



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Securing
Australia's
fishing
future

Annual Report 2025–26

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Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Letter of transmittal

15 September 2026

Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

We have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act), and all other obligations in the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 and the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

The Minister that administered AFMA for the reporting period was the Hon Julie Collins MP. Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm is Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

As required under subsection 17AG (2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014, we certify that we are satisfied that AFMA has:

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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Kroger'.

Helen Kroger
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wez Norris'.

Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer
Accountable Authority

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Review by Chair and CEO



Significant issues for us

2025–26 was a significant year for us, and for the Australian fishing industry. The whole-of-government focus on productivity and regulatory improvement, near completion of the Futures of Seafood project, development of a national food security strategy, environmental law reform, as well as the long-awaited commencement of country-of-origin seafood labelling, all provide focus for the fishing industry to take action on significant areas of concern we have reported on before.

In particular, the Minister's Statement of Expectations, issued under revised Regulator Performance Framework Guidelines, and our subsequent Statement of Intent, provide a strategic framework for the delivery of our functions and achievement of our objectives. They focus us to continue to deliver collaborative, data-driven, risk-based and cost-effective regulation that appropriately balances our objectives across a diverse range of activities.

These positive developments are continually challenged by external pressures on the fishing industry and the marine environment. Issues such as the competition for access to the marine estate, climate change impacts on the ecosystem and external economic pressures such as burgeoning fuel prices and shrinking labour availability all continue to threaten economic viability at the fleet and vessel level, with potential impacts on regional town economies.

Supporting the viability of the fishing industry

AFMA's focus is to ensure that our regulation is fit for purpose, and that the successes of our management regime are properly understood and recognised, particularly in the context of marine spatial planning discussions and environmental law reform.

In 2025–26 we increased our existing focus on regulatory burden reduction, including calling on industry for proposals to identify regulatory change that could improve operational efficiency in response to the Middle East Regional Conflict impacts on diesel prices. We also continued to enhance our ability to assess and report the regulatory burden impacts of key management decisions as part of our commitment to both regulatory improvement and transparency.

Supporting ecological sustainability

AFMA continues to review and refine our management settings to ensure that the sustainability of fish stocks and the integrity of underlying ecosystems are not undermined by fishing impacts. In 2025–26 we commenced implementation of our Climate Risk Framework to ensure that management decisions robustly account for climate change impacts. We also commenced a significant project in conjunction with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) to develop a multi-species harvest strategy in our Commonwealth Trawl Sector, with likely application in many other multi-species fisheries both in Australia and around the world.

Historic actions taken by AFMA, industry and the science community to rebuild overfished stocks were rewarded this year with delivery of scientific evidence that school shark, which was overfished several decades ago and has been a significant management challenge ever since, is rebuilding strongly. While there is always more to be done, recovery of school shark would be a valuable addition to success stories such as Eastern Orange Roughy and Southern Bluefin Tuna.

In 2025–26 we completed successful at-sea trials of Electronic Monitoring (EM – camera systems) in several key fisheries. The trials demonstrated that EM roll-out will significantly expand our information base, particularly on Endangered, Threatened and Protected Species (ETP).

Protecting fish stocks

This year we developed and commenced implementation of our new National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP) 2025–27. Achievement of the specific targets in the NCEP in 2025–26 is very positive, as outlined below.

Northern Australia continues to be a valuable target for illegal foreign fishing. Working alongside the Maritime Border Command and other agencies, such as Queensland Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, AFMA has participated in numerous at-sea operations to deter and disrupt illegal fishing. We also actively work with counterparts in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to implement joint programs to deter illegal fishing and to ensure enforcement action is taken where it does occur.

AFMA as an agency

We have continued our internal agenda of uplift and reform throughout 2025–26, with significant advancements made across all our corporate functions and activities. These initiatives will enable AFMA's development to keep pace with policy and environmental changes that will shape fisheries regulation into the future. An example of a completed corporate reform, during the reporting period, was the outsourcing of AFMA's payroll functions to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) that provides payroll-hub shared services offering to other Commonwealth government entities.



Helen Kroger
Chair

Budget sustainability, cost recovery improvement, cyber-security hardening, internal communications and strategic workforce management all remain high priorities.

The Chair, CEO, Commission and executive leadership take this opportunity to express gratitude to all AFMA staff for another year of dedication and hard work, delivering tangible benefits for the Australian fishing industry.



Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer
Accountable Authority



Overview of AFMA



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

Our outcome

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

Our objectives

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

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

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

Note 2: The principles of ecologically sustainable development are detailed in section 6A of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

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

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

AFMA monitoring and compliance at a glance



AFMA fisheries officers activities included...



More than 2343 hours of Electronic Monitoring Footage reviewed

Organisational structure

AFMA is organised into four functional areas with the following roles:

- **Fisheries management teams:** Deliver innovative, transparent and flexible regulatory arrangements that ensure sustainability of fish stocks and the broader marine environment, while ensuring that barriers to commercial activity are appropriately mitigated.
- **Fisheries operations teams:** Deliver data led, risk-based monitoring, control and surveillance and enforcement activities to support the integrity of regulatory measures.
- **Fisheries information teams:** Develop new and manage existing information products to inform regulatory practice in fisheries management and fisheries operations teams while administering industry-focused client management.
- **Corporate teams:** Enable and expedite the work of technical fisheries branches through proactive delivery of supporting services and advice.

The AFMA Executive team, comprising the CEO, Deputy CEO, General Manager Fisheries Operations, and the Chief Operating Officer (COO), empowers the functional teams above through strategic leadership and relationship building within government and across industry, other fishing sectors and broader marine environment stakeholders.

Figure 1: AFMA's organisational structure at 30 June 2026

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry The Hon Julie Collins MP			
AFMA Commission Ms Helen Kroger, Mr Wez Norris, Mr Scott Spencer, Mr Brett McCallum, Ms Sevaly Sen, Dr Sally Troy, Dr Ian Dutton			
AFMA Chief Executive Officer Mr Wez Norris			
Fisheries Management Branch	Fisheries Information and Services Branch	Fisheries Operations Branch	Corporate Services Branch
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ms Anna Willock		General Manager Mr Justin Bathurst	Chief Operating Officer Ms Mira Bancelj
Northern Fisheries Senior Manager Mr Brodie MacDonald	Fisheries Data and Licensing Services Senior Manager Mr Andrew Powell	National Compliance Operations Senior Manager Mr Tod Spencer	Legal Services General Counsel Ms Natalie Mogridge
Northern Fisheries Torres Strait Fisheries Senior Manager Mr Ryan Murphy	Electronic Monitoring Senior Manager Mr Tamre Sarhan	International Compliance Operations Senior Manager Mr Brendan Rayner	Finance Chief Finance Officer Ms Ali Clough
Demersal and Midwater Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Sally Weekes		Foreign Compliance Policy Senior Manager Mr David Power	People, Capability and Engagement Senior Manager Ms Jess Hardy
Tuna and International Fisheries Senior Manager Ms Selina Stoute			Technology and Digital Services Chief Information Officer Mr Greg Murphy
Policy, Environment, Economics and Research Senior Manager Ms Fiona Hill			
Climate Adaptation and Strategic Reform Senior Manager Mr Dan Corrie			

Members of the accountable authority

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

The CEO is the Accountable Authority under the PGPA Act as well as the Agency Head under the *Public Service Act 1999* and is also appointed as an AFMA Commissioner. The CEO is responsible for assisting the Commission in giving effect to its decisions.

In addition, the CEO is separately responsible for exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers, and for functions under the *Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984*. The CEO is subject to Ministerial Direction with regard to AFMA's foreign compliance functions, and under the *Public Service Act 1999* is required to be responsive to government in implementing the government's policies and programs.



Members of AFMA's Commission



Ms Helen Kroger
Chair

**Appointed from 1 July 2022
to 30 June 2027**

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



Mr Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

**Appointed from 8 April 2024
to 7 April 2029**

Wez is an AFMA Commissioner and the CEO. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Natural Systems and Wildlife Management from the University of Queensland. He has worked for Queensland Fisheries, previously at AFMA, as the Manager of the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, and then spent ten years at the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency in the Solomon Islands before returning to AFMA as CEO.



Mr Scott Spencer
Member

**Appointed from 1 July 2024
to 30 June 2029**

Scott has over 40 years' experience in natural resource management and public policy development. He is a former Secretary of the Queensland Fish Management Authority, Director General of the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water, Deputy Director-General (Policy) in the Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet and, most recently, Deputy Director General, Fisheries and Forestry within the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. He has held numerous statutory positions including as Commissioner on the then Murray–Darling Basin Commission.



Mr Brett McCallum
Member

**Appointed from 1 July 2024
to 30 June 2029**

Brett has been a director of Bresal Consulting since November 2015. He is a former Deputy Chair of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. He is currently chair of the Western Australian and South Australian Research Advisory Committee, the Australian Aquatic Animal Welfare Strategy Working Group, and the Offshore Snapper Fishery Advisory Committee in the Northern Territory. His expertise covers commercial fisheries management, government policy setting, natural resource management, economics, and business management.



Ms Sevaly Sen
Member

**Appointed from 1 July 2024
to 30 June 2029**

Sevaly is an applied economist with over 30 years' experience in fisheries in Australia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and Asia. Sevaly ran her own consultancy company in the UK, worked for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in southern Africa and the Institute of Fisheries Management in Denmark. She Sevaly runs her own consultancy business. Currently she is a member of the Torres Strait Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group, is advisor to Sydney Fish Market on sustainability issues and coordinates an FRDC sub-program.



Dr Sally Troy
Member

**Appointed from 1 July 2024
to 30 June 2029**

Sally has more than 30 years' of experience in natural resource management focusing on good governance and science-based regulation. She has served on several Boards and national committees and has held senior positions in the Australian Public Service portfolios of Agriculture (including Fisheries), Environment, and the National Oceans Office, and in Victorian Parks management. Sally has significant high-level expertise in governance, policy development and risk-based regulatory systems. She has a PhD in marine science and a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy.



Dr Ian Dutton
Member

**Appointed from 1 July 2024
to 30 June 2029**

Ian is an independent ESG Advisor with 40 years' experience in fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources management. He has held leadership roles in academia, the not-for-profit sector, private and public sectors in Australia, the USA and Asia-Pacific. He is engaged in fisheries research as a Matsumae Fellow at Nihon University, Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and as an editor of the Indonesian Journal of Tropical Marine Science and Technology. He served as Chair of the National Aquaculture Committee of the Australian Fisheries Managers Forum. He holds a PhD from the University of Queensland.



AFMA Commissioners – attendance at Commission meetings

Five Commission meetings were held in 2025–26. The table below shows the number of meetings Commissioners attended.

Table 1: Commissioners’ attendance at Commission meetings

Commissioner	Period as Commissioner within 2025–26	Meetings attended in 2025–26
Ms Helen Kroger	Full year	5
Mr Wez Norris	Full year	5
Mr Scott Spencer	Full year	5
Mr Brett McCallum	Full year	4
Ms Sevaly Sen	Full year	5
Dr Sally Troy	Full year	5
Dr Ian Dutton	Full year	5

Programs administered by AFMA during 2025–26

Domestic compliance program

AFMA's approach to compliance and enforcement is described in the [National Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2025](#), the [National Compliance and Enforcement Program 2025–27](#) and the [National Compliance 2025–27 Risk Assessment Methodology](#). We implement risk-based domestic compliance programs, and participation in the Australian Government's civil maritime surveillance and response arrangements improves management of Australian fish stocks. AFMA also provides fisheries management, licensing and domestic compliance services for the Protected Zone Joint Authority (PZJA) under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984.

International compliance program

Engaging internationally is integral to improving the management of fish stocks within and beyond the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ). Our activities include education, monitoring and enforcement to protect Commonwealth fisheries from illegal fishing, and engaging internationally to provide specialist advice, as well as delivering capacity building programs to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing beyond Australia's borders.

Climate adaptation program

Climate change challenges our understanding of and ability to influence fish stocks and marine ecosystems. AFMA's Climate Adaptation Program is implementing a range of measures to incorporate climate change information and risks into decision-making frameworks, to ensure that management of Commonwealth fisheries is adaptive to the impacts of climate change.

Linked programs

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

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



Annual performance statements



Statement of preparation

I, as the accountable authority of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), present the 2025–26 annual performance statements of AFMA. These statements are prepared for paragraph 39(1) (a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and section 87 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*.

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

Wez Norris
Chief Executive Officer

Overview

The annual performance statements present our achievements against our purpose and performance measure targets, as set out in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26 and our Corporate Plan 2025–2028, which includes our Annual Operational Plan.

In the Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, AFMA's sole outcome (Outcome 1) is 'Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing'.

In 2025–26, we planned to deliver our outcome across 4 goals with 11 performance measures.

Performance summary

Table 2 below provides a summary of our overall performance. Of the 11 measures, 9 were met and 2 were partially met. Detailed analysis is provided from page 20.

Changes to performance measures

There is no change to our performance measures from our 2025–26 Portfolio Budget Statements, Corporate Plan 2025–28 and Annual Report 2024–25.

Performance summary for the 2025–26 reporting period

The following table summarises our performance for the measures and targets we reported in our Corporate Plan 2025–28.

Table 2: Performance summary for the 2025–26 reporting period

Performance measure		2025–26 target		2025–26 result	
		Met	Partially met	Not met	
Goal 1: Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with principles of ecological sustainable development					
Measure 1	Percentage of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determinations, or comparable measures, that are based on scientific assessments by resource assessment groups/ management advisory committees.	Greater than or equal to 95 per cent.	✓		
Measure 2	The number of regulated fisheries assessed in accordance with AFMA's published Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) schedule.	As per published assessment schedule.	✓		
Measure 3	The number of stocks identified as overfished that have specific rebuilding actions in place.	100 per cent of stocks identified as overfished have a specific rebuilding action in place.	✓		
Measure 4	Fisheries that maintain accreditation through compliance with legislative requirements.	100 per cent of fisheries maintain accreditation.	✓		
Goal 2: Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth fisheries					
Measure 5	The number of stocks with target reference points based on Maximum Economic Yield, an agreed proxy thereof, or a multi– stock harvest strategy.	No change or increase.	✓		

Performance measure		2025–26 target		2025–26 result	
		Met	Partially met	Not met	
Measure 6	Net Economic Return as assessed in the ABARES Fishery Status Reports.	Positive trend over rolling 3-year average.		✓	
Goal 3: Compliance with Commonwealth fisheries laws and policies and relevant international fishing obligations and standards					
Measure 7	Identification of priority national compliance risks and development of treatment programs for those priority risks.	100 per cent of published national compliance risks have treatment programs in place.		✓	
Measure 8	Investigation of illegal foreign fishing in Australian waters to support prosecutions.	90 per cent of briefs referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for illegal foreign fishing offences proceed to prosecution.		✓	
Measure 9	Compliance rate with Australia's international fisheries obligations that AFMA implements as assessed by International Fisheries Management Organisations (IFMO)s.	Greater than 90 per cent.		✓	
Goal 4: Deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources					
Measure 10	Cost recovery budget.	At or below 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI.		✓	
Measure 11	Engagement with legislated peak body.	Commonwealth Fisheries Association is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting.		✓	

Corporate Goal No. 1: Management of Commonwealth fisheries consistent with principles of ecological sustainable development

AFMA manages Commonwealth fisheries on the basis that minimising the impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem and ensuring sustainable harvests leads to better ecological and social outcomes for the Australian community. We rely on rigorous science and stakeholder engagement in

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

Performance measure 1: Percentage of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determinations, or comparable measures, that are based on scientific assessments by resource assessment groups/ management advisory committees.		
Rationale	We manage the sustainability of fishing stocks mainly by setting the maximum amount of a particular fish species that can be taken by commercial fishers during a fishing period (known as TAC). Some of the fisheries we manage have Total Allowable Effort (TAE), which is a comparable proxy to a TAC. While all TACs originate from scientific assessments, the nature and regularity of those assessments vary based on several factors, such as the level of take, expected risk and availability of data. We rely on Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) and Management Advisory Committees (MACs) for advice on and review of scientific data and information about the appropriate TAC or TAE for fish-stocks, sub-stocks and species.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statement 2025–26, page 104 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	Greater than or equal to 95 per cent	
Result	Achieved 100 per cent	TARGET MET
Disclosures	Nil	

Analysis

In 2025–26, the AFMA Commission determined TACs or TAEs for all relevant species based on advice provided by the RAG and MAC for the relevant fishery, including most recent scientific assessments and application of fisheries-specific harvest strategies.

In July 2025, the Commission met out of session to determine the TAE for the Northern Prawn Fishery tiger prawn season based on advice from Northern Prawn RAG (May 2025) and Northern Prawn MAC (July 2025).

At its November 2025 meeting, the Commission determined the:

- TAC for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery based on advice from Sub-Antarctic RAG (August 2025), outcomes of the 44th meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (October 2025) and advice from the South MAC (November 2025).
- TACs for the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery based on advice from SARAG (August 2025) and South MAC (November 2025).

- TACs for the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery based on advice from the Southern Bluefin Tuna MAC (September 2025) and the 32nd meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (October 2025).
- TACs for the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery based on advice from the Tropical Tuna RAG (September 2025) and Tropical Tuna MAC (October 2025). TACs for the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery were maintained from 2025.
- TAE for Southern Squid Jig Fishery based on advice from the Squid RAG (October 2025) and Southeast MAC (November 2025).

At its March 2026 meeting, the Commission determined TACs for the:

- Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery based on advice from the South East RAG (October and November 2025, and January 2026), Shark RAG (July and November 2025), and South East MAC (February 2026).
- Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) based on advice from the SPFRAG (December 2025) and South East MAC (February 2026).

At its May 2026 meeting, the Commission determined TACs for the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery based on advice from Scallop RAG (out of session) and Scallop MAC in April 2026.

Performance measure 2: The number of regulated fisheries assessed in accordance with AFMA's published Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) schedule.

Rationale	ERA is a process that evaluates the likelihood that a regulated fishery is experiencing adverse ecological effects as a result of exposure to one or more stressors (for example commercial fishing activity in fisheries). ERAs provide fisheries managers with information about the link between exposure to stressors and effects, enabling managers to compare various scenarios and choose a course of action. We complete ERAs at the fishery (rather than fish species) level. The duration of ERAs varies depending on the complexity of the fisheries, the quality and availability of data, the scope of the ERA, and the number of stakeholders and experts to be consulted. Typically, an ERA takes several months to a year to complete. Hence, ERAs are scheduled so that all Commonwealth fisheries are covered over several years.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 104 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	As per published assessment schedule .	
Result	Completed 4 ERAs	TARGET PARTIALLY MET
Disclosures	Two ERAs reported as complete in 2024–25 (Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery and Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery) were published in 2025–26.	

Analysis

In the ERA reassessment schedule published in March 2025, 4 sectors were listed for reassessment in 2025–26. This target was partially met as only one of the scheduled 4 was completed during the year, 2 were commenced, and one was reprioritised to a future financial year, as explained in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Status of ERAs scheduled to be completed during 2025–26

Sector	Status as at 30 June 2026
Coral Sea – demersal longline / line	Complete
Great Australian Bight Trawl – otter trawl	A draft report has been delivered
Small Pelagic Midwater Trawl	The ERA is progressing, with delivery of a data summary at the end of 2025–26
Coral Sea – sea cucumber	This ERA did not progress during 2025–26. It was deferred under AFMA's risk-based ERA framework to 2028–29. The reassessment was considered a lower priority due to the fishery's low level, stable management arrangements and lack of new risk drivers

We also completed 3 ERAs during 2025–26 that were not on the March 2025 ERA schedule, bringing the total number of ERAs completed during the year to 4. Those 3 are:

- Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery: originally expected to be completed in 2024–25, it was finalised in 2025–26
- Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery – Demersal Longline Fishery: originally expected to be complete in 2024–25, it was finalised in 2025–26
- Small Pelagic Fishery – Purse seine sector: brought forward to 2025–26 following reprioritisation during the year

Performance measure 3: The number of stocks identified as overfished that have specific rebuilding actions in place.		
Rationale	The biological status of a fish stock is assessed based on requirements from the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy, which requires that harvest strategies for commercial fish stocks are implemented and maintained above certain biomass limits to avoid overfishing. The 2018 Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy, which is required to be reviewed 5 years after commencement, is still under review by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Hence, our strategies are subject to change. Fish stocks classified as 'overfished' have a biomass below a certain reference point. Stocks may be able to rebuild from an 'overfished' status. 'Subject to overfishing' is an assessment of whether current levels of fishing mortality (landed catch, discards and other sources of mortality) will cause the stock to become overfished or to fail to recover, if continued in the long term.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 104 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	100 per cent of stocks identified as overfished have a specific rebuilding action in place	
Result	100 per cent	TARGET MET
Disclosures	Our current harvest strategies for Commonwealth fisheries are subject to change because the Harvest Strategy Policy review process (led by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) is still underway. Since 2024–25, we have focused Performance Measure 3 on AFMA's management actions rather than solely on stock status. This approach, introduced following a commitment made in our 2023–24 Annual Report, enables us to report on the actions taken to address stocks identified by ABARES as overfished. While some strategies are currently under development (for jackass morwong and John dory), management actions are in place for all species assessed as overfished to prevent targeted fishing and promote rebuilding.	

Analysis

AFMA recognises 9 stocks or species groups as overfished, meaning that stock biomass is known to be less than the limit reference point of 20% of initial biomass. These stocks, and the actions in place to rebuild them, are summarised in Table 4, below.

Until this year, a tenth stock – school shark – was also considered to be overfished. New scientific advice received from CSIRO in late 2025 found that the stock has been rebuilding significantly faster than anticipated. This modelled rebuild may mean that the stock has already grown above the 20% limit reference point, although further assessment will be required to confirm that.

The status of school shark has therefore improved from overfished to uncertain. This is a significant achievement and comes after over a decade of stringent management actions, strong industry compliance and cooperation and substantial scientific investment. Rebuilding actions remain in place.

The positive results for school shark add to the success of rebuilding strategies, notably southern bluefin tuna and eastern orange roughy, both of which were severely depleted through overfishing, but have since been rebuilt to well above the 20% limit reference point.

Table 4: AFMA's rebuilding strategies or actions for species identified as 'overfished'

Species	Fishery	AFMA agreed status	AFMA rebuilding actions and/or strategies
Blue warehou, eastern zone (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Blue Warehou Rebuilding Strategy 2022
Blue warehou, western zone (<i>Seriolella brama</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Blue Warehou Rebuilding Strategy 2022
Jackass morwong, eastern zone (<i>Nemadactylus macropterus</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Significant effort reduction, spatial closures, conservative bycatch TAC, constraint on key commercial TAC to reduce bycatch, implementation of Electronic Monitoring to improve confidence in total mortality. *
Gemfish, eastern zone (<i>Rexea solandri</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Eastern Gemfish Stock Rebuilding Strategy 2015
Gulper sharks (<i>Centrophorus harrissoni</i> , <i>C. moluccensis</i> , <i>C. zeehaani</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Upper Slope Dogfish Management Strategy 2022
John dory (<i>Zeus faber</i>);	SESSF	Overfished	Significant effort reduction, spatial closures, conservative bycatch TAC, constraint on key commercial TAC to reduce bycatch, implementation of Electronic Monitoring to improve confidence in total mortality. *
Orange roughy, southern zone (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy 2022
Orange roughy, western zone (<i>H. atlanticus</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Orange Roughy Rebuilding Strategy 2022
Redfish (<i>Centroberyx affinis</i>)	SESSF	Overfished	Redfish Rebuilding Strategy 2016–2021

Note *: Specific rebuilding actions are listed for these species, with the rebuilding strategy currently scheduled for development in 2028. Work to inform the rebuilding objectives for Jackass Morwong and John Dory will be undertaken during 2027 and the outcome of this work will be critical to informing the formal rebuilding strategy that is scheduled to be developed in 2028. There is strong evidence that these species are climate impacted and the work to be undertaken during 2027 will document the evidence base for climate impacts, as well as understanding the implications of those impacts on rebuilding targets and timeframes which form the basis for the rebuilding strategy. This timeframe also allows for consultation with the relevant Resource Assessment Groups. While the rebuilding strategy remains under development we have rebuilding actions already in place, as listed above, which will ultimately form part of our rebuilding strategy and in the meantime mitigate the impact of fishing on these species.

We publish the current status of individual species on our website at <https://www.afma.gov.au/species> and we publish the rebuilding strategies we have in place on our website at <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-management/management-tools/rebuilding-strategies>.

Performance measure 4: Fisheries that maintain accreditation through compliance with legislative requirements.		
Rationale	Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) the Australian Government, through the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, holds a legislative responsibility to ensure that all Commonwealth managed fisheries undergo strategic environmental impact assessment before new management arrangements are brought into effect, and all fisheries from which fish are exported undergo assessment to determine the extent to which management arrangements will ensure the fishery is managed in an ecologically sustainable way. The assessments are conducted by the Sustainable Fisheries Section at the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). We assist in the assessment process by preparing submissions against the Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries. We contribute to managing in an ecologically sustainable way by complying with conditions imposed by the DCCEEW assessments.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 104 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	100 per cent of fisheries maintain accreditation	
Result	100 per cent	TARGET MET
Disclosures	Nil	

Analysis

The results of independent assessment of all export and all Australian Government managed fisheries is published at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/marine/fisheries/commonwealth> The results demonstrate that we have done all things necessary to ensure that all relevant fisheries have up-to-date wildlife trade operation certification.

Table 5: Accreditation status of fisheries managed by AFMA at 30 June 2026

AFMA solely managed fisheries	Accredited Yes/No	Fishery export approval expires
Australia's High Seas Permits	Yes	09/10/2026
Bass Strait Scallop Central Zone Fishery	Yes	09/10/2026
Coral Sea Fishery	Yes	07/02/2027
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Yes	09/10/2026
Northern Prawn Fishery	Yes	06/01/2027
Small Pelagic Fishery	Yes	21/10/2026
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	Yes	30/06/2028
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Yes	09/10/2036
Western Trawl Fisheries	Yes	30/11/2026
AFMA jointly managed fisheries	Accredited Yes/No	Fishery export approval expires
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Yes	19/08/2028
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Yes	16/07/2036
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	Yes	09/10/2026
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Yes	11/11/2030
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Yes	26/10/2028

Corporate Goal No. 2: Maximise net economic returns to the Australian community from the management of Commonwealth fisheries

AFMA pursues its economic objective by setting harvest level targets that seek to maintain each key commercial stock at a level that will support the Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) of that stock, as set out in the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy. This level is known as the biomass that Maximises the Economic Yield (B_{MEY}). In some cases, alternative targets to B_{MEY} may be used by AFMA for a range of reasons, including to meet international arrangements, achieve ecological or stock recovery objectives, or seek fishery-wide (rather than species-specific) MEY.

Performance measure 5: The number of stocks with target reference points based on Maximum Economic Yield (MEY), an agreed proxy thereof, or a multi- stock harvest strategy.		
Rationale	This performance measure relates to the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy, which provides a framework that allows a precautionary, evidence-based approach to setting TAC levels in all Commonwealth fisheries on a fishery-by-fishery basis. A target reference point is a benchmark or desired state for a fishery. The target reference point can be defined in several ways including biomass targets (or proxies thereof) relating to maximum economic yield (MEY) or maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for a single species, or fishery-wide MEY/ MSY for fisheries in which the same fishing gear may catch several species simultaneously. We follow the implementation guidelines for the Harvest Strategy Policy when we make decisions about target reference points for our fisheries. We also set TACs at levels aimed at maximising net economic returns whilst maintaining stocks at sustainable levels.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 104 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	No change or increase.	
Result	16	TARGET MET
Disclosures	In our Annual Report 2023–24, we reported that our current harvest strategies for Commonwealth fisheries are subject to change. This is because they depend on the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy. As of 30 June 2026, the Commonwealth Harvest Strategy Policy review, led by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, is not yet complete.	

Analysis

At 30 June 2026, a total of 16 stocks had harvest strategies based on MEY or an agreed proxy. These stocks are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bight Redfish | 9. Pink Ling East |
| 2. Blue Eye Trevalla | 10. School Shark |
| 3. Blue Grenadier | 11. Tiger Flathead |
| 4. Deepwater Flathead | 12. Tiger Prawns (Grooved) |
| 5. Eastern School Whiting | 13. Tiger Prawns (Brown) |
| 6. Gummy Shark | 14. Endeavour Prawn |
| 7. Orange Roughy East | 15. Red Legged Banana Prawn |
| 8. Pink Ling West | 16. Broadbill Swordfish |

The total of 16 stocks was the same in 2024–25 and 2023–24. The 3-year average was 16.

Performance measure 6: Net Economic Return (NER) as assessed in the ABARES Fishery Status Reports.

Rationale The Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy requires AFMA to maximise NER to the Australian community from the management of a fishery. Where feasible, we achieve this by:

- specifying an appropriate catch or effort target for each of the key commercial stocks taken in that fishery, which together across the commercial stocks achieves MEY for the fishery, and
- implementing management measures which do not impede economic efficiency in the fishery.

Source Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 104
AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28

Target Positive trend over rolling 3-year average.

Result	6 fisheries on positive trend	TARGET PARTIALLY MET
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Disclosures The 2026 ABARES fisheries status report was not available at the time of preparation of the performance statements. This performance result is based on the 2025 ABARES fisheries status report.

In our Annual Report 2024–25, we reported that AFMA is working with key stakeholders to improve how we report the NER objective. We reported that the work would be implemented through a new Fishery Management Paper reporting against AFMA’s economic objective. Development of the new Fishery Management Paper is on hold until the review of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 and Guidelines is complete.

For some fisheries NER is not feasible to estimate (for example due to too few boats, the fishery being seasonal, limited data, or confidentiality constraints affecting fisheries). We intend to differentiate these fisheries for reporting purposes. For these fisheries, general economic health (use of proxy NERs, improving, worsening, stable) will be reported based on qualitative information and commentary provided by members of MACs and RAGs and ABARES Fishery Status Reports.¹

Analysis

In the 2025–26 reporting year, the rolling 3-year average, which we planned in our Corporate Plan 2025–28 to report, spans the 2024–25, 2023–24 and 2022–23 financial years. This is because the ABARES Fishery Status Reports report on the prior financial

year. For example, the ABARES Fishery Status Report 2026 reports on fisheries managed in 2024–25. For this year, the 2026 report was not available at the time of completing this report. Thus, while we have included the 2024–25 column for completeness (with

1 Refer [Commission Guidance: Reporting Performance Against AFMA’s Net Economic Returns Objective](#).

N/A specified), the trend information below is based on information from the 2025 ABARES Fishery Status Report.

Over the 3 years to 2023–24, the ABARES Fishery Status Reports have not provided sufficient quantitative information to determine whether the target has been met for all fisheries we manage. Instead, the reports comment on general indications, availability of NER and the likelihood of low or high NER in the most valuable

fisheries managed solely by the Australian Government.

The ABARES Fishery Status Report 2025 showed that there had been a definitive positive trend over the preceding 3 years for 3 fisheries that could be assessed; and a likely high or positive trend for 3 fisheries. One fishery returned a definitively negative NER trend. Table 6 summarises ABARES' commentary on NER for 2021–22, 2022–23 and 2023–24, as 2024–25 is not available.

Table 6: Summary of economic status of Australian Government-managed fisheries in 2025–26

Fishery	Economic status				Three-year trend as of 2025–26 ²
	2024–25 ³	2023–24 ⁴	2022–23 ⁵	2021–22	
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	Not available	Likely positive	Likely positive	Not available	Unable to determine 3-year trend
Coral Sea Fishery	Not available	Likely high	Likely high	Likely high	Likely high
Northern Prawn Fishery	Not available	Still positive, downward trend	Still positive	Still positive, downward trend	Positive
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	Not available	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low
Small Pelagic Fishery	Not available	Likely positive	Likely positive	Likely positive	Likely positive

2 Note that this 3 year trend is the same as that reported in the 2024–25 annual report. An updated trend is not available as the 2026 ABARES fisheries status report is not available at the time of finalisation of this report

3 ABARES Fishery status reports 2026 was not available at time of finalisation of this report.

4 [ABARES Fishery status reports 2025](#), pages 12–13.

5 [ABARES Fishery status reports 2024](#), pages 11–13.

Fishery	Economic status				Three-year trend as of 2025–26 ²
	2024–25 ³	2023–24 ⁴	2022–23 ⁵	2021–22	
SESSF: Commonwealth Trawl and Scalefish Hook sectors ^a	Not available	Negative	Negative	Near zero	Negative
SESSF: East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	Not available	Not expected to be positive	Not expected to be positive	Not expected to be positive	Unable to determine 3-year trend
SESSF: Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Not available	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low
SESSF: Shark Hook and Shark Gillnet sectors ^b	Not available	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Not available	Not available, likely low	Not available	Not available	Unable to determine 3-year trend
Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery	Not available	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery*	Not available	Positive, likely declining	Positive, likely declining	Positive and increasing	Positive
Skipjack Tuna Fishery	Not available	Not available	No recent fishing	No recent fishing	Unable to determine 3-year trend
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery*	Not available	Likely positive	Likely positive	Likely positive	Likely positive
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Not available	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low	Likely low
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Not available	Likely improved, positive	Rising trend	Not available	Unable to determine 3-year trend

Fishery	Economic status				Three-year trend as of 2025–26 ²
	2024–25 ³	2023–24 ⁴	2022–23 ⁵	2021–22	
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Not available	Likely improved, positive	Rising trend	Not available	Unable to determine 3-year trend
CCAMLR exploratory toothfish fisheries	Not available	Potential to generate positive NER	Potential to generate positive NER	Potential to generate positive NER	Unable to determine 3-year trend

NOTES to the table:

- a NER estimates and management costs are only available for the CTS and exclude the Scalefish Hook Sector.
- b NER estimates and management costs are only available for the GHTS, which includes Scalefish Hook Sector catches and gillnet scalefish catches. Statistics are provided by financial year.
- * Major fisheries jointly managed by the Australian Government.

Appropriate management settings help maintain target biomass at levels that maximise economic yield from a fishery. However, ABARES and AFMA recognise that there are factors outside the control of fishery managers (and commercial fishers) that influence the level of NER in a fishery. For example, prices for inputs (such as fuel, labour, compliance), fishery location and supporting infrastructure to transport fish to markets⁶ can make it difficult to maintain a positive NER. Increased global supply of fish, including from an expanding aquaculture industry, and a strong Australian dollar also reduces export competitiveness, reducing NER. Geopolitical tensions, such as the current Middle East regional conflict, can also indirectly affect NER in fisheries, through disrupted trade routes and increased fuel prices, although generally such pressures are less direct and persistent than falling prices, global competition and environmental pressures.

While only the SESSF trawl and hook sector is likely to have negative returns, the overall pattern across fisheries is not positive. Some fisheries that are likely to have low or falling NER (Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery, and Northern Prawn Fishery), are those most exposed to export market risks. Some export-oriented fisheries (like the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery) can still achieve high NER due to premium pricing of tuna. However, NER of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery is more volatile than NER in domestically focused or more diversified fisheries (such as the Small Pelagic fishery).

⁶ Fishery Status Reports 2025, page 14.

Corporate Goal No. 3: Compliance with Commonwealth fisheries laws and policies and relevant international fishing obligations and standards

AFMA applies the principles and strategies outlined in the Australian Fisheries National Compliance Strategy and AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy with a focus on approaches encouraging voluntary compliance by domestic fishers whilst maintaining an enforcement capability to deter conscious non-compliance.

AFMA also leads responses and coordinates action with other government agencies to address threats caused by illegal foreign fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone.

AFMA engages with counterpart countries and international agencies, and actively

participates in international forums, to combat foreign illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in areas on the high seas where Australia has an interest. AFMA also works alongside partners in building regional capacity to address IUU fishing.

AFMA's approach to international compliance is outlined in the International Compliance and Engagement Program (ICEP). The ICEP outlines 5 complementary components designed to effectively detect, deter and respond to IUU fishing in the Australian Fishing Zone and in waters where Australia has an interest.

Performance measure 7: Identification of priority national compliance risks and development of treatment programs for those priority risks.		
Rationale	Commonwealth domestic fisheries rules and regulations are designed to protect fish stocks (which are a public resource), NER to the Australian community, and the broader environment. The National Compliance and Enforcement Policy 2025 explains our compliance and enforcement role and risk-based approach across Commonwealth fisheries. Consistent with the aim of this Policy, which is to effectively deter illegal fishing in Commonwealth fisheries and the Australian Fishing Zone, the National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP) outlines our priorities and objectives for 2025–27. There are 4 main components of the NCEP: education and engagement, monitoring and surveillance, intelligence led, targeted enforcement, and targeted risks. These collectively represent 13 performance targets and threshold bands. Not all these targets have equal impact on deterrence, although we consider all targets to be important to the achievement of NCEP objectives. For example, we set a target of publishing compliance feature articles for all major operations on our website. We also set a target of inspecting 100 per cent of high-risk vessels within the 2-year cycle of the program.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 105 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	100 per cent of published national compliance risks have treatment programs in place.	
Result	2025–27 program published August 2025 and associated treatment programs are ongoing.	TARGET MET
Disclosures	AFMA undertook its bi-annual compliance risk assessment process in May 2025. The results were used to guide the development of its 2025–27 National Compliance and Enforcement Program (NCEP). The 2025–27 NCEP was finalised and published in August 2025 incorporating treatment program targets.	

Analysis

The 2025–27 NCEP program was published August 2025, with associated Compliance Risk Management Teams (CRMTs) having developed treatment plans for each identified priority risk. On this basis, the performance measure is met for 2025–26.

These treatment plans were implemented during 2025–26 with 84.6 per cent (11 out of 13) of the treatment targets met (6) and within threshold (5) as at 30 June 2026.

Table 7: Summary of achievements in 2025–26 under the NCEP Program.

Risk area	Targets met	Targets within threshold	Not Met
Education and communication	1	1	0
Monitoring and Surveillance	1	2	0
Intelligence-led Targeted enforcement	1	2	0
Quota Evasion	0	0	2
Species management Strategies	3	0	0
TOTAL	6	5	2

There were 2 targets which were not met in 2025–26: (1) ‘Monitor the unloads / offloads to report strategies and risk indices of quota evasion’ and (2) ‘Quota evasion detection analysis techniques regularly reviewed’. Both targets were unable to be met due to other, higher priority, compliance activities and the resulting resourcing constraints. This is consistent with AFMA’s broader Compliance Policy and Program principles, where resources are routinely focused on the highest compliance risks and priorities.

Performance measure 8: Investigation of illegal foreign fishing in Australian waters to support prosecutions.		
Rationale	This measure recognises AFMA as the lead Commonwealth agency for fisheries regulation, which includes surveillance and patrol activities targeting illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the AFZ. Australia shares maritime boundaries with a number of countries and works closely with them to detect and respond to fisheries incursions. For example, we share surveillance information relating to fishing activity with France (in the Pacific and Southern Oceans), Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Indonesia and Timor-Leste under bilateral and multilateral arrangements. To address incidents of illegal foreign fishing in the AFZ, we undertake activities within the AFZ, the Torres Strait, the Southern Ocean and in areas of the high seas where Australia has an interest.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 105 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	90 per cent of briefs referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for illegal foreign fishing offences proceed to prosecution.	
Result	98 per cent	TARGET MET
Disclosures	AFMA received additional funding in 2024–25 as part of a Home Affairs sponsored to program combat illegal fishing activity in Australia’s northern waters. This funding included financial support to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Further funding of \$1.92 million continued throughout 2025–26, allowing AFMA to continue a range of initiatives and to support the investigation and prosecution of illegal foreign fishing cases.	

Analysis

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, 98 per cent of all AFMA briefs of evidence for illegal foreign fishing offences referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) resulted in charges being laid and fishers being successfully prosecuted. Two matters were not pursued by the CDPP due to issues associated with evidence handling at the time of interception. To address this issue, AFMA is delivering specific training for on-water crews to improve evidence handling and statement preparation.

During the fourth quarter, 49 Indonesian fishers were prosecuted at court, increasing from 37 in the third quarter. Sentences applied by the courts continue to range from 12-month good behaviour bonds to periods of imprisonment up to 6 months.

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 AFMA referred 38 vessels the subject of legislative forfeiture to Indonesia for flag state investigation through the processes under the Regional Plan of Action for IUU fishing.

An additional 32 vessels detected through aerial surveillance were referred to Indonesia for investigation in accordance with the processes under the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Of these, 4 vessels were submitted to the draft IUU list for the IOTC and 25 vessels were submitted to the WCPFC draft IUU list in 2026. Three of the IOTC cases were resolved, and one vessel progressed to the final IOTC IUU List as a stateless vessel. The 25 Indonesian vessels on the WCPFC draft IUU list will be considered later in 2026.

Performance measure 9: Compliance rate with Australia's international fisheries obligations that AFMA implements as assessed by International Fisheries Management Organisations (IFMOs).

Rationale	Several fish stocks of commercial importance to Australia have ranges extending outside the AFZ into the high seas and the Exclusive Economic Zones of other countries. These stocks are important for Australia in providing economic benefits for the Australian fishing industry. They require regional cooperative action for effective management. This measure recognises our part in shared management responsibility for compliance with international instruments (conventions and agreements), which are often implemented through an international fisheries management organisation (IFMO) or other international body. As a party to these international instruments, Australia implements measures agreed by the relevant body in managing its domestic fisheries.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 105 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	Greater than 90 per cent.	
Result	100 per cent	TARGET MET
Disclosures	In our Annual Report 2024–25, we reported hindrances preventing us from achieving 100 per cent. This year we had no compliance issues and achieved 100 percent compliance. One complexity to note is that that the compliance assessment periods for various IFMOs do not always align with Australia's current fishing season and the dates those assessments are finalised vary throughout the year.	

Analysis

This performance target was met. A 100 per cent compliance rate for financial year 2025–26 was achieved. The end of year result in 2024–25 was 99 per cent against a target of greater than 90 percent.

The table below outlines the most recent fishing periods that were assessed in relation to AFMA's compliance rate during this period and includes a brief summary of any compliance issues raised by the IFMO Secretariat (which would translate to a compliance rate less than 100 percent).

Table 8: Summary of fishing periods assessed to report compliance with IFMO obligations

IFMO	Date assessment was finalised	Fishing period assessed
CCAMLR	6 August 2025	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025
CCSBT	9 October 2025	Fishing Season 1 December – 30 November Compliance Assessed from 1 January – 31 December 2024
IOTC	N/A	The IOTC Compliance Report for 2024–25 that was to be finalised by May 2026 has been delayed by the IOTC until January 2027.
SIOFA	10 July 2026	1 January – 31 December 2025
SPRFMO	6 March 2026	1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025
WCPFC	5 December 2025	1 January – 31 December 2024

Corporate Goal No. 4: Deliver effective, cost efficient and accountable management of Commonwealth fisheries resources

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

Pursuing initiatives to reduce regulation and administrative burden on those we regulate and applying the data we collect to better inform our stakeholders and support our science-based fisheries management decisions provides further opportunities to improve transparency and

accountability. The Australian Government committed to investment of \$20.1 million over 4 years, commencing 2021–22, to reduce regulatory burden, increase productivity and improve environmental outcomes across Commonwealth fisheries.

AFMA works with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for additional, formal co-management arrangements, in line with *Fisheries Management Paper 17: Co-management in Commonwealth fisheries*. Enhancing our stakeholder engagement, including through meaningful consultation processes with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA), applying appropriate communication tools and increasing the level of public reporting supports accountability to our stakeholders.

Performance measure 10: Cost recovery budget.		
Rationale	This measure addresses our goal to deliver effective and cost-efficient fisheries management. This involves making proper use of available resources (people, money and other supplies) to achieve government policy outcomes. Under the Cost Recovery Policy that AFMA is required to apply, the Commonwealth commercial fishing industry pays for costs directly attributable to the fishing industry while the Australian Government pays for any costs identified as more directly benefiting the broader community.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 106 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	At or below 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI.	
Result	Below 2005–06 once adjusted for CPI	TARGET MET
Disclosures	Nil	

Analysis

As in previous years, our expenditure against cost-recovered activities is well below the benchmark. While we consistently meet the commitment to industry that levies will not rise above a certain point, there is a natural limit to the efficiencies which this benchmark will continue to drive.

Performance measure 11: Engagement with legislated peak body.

Rationale	Transparency is about openness, two-way communication and a willingness to explain activities and actions. It allows appropriate scrutiny of government activities, decisions, and processes by providing access to information. Our efforts to be a best practice accountable regulator involve being transparent, open, and responsive to feedback on how we operate. The Commonwealth Fisheries Association is the peak body representing the collective rights, responsibilities and interests of a diverse commercial fishing industry in Commonwealth regulated fisheries.	
Source	Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26, page 106 AFMA Corporate Plan 2025–28	
Target	Commonwealth Fisheries Association is satisfied that meaningful opportunity is given to contribute to planning, delivery, and reporting.	
Result	CFA is satisfied	TARGET MET
Disclosures	Nil	

Analysis

We engage with the CFA on our priorities and strategic issues as we develop our corporate plan, annual operational plan and Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS). The CFA also engages with the AFMA Commission by attending formal Commission meetings. We provide guidance and information about our processes and requirements on our website.

When consulted on the effectiveness of this engagement, the CFA Chair noted that during the financial year AFMA provided meaningful opportunities for CFA and its members to contribute across a broad range of operational, policy and strategic matters. The Chair further highlighted the considerable interactions between AFMA and individual CFA members at the operational level, meaningful engagement by AFMA in

developing the CRIS, and the opportunity to engage on matters of strategic importance to the longer-term security, productivity and viability of Australian fisheries.

Specifically, the Chair noted that “...CFA considers that the performance measure has been met for the 2025-26 reporting period.”

The CFA also noted opportunities to continue strengthening the relationship and highlighted the importance of early engagement on key issues (especially where decisions have the potential to materially affect fishing businesses, access, regulatory costs or the longer-term security of Commonwealth fisheries) and providing sufficient information and consideration time for contributions. AFMA remains committed to meaningful engagement with industry, including on contentious topics where there are differences of view.



Report on financial performance



Departmental operating results

The 2025–26 full-year result was a surplus of \$1.2 million, or \$2.1 million after excluding unfunded depreciation and amortisation and the impacts of accounting adjustments under the AASB Standard 16 Leases.

The Department of Finance approved a \$0.8 million operating loss for AFMA for 2025–26 to accommodate technical accounting pressures; this was approved prior to realisation of savings.

Departmental assets and liabilities

As at 30 June 2026, AFMA reported net assets of \$20.1 million. AFMA has sufficient financial and non-financial assets to settle payables as and when they fall due.

Non-financial assets owned by AFMA are valued at \$13.7 million and consist of land, buildings, plant and equipment, computer software and Other non-financial assets.

Administered income and expenses

During 2025–26, AFMA administered expenses on behalf of the Commonwealth Government totalled \$1.6 million. This relates to the caretaking and disposal of illegal foreign fishing vessels.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2026:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2026 and for the year then ended:

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

Basis for opinion

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

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result

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of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

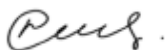
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that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

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

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

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

Australian National Audit Office



Naveed Nisar
Audit Principal
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
11 September 2026

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Financial Statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Contents

For the period ended 30 June 2026

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Statement by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer
For the period ended 30 June 2026

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

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



Wez Norris

Chief Executive Officer

11 September 2026



Ali Clough

Chief Financial Officer

11 September 2026

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the period ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	2026 Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	24,527	23,572	25,680
Suppliers	1.1B	21,660	23,568	22,726
Depreciation and amortisation	2.2A	2,443	2,407	3,125
Finance costs	1.1C	131	160	80
Impairment loss on financial instruments		81	31	-
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	1	423	-
Foreign exchange losses		5	14	-
Total expenses		48,848	50,175	51,611
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	5,375	5,578	4,948
Rental income	1.2B	148	115	137
Other revenue	1.2C	16,630	15,590	16,417
Total own-source revenue		22,153	21,283	21,502
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		(26,695)	(28,892)	(30,109)
Revenue from Government	1.2D	27,889	29,608	28,497
Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations		1,194	716	(1,612)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items not subject to subsequent reclassifications to net cost of services				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		-	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		1,194	716	(1,612)

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

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

Employee benefits were \$1.2 million lower than original budget primarily due to staff turnover and recruitment delays.

Supplier expenses were \$1.1 million lower than original budget primarily due to a research saving of \$0.4 million as a project did not proceed, travel savings of \$0.3 million as meetings were held virtually and staff related savings of \$0.3 million related to training, development and relocations.

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	2.1A	20,472	16,001	12,709
Trade and other receivables	2.1B	1,833	2,789	1,503
Total financial assets		22,305	18,790	14,212
Non-financial assets¹				
Land	2.2A	2,475	2,475	2,475
Buildings	2.2A	6,720	8,396	6,549
Plant and equipment	2.2A	808	672	850
Computer software	2.2A	3,193	3,730	3,855
Other non-financial assets	2.2B	535	274	497
Total non-financial assets		13,731	15,547	14,226
Total assets		36,036	34,337	28,438
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	2.3A	5,909	5,755	2,838
Other payables	2.3B	816	721	2,175
Total payables		6,725	6,476	5,013
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	2.4A	2,811	3,909	2,314
Total interest bearing liabilities		2,811	3,909	2,314
Provisions				
Employee provisions	5.1A	6,210	5,353	5,579
Other provisions	2.5A	194	192	189
Total provisions		6,404	5,545	5,768
Total liabilities		15,940	15,930	13,095
Net assets		20,096	18,407	15,343
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		19,688	19,193	19,687
Reserves		2,897	6,395	6,395
(Accumulated deficit)		(2,489)	(7,181)	(10,739)
Total equity		20,096	18,407	15,343

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

¹ Right-of-use assets are included in the following line items: Buildings, and Plant and Equipment.

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

Cash and cash equivalents were \$7.7 million higher than original budget due to current year and prior year operating results increasing cash reserves.

Total payables were \$1.7 million higher than original budget primarily due to the timing of payments to suppliers consisting of accruals, and payment from customers consisting of unearned revenue.

Reserves were \$3.5 million lower than original budget due to a transfer from the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

Accumulated Deficit was \$8.3 million higher than original budget due to the current year and prior year operating results, and the Asset Revaluation Reserve transfer.

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance as at 1 July			
Balance carried forward from previous period	19,193	20,337	19,192
Adjusted opening balance	19,193	20,337	19,192
Transactions with owners			
Return of equity	-	(5,847)	-
Contributions by owners			
Departmental capital budget	495	4,703	495
Total transactions with owners	495	(1,144)	495
Closing balance as at 30 June	19,688	19,193	19,687
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance as at 1 July			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(7,181)	(7,894)	(9,127)
Asset Revaluation Reserve transfer	3,498	(3)	-
Adjusted opening balance	(3,683)	(7,897)	(9,127)
Comprehensive income			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	1,194	716	(1,612)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	1,194	716	(1,612)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(2,489)	(7,181)	(10,739)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance as at 1 July			
Balance carried forward from previous period	6,395	6,395	6,395
Asset Revaluation Reserve transfer	(3,498)	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	2,897	6,395	6,395
Comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	2,897	6,395	6,395
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance as at 1 July			
Balance carried forward from previous period	18,407	18,838	16,460
Adjustment for errors	-	(3)	-
Adjusted opening balance	18,407	18,835	16,460
Comprehensive income/(loss)			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	1,194	716	(1,612)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	1,194	716	(1,612)
Transactions with owners			
Return of equity	-	(5,847)	-
Contributions by owners			
Departmental capital budget	495	4,703	495
Total transactions with owners	495	(1,144)	495
Closing balance as at 30 June	20,096	18,407	15,343

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the period ended 30 June 2026

Accounting policy

Equity injections

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

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

Retained Earnings were \$8.3 million higher than original budget due to the current year and prior year operating results, and the Asset Revaluation Reserve transfer.

Asset Revaluation Reserve was \$3.5 million lower than original budget due to a transfer to Retained Earnings.

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Cash Flow Statement

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Appropriations	27,889	29,608	28,497
Sales of goods and rendering of services	6,725	6,118	5,594
Net GST received	1,933	2,296	1,737
Levies and licence fees	16,476	14,725	16,372
Total cash received	53,023	52,747	52,200
Cash used			
Employees	23,575	23,420	25,680
Suppliers	23,716	25,064	24,927
Interest payments on lease liabilities	129	158	80
Total cash used	47,420	48,642	50,687
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	5,603	4,105	1,513
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	776	1,932	795
Total cash used	776	1,932	795
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(776)	(1,932)	(795)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity	756	1,742	495
Total cash received	756	1,742	495
Cash used			
Principal payments of lease liabilities	1,112	1,223	1,513
Net cash used	1,112	1,223	1,513
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(356)	519	(1,018)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	4,471	2,692	(300)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	16,001	13,309	13,009
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	20,472	16,001	12,709

2.1A

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

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

The net increase in cash held during the current year is a result of the factors described in the above statements.

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**Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income**

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Suppliers		1,653	592	6,389
Total expenses		1,653	592	6,389
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Fees and fines		12	9	-
Total non-taxation revenue		12	9	-
Total revenue		12	9	-
Total income		12	9	-
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		(1,641)	(583)	(6,389)
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,641)	(583)	(6,389)

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

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

Suppliers expenses were \$4.7 million lower than original budget primarily due to fewer illegal foreign fishing vessel apprehensions than anticipated.

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**Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities**

As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Trade and other receivables	3.1A	21	5	185
Total financial assets		21	5	185
Total assets administered on behalf of Government				
		21	5	185
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.2A	26	1	1,644
Total payables		26	1	1,644
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government				
		26	1	1,644
Net assets/(liabilities)		(5)	4	(1,459)

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

Budget variances commentary

All variances +/- 10% for the relevant category and +/- \$1.0 million are considered significant and explained below.

Suppliers payables were \$1.6 million lower than original budget primarily due to fewer illegal foreign fishing vessel apprehensions than anticipated.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Administered Reconciliation Schedule

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July	4	(1,460)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services		
Income	12	9
Expenses	(1,653)	(592)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government		
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account		
Annual appropriations	1,645	2,057
Appropriation transfers to Official Public Account		
Transfers to Official Public Account	(13)	(10)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	(5)	4

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

Accounting policies

Administered cash transfers to and from the Official Public Account

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

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Administered Cash Flow Statement
For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Fees	12	38	-
Net GST received	(1)	148	-
Total cash received	<u>11</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash used			
Suppliers	1,643	2,233	6,389
Total cash used	<u>1,643</u>	<u>2,233</u>	<u>(6,389)</u>
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	<u>(1,632)</u>	<u>(2,047)</u>	<u>(6,389)</u>
Cash from Official Public Account			
Appropriations	1,645	2,057	6,389
Total cash from official public account	<u>1,645</u>	<u>2,057</u>	<u>6,389</u>
Cash to Official Public Account			
Appropriations	(13)	(10)	-
Total cash to official public account	<u>(13)</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.			

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Overview

Objectives of AFMA

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

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

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

AFMA conducts the following administered activity on behalf of the Government: Illegal Foreign Fishing Vessel Caretaking and Disposal.

The continued existence of AFMA in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for AFMA's administration and programs.

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

Basis of preparation

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

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

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

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

Cost recovery

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

AFMA collects levy amounts prescribed under the *Fishing Levy Amendment (2025-26 Levy Amounts) Regulations 2026* (Fishing Levy Regulations) and the *Fisheries Levy (Torres Strait Prawn Fishery) Amendment (Levy Amount) Regulations 2025* (TSPF Levy). Amounts prescribed in the Fishing Levy Regulations are collected in three equal instalments in January, April and May, while amounts prescribed in the TSPF Levy is collected in one instalment in April.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

New accounting standards

AFMA considered all new, revised and amended accounting standards and interpretations issued prior to the signing date and applicable to the current reporting period. These standards did not have a material impact on AFMA's financial statements.

There are no amended standards issued prior to signing of the financial statements that were applicable to the current reporting period.

Taxation

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

Reporting of administered activities

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

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

Events after the reporting period

There have been no significant events after the reporting period that impact on the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Notes to the financial statements
For the period ended 30 June 2026

Financial performance

This section analyses the financial performance of AFMA for the year ended 30 June 2026.

1.1: Expenses

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	18,850	18,420
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	2,699	2,535
Defined benefit plans	508	641
Leave and other entitlements	2,470	1,976
Total employee benefits	24,527	23,572

Accounting Policy

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

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Building repairs and outgoings	472	506
Consultants	1,596	1,334
Contractors	3,690	6,888
Resources received free of charge	45	45
General administrative	876	1,037
IT services	2,914	3,381
Research	4,450	4,571
Surveillance and compliance	4,929	2,983
Travel and meetings	1,822	1,955
Training and development	185	163
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	20,979	22,863
Goods supplied	169	128
Services rendered	20,810	22,735
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	20,979	22,863

Other suppliers

Workers compensation expenses	476	556
Short-term leases	205	149
Total other suppliers	681	705
Total suppliers	21,660	23,568

AFMA has nil short-term lease commitments as at 30 June 2026.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

AFMA has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000 per asset). AFMA recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.1C: Finance costs

Interest on lease liabilities	129	158
Unwinding of discount	2	2
Total finance costs	131	160

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
1.1D: Write-down and impairment of other assets		
Impairment of intangible assets	1	30
Write-down of non-financial assets	-	393
Total write-down and impairment of assets	1	423
1.2: Own-source revenue		
1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers		
Rendering of services	5,375	5,578
Total revenue from contracts with customers	5,375	5,578
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Major product / service line		
Regulatory services	4,023	4,143
Other revenue	1,352	1,435
	5,375	5,578

Accounting policy

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

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

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which the Entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 28 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

1.2B: Rental income

Subleasing right-of-use assets	148	115
Total rental income	148	115

Operating Leases

AFMA, in its capacity as a lessor, sub-leases office accommodation on Thursday Island. As at 30 June 2026, there are two sub-lease arrangements: one expiring in June 2030 and one in January 2032. Rental income is paid one year in advance.

Maturity analysis of operating lease receivables

Within 1 year	153	120
One to two years	157	123
Two to three years	160	127
Three to four years	164	131
Four to five years	139	135
More than 5 years	143	282
Total undiscounted lease payments receivable	916	918

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
1.2C: Other revenue		
Levies and licensing charges	16,585	14,728
Resources received free of charge	45	45
Other revenue	-	817
Total other revenue	16,630	15,590

Accounting policy

Levies and licensing charges

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

Resources received free of charge

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

1.2D: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations	27,889	29,608
Total revenue from Government	27,889	29,608

Accounting policy

Revenue from Government

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Financial position

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

2.1: Financial assets

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
2.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in special accounts	18,330	14,941
Cash on hand or on deposit	<u>2,142</u>	<u>1,060</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>20,472</u>	<u>16,001</u>

The closing balance of Cash in special accounts does not include amounts held in trust: [\$30,000 in 2026 and \$10,000 in 2025]. See note 4.2 Special Accounts and 7.2 Assets Held in Trust for more information.

Accounting policy

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

- cash on hand;
- demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value; and
- cash in special accounts.

2.1B: Trade and other receivables

Goods and services receivables

Goods and services ¹	<u>581</u>	<u>1,321</u>
Total goods and services receivables	<u>581</u>	<u>1,321</u>

Appropriation receivables

Appropriation receivable	<u>90</u>	<u>351</u>
Total appropriation receivables	<u>90</u>	<u>351</u>

Other receivables

Accrued revenue	606	538
Statutory receivables	<u>556</u>	<u>579</u>
Total other receivables	<u>1,162</u>	<u>1,117</u>
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>1,833</u>	<u>2,789</u>

¹ A receivable of \$55,285 was recognised at 30 June 2026 (2025: \$67,160) in relation to overpayment recoveries from key management personnel. See note 5.2 Key management personnel remuneration for more information.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 28 days for 2026 (2025: 30 days).

Accounting policy

Financial assets

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

2.2: Non-financial assets

2.2A: Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment, and intangibles¹

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property plant and equipment for 2026

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer software \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2025					
Gross book value	2,475	16,099	1,235	10,145	29,954
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(7,703)	(563)	(6,415)	(14,681)
Total as at 1 July 2025	2,475	8,396	672	3,730	15,273
Additions					
Purchase	-	-	419	-	419
Reclassification of assets	-	-	-	(68)	(68)
Minor cost adjustments	-	16	-	-	16
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(677)	(256)	(469)	(1,402)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	-	(1,015)	(26)	-	(1,041)
Disposals	-	-	(1)	-	(1)
Total as at 30 June 2026	2,475	6,720	808	3,193	13,196
Total as at 30 June 2026 represented by					
Gross book value	2,475	15,923	1,630	10,065	30,093
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(9,203)	(822)	(6,872)	(16,897)
Total as at 30 June 2026	2,475	6,720	808	3,193	13,196
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	2,431	28	-	2,459

1. The above table discloses property, plant and equipment not subject to operating leases

Revaluations of non-financial assets and intangible assets

All assets, excluding intangibles and ROU assets, were revalued as at 30 June 2023 by an independent valuer. No revaluations were undertaken as at 30 June 2026.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment

As at 30 June 2026 AFMA has contractual capital commitments of \$142,407 (2025: \$447,145). The 30 June 2026 contractual capital commitment relates to plant and equipment.

Accounting policy

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

Asset recognition threshold

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

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Lease Right of Use (ROU) Assets

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

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

Revaluations

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

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

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

	2026	2025
Buildings on freehold land	40 to 60 years	40 to 60 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and Equipment	3 to 15 years	3 to 15 years

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

Impairment

All cash-generating assets and assets held at cost, including intangibles and ROU assets, were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2026. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount. For non-cash generating assets held at fair value, the recoverable amount is expected to be materially the same as fair value at 30 June 2026.

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

Derecognition

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Intangibles

AFMA's intangibles comprise purchased and internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of AFMA's software assets are 3 to 10 years (2025: 3 to 10 years). All software assets were assessed for indicators of impairment as at 30 June 2026.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2026.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
2.2B: Other non-financial assets		
Prepayments	535	274
Total other non-financial assets	535	274

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

2.3: Payables

2.3A: Suppliers

Trade creditors	239	913
Accrued expenses	3,482	2,959
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	2,188	1,883
Total suppliers	5,909	5,755

Settlement is usually made within 20 days (2025: 20 days) or 5 days for eInvoicing through the Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line (PEPPOL) framework.

The contract liabilities from contracts with customers are associated with amounts received in advance from other Australian Government entities.

Refer note 2.1B for information relating to contract assets from contracts with customers.

2.3B: Other payables

Salaries and wages	816	721
Total other payables	816	721

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

2.4: Interest bearing liabilities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
2.4A: Leases		
Lease liabilities	2,811	3,909
Total leases	2,811	3,909
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	1,283	1,238
Between 1 to 5 years	1,650	2,924
Total leases	2,933	4,162

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2026 was \$1,243,000 (2025: \$1,347,000)

AFMA in its capacity as lessee has a significant leasing arrangement for its Canberra office at Majura Park. The office accommodation is leased under a lease agreement that expires in November 2028. Lease payments are subject to annual increases in accordance with contractual escalation clauses. The arrangement includes an option to extend the lease term but does not provide AFMA with an option to purchase the property. The lease restricts the use of the premises to office and administrative purposes.

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

Accounting policy

For all new contracts entered into, AFMA considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the department's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

2.5: Other provisions

	Provision for restoration \$'000	Total other provisions \$'000
2.5A: Other provisions		
As at 1 July 2025	192	192
Unwinding of discount or change in discount rate	2	2
Total as at 30 June 2026	194	194

AFMA currently has 1 (2025: 1) agreement for the leasing of premises which has provisions requiring AFMA to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. AFMA has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation for the 15 Lancaster Place, Majura Park office in Canberra.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Assets and liabilities administered on behalf of the Government

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

3.1: Administered - financial assets

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
3.1A: Trade and other receivables		
Other receivables		
Fees and charges receivable	27	28
Statutory receivables	17	1
Total other receivables	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	<u>44</u>	<u>29</u>
Less impairment allowance loss	(23)	(24)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>

Credit terms for fees and charges were within 28 days (2025: 30 days).

3.2: Administered - payables

3.2A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	10	-
Statutory payables	16	1
Total suppliers	<u>26</u>	<u>1</u>

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Funding

This section identifies AFMA's funding structure.

4.1: Appropriations

4.1A: Annual appropriations

Annual appropriations for 2026

	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2026 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ¹ \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	27,889	-	27,889	27,889	-
Capital budget ²	495	-	495	756	(261)
Total departmental	28,384	-	28,384	28,645	(261)
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	6,389	-	6,389	1,645	4,744
Total administered	6,389	-	6,389	1,645	4,744

¹ The variance of \$4,744,000 for Administered items is comprised of unspent current year appropriations and will be returned to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

² Departmental Capital Budgets (DCB) are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No. 1 and 3). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

Annual appropriations for 2025

	Annual Appropriation \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ¹ \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2025 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ² \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	27,741	1,867	29,608	29,608	-
Capital budget ³	4,703	(2,611)	2,092	1,741	351
Total departmental	32,444	(744)	31,700	31,349	351
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	6,265	-	6,265	2,057	4,208
Total administered	6,265	-	6,265	2,057	4,208

¹ In 2024-25, the adjustment to appropriations reflects a reclassification of funding \$1,867,000 from Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) to Departmental operating funding, and a movement of funds to 2025-26 (\$744,000). The movements are reflected in the *Appropriation Bill (3) 2024-25*.

² The variance of \$4,208,000 for Administered funds is comprised of unspent current year appropriations and will be returned to consolidated revenue.

³ Departmental Capital Budgets (DCB) are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No 1 and 3). They form part of ordinary annual services and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
4.1B: Unspent annual appropriations		
Departmental		
Cash at bank	2,142	1,060
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-25 - Departmental Capital Budget (DCB)	-	351
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-26 - Departmental Capital Budget (DCB)	90	-
Total departmental	2,232	1,411
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No.1) 2023-24	4,943	4,943
Appropriation Act (No.1) 2024-25	4,208	4,208
Appropriation Act (No.1) 2025-26	2,713	-
Supply Act (No. 1) 2025-2026	2,031	-
Total administered	13,895	9,151

4.2: Special accounts

	AFMA Special Account (Departmental) ¹		AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money) ²	
	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	16,001	13,309	10	-
Increases				
Appropriation for the reporting period	28,645	31,349	-	-
Levies and licensing charges (<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991 - Section 94C</i>)	16,476	14,725	-	-
Other increases	8,658	8,415	20	10
Total increases	53,779	54,489	20	10
Available for payments	69,780	67,798	30	10
Decreases				
Employee payments	(23,575)	(23,420)	-	-
Supplier payments	(23,716)	(25,064)	-	-
Interest payments on lease liabilities	(129)	(158)	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(776)	(1,932)	-	-
Principal repayments on lease liabilities	(1,112)	(1,223)	-	-
Repayments debited from the special account	-	-	-	-
Total decrease	(49,308)	(51,797)	-	-
Total balance carried to the next period	20,472	16,001	30	10
Balance represented by:				
Cash held in AFMA bank accounts	2,142	1,060	30	10
Cash held in the Official Public Account	18,330	14,941	-	-
Total balance carried to the next period	20,472	16,001	30	10

¹ Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 80*.

Establishing Instrument: *Fisheries Administration Act 1991 section 94B*.

Purpose: Payment or discharge of the costs, expenses or other obligations incurred in the performance or exercise of the functions and powers of the Authority.

² Appropriation: AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account (Special Public Money),

Establishing Instrument: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 78*.

Purpose: For amounts that are held on trust or otherwise for the benefit of a person other than the Commonwealth.

The closing balance of AFMA Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys Special Account represents amounts held in trust. See note 7.2A Assets Held in Trust for more information.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

4.3: Regulatory charging summary

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Amounts applied		
Departmental		
Special appropriations (including special accounts)	17,414	15,376
Total amounts applied	17,414	15,376
Expenses		
Departmental	16,009	15,816
Total expenses	16,009	15,816
External revenue		
Departmental	17,414	15,376
Total external revenue	17,414	15,376

Regulatory charging activities:

- management of domestic commercial fisheries
- data collection and management
- licensing administration and revenue collection
- research
- policy support

Documentation (Cost Recovery Implementation Statement) for the above activities is available at <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-10/2025-26-Cost-Recovery-Implementation-Statement.pdf>

4.4: Net cash appropriation arrangements

Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,194	716
Plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	958	858
Plus: depreciation of right-of-use assets ²	1,041	1,182
Less: lease principal repayments ²	(1,112)	(1,223)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	2,081	1,533

- From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities and selected corporate Commonwealth entities were replaced with a separate capital budget provided through equity appropriations. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.
Depreciation and amortisation expenditure represented above refers to the Government funded portion of AFMA's total depreciation and amortisation charges. AFMA's depreciation charges funded by cost recovery arrangements for 2025-26 was \$446,000 (2024-25: \$367,000).
- The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to ROU leased assets and the lease liability principal repayment amount reflects the impact of AASB 16 *Leases*, which does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

People and relationships

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

5.1: Employee provisions

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
5.1A: Employee provisions		
Leave	<u>6,210</u>	<u>5,353</u>
Total employee provisions	<u>6,210</u>	<u>5,353</u>

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

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

Leave

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

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

The liability for long service leave has been determined by reference to the 'short-hand method' as outlined in the Resource Management Guide No. 125 - Commonwealth Entities Financial Statements Guide as at 30 June 2026. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation and is discounted using the 10-year Government bond rate at 30 June 2026.

Separation and redundancy

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

Superannuation

AFMA's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation (PSS), the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap) or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

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

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

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

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

5.2: Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of AFMA, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of AFMA. AFMA has determined the key management personnel to be Commissioners, Executive Officers, General Managers and the Chief Executive Officer. Key management personnel remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,592	1,525
Post-employment benefits	194	188
Other long-term employee benefits	45	41
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,831	1,754

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 10 (2025:10).

¹ The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by AFMA.

In 2025, it was identified that the calculation of remuneration since the 2018-19 financial year had resulted in overpayments of \$67,160. Recovery actions are ongoing, with an amount of \$55,285 recognised as a receivable as at 30 June 2026 (2025: \$67,160), refer note 2.1.

5.3: Related party disclosures

Related party relationships

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

Transactions with related parties

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

Significant transactions with related parties can include:

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

Giving consideration to relationships with related entities, and transactions entered during the reporting period by AFMA, it has been determined that there are no related party transactions to be separately disclosed, with the exception of the \$55,285 (2025: \$67,160) owing from key management personnel in respect of remuneration overpayments. Recovery action is ongoing and repayments of \$11,874 were received during 2025-26.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Managing uncertainties

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

6.1: Contingent assets and liabilities

Quantifiable contingencies

AFMA has no quantifiable contingent assets and contingent liabilities at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

Unquantifiable contingencies

AFMA has no unquantifiable contingent assets and contingent liabilities at 30 June 2026 (2025: nil).

Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

6.2: Financial instruments

AFMA's financial assets consist of cash and cash equivalents, accrued revenues and statutory receivables. Receivables for statutory charges are not financial instruments. Examples of statutory charges include GST, levies, rates and fines. However, the initial recognition and measurement of statutory receivables is treated as if they are financial instruments under AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.

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

Accounting policy

Financial assets

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

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

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

Comparatives have not been restated on initial application.

Financial assets at amortised cost

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

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

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Effective interest method

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Impairment of financial assets (continued)

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

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

Financial liabilities

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

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

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

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

Australian Fisheries Management Authority Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

Other information

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

7.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	20,472	16,001
Trade and other receivables	1,833	2,789
Other non-financial assets	535	274
Total no more than 12 months	22,840	19,064
More than 12 months		
Land	2,475	2,475
Buildings	6,720	8,396
Plant and equipment	808	672
Computer software	3,193	3,730
Total more than 12 months	13,196	15,273
Total assets	36,036	34,337
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	5,909	5,755
Other payables	816	721
Leases	1,161	985
Employee provisions	2,480	2,043
Total no more than 12 months	10,366	9,504
More than 12 months		
Leases	1,650	2,924
Employee provisions	3,730	3,310
Other provisions	194	192
Total more than 12 months	5,574	6,426
Total liabilities	15,940	15,930

7.1B: Administered - current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Trade and other receivables	21	5
Total no more than 12 months	21	5
Total assets	21	5
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	26	1
Total no more than 12 months	26	1
Total liabilities	26	1

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 30 June 2026

7.2: Assets held in trust

The trust account was established under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 78*. Its purpose is to hold and administer amounts received by AFMA on trust, or otherwise for the benefit of parties other than the Commonwealth. Funds held in this account are not available for AFMA's own operations and are managed in accordance with the relevant trust arrangements, legislative requirements, and obligations attached to the monies received.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Monetary assets		
Cash at bank - monetary asset		
As at 1 July	10	-
Receipts	20	10
Payments	-	-
As at 30 June	30	10
Total monetary assets held in trust	30	10

Financial assets held in trust are also disclosed in note 4.2 Special accounts.



Management and accountability

Corporate governance

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry appoints the chair, part-time Commissioners and the CEO. Following advice from the chair, the minister appoints a part-time commissioner as deputy chair. The minister is also the approving authority for AFMA's corporate plan, annual operational plan and all Fishery Management Plans determined by AFMA.

Our CEO is responsible for performing and exercising AFMA's foreign compliance functions and powers and assisting the Commission, including giving effect to the decisions of the Commission. Our staff are responsible for supporting the CEO to meet the CEO's responsibilities as AFMA's accountable authority under the PGPA Act and the agency head for the purposes of the *Public Service Act 1999*. The Commission is subject to limited government policy direction as stated in section 91 of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* (FAA).

The Commission is responsible for performing and exercising the domestic fisheries management functions and powers of AFMA. The AFMA Commission oversees AFMA's domestic fisheries management functions including the determination of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and Total Allowable Efforts (TAEs), and domestic

compliance and monitoring programs. The Commission comprises the CEO and six independent Commissioners with expertise in natural resource management, economics, legal and governance matters, research and fishing industry operations.

External advisory committees

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

Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) cover each fishery. These groups provide advice and recommendations to management advisory committees, AFMA management, the AFMA Commission and the AFMA Research Committee on the status of fish stocks, substocks, species (target and non-target), fishery economics and on the impact of fishing on the marine environment. These groups also give advice on the type of information required for specific stock assessments.

Members of these groups include fishery scientists, industry members, fishery economists, AFMA management and other interest groups.

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

- Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- Northern Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee
- South East Management Advisory Committee
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee
- Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee
- Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee

The MACs provide advice to AFMA and the AFMA Commission on fishery operations and any scientific, economic or other issues regarding the fishery. This advice is required to be evidence-based and to address biological, economic and wider ecological factors affecting the performance of the fishery. Committee advice assists AFMA and the AFMA Commission in its role to regulate commercial fishing in Commonwealth fisheries, particularly the setting of catch limits and conditions. The membership of MACs is available on AFMA's website.

Internal management committees

Research Committee advises the AFMA Commission on the strategic directions, priorities and funding for monitoring and research relevant to meeting AFMA's objectives.

Governance Forum comprises the Senior Managers and the Executive cohort, providing a cross-agency perspective on the various governance practices. The forum creates an opportunity for feedback on implementing AFMA's performance measures, risk management framework, privacy, AI and data governance, as well as other governance measures.

Work Health and Safety Committee provides comprehensive advice and guidance to the AFMA decision-makers on managing hazards and risks in the workplace to meet the AFMA obligations outlined in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* and AFMA's health and safety management arrangements.

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

Audit and Risk Committee

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

- financial reporting
- performance reporting
- systems of risk oversight and management, and
- systems of internal controls.
- discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations)
- request the attendance of any employee, including the CEO, at committee meetings, and
- obtain legal or other professional advice as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities.

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

- obtain any information it requires from any employee or external party (subject to any legal obligation to protect information)

The committee has no executive powers, supervisory functions or decision-making authority in relation to the operations of AFMA. The AFMA Audit and Risk Committee Charter is available at:

<https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/AFMA-Audit-and-Risk-Committee-Charter-2025.pdf>

Table 9: Audit and Risk Committee information

Name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills, experience	Number of meetings attended	Total remuneration (GST inc)
Mr Geoff Knuckey	Significant Board and Audit Committee experience in the private and public sector. Strong financial reporting and management skills attained through professional and management roles. Highly developed appreciation of business, financial and reputational risk and appropriate governance frameworks.	5/5	\$9625.00

Name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills, experience	Number of meetings attended	Total remuneration (GST inc)
Ms Diana Hamono	Involved in the profession of internal audit, specialising in IT audit, for 36 years, both in the public and private sector. Former Internal Audit Partner of a professional services firm in Canberra. Master's degree in Information Studies (Knowledge Management), Diploma in Security (Risk Management), certified in the governance of enterprise ICT, a Certified Information Systems Auditor, and Professional Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia). Specialises in information, knowledge and data management and improving data and information management practices to allow for more efficient decision making and use of government resources. Accredited Department of Finance Gateway Assurance Reviewer having conducted numerous reviews of major and complex government programs in recent years.	5/5	\$6765.50
Ms Susan Ryan	More than 25 years' experience in risk and advisory firms, including as a Principal in a Big 4 accounting firm and as a Managing Director of a global consulting firm. Held positions in the Senior Executive Service in two Australian Government agencies. Strong background in internal audit, risk advisory and assurance services to a range of public and private sector organisations, including in the natural resource management sector. Chartered Accountant, Diploma of Fraud Control, member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (Australia). Specialises in risk management, fraud prevention and detection and internal control redesign.	5/5	\$6916.75

Strategic planning framework

AFMA's corporate plan, including the annual operational plan, is our primary planning document that sets out how we will achieve our purpose over a four-year period. The corporate plan is consistent with the Portfolio Budget Statements and government expectations expressed through the responsible Minister's Statement of Expectations as well as government policy applicable to all Commonwealth regulators. The responsibilities and inputs of various parties and the outputs of our strategic planning framework are shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2: AFMA's Strategic Planning Framework



Risk management arrangements

AFMA's Risk Management Framework consists of the Risk Management Policy, Risk Management Procedure, Risk Tolerance Statement, and Enterprise Risk Register.

The requirements underpinning our arrangements arise from the PGPA Act, the Commonwealth Risk Management Policy and best practice outlined in the Australian and New Zealand Standard on Risk Management Systems (AS/NZ ISO 31000:2018) Risk Management – Guidelines.

AFMA's risk management is embedded into the agency at two tiers. There is a functional risk register that is monitored at branch level and reported to the AFMA executive on a quarterly basis, and an enterprise risk register that is established and monitored by the executive. Branch managers own and monitor functional risks in their branch and regularly review the effectiveness of risk controls. The AFMA executive is responsible for monitoring enterprise risks and controlling effectiveness at the enterprise level.

AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee reviews the appropriateness of AFMA's system of risk oversight and management and the system of internal controls. The Commission is responsible for the risks associated with the performance and exercising of the domestic fisheries management functions and powers of AFMA.

Internal audit

AFMA's Strategic Internal Audit Plan sets out AFMA's internal audit strategy for the coming three calendar years and is updated annually based on emerging risks and areas of focus.

To develop this plan, AFMA's internal audit service provider and the AFMA executive considered portfolio priorities, prior-year audits and areas for improvement suggested by audits, as well as emerging operational and financial risks. AFMA's Audit and Risk Committee provides input to the development of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan and reviews all finalised internal audit reports and resulting recommendations.

Business continuity

To address the risk of significant disruption to business operations that would disrupt our ability to achieve our purpose, AFMA has a Business Continuity Plan which is tested, reviewed and monitored by the AFMA Audit and Risk Committee.

The Business Continuity Plan includes emergency contacts, response and recovery procedures for our varied offices. The Business Continuity Plan works in parallel with AFMA's ICT Disaster Recovery Plan, which focuses on the recovery of our technology infrastructure and platforms, such as critical applications, databases and servers.

Fraud and corruption control

AFMA's governance structures and processes to effectively oversee and manage risks of fraud and corruption are contained in our Fraud and Corruption Policy and Control Plan, which is updated every two years and is available to all staff on our intranet. Our staff are made aware of what constitutes fraud and corruption and how to report suspected fraud and corruption through training and periodic reminders by management.

In 2025–26 there were no substantial changes in the structure, functions or activities of AFMA that triggered an assessment of fraud and corruption risks. A periodic review of our fraud control arrangements was completed and published in August 2026.

Ethics policy and practices

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

Conflicts of interest and probity

We require new starters to complete declarations of real or apparent conflicts of interest as part of their onboarding procedures. Each year we require our staff to complete refreshed declarations of real or apparent conflicts of interest.

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

Gifts and benefits

Our staff are asked to think carefully before accepting gifts, especially where there may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest. AFMA's Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy requires our staff to report any gifts or benefits which have a value less than \$50 to the Senior Manager, Human Resources who will decide on their acceptance or disposal. Any gifts or benefits which have a value greater than \$50 or where there is an identified issue must be declared to the Chief Executive Officer. We disclose gifts and benefits on our website in accordance with APS guidance.

Significant non-compliance issues with finance law

During 2025–26, AFMA did not report any significant issue to the responsible Minister that relates to non-compliance with the finance law.

External Scrutiny

AFMA and its activities were subject to the following external scrutiny during the reporting period.

- There were no judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals during the year that had, or may have, a significant impact on AFMA's operations.
- There were no reports on AFMA during the reporting period by the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.
- There were no reports on the operations of AFMA by the Auditor-General, a parliamentary committee or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.
- There were no decisions by the Australian Privacy Commissioner that involved AFMA or that had, or might have, a significant impact on AFMA's operations.

Management of human resources

Managing and developing our people

AFMA's people strategies support the development of a capable, agile and high-performing workforce that can deliver the agency's regulatory, scientific and corporate functions. During 2025–26, AFMA continued to invest in workforce capability, employee development, diversity and inclusion, workplace flexibility and employee wellbeing.

Workforce profile

AFMA's workforce is central to delivering sustainable fisheries management and supporting the agency's strategic priorities.

As at 30 June 2026, AFMA employed 163 employees, comprising 139 ongoing employees, eight non-ongoing employees engaged for a specified term, and 16 irregular or intermittent (casual) employees. This compares to 185 employees at 30 June 2025, including 139 ongoing employees and 46 non-ongoing employees.

At the end of the reporting period:

- 56 per cent of employees were aged 45 years or younger
- 47 per cent of employees were women
- APS Level 6 employees represented the agency's largest employee cohort
- women comprised 43 per cent of Executive Level employees
- 2.45 per cent of employees identified as a person with disability, and
- no employees identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

AFMA continued to monitor workforce capability, demographics and resourcing requirements to support evolving organisational priorities and operational needs.

Diversity and inclusion

AFMA is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace where employees are respected, supported and able to contribute their best.

During 2025–26, AFMA supported diversity and inclusion through:

- provisions in AFMA's Enterprise Agreement 2024–27 that support caring responsibilities, cultural obligations and religious commitments
- flexible work arrangements that support work-life balance and employee wellbeing
- recruitment practices aimed at attracting people from diverse backgrounds

- development of a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to strengthen capability and align with APS-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives, and
- 22 Individual Flexibility Arrangements supporting alternative working arrangements.

Talent attraction and early career programs

AFMA continued to invest in future workforce capability through participation in Australian Government graduate programs and cross-agency development opportunities.

In partnership with the Australian Public Service Commission, AFMA recruited and supported two graduates through the 2025 Graduate Development Program and one graduate through the 2026 intake. The program combines formal learning, mentoring and practical workplace experience to support graduates in building APS capability and leadership skills.

AFMA also continued its partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, enabling graduates to undertake rotational placements and broaden their experience across the APS. The agency remained an active participant in the Australian Government Graduate Program.

Capability development and mandatory learning

Developing and maintaining workforce capability remained a key focus during 2025–26, supporting employees to meet current and future business needs.

All employees were required to complete AFMA's annual mandatory learning program. The program supports compliance obligations and builds foundational capability across key areas including integrity, security, privacy, risk management, financial management, workplace behaviour, work health and safety, and the responsible use of emerging technologies.

In addition to mandatory learning, employees accessed professional development opportunities through the APS Academy and a range of facilitated learning programs delivered throughout the year. These included programs focused on Leading Change, Managing and Driving Performance, Psychological Safety, and Wellbeing and Resilience, supporting leadership capability, employee wellbeing and organisational effectiveness.

Employees continued to have access to a broad range of online learning resources and self-directed development opportunities through AFMA's Learning Management System. AFMA also supported employees to maintain role-specific qualifications, professional accreditations and technical capabilities relevant to their roles, ensuring specialist expertise is sustained across the agency.

All new employees completed AFMA's induction program, providing an introduction to the agency, its values, systems and policies, alongside completion of mandatory learning requirements.

Performance and development

AFMA's performance and development framework supports a culture of accountability, continuous improvement and professional growth.

All ongoing and non-ongoing employees participate in an annual performance and development cycle aligned with the APS Integrated Leadership System. The framework emphasises regular performance conversations, constructive feedback and development planning to support individual and organisational success.

During 2025–26, the majority of employees achieved performance outcomes of meeting expectations or higher, reflecting strong alignment between individual objectives and agency priorities.

Employee engagement

AFMA participated in the 2026 APS Employee Census and achieved an employee participation rate of 79 per cent.

Employee engagement remained a focus throughout 2025–26. AFMA continued to engage employees through regular communication and consultation activities, including all-staff forums, team discussions, agency committees, health and wellbeing initiatives, and opportunities for employees to contribute to organisational improvement.

During the year, AFMA continued implementation of actions arising from its 2025–26 APS Employee Census Action Plan. Key initiatives included improvements to business systems and processes, enhancements to performance and workplace discussions to incorporate work-life balance and psychosocial risk considerations, completion of AFMA's ICT Strategy, continued investment in cyber security and digital capability, increased visibility of Executive communications and information sharing, and reviews of administrative processes to reduce unnecessary administrative burden.

Results from the 2026 APS Employee Census were received after the end of the reporting period and will inform future workforce and organisational improvement initiatives.

Rewards and recognition

Recognising employee contributions is an important part of building a positive, inclusive and high-performing workplace culture.

During 2025–26, AFMA celebrated individual and team achievements through branch recognition awards and the agency's annual Achievement Awards program. These initiatives recognised employees who demonstrated excellence in delivering outcomes for the agency and contributed positively to AFMA's culture and values.

Work Health and Safety

AFMA is committed to providing a safe, healthy and respectful workplace for employees, contractors, consultants and visitors. The agency meets its obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*, and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.

AFMA's Work Health and Safety (WHS) Committee comprises management representatives and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs). The committee supports the development and review of WHS policies and procedures, monitors workplace incidents and hazards, and oversees the implementation of initiatives to improve safety outcomes across the organisation.

AFMA continued to maintain a network of trained workplace support officers, including HSRs, First Aid Officers, Mental Health First Aid Officers, Harassment Contact Officers and Fire Wardens.

During 2025–26, AFMA participated in Comcare's Proactive Regional Engagement Program Risk Management assessment. The assessment reviewed AFMA's consultation, cooperation and coordination arrangements under the WHS legislative framework. No non-compliance was identified within the scope of the assessment.

There were no Provisional Improvement Notices issued by HSRs or Comcare during the reporting period.

Health and safety initiatives

AFMA continued to promote employee health and wellbeing through a range of initiatives designed to support physical and psychological wellbeing.

Key initiatives during 2025–26 included:

- Health Week activities promoting physical, mental and nutritional wellbeing
- the Healthy Lifestyle Initiative, which provided financial support to employees to maintain and improve their health and wellbeing
- annual influenza vaccinations for employees and contractors, and
- promotion of webinars, information sessions and wellbeing resources available through AFMA's Employee Assistance Program provider.

These initiatives were supported by wellbeing resources available through AFMA's intranet and ongoing promotion of support services available to employees.

Incidents and hazards

AFMA monitors workplace incidents and hazards to support continuous improvement in work health and safety performance.

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, AFMA recorded 14 work health and safety (WHS) incidents. Body stressing continued to be the most common injury type. AFMA continues to monitor incident trends and implement targeted risk mitigation measures. All employees impacted by reported incidents achieved a successful return to work, demonstrating the effectiveness of AFMA's injury management and rehabilitation practices.

All incidents and hazards are assessed, monitored and reported to the Executive and the WHS Committee. Where required, corrective actions are implemented to reduce risk and prevent recurrence.

Work health and safety data provides valuable insight into the physical and psychological safety of employees and supports the agency's ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.

Notifiable incidents in 2025–26

In accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, AFMA has a duty to notify the regulator, Comcare, about a notifiable incident arising out of AFMA business undertakings. In 2025–26, one notifiable incident was reported.

Appendix 1: Entity Resource Statement and expenses for outcomes

Entity Resource Statement

	Current available appropriation (a)	Payments made (b)	Balance remaining (a) - (b)
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Departmental			
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services	28,384	28,294	90
Prior year appropriations available – ordinary annual services	351	351	-
Total departmental annual appropriations (c)	28,735	28,645	90
Total departmental special appropriations (d)	-	-	-
Opening balance – special accounts	16,001	-	16,001
Special account receipts	53,779	49,308	4,471
Total special accounts (e)	69,780	49,308	20,472
less departmental appropriations drawn from annual/special appropriations and credited to special accounts (f)	(28,645)	(28,645)	-
Total departmental resourcing (c+d+e-f)	69,870	49,308	20,562
Administered			
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services	6,389	1,645	4,744
Total administered annual appropriations (g)	6,389	1,645	4,744
Total administered special appropriations (h)	-	-	-
Opening balance – special accounts	-	-	-
Special account receipts	-	-	-
Total special accounts receipts (i)	-	-	-
less administered appropriations drawn from annual special appropriations and credited to special accounts (j)	-	-	-
less payments to corporate entities from annual/special appropriations (k)	-	-	-
Total administered resourcing (g+h+i-j-k)	6,389	1,645	4,744
Total resourcing and payments for AFMA	76,259	50,953	25,306

Expenses for outcomes

Outcome 1: Ecologically sustainable and economically efficient Commonwealth fisheries, through understanding and monitoring Australia's marine living resources and regulating and monitoring commercial fishing, including domestic licensing and deterrence of illegal foreign fishing	Budget* 2025–26 \$'000	Actual expenses 2025–26 \$'000	Variation 2025–26 \$'000
Program 1.1: Australian Fisheries Management Authority	(a)	(b)	(c)
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1 and Supply Act No. 1)	6,389	1,653	4,736
Administered total	6,389	1,653	4,736
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No. 1 and Supply Act No. 1)	27,889	27,889	-
Special accounts	21,457	19,956	1,501
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year ¹	1,657	1,003	654
Departmental total	51,003	48,848	2,155
Total expenses for Program 1.1	57,392	50,501	6,891
	2025–26	2025–26	
Average staffing level (number)	179	164	

* Full-year budget, including any subsequent adjustment made to the 2025–26 budget at Additional Estimates.

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

Appendix 2: Employee statistics and workplace agreements

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

All Ongoing Employees (2025–26)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	2	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	4	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	52	2	54	49	7	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
NT	12	0	12	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	70	2	72	58	9	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139

All Non-Ongoing Employees (2025–26)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Total
NSW	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Qld	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	14	14	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	15	15	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24

PGPA Rule Paragraph 17AG(4)(b) – Management of Human Resources

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

Australian Public Service Act Ongoing Employees (2025–26)

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SES 1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
EL 2	9	0	9	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
EL 1	18	1	19	13	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
APS 6	31	1	32	26	6	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
APS 5	7	0	7	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
APS 4	4	0	4	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
APS 3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	70	2	72	58	9	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139

PGPA Rule Subparagraphs 17AG(4)(b)(i)-(iii) – Employment type by full-time and part-time status

Australian Public Service Act employees by full-time and part-time status (2025–26)

	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total Ongoing	Full time	Part time	Total Non-Ongoing	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 1	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
EL 2	14	1	15	0	0	0	15
EL 1	31	2	33	1	0	1	34
APS 6	57	7	64	2	0	0	66
APS 5	12	1	13	1	2	3	16
APS 4	10	0	10	2	0	2	12
APS 3	1	0	1	0	4	4	5
APS 2	0	0	0	0	12	12	12
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	128	11	139	6	18	24	163

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

Australian Public Service Act Employment type by location (2025–26)

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing	Total
NSW	0	1	1
Qld	5	0	5
SA	0	0	0
Tas	0	0	0
Vic	6	0	6
WA	0	0	0
ACT	110	23	133
NT	18	0	18
External Territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	139	24	163

PGPA Rule Subparagraph 17AG(4)(b)(vi) – Indigenous Employment

Australian Public Service Act Indigenous Employment (2025–26)

	Total
Ongoing	0
Non-Ongoing	0
Total	0

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

Australian Public Service Act Employment arrangements (2025–26)

	SES	Non-SES	Total
Enterprise Agreements	0	160	160
S24(1) Determinations	3	0	3
Total	3	160	163

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

Australian Public Service Act Employment salary ranges by classification level (Minimum/Maximum) (2025–26)

	Minimum Salary	Maximum Salary
SES 3	0	0
SES 2	-	\$320,688
SES 1	\$249,413	\$266,749
EL 2	\$150,259	\$175,178
EL 1	\$128,075	\$142,348
APS 6	\$104,113	\$115,131
APS 5	\$93,103	\$98,611
APS 4	\$84,480	\$90,324
APS 3	\$74,750	\$81,239
APS 2	\$68,288	\$72,888
APS 1	\$57,497	\$63,696
Other	-	-
Minimum/Maximum range	\$57,497	\$320,688

PGPA Rule Subparagraphs 17AG(4)(d)(iii)-(iv) – Performance Pay by Classification level

Australian Public Service Act Employment Performance Pay by classification level (2025–26)

	Number of employees receiving performance pay	Aggregated (sum total) of all payments made	Average of all payments made	Minimum payment made to employees	Maximum payment made to employees
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	0	0	0	0	0
EL 1	0	0	0	0	0
APS 6	0	0	0	0	0
APS 5	0	0	0	0	0
APS 4	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3	0	0	0	0	0
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0			

Appendix 3: Key management personnel remuneration

PGPA Rule Subsection 17AD(da) – Executive Remuneration

Information about remuneration for key management personnel

		Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
Name	Position title	Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits			
Wez Norris	Chief Executive Officer	458,390	0	0	30,923	5,902	0	0	495,215	
Anna Willock	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	308,744	0	4,561	50,481	14,928	0	0	378,714	
Mira Bacelj	Chief Operating Officer	245,650	0	19,661	37,752	7,657	0	0	310,720	
Justin Bathurst	General Manager	242,740	0	4,561	38,120	16,171	0	0	301,592	
Helen Kroger	Commissioner (Chair)	87,996	0	0	10,580	0	0	0	98,576	
Brett McCallum	Commissioner	44,008	0	0	5,288	0	0	0	49,296	
Scott Spencer	Commissioner	44,008	0	0	5,288	0	0	0	49,296	
Sevaly Sen	Commissioner	44,008	0	0	5,288	0	0	0	49,296	
Ian Dutton	Commissioner	44,008	0	0	5,288	0	0	0	49,296	
Sally Troy	Commissioner	44,008	0	0	5,288	0	0	0	49,296	
Total		1,563,560	0	28,783	194,296	44,658	0	0	1,831,297	

Information about remuneration for senior executives

Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits			Other long-term benefits			Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration			
\$0 – \$220,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$220,001 – \$245,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$245,001 – \$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$270,001 – \$295,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$295,001 – \$320,000	2	244,195	0	12,111	37,936	11,914	0	0	0	306,156		
\$320,001 – \$345,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$345,001 – \$370,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$370,001 – \$395,000	1	308,744	0	4,561	50,481	14,928	0	0	0	378,714		
\$395,001 – \$420,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$420,001 – \$445,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$445,001 – \$470,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$470,001 – \$495,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$495,001 – \$520,000	1	458,390	0	0	30,923	5,902	0	0	0	495,215		

Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Total remuneration bands	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration	
\$260,000 – \$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$270,001 – \$295,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$295,001 – \$320,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$320,001 – \$345,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$345,001 – \$370,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$370,001 – \$395,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$395,001 – \$420,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$420,001 – \$445,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$445,001 – \$470,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$470,001 – \$495,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$495,001 – \$520,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Appendix 4: Purchasing

AFMA operates in line with the APS Strategic Commissioning Framework. Core work is done in-house in most cases, and any outsourcing of core work is minimal and aligns with the limited circumstances permitted under the APS Strategic Commissioning Framework.

Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy and non-consultancy contracts.

Reportable consultancy contracts

During 2025–26, 14 new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$1.6 million (inclusive of GST). In addition, 15 ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$3.362 million (inclusive of GST).

Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.

Expenditure on Reportable Consultancy Contracts

	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	14	1,600
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	15	3,362
Total	29	4,962

Organisations Receiving a Share of Reportable Consultancy Contract Expenditure

Name of Organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
CSIRO (Division of Fisheries)	41 687 119 230	2,899
Fishwell Pty Ltd	49 674 230 669	557
University of Tasmania	30 764 374 782	397

Reportable non-consultancy contracts

Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.

Expenditure on Reportable Non-Consultancy Contracts

Reportable Non-Consultancy Contracts	Number	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	62	6,699
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	78	9,005
Total	140	15,704

Organisations Receiving a Share of Reportable Non-Consultancy Contract Expenditure

Name of Organisation	Organisation ABN	Expenditure \$'000 (GST inc.)
Cushman and Wakefield Pty Ltd	77 074 196 991	1,770
A23 Pty Ltd	81 612 329 781	1,392
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd	ABN Exempt	995

Appendix 5: Other management issues

Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses

All contracts valued at \$100,000 or more (GST inclusive) that were entered into during 2025–26 included standard Auditor-General access clauses.

Exempt contracts

The CEO did not exempt any contracts entered into during 2025–26 from being published on AusTender on the basis that publication would disclose exempt matters under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Small business

AFMA supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website.

AFMA supports small and medium enterprises through its procurement practises by targeting suppliers in accordance with the Australian Government SME targets.

AFMA recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website.

Advertising and market research

During 2025–26, AFMA did not undertake any advertising campaigns or market research.

Grants

AFMA does not administer any grants.

Disability reporting mechanism

Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031 (the Strategy) is the overarching framework for inclusive policies, programs, and infrastructure that will support people with disability to participate in all areas of Australian life. The Strategy sets out where practical changes will be made to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia. It acts to ensure the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into Australia's policies and programs that affect people with disability, their families, and carers.

All levels of government have committed to deliver more comprehensive and visible reporting under the Strategy. A range of reports on progress of the Strategy's actions and outcome areas will be published and available at <https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/ads>.

Disability reporting is included in the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service reports and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at <http://www.apsc.gov.au>.

Freedom of information

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) are required to publish information to the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). Further information about the IPS is available on our website (afma.gov.au).

Remediation of information published in previous annual reports

The previous annual report did not contain any significant statement on a matter of fact that has proved to be wrong in a material respect.



Appendix 6: Information required by the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*

The following information meets the requirements of subparagraphs 87(b)(ii) and (iii) of the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* to report on the effectiveness of fishery management plans.

NOTE: Not all fisheries are managed under a management plan. Fisheries such as the Coral Sea Fishery, North West Slope Trawl Fishery, Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and Skipjack fisheries are managed through permits issued directly under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. Some management plans (Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery, Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery and Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery) that we jointly manage do not contain performance criteria that are required to be included in our annual report.

AFMA managed fisheries:

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

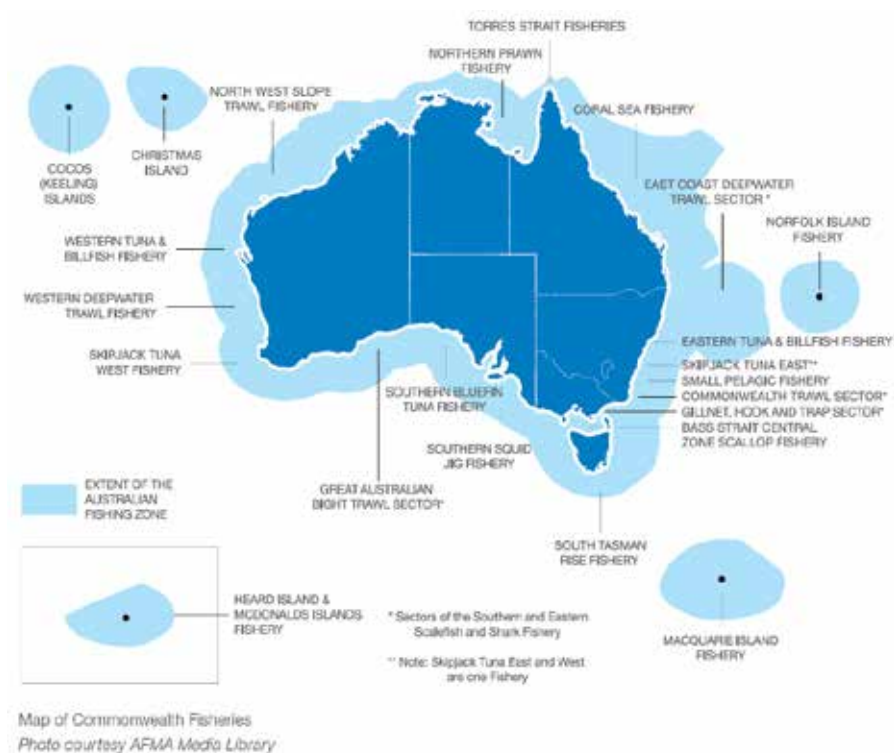
Joint managed fisheries:

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

High seas permits

Non-operational fisheries:

Norfolk Island Fishery
Skipjack Tuna Fishery
South Tasman Rise Fishery



Effectiveness or otherwise of the operation of plans of management during 2025–26

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery	 Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002 NOTE: • No significant changes to 2002 plan • No new plan in 2025–26	Rebuilding depleted stocks	N/A
		Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	Three area closures were implemented to protect adult and juvenile Commercial Scallop, based on the outputs of the 2025 biomass survey. The 2025 TAC for Commercial Scallop was set at 3,841 tonnes but only 48.2 tonnes (or 1% of the TAC) was landed due to the impacts of a seastar depredation event. The 2025 TAC for Doughboy Scallop was set at 100 tonnes with nil landed.
		Strategic research	In consultation with the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) Harvest Strategy Working Group, Scallop RAG and Scallop MAC, AFMA is undertaking a review of the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy. The review is focused on developing a strategy that better reflects the current state of the fishery, with decision rules that are scalable and can respond to changes in biomass and economic factors over time. The new harvest strategy will be implemented during the 2026–27 financial year.
		Timely data collection and analysis	Strategies to maintain or increase the fishery's resources were based primarily on data collected and analysed as part of the annual pre-season biomass survey and fishers' logbooks. Modification of these strategies will be based on data collected as part of the survey and through Industry reporting.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (continued)		Bycatch action plan	A bycatch action plan was implemented in 2009 and (as previously reported) was subject to a comprehensive review in 2024–25. The plan was updated in 2025–26 to reflect the outcomes of the review.
		Economic efficiency	Management continues to be simple and minimal to allow fishers the flexibility to best decide how to catch their quota. To support the BSCZSF Harvest Strategy, ABARES is developing an economic conditions index to inform management of the fishery, noting that it does not directly inform the TAC setting process but rather provides contextual information that can be considered by us when making management decisions.
		Budgetary objectives	The AFMA Commission sets the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the BSCZSF in consultation with the ScallopRAG and ScallopMAC. This process supports budgetary objectives focused on ecological sustainability and economic efficiency. The budgetary objectives of the fishery were strongly impacted by a seastar depredation event in 2025–26.
		Statutory fishing rights	Quota statutory fishing rights were granted for Commercial Scallop - 444,500 (conversion factor 8.64117 (kg/SFR)) and for Doughboy Scallop - 455,000 (conversion factor 0.21978 (kg/SFR)).
Coral Sea Fishery	Nil	N/A	

Performance criteria in management plan	
AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery 	Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006 NOTE: - No significant changes to 2002 plan - No new plan in 2025–26
	Criterion theme Comment
	Range and cost of services In 2025–26 AFMA provided management, compliance, administrative, data collection, research and consultation services with details of these services available in other areas of this report.
	Periodically assessed as cost effective AFMA consults with CFA on AFMA's fisheries management and we have previously been acknowledged by key stakeholders to be pursuing cost-effective service, while needing to maintain our focus on reducing AFMA management costs and addressing upwards pressure on cost recovery. We continue to meet our performance target to maintain our cost recovery budget at or below 2005–06 levels (adjusted for CPI).
	Sustainable reference point The most recent stock assessment (2025) estimated Patagonian toothfish population numbers were at 66% of unfished biomass, above the target reference point of 50% of unfished biomass.
Total Allowable Catch (TAC) In November 2025, the AFMA Commission set the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (MITF) TAC for Patagonian toothfish at 404 tonnes for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fishing seasons based on the 2025 stock assessment results and advice from the Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG) and Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC).	
Statutory fishing rights 20,000 statutory fishing rights units were granted to eligible persons following implementation of the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006.	

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (continued)		Number of boats	No more than 3 boats operate in the fishery. AFMA did not authorise more in 2025–26.
		Rebuilding depleted stocks	Not applicable – Patagonian toothfish stocks are not depleted
		Ecological sustainability	Patagonian toothfish is currently assessed as not overfished or subject to overfishing. There are no species assessed as being at high risk from fishing in the fishery. The fishery has been assessed and accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council. The MITF was recertified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council in January 2023 with reassessment due by 19 January 2028. A surveillance audit was conducted in January 2026 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard.
		Strategic research	Cost-effective and high-quality research was carried out in relation to the fishery in accordance with identified research priorities. Research was undertaken to progress a management strategy evaluation of alternate harvest strategies and data was collected to support the 2025 stock assessment.
	Monitoring		Data was collected in accordance with the fishery assessment plan.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (continued)		Timely data collection and analysis	Data was collected in 2024–25 to feed into the 2025 stock assessment. The assessment uses a spatial model that fits to data from the entire MITF, and assumes a single reproductive stock, but takes into account spatial structuring of the population within the region.
		Economic efficiency – Periodic assessment	Management measures implemented for the fishery, as considered by the Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC) in 2025–26, allow the holders of statutory fishing rights to pursue practices consistent with maximising economic efficiency in the fishery. ABARES provided commentary on likely and estimated Net Economic Returns (NER) trends the fishery for 2025–26.
		Economic efficiency – management measures	See above.
		Levies	AFMA prepared an annual budget for 2025–26 and levies in accordance with its cost recovery implementation statement 2025–26.
		Budgetary objectives	The government's targets for cost recovery were achieved.

AFMA-only managed fishery		Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
			Criterion theme	Comment
Northern Prawn Fishery 	Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995 NOTE: • No significant changes to 1995 plan • No new plan in 2025–26	Economic efficiency	The tiger prawn component of the fishery has explicit MEY targets (across both tiger prawn stocks and the blue endeavour prawn stock), and a bioeconomic model is used to estimate annual fishing effort required to move towards BMEY over a 7-year period. The targets can change with every assessment because of changes in biological and economic parameters. Targeting MEY of the tiger prawn component of the fishery began in 2004–05 and is consistent with the economic objective of maximising economic returns. The banana prawn the fishery has catch-rate triggers that seeks to attain MEY.	
		Biological resources and environmental conditions	An updated Tiger Prawn Fishery stock assessment was completed in 2026, determining that the stocks are not overfished or subject to overfishing. Three stocks are considered in the base case assessment (Brown Tiger, Grooved Tiger and Blue Endeavour Prawns), with Red Endeavour Prawns assessed as a sensitivity. Brown Tiger and Blue Endeavour Prawns were assessed at above BMSY, with Grooved Tigers and Red Endeavours only slightly below BMSY but well above the limit reference point. The total catch of Tiger Prawns in 2025 was 818 tonnes, down from the 2023 catches of around 1,200 tonnes due to reduced levels in the fishery. The 2025 Banana Prawn catches were 1,770 tonnes, significantly decreased from 2023 catches of 6,774 tonnes and 2024 catches of 3,875 tonnes. The low catch levels resulted from the very late arrival of the monsoon, significantly lower rainfall across key catchments during the 2024–25 summer.	

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Northern Prawn Fishery (continued)		Cost effectiveness	Through ongoing co-management arrangements, AFMA and NPFI continue to work closely to assess the cost effectiveness of management arrangements. This includes consultation on the fishery budget, research and opportunities for expanding co-management functions.
North West Slope Trawl and Western Deepwater Trawl Fisheries	Nil	N/A	
Small Pelagic Fishery	 Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009 NOTE: • No significant changes to 2009 plan. • No new plan in 2025–26	Range and cost of services	The range and cost of AFMA's services in the fishery are reviewed annually and are outlined in the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) 2025–26. This document demonstrates that the management of the fishery has been carried out in a cost-effective manner.
		Risk assessments	An ecological risk assessment (ERA) of the purse seine sector of the Small Pelagic Fishery (SPF) was conducted in 2024 with an ERA of the midwater trawl sector currently underway. The outcomes of both ERAs will inform a review of the Bycatch and Discard Workplan for the SPF in 2026–27.
		Plan for high risks	There are no high-risk species in this fishery. The SPF Dolphin Strategy remained in force during 2025–26.
		Catch limits or other measures	Catch limits are set in accordance with the harvest strategy.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Small Pelagic Fishery (continued)		Accord with Harvest Strategy	The Small Pelagic Fishery Harvest Strategy was reviewed in 2024. The outcomes from the review included updated reference points and exploitation rates that take account of new information and are designed to meet the biological, ecological, and economic requirements of the fishery.
		Statutory fishing rights	SFRs for each quota species were granted to eligible entities.
		Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The total allowable catches for each of the seven quota/target stocks show very different levels of utilisation. Utilisation of the eastern stocks was generally moderate to high (at 34–87% of the TAC), with the exception of Australian Sardine, at 2% of the TAC. After a long period of inactivity, fishing has resumed in the western sub-area of the SPF, with minimal catches of two species (<1% of the TAC) and moderate catches of Redbait (~20% of the TAC).
		Consultation	Consultation with industry representatives occurs on a weekly basis
		Cost recovery	The costs of managing the fishery attributable to the fishing industry were recuperated through cost-recovery arrangements. These include levies and fees paid by commercial fishers, which help cover expenses such as compliance, research, and administration. This approach ensures that those who benefit from access to the resource contribute to its sustainable management.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Small Pelagic Fishery (continued)		Maximise net economic returns	The net economic return (NER) in the eastern sub-area of the SPF appears to be increasing with greater TAC utilisation (the exception being Australian Sardine). The NER for western SPF stocks is expected to improve with the resumption of fishing out of Port Lincoln. The management framework remains simple and scalable to the level of commercial interest in the fishery.
	Management changes assessed	There were no changes to the Small Pelagic Fishery Management Plan 2009 in 2025–26.	

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery 	Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery Management Plan 2003 NOTE: • No significant changes to 2003 plan. • No new plan in 2025–26	Strategic research	The second stage of the MSHS project entitled 'Evaluation and application of a preferred multi-species harvest strategy in the SESSF' was undertaken. The purpose of the work being to design, specify, and test a number of harvest strategies specifically tailored to the SESSF, using different combinations of the 'Pretty Good Maximum Sustainable Yield', 'Trigger Species' and 'Indicator Species' approaches, coupled with various data, monitoring and assessment regimes.
		Timely data collection and analysis	Fishery data is collected on a shot-by-shot basis and analysed throughout 2025 to enable evaluation of the effectiveness of the harvest strategy, rebuilding strategies and management strategies.
		Discard estimates	Discards are taken into account when setting TACs for each species. The most recent estimates are available in the SESSF species summary SESSF Species Summaries 2026.pdf
		Ecological sustainability	The catch of nontarget species is reduced to, or kept at, a minimum by limiting the number of fishing concessions, spatial closures, gear modifications and incentives to avoid and minimise interactions with listed species. This is below a level that will allow stocks of those species to be maintained at ecologically sustainable levels.
		Plan for high risks	Commercial species are managed in accordance with the harvest strategy. Non-target species are managed in accordance with the sector-specific bycatch and discarding workplans or where required, specific management strategies.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (continued)		Impact on marine environment	Management actions have ensured that the impacts of fishing activities on the marine environment are minimised by limiting the number of fishing concessions, spatial closures, gear modifications and incentives to avoid and minimise interactions with listed species.
		Sustainable reference points	Stocks status of quota species, and other species for which reference points have been determined, are available in the SSSF species summary SSSF Species Summaries 2026.pdf
		Rights and permits granted	155 transferable boat and 44,969,539 quota statutory fishing rights and 1,664,991 Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) and 238 fishing permits were granted to eligible persons in 2025–26.
		Management responses	Offal discharge rules were revised in the Great Australian Bight Trawl (GABT). South Australia algal bloom closure was established across relevant state and Commonwealth concessions. A review completed for the access to upper-slope dogfish closures for modified dropline. The temp gillnet to hook permit area of waters were reviewed and corrected. Amendments to the scalefish boat SFR to account for the gummy shark and school shark catch ratio when fishing in the shark hook sector. Review of the Commonwealth trawl sector (CTS) orange roughy conditions and review of the observer requirements for the CTS and east-cost deepwater trawl sector (ECDWT).
		Fishing concessions	We limited access to the fishery through regulating the number of fishing concessions.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (continued)		Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	TACs were set for the fishing year in March 2025 and the amount of fish of each species that was permitted to be taken in that year was not exceeded.
		Concession entitlements	Concession entitlements constrain catch and anyone who exceeds their entitlement is subject to compliance investigation.
		Recovery strategies	Commonwealth rebuilding strategies are in place for Blue Warehou, eastern Gemfish, Redfish, School Shark and Orange Roughy. Strategies are being developed for Jackass Morwong and John Dory, noting that response actions are already in place.
		Communication strategy	AFMA advised concession holders of the 2025–26 TACs on 27 March 2025. Other correspondence was provided as required.
		Timely communication	Information is distributed in a timely manner through letters sent electronically noting a small number are sent via post.
		Stakeholder satisfaction	We are aware through positive feedback at consultative meetings and directly by telephone and email that our stakeholders are generally satisfied with the level of accountability and communication regarding management of the fishery.
		International agreements	Management measures are consistent with international agreements.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (continued)		Budget consultation	The South East management advisory committee (SEMAC) and Great Australian Bight management advisory committee (GABMAC) were consulted on inputs into the budget for the fishery, with both SEMAC and GABMAC merged from 1 May 2025.
		Budgetary objectives	The budgetary objectives of the fishery are to implement efficient and cost-effective management. This objective was continuously pursued in 2025–26 by ensuring that management is commensurate to the level of risk posed by the fishery, not introducing unnecessary regulation and reviewing the need for existing regulation.
		Levies and fees	Levies and fees were collected to enable AFMA to recover costs for the fishery in accordance with government policy.
		Economic efficiency	Economic efficiency is considered each time a management is made, including TACs being set.
		Cost effectiveness	Cost effectiveness is considered each time a management is made, including TACs being set.

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern Squid Jig Fishery 	Southern Squid Jig Fishery Management Plan 2005 NOTE: • No significant changes to 2005 plan. • No new plan in 2025–26	Strategic research	The Southern Squid Jig Fishery (SSJF) Harvest Strategy was reviewed in 2022 to simplify and include an additional catch and effort trigger that more closely reflects the current state of the fishery. A broader, more holistic review of the SSJF Harvest Strategy will be considered once additional data has been collected to inform appropriate analyses.
		Cost effective service	The management of the fishery is acknowledged by government and key stakeholders to be pursuing a cost-effective service, remaining simple and appropriate for the low level of risk posed by this fishery.
		Timely data collection and analysis	Effort and catch in the SSJF is collected daily when fishing occurs. However, fishing continues to vary between seasons and has been relatively low in recent years for economic reasons. An ongoing challenge for the fishery is locating commercially viable aggregations of squid, an issue exacerbated by a small fleet size.
		Bycatch	A Bycatch and Discard Workplan was implemented in 2021 and will be reviewed in October 2026.
		Data collection and verification (squid take)	The SSJF Data and Monitoring Strategy 2022 (the Data Strategy) outlines the plan for ongoing data collection that supports evidence-based fishery management decisions in the SSJF. The Data Strategy is reviewed annually by AFMA and Squid Resource Assessment Group (SquidRAG).

AFMA-only managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Southern Squid Jig Fishery (continued)		Risk to ecological sustainable development	Ecological risks in the SSJF are managed using the precautionary principle, due to limited scientific knowledge and data availability for Gould's squid. Despite these data limitations, the fishery is currently considered to be low risk due to the very low levels of fishing effort.
		Statutory fishing rights (SFR)	4,800 gear SFRs were granted to eligible entities.
		Data collection and analysis (NER)	Limited and sporadic fishing activity prevents meaningful analyses of the NER for this fishery.
		Budgetary objectives	The budgetary objectives of the fishery are to implement efficient and cost-effective management. This objective was met in 2025–26 by ensuring that management is commensurate to the level of risk posed by the fishery.

Jointly managed fishery		Performance criteria in management plan	
Management plan		Criterion theme	Comment
Heard Island and McDonald Islands 	Heard Island, and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002 NOTE: • No significant changes to 2002 plan. • No new plan in 2025–26	Sustainable reference points	The most recent stock assessment (2025) estimated a Mackerel Icefish population size of 19,726t. The most recent stock assessment (2024) results for Patagonian toothfish provided population estimates of 38% of unfished biomass, noting that there are some key uncertainties in the model which are likely demonstrating a downward bias and therefore providing a more pessimistic view of the stock. However, this is still above the limit reference point.
		Total Allowable Catch (TAC)	The AFMA Commission set the HIMI Fishery TAC at 2,119 tonnes for Patagonian toothfish and 1,427 tonnes for Mackerel Icefish for the 2025–26 fishing year based on the stock assessments results and advice from the August SARAG meeting, outcomes of the 44th meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and advice from the November 2025 SouthMAC meeting.
		Rights granted	Sixty-thousand statutory fishing rights units were granted to eligible persons following implementation of the HIMI Fishery Management Plan 2002; fishing rights are not granted each year.
		Minimum quota and statutory fishing rights	For concession holders using trawl methods, the minimum quota for trawl methods were held. For concession holders using non-trawl methods appropriate statutory fishing rights were held.
		Rebuilding strategies	Not applicable.

Jointly managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Heard Island and McDonald Islands (continued)		Ecological sustainability	Patagonian toothfish and Mackerel Icefish are currently assessed as not overfished or subject to overfishing. There are no species assessed as being at high risk from fishing in the fishery. The fishery has been assessed and accredited under Part 13 of the EPBC Act. The management of the fishery is certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). A surveillance audit was conducted in January 2026 and confirmed the fishery continues to meet the Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard.
		Strategic research	Cost-effective and high-quality research was carried out in relation to the fishery in accordance with identified research priorities. Research was undertaken to progress improvements to the toothfish stock assessment and data was collected to support this and the 2025 Mackerel Icefish stock assessment.
		Monitoring	The monitoring required by the fisheries assessment plan was undertaken.
		Timely data collection and analysis	Data was collected and analysed in 2024–25 and fed into the 2024 and 2025 stock assessments. The assessment for Mackerel Icefish at HIMI was updated in 2025 using data and results from the 2025 random stratified trawl survey (RSTS). The integrated stock assessment of toothfish in the HIMI was updated in 2024 using data collected up to 2024.

Jointly managed fishery	Management plan	Performance criteria in management plan	
		Criterion theme	Comment
Heard Island and McDonald Islands (continued)		Cost effective management	AFMA consults with CFA on AFMA's fisheries management and we have previously been acknowledged by key stakeholders to be pursuing cost-effective service, while needing to maintain our focus on reducing AFMA management costs and addressing upwards pressure on cost recovery. We continue to meet our performance target to maintain our cost recovery budget at or below 2005–06 levels (adjusted for CPI).
		Economic efficiency	Management measures implemented for the fishery, as considered by the Sub-Antarctic Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC) in 2025–26, allow the holders of statutory fishing rights to pursue practices consistent with maximising economic efficiency in the fishery. Overall assessment of economic efficiency is available in other areas of this report.
		Budgetary objectives	Services for the fishery were achieved within budget.

Appendix 7: Information required by other legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requires AFMA to report on its environmental performance and contribution to ecologically sustainable development.

Contribution to ecologically sustainable development

AFMA is responsible for the efficient management and sustainable use of Commonwealth fisheries on behalf of the Australian community. AFMA's legislated objectives are prescribed in the FAA and the FMA, and these objectives, along with those of the EPBC Act, are given effect by a number of subsequently developed fisheries policies and guidelines, principally the:

- Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018 (BP) and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Bycatch Policy 2018 (BP Guidelines),
- Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2018 (HSP Guidelines), and
- Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries (ESMF Guidelines).

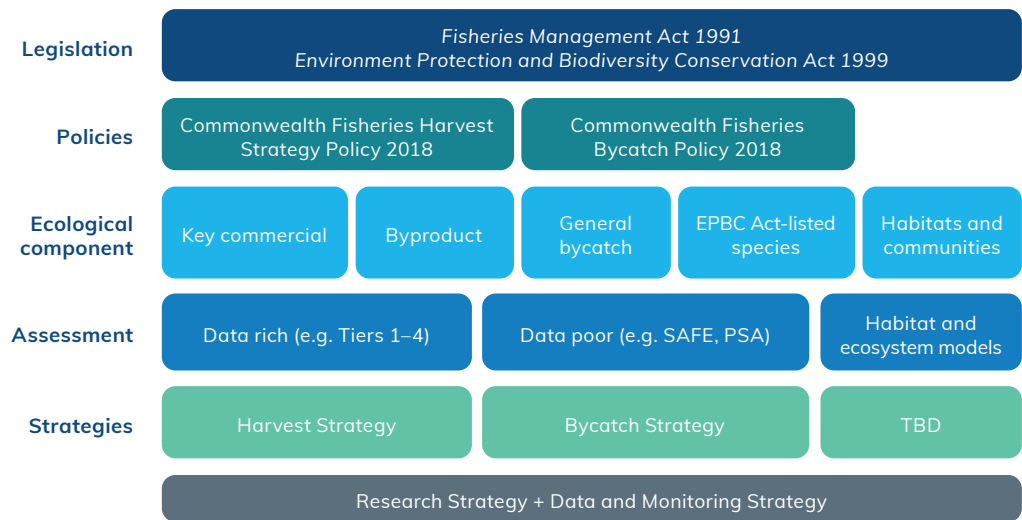
Commonwealth legislation requires that we pursue Ecologically Sustainable Development and, as one part of this, ensure the ecological sustainability of species, populations and ecosystems with which our fisheries interact. This requirement sits alongside other legislative objectives that we pursue, as outlined above.

In collaboration with the fishing industry, we pursue ecological sustainability through the implementation of:

- Ecological Risk Management (ERM) responses, which provide for the management of fishing interactions with commercial species, bycatch species, habitats and communities, as well as supporting strategies for research, data and monitoring, and
- a scientific risk assessment process (within ERM) referred to as the Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) to identify and quantify these risks to ecological sustainability.

ERM has multiple components and processes. The figure below outlines AFMA's ERM and its relationship with fisheries legislation and policies, assessment and management processes.

Figure 3: Key components and processes of AFMA’s ERM



To ensure that AFMA meets objectives relating to ecological sustainability in a changing climate, AFMA commenced a program of work in 2021–22 to more strategically incorporate climate impacts into the management of Commonwealth fisheries. This program of work, led by the Climate Adaptation and Strategic Reform team, focused on more systematic incorporation of climate information into decision-making processes and the development of climate-adaptive management arrangements across Commonwealth fisheries. More information is available on our website.

Outcome contributing to Ecological Sustainable Development

AFMA's outcomes are directed at Commonwealth fisheries being ecologically sustainable, improving the net economic returns from Commonwealth fisheries, and being managed efficiently and effectively. This approach reflects our commitment to pursuing management of Commonwealth fisheries in accordance with our legislative objectives and in partnership with others who also have an interest in sustainable management.

Effect of actions on the environment

All AFMA's managed fisheries are currently accredited under three parts of the EPBC Act.

Part 10 of the EPBC Act requires that all Commonwealth and Torres Strait Fisheries must be strategically assessed before a management plan is determined (section 148) or where a determination is made that a management plan is not required for a Commonwealth fishery (section 149). If a management plan is amended or replaced, or management arrangements change significantly in a fishery without a management plan, then a further assessment is required (section 152). If a management plan remains unchanged no further strategic assessment is required. This process involves assessment of the impact of the fishery on matters of national environmental significance with particular emphasis on the impact on the Commonwealth marine environment. Without this approval a management plan cannot take effect.

Part 13 of the EPBC Act defines a number of offences in relation to listed threatened species and ecological communities and also provides for accreditation of management plans or regimes (sections 208A, 222A, 245, 265). The effect of accreditation is that certain actions are not offences if they are carried out in accordance with management plans or regimes. There is no requirement to remake the accreditation decisions unless the management plans or regimes change.

These accreditations impose a requirement on fishers to report any interactions with protected species to AFMA through our logbooks. We in turn provide regular reports to the Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water on fishers' behalf, thus reducing unnecessary duplication of reporting.

Part 13A of the EPBC Act covers the international movement of wildlife specimens. It provides for controls over the movement of regulated native specimens that are not on the list of exempt native specimens. Currently products from all assessed Commonwealth fisheries are on the list of exempt native specimens, although some are subject to the condition that the listing applies only while a wildlife trade operation is in force. This allows exports of marine species to be carried out while ensuring that they have been taken sustainably.

Actions to minimise impact on the environment

We take an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management to minimise the impact of commercial fisheries on the marine environment. The ERM Framework provides a science- and evidence-based structure for managing the impact of fishing on the marine environment. The framework uses ERA for the Effects of Fishing as the primary means of assessing the risks that fisheries may pose and provides a mechanism for the identification and management of any identified risks.

Revised methodologies in the ERA for the Effects of Fishing framework are being applied to fisheries as they are reassessed. The results of these assessments are reported in the performance section.

Mechanisms for reviewing

Several mechanisms exist for reviewing the effect of fishing on the environment. The ERM Framework that guides Ecological Risk Management (Fisheries Management Paper 14) was updated in September 2024 to ensure it remains up to date. When it meets, the ERM Steering Group reviews individual elements of the ERM Framework and provides strategic and technical advice to the AFMA Commission and AFMA management on the direction, development, coordination and implementation of AFMA's risk management framework. The ERM Steering Group did not meet in 2024–25. During 2024–25 AFMA management were engaging with CSIRO on technical matters relating to updates to the ERA methodology to feed into a meeting of the ERM Steering Group in late 2025.

We are also subject to reassessment of all AFMA fisheries under Part 13A of the EPBC Act. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water undertakes the reassessments on a regular basis, ranging from a ten-year review cycle for fisheries granted exemptions to a more regular review process for fisheries granted wildlife trade operations.

Australian Public Service Net Zero 2030

Greenhouse gas emissions reporting has been developed with methodology that is consistent with the whole-of-Australian Government approach as part of the APS Net Zero 2030 policy.

Greenhouse gas emissions inventory

Table 10 presents emissions related to electricity usage using the location-based accounting method. CO₂-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

Table 10: 2025–26 Greenhouse gas emissions inventory – location-based method

Emission Source	Scope 1 t CO ₂ -e	Scope 2 t CO ₂ -e	Scope 3 t CO ₂ -e	Total t CO ₂ -e
Electricity ¹ (Location Based Approach)	N/A	106.89	9.40	116.29
Natural Gas	-	N/A	-	-
Solid Waste ²	-	N/A	-	-
Refrigerants ⁴	-	N/A	N/A	-
Fleet and Other Vehicles	5.48	N/A	1.35	6.83
Domestic Commercial Flights	N/A	N/A	158.14	158.14
Domestic Hire Car ^{1, 3}	N/A	N/A	5.17	5.17
Domestic Travel Accommodation	N/A	N/A	45.04	45.04
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total t CO₂-e	5.48	106.89	219.11	331.48

Notes:

1. Due to the billing cycles not aligning with the end of the financial year, some electricity data was not available during the initial collection process in July-August 2026. Adjustments to the data may be required in future reports.
2. Solid waste data was unavailable at the time of the report and amendments to data may be required in future reports.
3. Emissions from hire cars for 2025–26 have been sourced from a third party and is partially incomplete. The quality of this data is expected to improve over time as emissions reporting matures.
4. Indicates optional emission source for 2025–26 emissions reporting.

Electricity greenhouse gas emissions

Table 11 presents emissions related to electricity usage using both the location-based and the market-based accounting methods. CO2-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. Electricity usage is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh).

Table 11: 2025–26 Electricity greenhouse gas emissions

Emission Source	Scope 2 t CO2-e	Scope 3 t CO2-e	Total t CO2-e	Electricity kWh
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	106.89	9.40	116.28	163,493.20
Market-based electricity emissions	51.86	7.05	58.90	64,014.08
Total renewable electricity	N/A	N/A	N/A	99,479.12
Renewable Power Percentage	N/A	N/A	N/A	28,267.98
Jurisdictional Renewable Power	N/A	N/A	N/A	71,211.14
GreenPower	N/A	N/A	N/A	-
Large-scale generation certificates	N/A	N/A	N/A	-

**Appendix 8: Northern Territory Fisheries
Joint Authority Annual Report**

**Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority
Annual Report**

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fisheries Act 1988
(Northern Territory)



Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive
Officer, Australian Fisheries Management
Authority

Deputy to the Commonwealth Member

The Hon. Julie Collins MP, Minister for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Matthew Osborne, Senior Executive
Director, Fisheries, Northern Territory
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

**Deputy to the Northern Territory
Member**

The Hon. Gerard Maley MLA, Minister for
Agriculture and Fisheries

Introduction

This report of the Northern Territory Fisheries Joint Authority (NTFJA) meets the legislative requirements for Joint Authorities to report on the activities undertaken and decisions made during the relevant period, in this case 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The NTFJA has responsibility for the management of the Timor Reef Fishery, Demersal Fishery and Offshore Net and Line Fishery in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory.

Enabling legislation

The NTFJA was established in February 1983, under the then Commonwealth legislation (*Fisheries Act 1952*) to provide for the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory to jointly manage declared fisheries and fisheries resources in waters adjacent to the Northern Territory.

On 3 February 1995, the NTFJA, subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth [*Fisheries Management Act 1991*](#) and the Northern Territory [*Fisheries Act 1988*](#), assumed responsibility, in waters adjacent to the NT, for the Demersal, Timor Reef, Offshore Net and Line and Finfish Trawl Fisheries (the Finfish Trawl Fishery merged with Demersal Fishery in 2012). Day to day administration of these fisheries is provided by the Fisheries Division of the NT Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

Report on the status of fisheries managed by the Joint Authority

Tables 1 and 2 present a summary of the catches and status of the fisheries managed by the NTFJA. Detailed catch, effort and status information for each fishery are compiled regularly and published in the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports at: <http://fish.gov.au/reports/species>

The **Demersal Fishery** targets mainly red snappers (*Lutjanus malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*) and goldband snappers (*Pristipomoides spp.*). Painted sweetlips (*Diagramma pictum*) and cods (*Family Serranidae*) are key byproduct species. Fish traps and finfish trawl gear are the main fishing methods used in the fishery.

The **Timor Reef Fishery** primarily targets the higher-valued goldband snapper (*P. multidens*) and other *Pristipomoides* species. Significant quantities of red snappers (*L. malabaricus*, *L. erythropterus*), red emperors (*L. sebae*) and cods (*Family Serranidae*) are also harvested. The main fishing method used is fish traps, however between 2014 and 2018, a finfish trawl trial in the Timor Reef Fishery resulted in an increase in red snapper catch (Table 1).

The **Offshore Net and Line Fishery** targets black-tip sharks (*Carcharhinus tilstoni* and *C. limbatus*), spot-tail sharks (*C. sorrah*) and grey mackerels (*Scomberomorus semifasciatus*). A variety of other sharks and pelagic finfish are also caught as byproduct.

Exploitation by the Fishing Tour Operator and recreational sectors is considered to be low across all three fisheries.

In the TRF and DF there are 3 stocks of Saddletail Snapper, 3 stocks of Crimson Snapper and 4 stocks of Goldband Snapper. The stock assessment update published in 2024 on the Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Reports, classified all stocks of the target snapper species as sustainable. The ONLF target species (Grey Mackerel, Australian and Common Blacktip Shark, and Spot-tail Shark) were also classified as ‘sustainable’, with the exception of the Gulf of Carpentaria Australian and Common Blacktip Shark stocks, which were classified as ‘undefined’.

Table 1 Commercial catches (tonnes) of finfish from 2016–2025 by calendar year for DF- Demersal Fishery; TR- Timor Reef Fishery; ONLF- Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Species/stock	Fishery	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Goldband snappers	DF	324	341	291	223	230	194	283	252	189	314
	TR	222	194	382	256	254	423	334	156	245	300
Red snappers (<i>L. malabaricus</i> , <i>L. erythropterus</i>)	DF	2518	2397	2526	2685	2653	2097	2489	2325	2359	2146
	TR	408	337	391	136	62	149	143	106	86	101
Group (other) species	DF	724	729	672	621	825	751	756	783	735	799
	TR	268	262	202	123	91	128	108	65	107	69
Blacktip sharks (<i>C. tilstoni/ limbatus</i>)	ONLF	36	63	30	44	138	112	69	27	42	34
Spot-tail sharks (<i>C. sorrah</i>)	ONLF	4	15	12	23	40	37	19	12	13	7
Grey mackerel (<i>S. semifasciatus</i>)	ONLF	330	496	499	361	420	494	349	514	317	467
Other shark spp	ONLF	49	18	9	65	144	114	35	30	47	32
Other fin fish spp	ONLF	44	48	45	54	45	41	41	18	24	38

Table 2 Summary of status of assessed stocks in NTFJA Fisheries for DF - Demersal Fishery; TR - Timor Reef Fishery; ONLF - Offshore Net and Line Fishery.

Species/stock	Stock Status
Goldband snappers (<i>P. multidentis</i>) (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2023)
Red snappers (<i>L. erythropterus</i>) (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2023)
Red snappers (<i>L. malabaricus</i>) (DF/TR)	Sustainably fished (2023)
Blacktip sharks (<i>C. tilstoni</i> , <i>C. limbatus</i> , <i>C. sorrah</i>) (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2023)
Grey Mackerel (<i>S. semifasciatus</i>) (ONLF)	Sustainably fished (2023)

Report on activities of the Joint Authority

No formal NTFJA meeting was held in 2025–26, with previous NTFJA meeting minutes at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>. The Commonwealth and Territory members of the NTFJA for the 2025–26 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 NTFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2025–26.

Role	Commonwealth	Northern Territory
Member	The Hon. Julie Collins MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (29 July 2024 – present)	The Hon. Gerald Maley MLA, NT Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (28 August 2024 – present)
Deputy	Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Matthew Osborne, Senior Executive Director, Fisheries, Northern Territory Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Relevant OCS for the Northern Territory Joint Authority Fisheries

The OCS for the NTFJA can be found on the AFMA website at:

- Northern Shark Fishery (ONLF)
 - o <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/Arrangement-Between-the-Commonwealth-and-NT-for-the-Northern-Shark-Fishery.pdf>
- Demersal and Timor Reef Fishery
 - o <https://www.afma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/Arrangement-Between-the-Commonwealth-and-NT-for-the-Demersal-and-Timor-Reef-Fishery.pdf>

Appendix 9: Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority Annual Report

Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority Annual Report

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fish Resource Management Act 1994
(Western Australia)



Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive
Officer, Australian Fisheries Management
Authority

Deputy to the Commonwealth Member



Nathan Harrison, Executive Director,
Fisheries and Aquaculture, Department
of Primary Industries and Regional
Development, Western Australia

Deputy to the Western Australian
State Member

Introduction

This report of the Western Australia Fisheries Joint Authority (WAFJA) meets the legislative requirements for Joint Authorities to report on the activities undertaken and decisions made during the relevant period, in this case 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The WAFJA has responsibility for the management of the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery.

Enabling legislation

Sections 61-70 of the Commonwealth [Fisheries Management Act 1991](#) set out the establishment, functions, administration and reporting requirements for Joint Authorities.

Part 3 of the Western Australia [Fish Resources Management Act 1994](#) sets out complementary State legislation and other matters relating to the establishment, functions, administration and reporting requirements of the Joint Authority and the management of Joint Authority fisheries in Western Australia (WA).

Report on the status of fisheries managed by the Joint Authority

Table 1 presents a summary of the status of the fisheries managed by the WAFJA. Note the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery has been inactive since 2008–2009.

Table 1 Species status and catch for the Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery

Species	Status	Catch (2025–26)	Tonnes
Sandbar shark	Recovering	Total Sharks	0
Blacktip shark	Adequate		0
Fishing level	Acceptable		0

Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

During the 2025-2026 reporting period a formal meeting of WAFJA was held on 24 November 2025. The WAFJA meeting minutes are at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>. The Commonwealth and State members of the WAFJA for the 2025–26 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 2.

Table 2 WAFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2025–26.

Role	Commonwealth	Western Australia
Member	The Hon. Julie Collins MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (29 July 2024 – present)	The Hon. Jackie Jarvis, Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; and Mid-West (19 March 2025 – present).
Deputy	Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Nathan Harrison, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia.

Relevant OCS for the Western Australia Joint Authority Fisheries

Following the transition of the Southern Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Managed Fishery to sole WA jurisdiction in 2018, only one fishery remains under the WAFJA. The OCS for the Western Australian Joint Authority Northern Shark Fishery can be found on the AFMA website at: <https://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/joint-authority-fisheries>.

**Appendix 10: Queensland Fisheries
Joint Authority Annual Report**

**Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority Annual
Report**

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Fisheries Management Act 1991
(Commonwealth)

Fisheries Act 1994
(Queensland)



Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive
Officer, Australian Fisheries Management
Authority

Deputy to the Commonwealth Member

The Hon. Julie Collins MP, Minister for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Pauline Jacob, Deputy Director-General,
Fisheries and Forestry, Department of
Primary Industries

**Deputy to the Queensland State
Member**

The Hon. Anthony (Tony) Perrett MP,
Minister for Primary Industries

Report on activities of the Joint Authority during the reporting period

This report of the Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority (QFJA) meets the legislative requirements for Joint Authorities to report on the activities undertaken and decisions made during the relevant period, in this case 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The Commonwealth and State members of the QFJA for the 2025–26 reporting period, along with the deputies for both members, are listed in Table 1 below.

On 24 February 2026, the QFJA was formally abolished through the *Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority Abolition Arrangement 2025* available at: [Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority Abolition Arrangement 2025 - Federal Register of Legislation](#)

Table 1 QFJA Members and Deputies for the period 2025–26

Role	Commonwealth	Queensland
Member	The Hon. Julie Collins MP Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (29 July 2024 – 24 February 2026)	The Hon. Anthony (Tony) Perrett MP, Minister for Primary Industries (1 November 2024 – 24 February 2026)
Deputy	Anna Willock, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Pauline Jacob, Deputy Director-General, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Primary Industries

List of annual report requirements

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(g) Letter of transmittal			
17AI	Page iii	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory
17AD(h) Aids to access			
17AJ(a)	Page v	Table of contents (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(b)	Pages 161–168	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory
17AJ(c)	Pages 152–155	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory
17AJ(d)	Pages 143–151	List of requirements.	Mandatory
17AJ(e)	Page ii	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory
17AJ(f)	Page ii	Entity's website address.	Mandatory
17AJ(g)	Page ii	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory
17AD(a) Review by accountable authority			
17AD(a)	Pages 1–3	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory
17AD(b) Overview of the entity			
17AE(1)(a)(i)	Page 5	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	Page 8–9	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	Pages 5, 15	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	Page 5	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	Page 10	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	Page 10	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority	Mandatory
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	Page 11	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory
17AE(1)(b)	N/A	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments mandatory
17AE(2)	N/A	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AD(c)	Report on the Performance of the entity		
	Annual performance Statements		
17AD(c)(i); 16F	Pages 17–41	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory
17AD(c)ii	Report on Financial Performance		
17AF(1)(a)	Page 43	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory
17AF(1)(b)	Appendix 1	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AF(2)	N/A	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.
17AD(d)	Management and Accountability		
	Corporate Governance		
17AG(2)(a)	Page 85	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud and corruption systems)	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(i)	Page iii	A certification by accountable authority that fraud and corruption risk assessments and fraud and corruption control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	Page iii	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud and corruption that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Page iii	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud and corruption relating to the entity.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(c)	Page 79–80	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	Page 86	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance.	If applicable, Mandatory
	Audit Committee		
17AG(2A)(a)	Page 81	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(2A)(b)	Page 81–82	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(c)	Page 81–82	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(d)	Page 81–82	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory
17AG(2A)(e)	Page 81–82	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory
External Scrutiny			
17AG(3)	Page 86	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory
17AG(3)(a)	Page 86	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(b)	Page 86	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor-General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(3)(c)	N/A	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory
Management of Human Resources			
17AG(4)(a)	Pages 86–90	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(aa)	Appendix 2	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis, including the following: (a) statistics on full-time employees; (b) statistics on part-time employees; (c) statistics on gender; (d) statistics on staff location.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(b)	Appendix 2	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis; including the following: • Statistics on full-time employees; • Statistics on part-time employees; • Statistics on gender; • Statistics on staff location; • Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)	Appendix 2	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(i)	Appendix 2	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	Appendix 2	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	Appendix 2	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(i)	Appendix 2	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	Appendix 2	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	Appendix 2	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	Appendix 2	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory
Assets Management			
17AG(5)	N/A	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities	If applicable, mandatory
Purchasing			
17AG(6)	Appendix 4	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory
Reportable consultancy contracts			
17AG(7)(a)	Appendix 4	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7)(b)	Appendix 4	A statement that "During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]".	Mandatory
17AG(7)(c)	Appendix 4	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory
17AG(7)(d)	Appendix 4	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
Reportable non-consultancy contracts			
17AG(7A)(a)	Appendix 4	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory
17AG(7A)(b)	Appendix 4	A statement that "Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."	Mandatory
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts		
17AGA	Appendix 4	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory
Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses			
17AG(8)	Appendix 5	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor-General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
Exempt contracts			
17AG(9)	Appendix 5	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory
Small business			
17AG(10)(a)	Appendix 5	A statement that "[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance's website."	Mandatory
17AG(10)(b)	Appendix 5	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory
17AG(10)(c)	N/A	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that "[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
Financial Statements			
17AD(e)	Pages 46–77	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory
Executive Remuneration			
17AD(da)	Appendix 3	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2–3 of the Rule.	Mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement
17AD(f)	Other Mandatory Information		
17AH(1)(a)(i)	N/A	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that "During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity's website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance's website."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	Appendix 5	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(b)	Appendix 5	A statement that "Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity's website]."	If applicable, Mandatory
17AH(1)(c)	Appendix 5	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(d)	Appendix 5	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory
17AH(1)(e)	Appendix 5	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17AH(2)	Appendix 6, 7	Information required by other legislation	Mandatory

Abbreviations and acronyms

The following table describes the abbreviations and acronyms used throughout the report.

Abbreviation	Explanation
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
ACSC	Australian Cyber Security Centre
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFV	Australian Fishing Vessel
AFZ	Australian Fishing Zone
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
Bmey	Stock biomass required to produce maximum economic yield from the fishery
Bmsy	A proxy of 0.48 times the unfished biomass, or 1.2 times the biomass at maximum sustainable yield
BSCZSF	Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
CBA	Competency-based assessment
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CCTV	Closed circuit television
CDR	Catch disposal records
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Commonwealth Fisheries Association
CFHSP	Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy
CKMR	Close-kin mark-recapture
CMM	Conservation and management measure

Abbreviation	Explanation
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRIS	Cost Recovery Implementation Statement
CSBT	Commission for the Southern Bluefin Tuna
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CTS	Commonwealth Trawl Sector
DT&EM	Data Transformation and Electronic Monitoring Program
eCDRs	electronic catch documentation records
elogs	electronic logbooks
eObserver	electronic observer data collection
EEZ	<i>Exclusive Economic Zone</i>
EM	Electronic Monitoring
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERA	Ecological Risk Assessment
ERM	Ecological Risk Management
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
ETBF	Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery
FAA	<i>Fisheries Administration Act 1991</i>
FAD	<i>Fish aggregation device</i>
FFV	Foreign fishing vessel
FMA	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>
FOB	Fisheries Operations Branch
FRDC	Fisheries Research Development Corporation
GHAT	Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector
GVP	Gross Value of Production
HIMI	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
HSP	Harvest Strategy Policy
ICEP	International Compliance and Engagement Program

Abbreviation	Explanation
ICO	International Compliance Operations
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFMO	International Fisheries Management Organisations
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
MAC	Management Advisory Commission
MBC	Maritime Border Command
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSHS	Multi-Species Harvest Strategy
NCEP	National Compliance and Enforcement Program
NER	Net Economic Returns
NPF	Northern Prawn Fishery
NWSTF	North West Slope Trawl Fishery
OCS	Offshore Constitutional Settlement
OMC	Operational Management Committee
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PSMA	Port State Measures
PSPF	Protective Security Policy Framework
PZJA	Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority
QWP	Queensland Water Police
RAG	Resource Assessment Group
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
ROU	Record of Understanding
SBT	Southern Bluefin Tuna
SBTF	Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

Abbreviation	Explanation
SESSF	Southern and Eastern Scale fish and Shark Fishery
SFRs	Statutory Fishing Rights
SIOFA	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement
SMP	Seabird Management Plan
SPC	South Pacific Community
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
TAC	Total allowable catch
TACC	Total allowable commercial catch
TAE	Total allowable effort
TDS	Technology and Digital Services team
TEP	Threatened, Endangered and Protected species
TI	Thursday Island
TSFF	Torres Strait Finfish Fishery
TSPZ	Torres Strait Protected Zone
USP	University of the South Pacific
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WDTF	Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery
WTBF	Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery
WTO	Wildlife Trade Operations

Glossary

Australian Fishing Zone

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, the Australian fishing zone means:

- (a) the waters adjacent to Australia within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of Australia, and
- (b) the waters adjacent to each external territory within the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the coast of the external Territory

but does not include:

- (c) coastal waters of, or waters within the limits of, a State or internal Territory, or
- (d) waters that are excepted waters.

Biomass

Total weight of a stock or a component of a stock.

Biomass limit reference point

The point below which the risk to the stock is regarded as unacceptably high.

Bycatch

Species taken incidentally in a fishery where other species are the target, and which are always discarded.

Byproduct

Any part of the catch that is kept or sold by the fisher but is not the target species.

Demersal

Found on or near the sea floor (c.f. Pelagic).

Discard

Any part of the catch returned to the sea, whether dead or alive.

Effort

A measure of the resources used to harvest a fishery's stocks. The measure of effort appropriate for a fishery depends on the methods used and the management arrangements. Common measures include the number of vessels, the number of hooks set or the number of fishing days.

Electronic monitoring

Electronic monitoring uses sensors and cameras to monitor and record information on fishing activity in a targeted way. Sensor data and video footage is analysed retrospectively to provide information and verify logbooks according to the needs identified for that fishery.

Fisheries Management Act 1991

One of the two main pieces of legislation (along with the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991*) that detail AFMA's responsibilities and powers.

Fishing concession

A Statutory Fishing Right, or a fishing permit, or a foreign fishing boat licence granted under the provisions of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*.

Fishing permit

A type of fishing concession granted under Section 32 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991* to a person, authorising the use of a specified Australian boat by that person, or a person acting on that person's behalf, for fishing in a specified area of the Australian Fishing Zone or a specified fishery for specified species, using specified equipment.

Fishing season

The period during which a fishery can be accessed by fishers.

Gillnet

Type of passive fishing gear consisting of panels of net held vertically in the water column, in contact with the seabed, such that fish attempting to swim through the net are entangled. The mesh size of the net determines the size range of fish caught, as smaller fish can swim through the meshes and larger fish are not enmeshed.

GoFish

GoFish is AFMA's online business facility for fishers to submit their applications, view their record of fishing concessions as held by us, keep their contact details up to date, view quota and catch information, receive messages from AFMA and monitor progress of applications lodged with AFMA.

Harvest strategy

Strategy outlining how the catch in a fishery will be adjusted from year to year depending on the size of stock, the economic or social conditions of the fishery, conditions of other interdependent stocks or species, and uncertainty of biological knowledge. Wellmanaged fisheries have an unambiguous (explicit and quantitative) harvest strategy that is robust to the unpredictable biological fluctuations to which the stock may be subject.

Incidental catch

Any part of the catch that is not the target species, including bycatch and by-product.

Individual transferable quotas

Individual portions of a total allowable catch – units of quota – that allow the holder to catch that portion of the total allowable catch each season. The weight value of the individual transferable quotas changes in proportion to changes in the total allowable catch set for a species each season. Individual transferable quotas are fully tradeable and can be sold or leased to other fishers.

Key commercial species

A species that is, or has been, specifically targeted and is, or has been, a significant component of a fishery.

Logbook

Official record of catch-and-effort data completed by fishers. In many fisheries, a licence condition makes the return of logbooks mandatory.

Longline

Fishing gear in which short lines (branch lines or droppers) carrying hooks are attached to a longer main line at regular intervals. Pelagic longlines are suspended horizontally at a predetermined depth with the help of surface floats. The main lines can be as long as 100 kilometres and have several thousand hooks. Droppers on demersal longlines (set at the seabed with weights) are usually more closely spaced.

Maximum economic yield

The sustainable catch or effort level for a commercial fishery that allows net economic returns to be maximised. Note that for most practical discount rates and fishing costs maximum economic yield will imply that the equilibrium stock of fish is larger than that associated with maximum sustainable yield. In this sense maximum economic yield is more environmentally conservative than maximum sustainable yield and should in principle help protect the fishery from unfavourable environmental impacts that may diminish the fish population.

Maximum sustainable yield

The maximum average annual catch that can be removed from a stock over an indefinite period under prevailing environmental conditions.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) box

The area of the Australian Fishing Zone where traditional fishing by Indonesian nationals is permitted.

Nautical mile

A unit of distance derived from the angular measurement of one minute of arc of latitude but standardised by international agreement as 1852 metres.

Net economic returns

A fishery net economic returns over a particular period are equal to fishing revenue less fishing costs.

Non-target species

Species that are unintentionally taken by a fisher or not routinely assessed for fisheries management. See also Bycatch.

Offshore Constitutional Settlement

An agreement between one or more states and the Australian Government giving individual or joint jurisdiction for a particular fishery that is in both coastal waters and the Australian Fishing Zone. When no Offshore Constitutional Settlement agreement has been reached, the fishery remains under the jurisdiction of the state out to three nautical miles, and of the Australian Government from three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles.

Output controls

Restrictions imposed on the quantity of fish that can be taken from a fishery within a specified period of time. This can be by either a competitive total allowable catch or a total allowable catch allocated to participants as individual transferable quotas.

Overfished

A fish stock with a biomass below the biomass limit reference point. 'Not overfished' implies that the stock is not below the threshold and is now used in place of the status classification of 'fully fished' or 'underfished'.

Overfishing

A fish stock that is subject to fishing mortality that exceeds the fishing mortality reference point.

Pelagic fish

Inhabiting surface waters rather than the sea floor: usually applied to free swimming species such as tunas and sharks.

Precautionary principle

A principle asserting that a degree of scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation in situations where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Quota

Amount of catch allocated to a fishery as a whole (total allowable catch) or to an individual fisher or company (individual transferable quota).

Quota management

A method of management based on output controls that allocates the total allowable catch among eligible operators as shares in the annual total allowable catch.

Reference point

An indicator of the level of fishing (or stock size), used as a benchmark for interpreting the results of an assessment.

Statutory Fishing Rights

Rights granted under Section 21 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*. The nature of Statutory Fishing Rights in a fishery is detailed in the plan of management that creates those rights. A Statutory Fishing Right may be a right to use a boat, a unit of fishing gear or a quantity of catch, or other rights as identified in the management plan.

Species

Members of a species of fish that can breed with one another and produce fertile (capable of reproducing) offspring. In this way, a species maintains its 'separateness' from other species; for example, the Yellowfin Tuna and Bigeye Tuna are two distinct tuna species whereas the general term 'tuna' includes all tuna species.

Stock

A functionally discrete population of a species that is largely distinct from other populations of the same species. Such a population may be regarded as a separate entity for management or assessment purposes. Some species form a single stock (e.g., Southern Bluefin Tuna) while others form several stocks (e.g., Albacore Tuna in the Pacific Ocean are divided up into separate Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific stocks).

Targeting

Fishing selectively for particular species or sizes of fish.

Target species

The species being actively sought by fishers.

Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority

An authority comprising the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities and the Chair of the Torres Strait Regional Authority. The authority is responsible for monitoring the condition of the jointly managed fisheries in the Torres Strait and the formulation of policies and plans for their management.

Total allowable catch

The amount of fish of a particular species that can be taken from a fishery in a prescribed period. Total allowable catches are set for fish species managed either through individual transferable quotas or through competitive total allowable catches.

Uncertain

Status of a fish stock for which there is inadequate or inappropriate information to make a reliable assessment.

Undercatch and overcatch

Undercatch and overcatch provide for 'carry over' or 'carry under' of an amount of end of season quota between fishing seasons thereby allowing fishers the flexibility to catch a certain amount of fish over or under their quota, and debit or credit this to or from the following season's quota.

Vessel monitoring system

Electronic device that transmits the identity and location of a vessel.

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