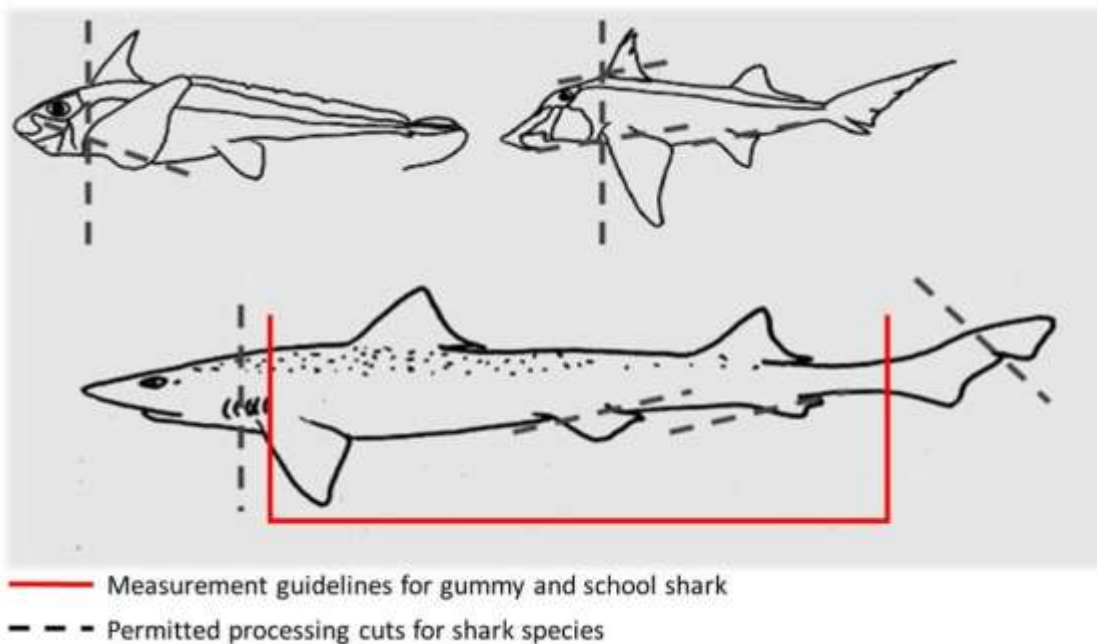
CARD 10B:

LANDING AND PROCESSING CATCH (CONTINUED)

The following diagram shows permitted processing for shark species in the SESSF.

The top two show the standard processing cuts for all chimaeras.

The lower image shows the standard processing cuts for all sharks.



Your Responsibilities

- Comply with the conditions on your fishing concessions for landing and processing catch.
- Do not process catch at sea.
- Do not fillet catch at sea without prior written authorisation from AFMA, and in addition with an AFMA observer present on your boat when the filleting occurs.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

CARD 10C:

TRANSHIPPING AND UNLOADING CATCH

Background

There are rules in place to prevent unauthorised transshipping and unloading of catch to unlicensed fish receivers, these help prevent quota evasion and maintain the integrity of the fishery.

Your Responsibilities

- Do not tranship fish caught by another boat without prior written authorisation from AFMA.
- Do not transfer your fish onto another boat without prior written authorisation from AFMA.
- Unload all fish from the GABTF within Australia or an External Territory, except if you have prior written authorisation from AFMA to unload elsewhere.
- Land fish to an authorised fish receiver holding a valid fish receiver permit.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan, 2003.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621
or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

Photo: AFMA



11



11. COMPLIANCE

CARD 11A:

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

Background

AFMA uses integrated computer vessel monitoring systems (ICVMS) to track the location of boats nominated to Commonwealth concessions. This offers a cost-effective way to monitor boats fishing in real time.

Any vessel nominated to your concession must be fitted with an ICVMS of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved automatic location communicators. This register can be found at

<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/monitoring-tools/vessel-monitoring-systems>.

Manual reporting

If the ICVMS stops working, the concession holder must manually report the boat's position every four hours unless otherwise directed by AFMA. Reports should include boat name, distinguishing symbols, latitude and longitude, date and time.

Temporary switch off

Temporary switch off (TSO) is a formal arrangement that allows an ICVMS unit to be legitimately switched off, which may be appropriate if a boat is undergoing maintenance, is berthed for an extended period or there are other exceptional circumstances. To apply for a TSO you must submit the appropriate form to AFMA.

Your Responsibilities

- Ensure you have a working ICVMS before departing on a fishing trip.
- Do not interfere or tamper with the ICVMS.
- Do not switch off the ICVMS without prior approval from AFMA obtained through the Temporary Switch Off form.
- If the ICVMS stops working at sea, manually report the boat's position every four hours and comply with any further directions from AFMA.
- Do not switch off the ALC in port.
- Do not leave port if the ALC is not working. You must contact AFMA and wait until you have permission to depart.

Please refer to the ICVMS conditions on your fishing concessions for more information.

References

Fisheries Management Regulations 2019.

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

Contact Details

AFMA Compliance section: 1300 723621

To report a problem with the ICVMS or for manual reporting:

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

Mobile: 0419 205 329

Fax: 02 6225 5440

Email: VMSreporting@afma.gov.au

CARD 11B:

NAVIGATION REGULATION

Background

When travelling through AFMA fishery closures you must comply with navigation rules made under the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*. These rules allow AFMA to monitor and enforce compliance with closures through VMS.

The deemed speed of a boat is calculated by taking the straight line distance between two consecutive VMS points, and dividing that distance by the time the boat has taken to travel between the two points. This means you are advised to take the most direct route when travelling through a closure.

Your Responsibilities

- Maintain a minimum speed of five knots when travelling through a closure.
- If the closure is in effect for less than 24 hours, either maintain a minimum speed of five knots or remain stationary.
- If you enter a closure, remain in that closure for a minimum of 30 minutes. This will allow boat speed to be calculated.
- When practical, take the most direct route when navigating through a closure.
- Read and understand the *Fisheries Management Regulations 2019*, including part 9A, regulations 37A-D.
- In some circumstances you may apply for an exemption, for example, due to an unforeseen emergency or circumstances beyond your control. To request an exemption contact the AFMA Duty Officer as soon as possible on 0419 205 329 and follow any directions given.

References

Fisheries Management Regulations 2019.

AFMA website: <http://www.afma.gov.au/industry/notices/n20100315.htm>
<https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/compliance>

Contact Details

AFMA Compliance section: 1300 723 621

Photo: Peter Woods



CARD 11C:

ILLEGAL FISHING

Background

Illegal fishing degrades the integrity of Australian fisheries. Everyone is responsible for reporting suspected illegal fishing activity, and all reports are treated in strict confidence.

Your Responsibilities

- Report any suspected illegal fishing operations as soon as possible. Reports can be made anonymously, and ideally should include:
 - the date, time and location that the activity took place;
 - names of any associated persons; and
 - any photographs or other evidence.

Contact Details

Report suspected illegal fishing to one of the following:

CRIMFISH: 1800 274 634 or 1800 CRIMFISH

CRIMFISH website: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/compliance/report-illegal-fishing>

AFMA's Duty Officer on 02 6275 5818



CARD 11D:

FISHING GEAR

Background

There are a number of fishing gear types that are permitted in the GABTF. These are trawl nets known as demersal otter trawl, Danish seine, mid-water trawl and pair trawl. Demersal otter trawl and Danish seine are the primary methods used in the fishery.

There are gear specifications for net mesh size to help reduce incidental catch of small fish. Fishing using any form of “trawl” net in the GABTF is prohibited unless using nets with a minimum mesh size of 90mm. GABIA has also introduced other gear requirements and specifications.

Your Responsibilities

- Fishing nets must have a minimum mesh size of 90mm in any part.
- Use a T90 (straight mesh turned 90 degrees) or square mesh (turned on the bar) gear extension and/or cod end configuration for all nets.
- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the loss of fishing gear.
- If you want to trial mid-water trawl using mesh smaller than 90mm ensure you have an appropriate concession. Applications for this concession should be sent to AFMA via the GABIA EO.
- Abide by GABIA ground gear specifications where steel bobbins and rubber discs should not exceed 15 inches (375mm) in diameter.
- Ensure that chafing mats, or any other type of wear reducing material, do not cover any part of the chosen bycatch reduction configuration.
- If you identify an alternative method for reducing incidental bycatch through gear modifications, report this to GABIA and AFMA for consideration.

References

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (Minimum Gear Requirements) Direction, 2007.

Contact Details

AFMA Licensing section: 1300 723621

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573



CARD 11E:

Electronic Monitoring

The AFMA Electronic Monitoring (e-monitoring) Program uses video and sensor data to independently validate fishing operations and logbook information. Cameras are positioned and triggered to record fishing activity, and the footage is analysed to verify catch records and protected species interactions that fishers are required to report in daily logbooks. E-monitoring has been a requirement in the GABTS since 2025.

Maintaining the system

There are currently five service providers that can install and manage type-approved e-monitoring systems. Operators are responsible for ensuring the e-monitoring system is maintained in good working order, which includes:

- performing regular function testing;
- reporting technical issues or damage to your chosen service provider as soon as practicable;
- reporting to AFMA if the system cannot become operational when it is required to be;
- cleaning camera lenses regularly to ensure a clear field of view at all times;
- ensuring that views of catch handling and gear deployment are unobstructed and well lit.

In addition to maintaining the system, you are also required to replace the data drive when any of the following occurs:

- the data drive reaches its storage capacity;
- the data drive fails a system test;
- the vessel completes its first landing of the month;
- AFMA directs that the data drive be replaced.

If any of the above situations apply, you are required to return the data drive to AFMA within one business day of the vessel being in port by:

- placing the data drive in an AFMA pre-addressed package and sending it by registered post, and
- emailing the postal tracking number to AFMA at em@afma.gov.au.

AFMA manages the supply and analysis of data drives and will provide replacement data drives and pre-paid envelopes for returning used drives. It is your responsibility to ensure AFMA holds your current contact and postal details and to request additional data drives if required before departing on a trip.

Tampering with any e-monitoring equipment, data, or data drives is strictly prohibited and constitutes an offence.

Full details of the e-monitoring program including type approved e-monitoring systems, auditing rates, data management, privacy and operational requirements are available on the [AFMA website](#) ('Fisheries Management' – 'Monitoring Tools' – 'Electronic monitoring program').

If you have operational and service questions about your e-monitoring system, please contact your chosen service provider.

For questions about the e-monitoring program and AFMA management, please contact the e monitoring program manager, Rebecca Darcy (rebecca.darcy@afma.gov.au or 02 6225 5477).



12

12. GABTF DEEPWATER MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

CARD 12A:

GABTF DEEPWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Background

A deepwater management strategy has been developed and implemented in the GABTF to ensure the sustainability of deepwater fishing, including for Orange Roughy. Deepwater environments are generally more vulnerable to fishing than shallow environments.

These arrangements include:

- establishing clearly defined deepwater management zones across the GABTF;
- implementing deepwater fishery closures to provide full protection of deepwater benthic habitats and species (refer to Card 12b);
- implementing the Orange Roughy research zone for the protection and study of GABTF Orange Roughy stocks (refer to card 13a);
- identifying research and management triggers for species caught in the deepwater management zones (not including Orange Roughy);
- setting a precautionary trigger limit for Orange Roughy of 10 tons for each deepwater management zone (outside of research zones); and
- industry agreements including restricting targeting of deepwater sharks, and no long tows (exceeding 5 hours) in waters deeper than 700m.

The deepwater management zones can be described as waters 700m and deeper to the edge of the exclusive economic zone and within the boundaries:

- eastern zone—138° 08' to 136° 00' E;
- central east zone—136° 00' to 133° 00' E;
- central west zone—133° 00' to 129° 00' E;
- western zone—129° 00' to 121° 00' E; and
- far west zone 121° 00' to 115° 08' E.

Your Responsibilities

- Understand and comply with the deepwater management strategy.
- Do not fish in closed waters.
- Do not target Orange Roughy in commercial fishing operations.

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 12B:

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORANGE ROUGHY

Background

In November 2006, Orange Roughy was listed as Conservation Dependant under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The listing requires additional measures to address the specific objectives and requirements of the Orange Roughy Conservation Program. The Conservation Program was established to ensure that Orange Roughy does not become vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered, as defined by the EPBC Act, within a period of 5 years. Most importantly, Orange Roughy cannot be commercially targeted in the GABTF.

Annually, GABIA develops an Orange Roughy Research Plan to allow fishing under a scientific permit, granted upon application to AFMA, within the Orange Roughy research zones (Card 13b). The aim is to collect biological information on the age, size structure, sex ratio and sexual stage of Orange Roughy stocks and ultimately support assessment of the status of the stocks.

Information to support stock discrimination between the SETF and the GABTF, as well as within the GABTF, is also a major focus of this Research Plan.

This is achieved through the following objectives:

1. Full biological data (length, sex, gonad stage) must be collected from a minimum of 1000 individuals, and otoliths from a minimum of 500 individuals, from each Research Zone fished under a scientific permit;
2. The fishing vessel(s) should, on an opportunistic basis, conduct acoustic grid surveys of orange Roughy marks in a Research Zone with a Simrad ES60 echosounder; and
3. Stock discrimination (in the future) using biological samples, both within the GAB and between GAB and Tasmanian stocks.

Information from other Orange Roughy fisheries indicates that individual shots may not be representative of the actual size/sex structure of the entire aggregation. It is better to collect the biological data from numerous small (5-10t) shots rather than one large (50t) shot. For this reason, whilst fishing under a scientific permit, skippers must endeavour to take catch data from a minimum of 5 shots in any one Research Zone.

Temperature logging

All vessels possessing an Orange Roughy scientific permit and undertaking shots for Orange Roughy as part of any GABTF Research Plan should endeavour to record water temperature at fishing depth and/or fit temperature loggers to the headline of the net to collect water temperature depth profiles.

Data handling and storage

GABIA ensures that all information collected under the GABTF Research Plan is made available to the appropriate research providers undertaking stock assessment of GABTF Orange Roughy.

Your responsibilities

- Understand the information in this card, particularly that no commercial targeting of Orange Roughy is permitted in the GABTF.
- To access the Orange Roughy research zones, any boat must have applied for and received a scientific permit for the specific purpose of conducting Orange Roughy research.
- An Orange Roughy Research Plan applies under the Scientific Permit arrangements.
- A Research Catch Allowance for Orange Roughy is set each year, as well as a by-product limit also applies in parts of the GABTF.
- Be aware that GABIA with AFMA will consider and agree on the boat(s) to conduct Orange Roughy research each year.
- Boats undertaking Orange Roughy sampling must collect full biological data, otoliths and undertake temperature logging. Acoustic grid surveys are also to be opportunistically undertaken.
- Be aware of:
 - i. details of the GABTF deepwater management strategy as set out in card 12a, including specific arrangements for Orange Roughy;
 - ii. the GABTF deepwater closures set out in card 13a;
 - iii. the Orange Roughy research zones set out in card 13b.

References

GABIA's Management strategy for sustainable deepwater fishing in the GABT, March 2007.

GABIA's Orange Roughy Research Plan for the GABTF.

Contact details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or

SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

Photo: GABIA



CARD 12C:

ORANGE ROUGHY RESEARCH PLAN

Catch Limitations

At present a 200 tonne Research Catch Allowance is set under the Orange Roughy Research Plan. An additional 200t may be granted if at least 150t is taken in the East and Central East research zones (includes area of Kangaroo Island Hill and Racetrack / Hamburger Hill) during the 2025/26 research fishing period. A 50t bycatch TAC exists for Orange Roughy caught in the Albany and Esperance quota zones, as defined in the *Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003*.

Objectives

The overall goal of the Orange Roughy Research Plan is to ensure robust scientific information is collected on Orange Roughy in the GABTF to assess the status of these stocks and for use in evaluating stock discrimination to support determining sustainable harvest levels for commercial fishing into the future.

Catch Reporting Information

The following information must be collected for each shot conducted under Scientific Permit in a GABTF research zone, regardless of whether any Orange Roughy are caught:

Shot data should be recorded as per the current logbook.

Landings of Orange Roughy should be marked with a ® on the CDR to show when they were taken under a research permit.

Biological data

Where total catches are expected to be above 5t from a research zone, a sample of 100 fish per shot are to be put aside for collection of biological material. If you do not expect to catch >5 t from a research zone, do not put aside fish for sampling.

Where biological data is required to be collected and there is not an AFMA observer present on-board, you should contact AFMA to arrange for an AFMA observer to meet you in port to sample/process the fish. To assist the observer, each sample bin collected must be marked with a tag showing:

- the name of the closure area;
- the shot number;
- estimated sample weight; and
- estimate of total shot weight.

Length Frequency

Length frequencies should be taken **separately from** fish put aside for biological sampling. This is the responsibility of the crew.

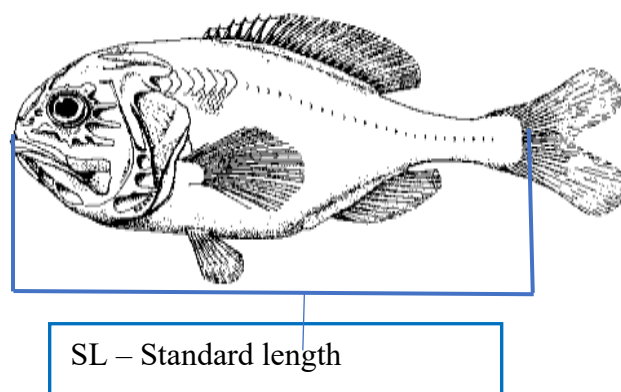
From each shot, length frequencies of a random sample of 200 fish should be collected and recorded on the sample sheets. All information, including research zone, sample weight, and estimates of shot weight, should be filled out (as you would do for Deepwater Flathead and Bight Redfish) using the crew based data sampling sheet.

The fish are to be measured as detailed below (Standard Length (SL) will be used as the measurement criteria for Orange Roughy). Standard length is measured from the tip of the closed mouth to the point where the tail fins meet the body. This avoids inconsistencies in the lengths due to damage to the tail fins.

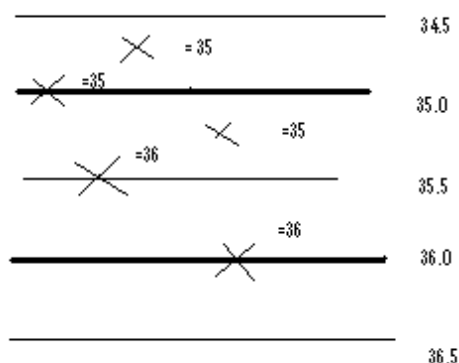
Collection of biological data from Orange Roughy

Always use Standard Length (SL) as the measurement criteria for Orange Roughy.

Species Scientific name – Orange Roughy *Hoplostethus atlanticus*
CAAB 255009 AFMA: ORO



Measure each fish to the nearest part cm then-Rounding rule: 34.5 cm – 35.4 cm = 35 cm.



13



13. CLOSURES

GABTF DEEPWATER CLOSURES

A deepwater management strategy has been developed and implemented in the GABTF to ensure the sustainability of deepwater fishing. Part of this strategy is spatial closures for demersal and otter trawling, which have been implemented in the following locations:

- (Refer to the back of this card for a diagram).

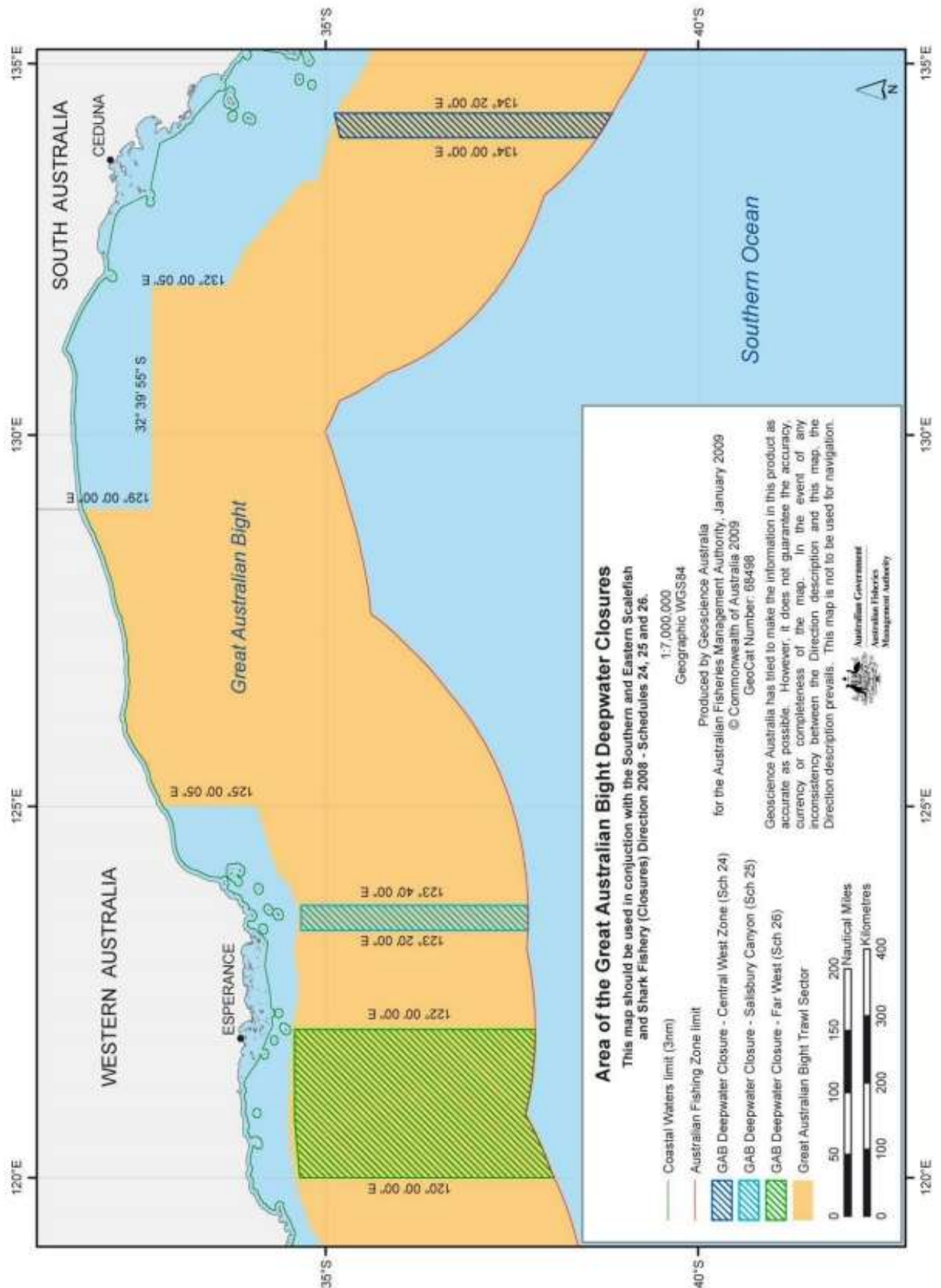
- Be aware of areas closed to fishing.
- Do not fish in closed waters.
- Comply with the navigation regulation when navigating through these closures (refer to card 11c).

Fisheries Management (Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures) Direction 2021 (legislation.gov.au)

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 13A:

GABTF DEEPWATER CLOSURES (CONTINUED)



CARD 13B

ORANGE ROUGHY RESEARCH ZONES

The Orange Roughy is listed as conservation dependent under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. It is important to comply with the Orange Roughy research zone closures to help ensure the long term survival of this species. The zones are closed to all trawl methods.

Fishing in the research zones is only permitted with a scientific permit under an agreed research proposal. The areas of the zones are bounded by:

Albany 118.167°E 35.400°S 118.733°E 35.133°S 118.733°E 35.500°S 118.167°E 35.767°S	Kangaroo Is Hill 137.667°E 37.100°S 137.167°E 36.906°S 137.167°E 36.742°S 137.731°E 37.026°S
United Nations 131.633°E 33.750°S 131.633°E 34.250°S 131.250°E 34.167°S 131.250°E 33.667°S	Humdinger / Magic 124.600°E 34.550°S 124.600°E 34.250°S 125.000°E 34.167°S 126.400°E 33.500°S 126.400°E 34.000°S 125.000°E 34.467°S
Bremmer 119.267°E 34.833°S 119.500°E 34.733°S 119.500°E 34.933°S 119.267°E 35.033°S	Racetrack / Hamburger 134.000°E 35.100°S 134.000°E 35.400°S 133.750°E 35.333°S 133.200°E 35.100°S 133.200°E 34.800°S 133.750°E 35.033°S
The Knob 132.433°E 34.383°S 133.000°E 34.683°S 133.000°E 34.983°S 132.433°E 34.683°S	Lomvar Gully 129.667°E 33.533°S 130.100°E 33.433°S 130.100°E 33.733°S 129.667°E 33.833°S
Humdinger West 124.100°E 34.400°S 124.100°E 34.800°S 123.767°E 35.033°S 123.767°E 34.633°S	

(Refer to the back of this card for diagrams).

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of areas closed to fishing.
- Do not fish in a closed area.
- Comply with the navigation regulation when navigating through these closures (refer to card 11c).

References

[Fisheries Management \(Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures\) Direction 2021 \(legislation.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.gov.au/idx/frameset?view=detail&docid=512642&doc=512642)

Contact Details

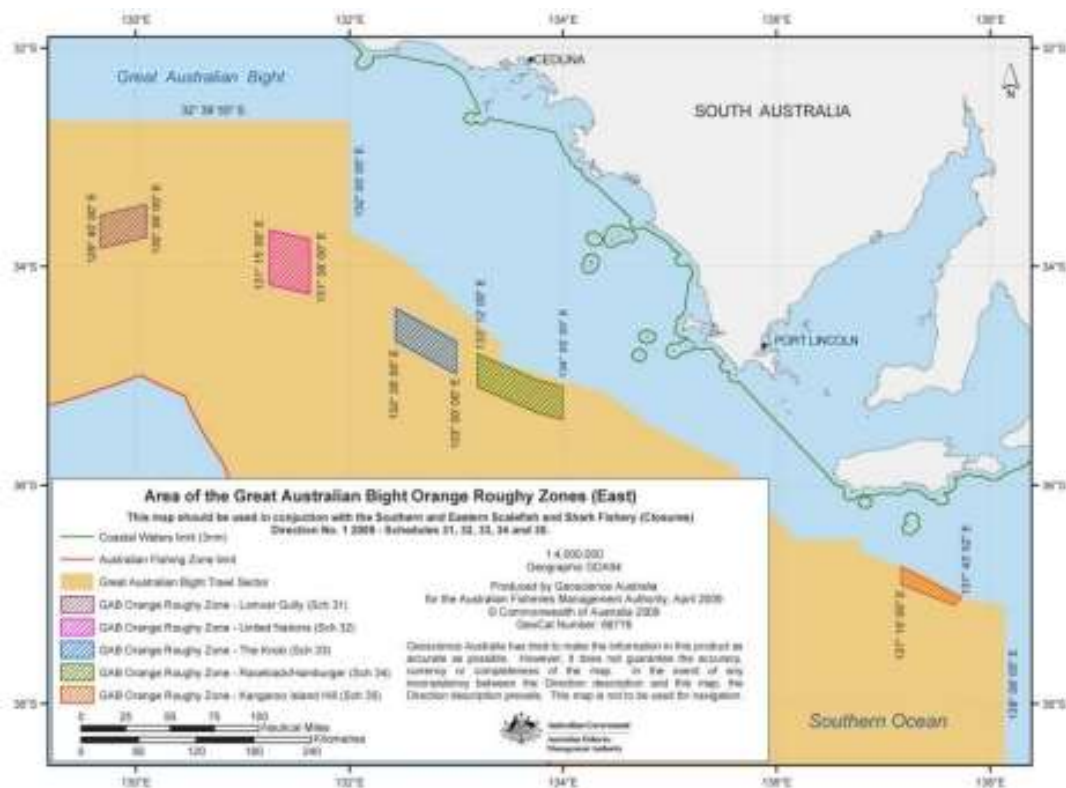
AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723 621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au

GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

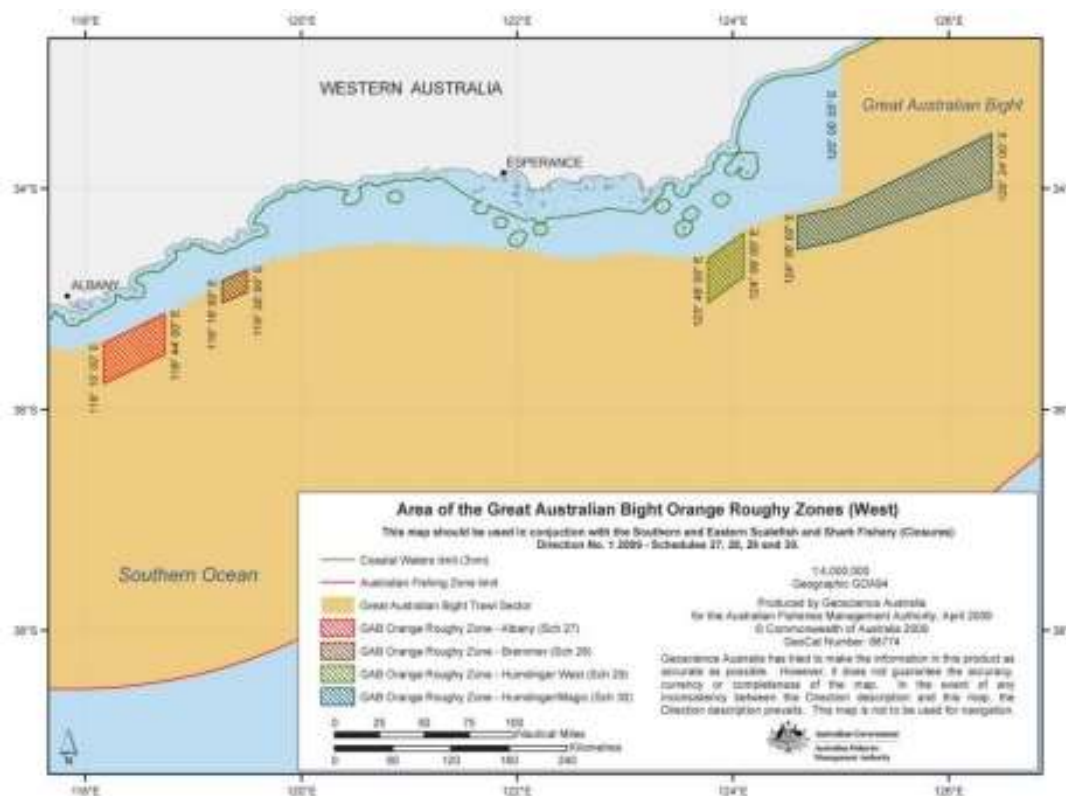
CARD 13B

ORANGE ROUGHY RESEARCH ZONES (CONTINUED)

a) East zones



b) West zones



CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Background

The Commonwealth has undertaken a comprehensive review of the marine reserves proposed for Australia. It has implemented management plans for 6 of Australia's marine regions.

The GAB fishery has a series of marine parks within its boundaries, which took effect on 1 July 2018 under the South West Marine Parks Management Plan.

These parks include – Western Kangaroo Island, Western Eyre, Murat, Great Australian Bight, Twilight, Eastern Recherche, Bremer and South West Corner. In addition the GAB area also includes the Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park under the South East Marine Parks Management Plan.

Maps of the individual marine parks are provided on the back of this card.

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of areas closed to fishing
- Do not fish in closed area

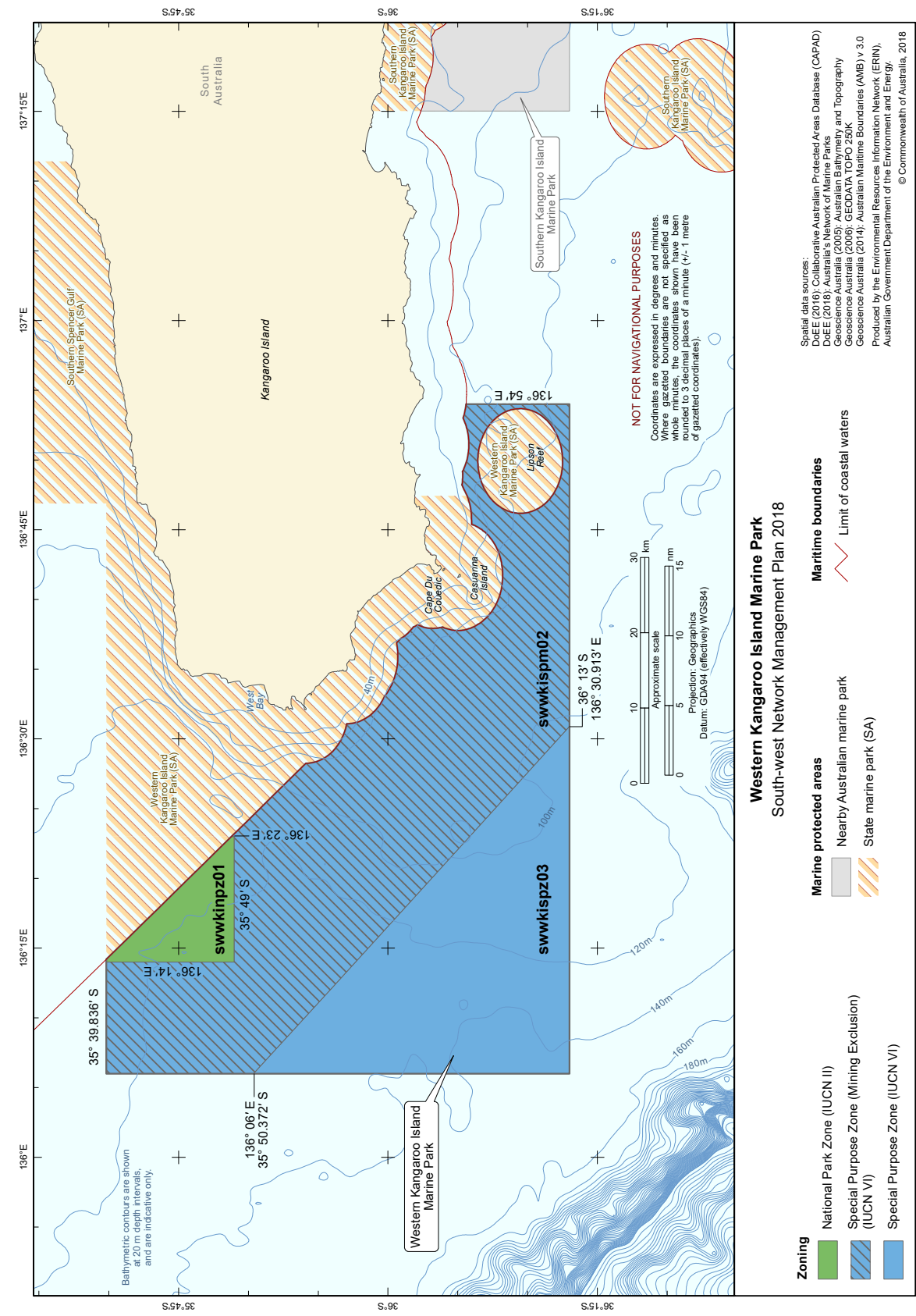
References

Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment Marine Parks Website

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

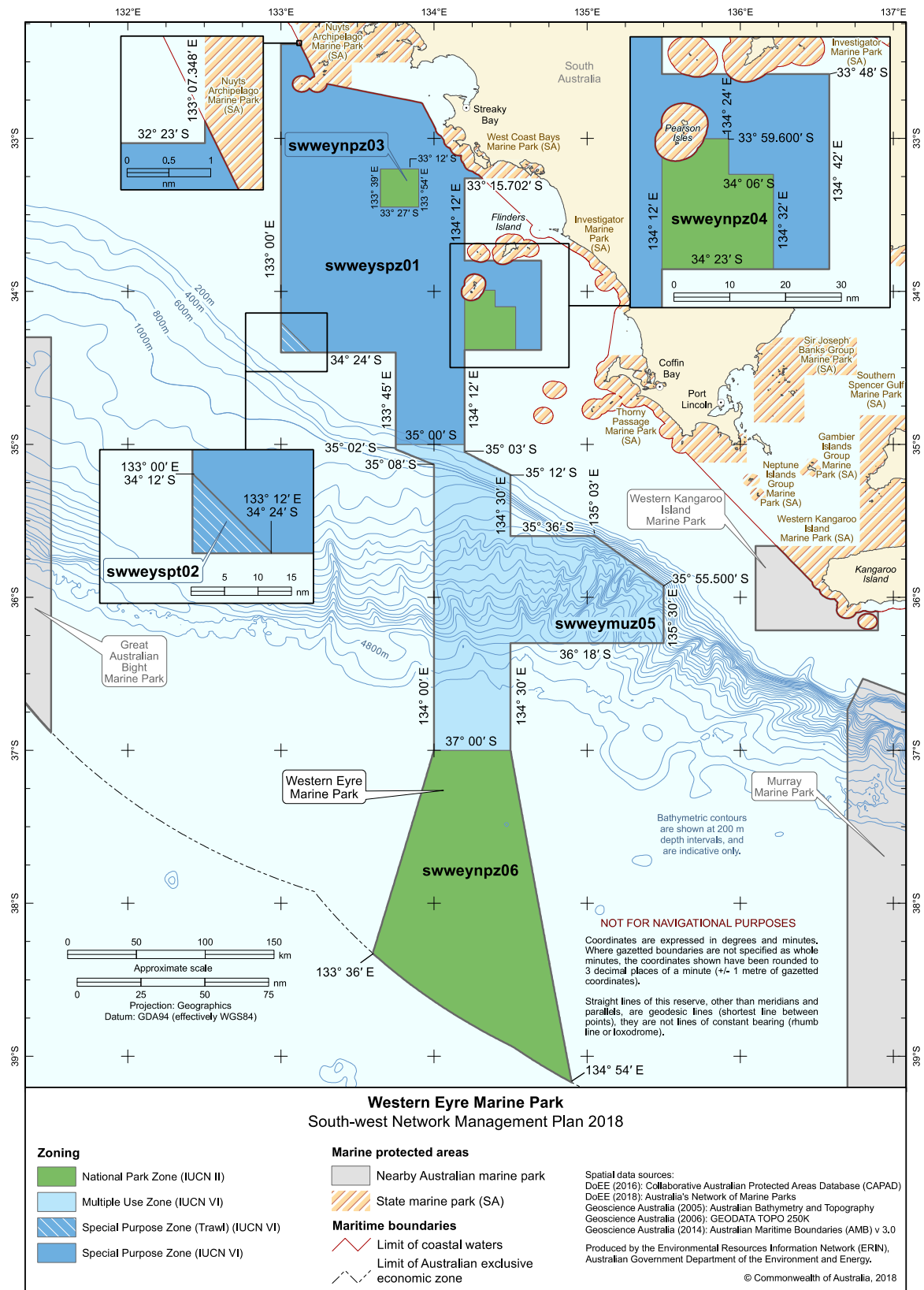
<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/south-east/>

CARD 13C
COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Western Kangaroo Island)

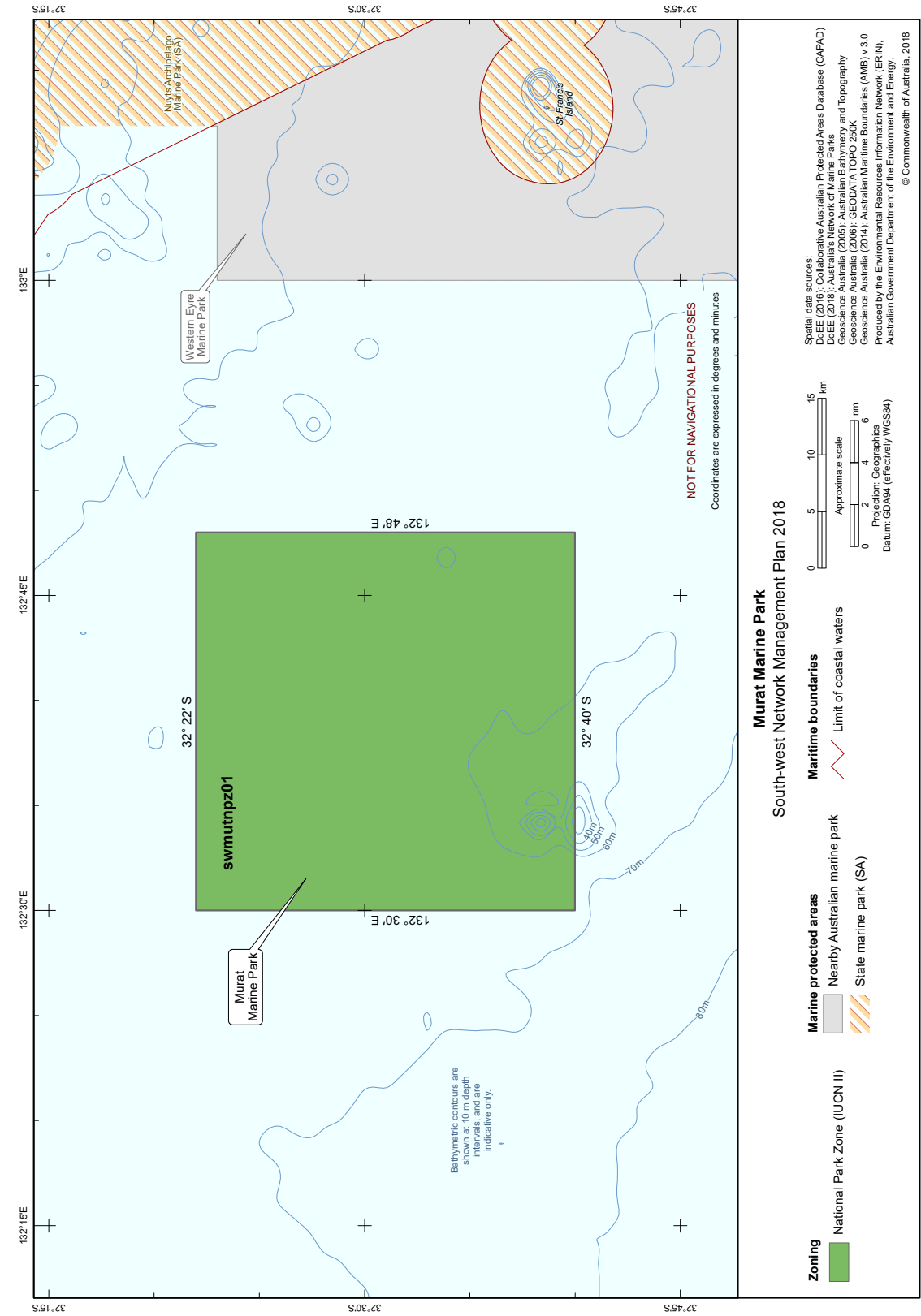


CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Western Eyre)

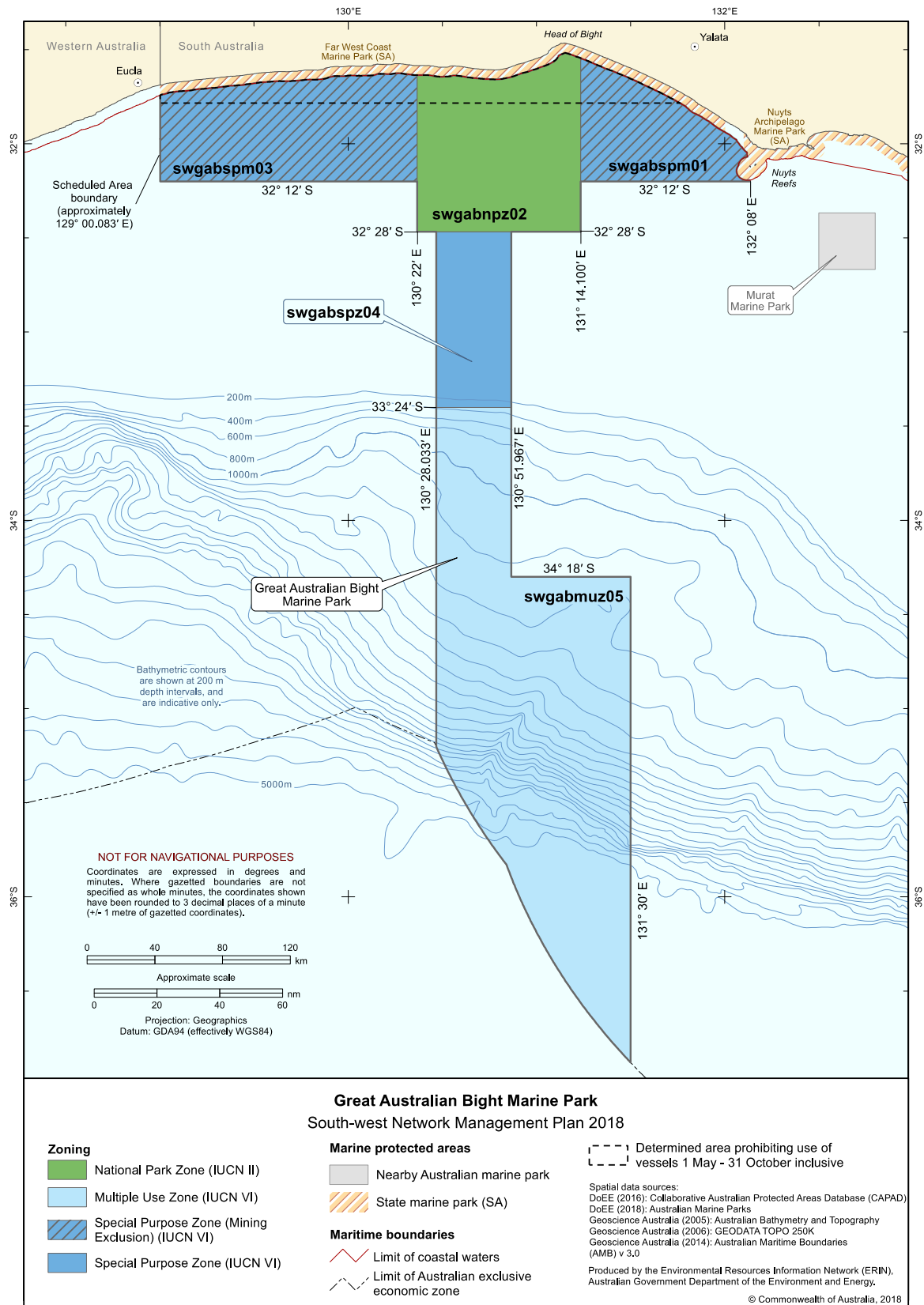


CARD 13C
COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Murat)



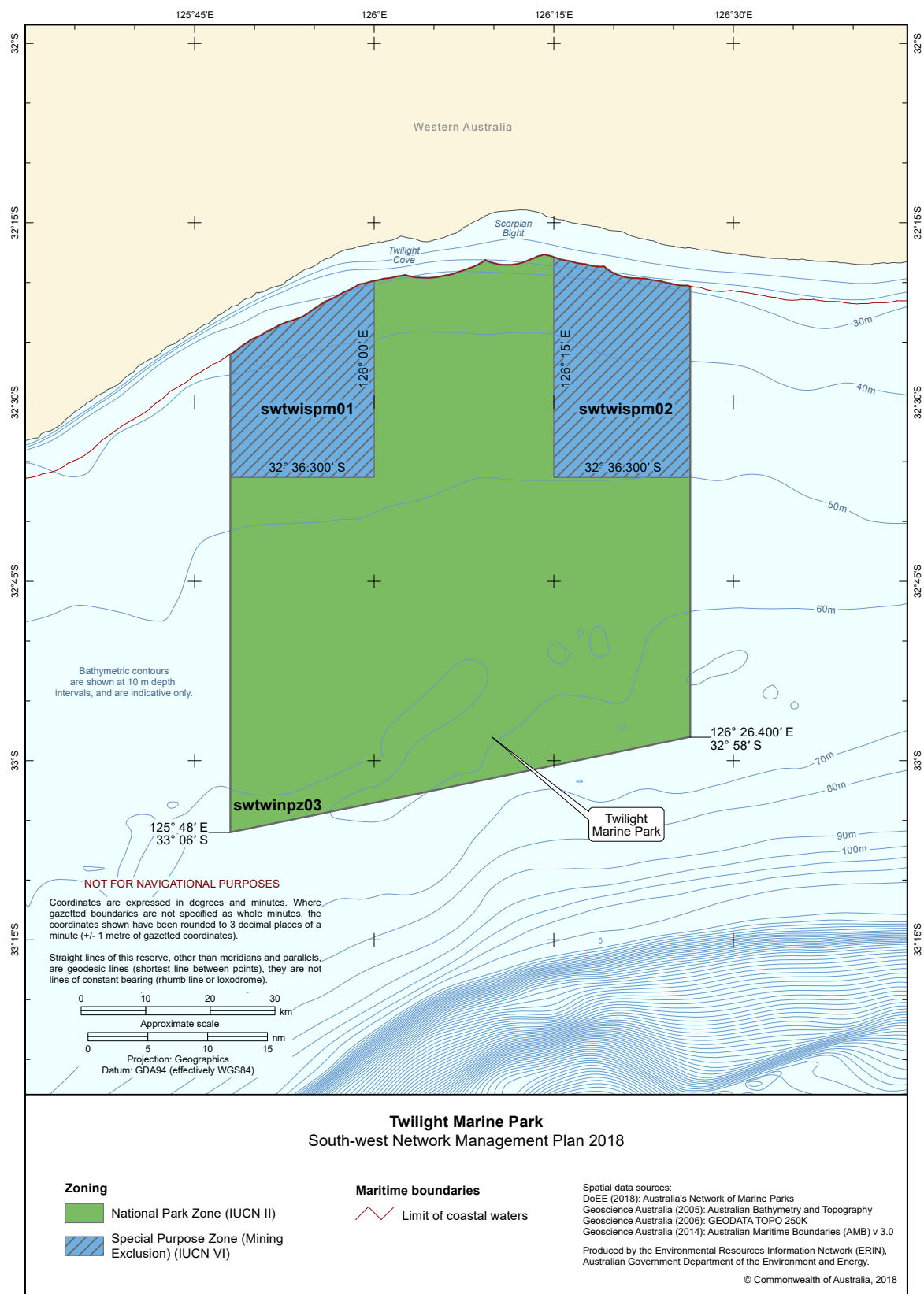
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Great Australian Bight)



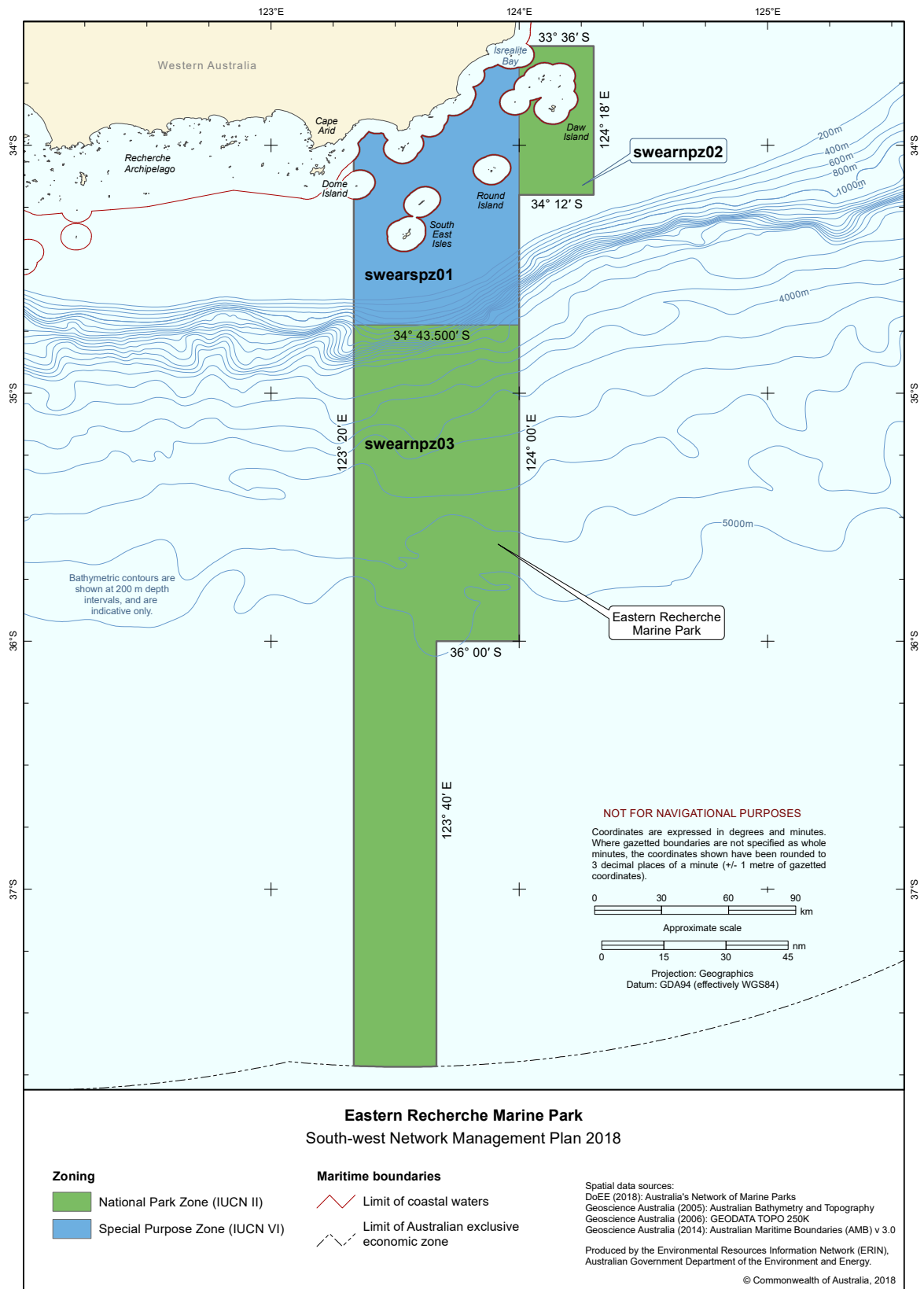
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Twilight)



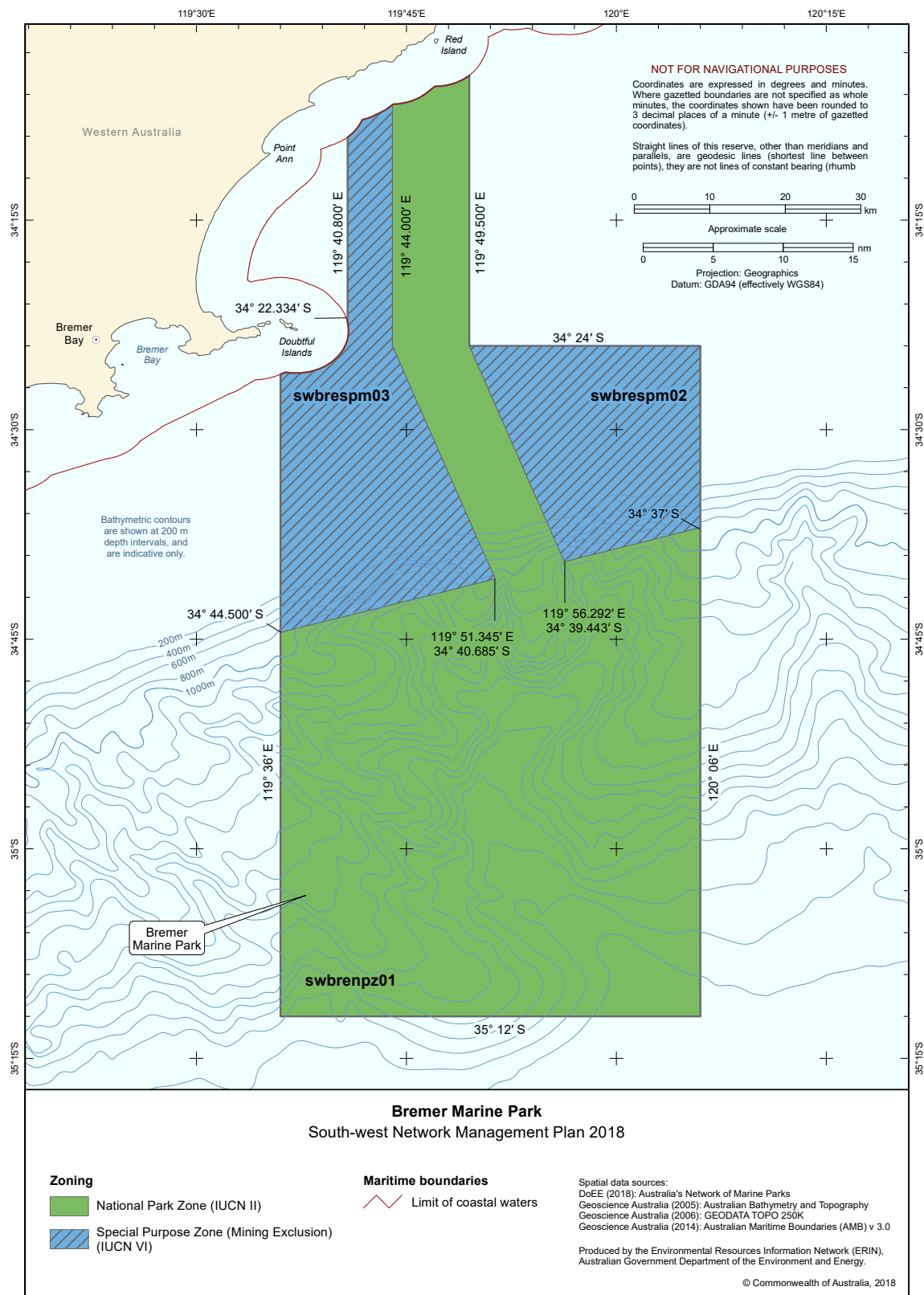
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Eastern Recherche)



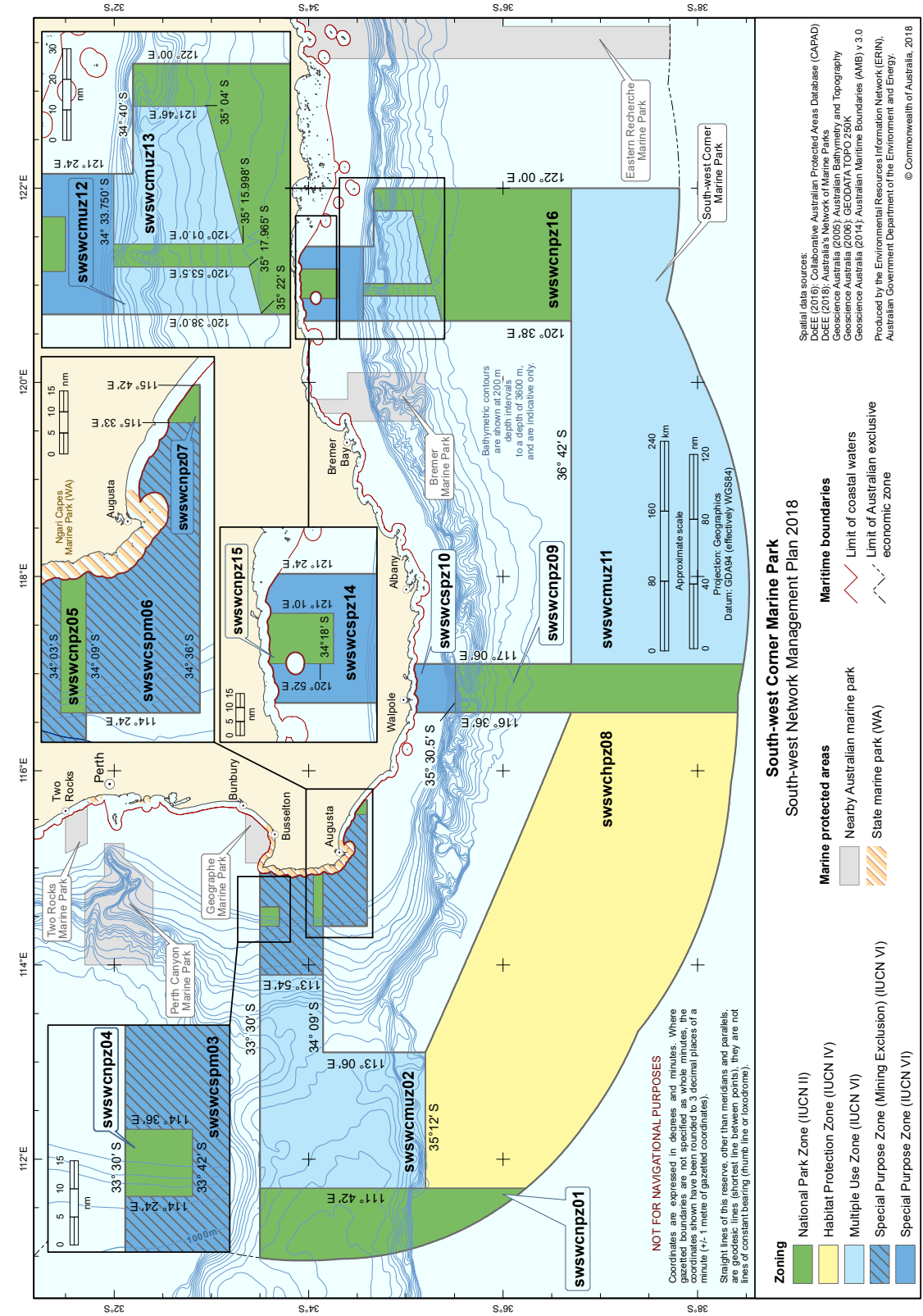
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Bremer)



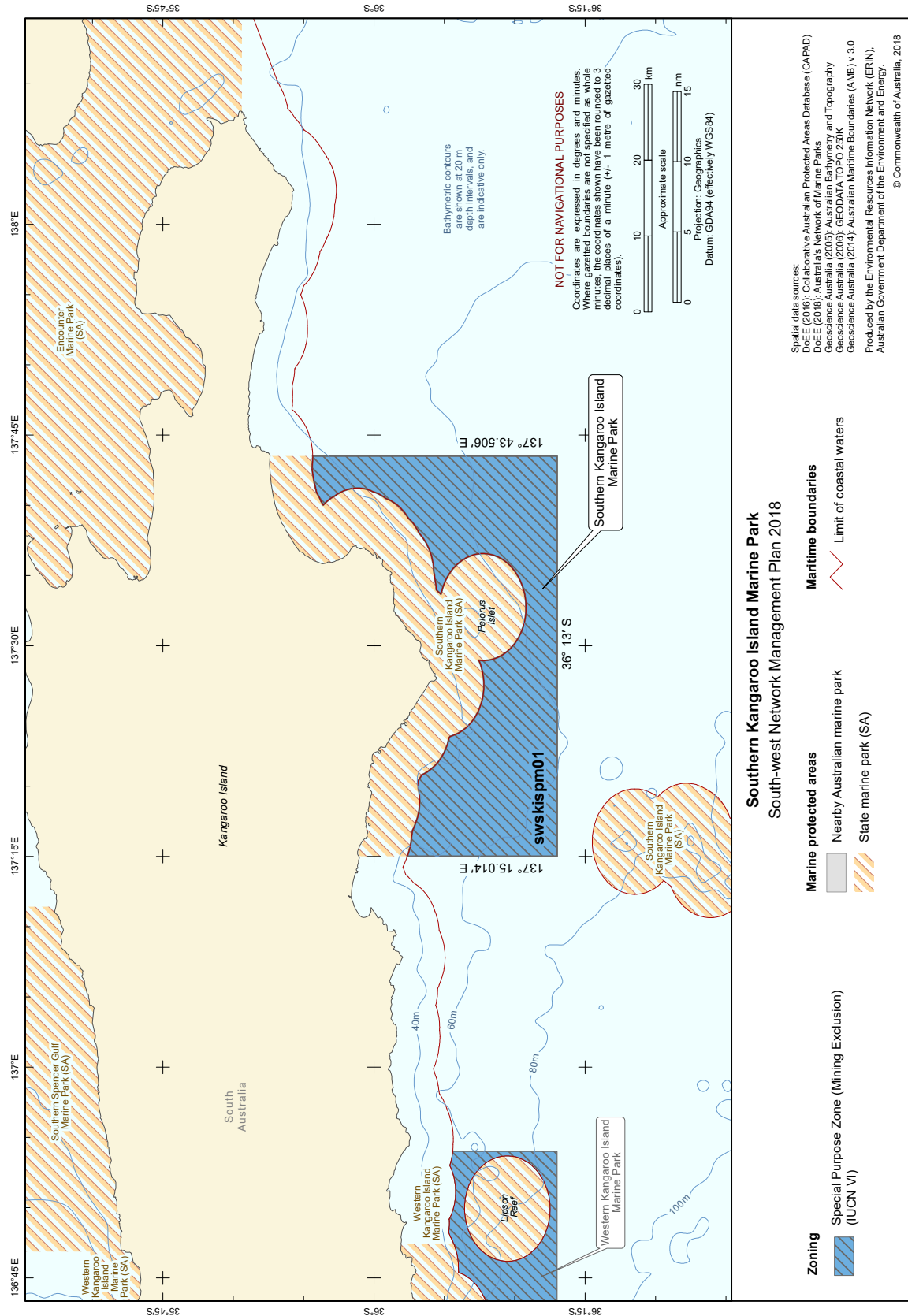
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW South West Corner)



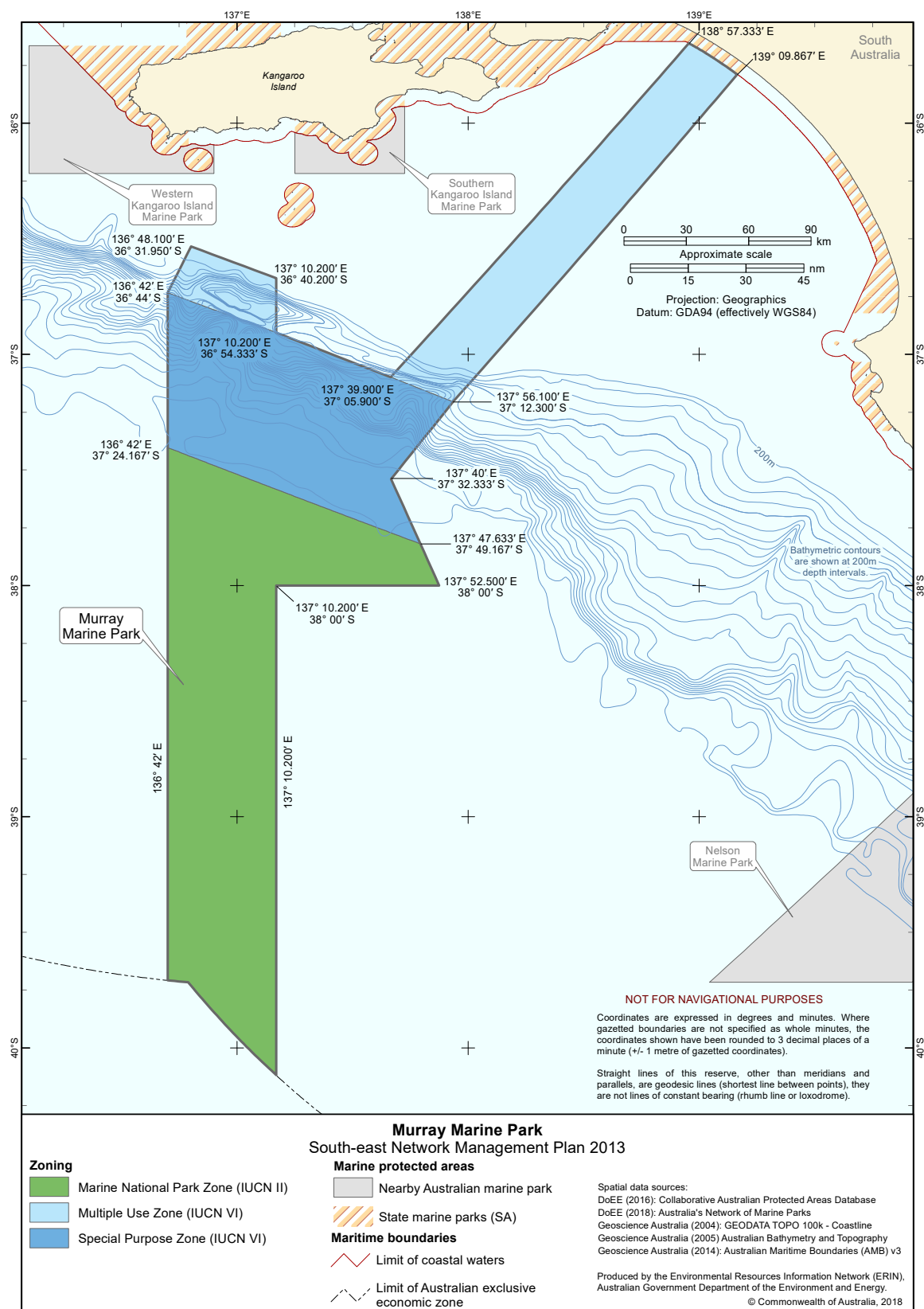
CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SW Southern Kangaroo Island)



CARD 13C

COMMONWEALTH MPAs (SE Murray)



CARD 13D

GULPER SHARK CLOSURES AND MANAGEMENT

Background

Gulper Sharks are slow growing species with low reproduction rates. This means they are particularly vulnerable to rapid stock depletion and are slow to recover. While research suggests they are lightly fished in the GABTF, they have declined significantly in other areas of the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery.

Southern Dogfish and Harrison's Dogfish have been listed as conservation dependent under the EPBC Act. There are two closures in the GABTF to protect Southern Dogfish. These are:

1. The GAB Trawl Sector Gulper Shark Closure – Southern Dogfish (SESSF and SPF Direction 2021, Schedule 10)
2. The GAB Far West Gulper Shark Closure (SESSF and SPF (Direction) 2021, Schedule 28)

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of areas closed to fishing.
- Do not fish in a closed area.
- Do not retain Harrison's Dogfish (*Centrophorus harrissoni*), Endeavour Dogfish (*C. moluccensis*), Southern Dogfish (*C. zeehaani*) and Greeneye Spurdog (*Squalus chloroculus*). If any of these species are taken alive, they must be returned to the water carefully and quickly.
Identify all Gulper Shark catch to the species level using the Protected Species ID Kit and the Gulper Shark ID flier (refer to the attached flier).
- Comply with the navigation regulation when navigating through these closures (refer to card 11c).

References

[Fisheries Management \(Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery and Small Pelagic Fishery Closures\) Direction 2021 \(legislation.gov.au\)](#)

Protected Species ID Guide, AFMA and the National Heritage Trust, 2006
Daley, R, et al (2007). Draft Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing.

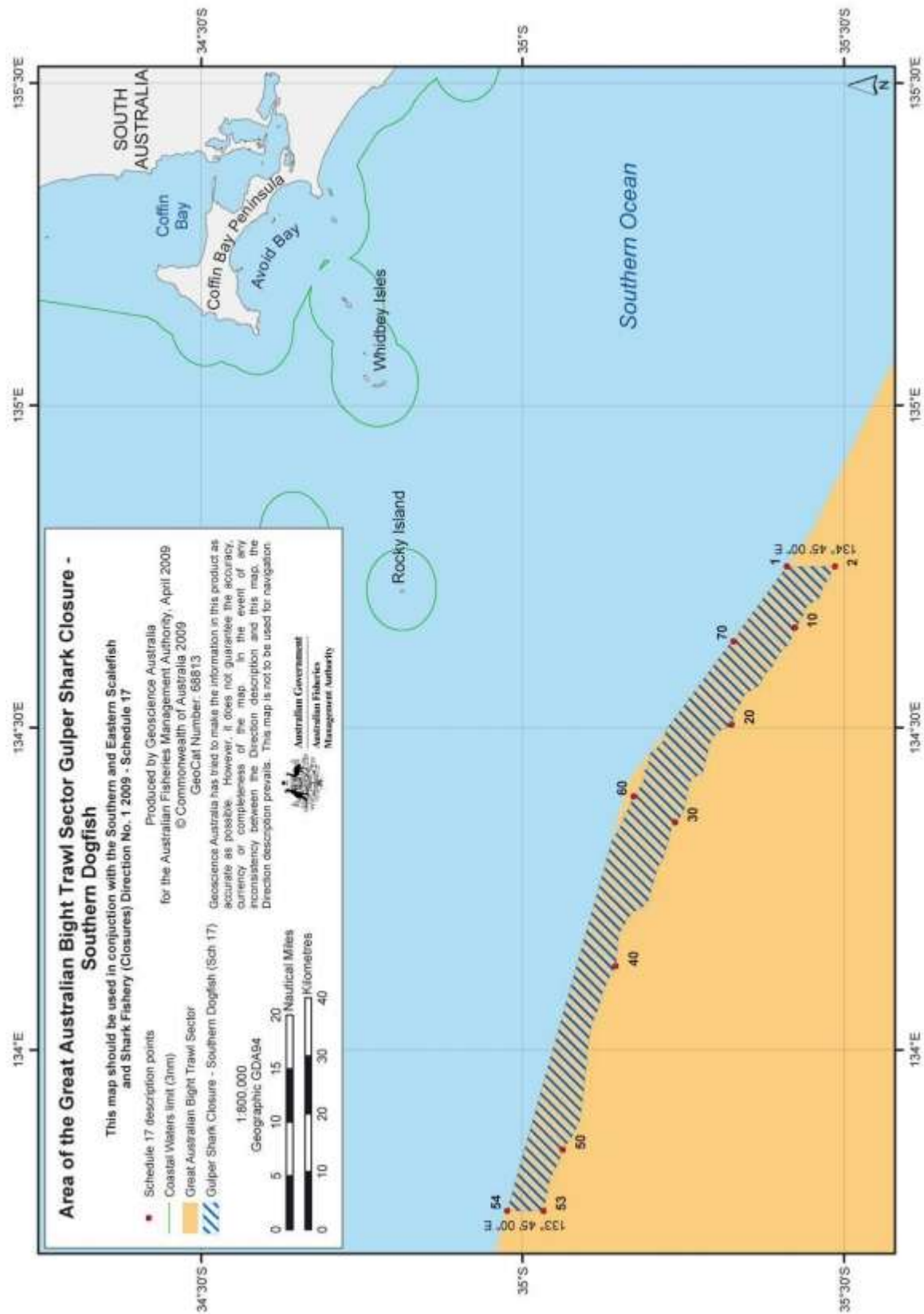
AFMA Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy -
<https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/Upper-Slope%20Dogfish%20Management%20Strategy.pdf>

Contact Details

AFMA SESSF section: 1300 723621 or SouthernTrawl@AFMA.gov.au
GABIA EO: Keith 0437675573

CARD 13D

GULPER SHARK CLOSURES AND MANAGEMENT



CARD 13D

GULPER SHARK CLOSURES AND MANAGEMENT

Gulper shark identification key

Gulper sharks can be distinguished from other sharks by having no anal fin, spines present on both dorsal fins that are about the same size, and a notch in their tail. Use this key to help identify your shark. If you identify a gulper shark, follow the instructions on the back of this poster to find out how to submit a sample and be in the running for a great prize.

Does the shark have?

Anal fin absent



Dorsal fins far apart



Large prickles absent



Spines on both dorsal fins



Notch in tail



2 big dorsal spines the same size



NO

Other shark species



Anal fin

↓

YES

NO

Bramble shark



Dorsal fins close together

↓

YES

NO

Prickly dogfish



Prickly skin

↓

YES

NO

Black shark



Spines absent

↓

YES

NO

Squalus spp.



No notch in tail

↓

YES

NO

Rear dorsal spine larger than front spine

↓

YES

Lantern or Platypus shark



Second dorsal spine much longer than first spine

NO

Smallspine dogfishes



Two small spines same length

Gulper sharks

Long snout and white back edge of dorsal fins

Harrison's dogfish



Long snout
White edge on fins

Short snout and no white edge on fins

Southern dogfish



Short snout
No white edge on fins

NO

Endeavour dogfish



Short snout
Second dorsal fin much smaller than first




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Images supplied by CSIRO and Flatfish

CARD 13E

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SNAPPER CLOSURES

Background

In November 2019, in response to concerns about the status of its snapper stocks, the South Australian Government introduced management measures to return its snapper fishery to sustainable levels including a total closure on the taking of snapper. In 2021, these measures were revised as the South Australian Government introduced a TAC for snapper in the South East region, removing the need for a seasonal closure in this area.

The management measures were maintained and extended following a stock assessment of snapper in 2022. The revised measures are:

1. a total snapper closure, including the take and possession, applies in waters in the West Coast, Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent regions from 1 November 2019 to 30 June 2027; and
2. Commonwealth fishers in the south-east region are permitted to retain 50 kgs of snapper per trip.

The closure arrangements are illustrated in the map below.

Your Responsibilities

- Be aware of areas closed to fishing.
- Do not fish for snapper in a closed area.

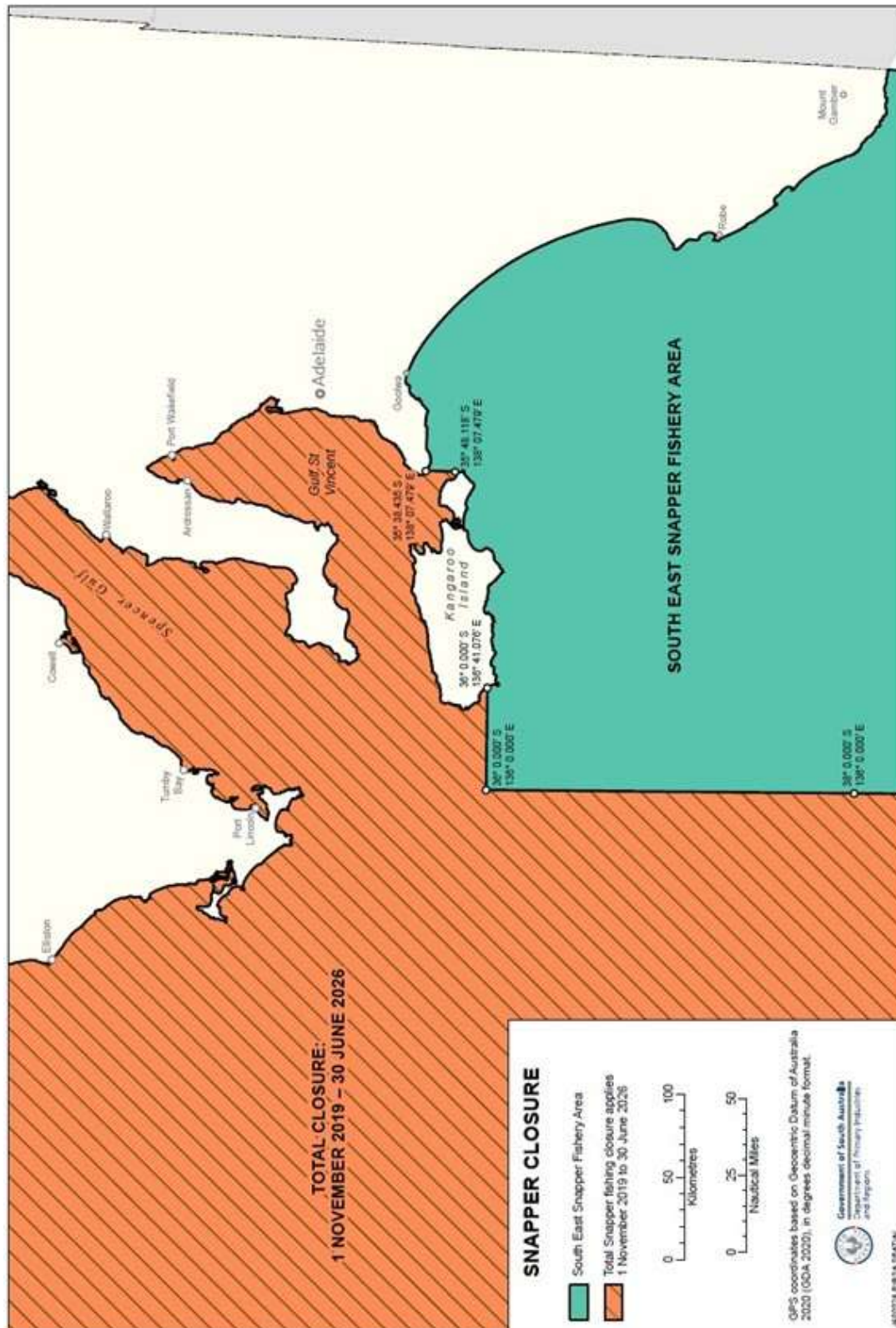
References

See the SA snapper management for more information:

https://pir.sa.gov.au/recreational_fishing/managing_recreational_fishing/snapper_management

CARD 13E

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SNAPPER CLOSURES



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14. IMPORTANT DATES AND CONTACT LISTS

CARD 14A:

IMPORTANT DATES

The 2026-27 fishing season will be for 12 months from 1 May 2026 to 30 April 2027.

- 28 March 2026—TACs finalised for 2026 fishing season. Quota transaction statements will be issued to operators in the week commencing 16 March 2026. Operators should now be keeping a close eye on their remaining quota holdings and catches for the 2025 fishing season (no change to current procedures).
- 30 April 2026—is the end of the 2025 fishing season.
- 1 May 2026—is the start of the 2026 fishing season.
- By 13 May 2026—you must have sent in all 2025-26 season catch disposal records and AFMA will then generate a final quota transaction statement. If you are in an over quota position, you must balance all your excess catches of quota species by leasing or transferring in 2025-26 uncaught quota. You will need to lease or transfer sufficient 2025-26 uncaught quota to reduce your overcatch to the allowable overcatch percentage applicable to that species. If, upon receipt of the final quota transaction statement you feel that there is a discrepancy in the figures, you should contact AFMA immediately to rectify the issue.
- 28 May 2026—All seasonal trading (leasing), including that to cover any over quota status closes at 5PM Eastern Standard Time. Once this date has passed AFMA will close off the 2025 season and conduct the over catch/under catch process.
- 1 June 2026—undercatch and overcatch is calculated by AFMA and a report for the 2025 season is posted to concession holders.
- 30 April 2027—is the end of the 2026 fishing season.
- 1 May 2027—is the start of the 2027 fishing season.

CARD 14B:

CONTACT LIST

AFMA

Phone: 1300 723 621

(This number can be used during business hours (8.30am–5.30pm) from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local phone call).

or: (02) 6225 5555

Fax: (02) 6225 5500

Website: www.afma.gov.au

Post: Australian Fisheries Management Authority PO Box 7051 Canberra BC ACT 2610

GABTF Management Team at AFMA (southerntrawl@afma.gov.au)

Will Bowman, Trawl Manager, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries,

Telephone: (02) 6225 5366 , Email: william.bowman@afma.gov.au

Rebecca Jol, Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater Fisheries

Telephone: (03) 5155 6411, Email: rebecca.jol@afma.gov.au

Jennifer Power-Geary, Senior Management Officer, Demersal and Midwater

Fisheries: (02) 6225 5310, Email: Jennifer.power-geary@afma.gov.au

Audrey Kent, Senior Management Support Officer, Telephone: (02) 6225 5319,

Email: audrey.kent@afma.gov.au.

Hannah Maude, Senior Management Support Officer, Telephone: (02) 6225 5365, Email: Hannah.maunder@afma.gov.au

Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association (GABIA)

A/President, Rhys Arangio, Austral Fisheries

Executive Officer, Keith Rowling Telephone: 0437675573 Email:

keith@nmac.com.au

State Fisheries contact details:

Tasmania: Department of Natural Resources & Environment Tasmania,
1300 368 550, Fishwatch 0427 655 557

South Australia: Department of Primary Industries and Regions,
(08) 8226 0995, Fishwatch 1800 065 522

Victoria: Victorian Fisheries Authority, 136 186

New South Wales: Department of Primary Industries, 1300 550 474, Fishers
Watch 1800 043 536

Queensland: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 13 25 23, Fisherwatch
1800 017 116

Western Australia: Department of Primary Industries and Regional
Development, 1300 374 731, Fishwatch 1800 815 507

Northern Territory: Fisheries Division, Department of Industry, Tourism and
Trade (08) 8999 2144

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15. LICENCES, PERMITS AND OTHER FORMS

Boat Owners and skippers should ensure that all statutory documents required to undertake fishing in the GABTF are kept on board any boat operating within the fishery and are available for inspection at any time.