



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide

2020-21



Contents

Management and Research Levy arrangements for 2020-21	3
What is the levy for?	3
Does the Government contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries?	3
What period of time does my levy relate to?	4
When will I receive a levy invoice and when is my payment due?	4
How much levy do I have to pay this year?	4
Why has the amount I pay for my levy changed this year?	4
Is the levy subject to Goods & Services Tax (GST)?	4
How do I pay my levy?	5
What if I am having trouble paying my levy?	6
How do I enter into an arrangement to pay my overdue levy?	6
AFMA’s consideration of an arrangement to pay	7
What if I don’t make a payment or enter into an arrangement to pay?	7
Overview of cost recovered budget and levy collection	7
Fisheries in which levies have decreased for 2020-21	9
Fisheries in which levies have increased in 2020-21	11
Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2020-21	13
AFMA contacts	18

Figures

Figure 1 Cost Recovery Breakdown 2020-21	3
Figure 2 AFMA Actual Levies vs CPI Adjusted Levies.....	8

Tables

Table 1 Levy invoicing and payment schedule for 2020-21	4
Table 2 Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2020-21	13
Table 3 Fishery contacts	18
Table 4 Finance contact.....	18

Management and Research Levy arrangements for 2020-21

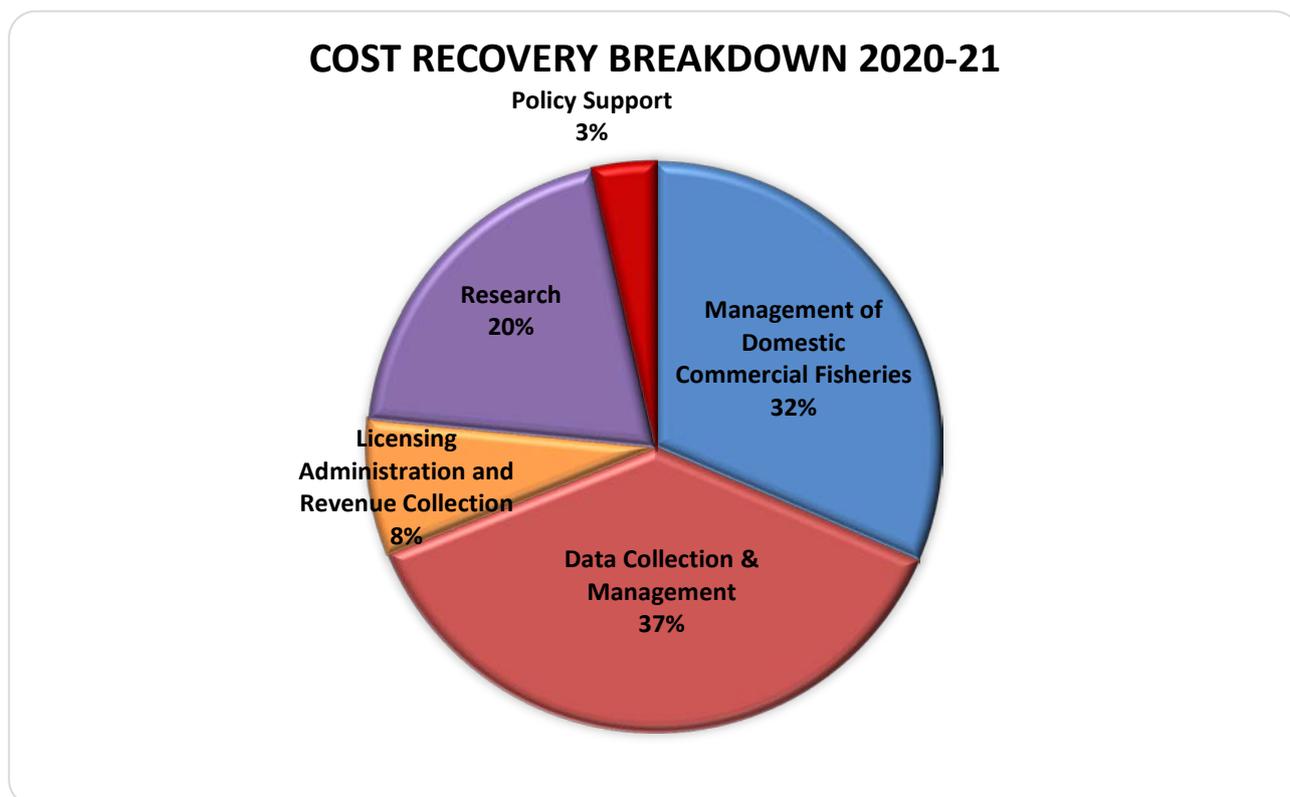
This guide provides answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding annual levy charges and the terms surrounding payment of levies. It also contains some background information on the cost recovered budget and rate changes for each fishery for the 2020-21 financial year.

What is the levy for?

Levy is charged to Commonwealth concession owners to cover the annual costs associated with managing Commonwealth fisheries. Commonwealth concession owners are required to contribute to the cost of managing the fishery in which they own a fishing concession.

The main components that impact cost recovered fishery budgets are shown in the graph below.

Figure 1 Cost Recovery Breakdown 2020-21



Does the Government contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries?

The Australian Government does contribute to the cost of managing Commonwealth fisheries. The amount the government contributes is based on AFMA’s Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) which was prepared in accordance with the Australian Government’s Cost Recovery Policy.

What period of time does my levy relate to?

Your levy covers the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

When will I receive a levy invoice and when is my payment due?

If you are the owner of a leviable Commonwealth fishing concession you will be issued three invoices throughout the first five months of 2021. Each invoice will be for approximately one third of your total annual levy. The table below sets out when levy invoices will be issued and when payment is due:

Table 1 Levy invoicing and payment schedule for 2020-21

Levy invoice	Expected issue date	Due date
1	13 January 2021	10 February 2021
2	10 March 2021	7 April 2021
3	3 May 2021	31 May 2021

How much levy do I have to pay this year?

The table on [page 13](#) lists the levy rates for all Commonwealth fishing concessions for 2020-21. Your levy is calculated by multiplying the number of concessions you own on the day of invoicing by the rate of that particular type of concession.

Why has the amount I pay for my levy changed this year?

AFMA recovers the costs of managing each fishery in accordance with the CRIS. If the costs of management go up or down the amount to be collected from concession holders also goes up or down. Your levies may have increased or decreased this year depending on a change in costs that need to be recovered from your fishery, or a change in who is required to pay those costs.

A list of which fisheries have had levy decreases or increases in 2020-21 and the reasons for those changes starts on [page 9](#).

Is the levy subject to Goods & Services Tax (GST)?

Levies are excluded from GST. As such AFMA does not issue a tax invoice for levies. AFMA's Australian Business Number is 81 098 497 517.

How do I pay my levy?

Each year AFMA receives levy payments by direct deposit that it cannot match to an invoice as no reference numbers have been provided. Please ensure this does not happen to you by including your levy reference numbers when making all payments by these methods.

The reference number on each invoice is unique and allows AFMA to confirm your payment.

AFMA offers a number of payment methods:

BPAY

BPAY is a national phone and internet payment system supported by all major banks and is the preferred method of payment. If you decide to pay your levy using BPAY there are a few things you will need to do:

- use the biller code and reference number provided on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your invoice.
- retain the transaction or reference number issued by BPAY for your records.
- allow yourself plenty of time if you intend to use this service. The average processing time is 2-3 working days but this may vary from bank to bank.

Direct Deposit to the National Bank Australia

Payment of your levies may be made by a direct deposit into AFMA's bank account at any branch of the National Australia bank. AFMA's banking details can be found on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your levy invoice or reminder notice.

Please ensure you use the correct account details as they may change from the previous year and include your invoice reference number. Using out-of-date account details or failing to include your reference number may interfere with the correct recording of a payment made.

Credit Card

Please note an additional one per cent surcharge may be applied if AFMA officers process your credit card payment.

To pay by credit card, complete the credit card details on the PAYMENT OPTIONS page of your levy invoice and:

- fax it to 02 6225 5440; or
- post it to AFMA, PO Box 7051, Canberra Business Centre, Canberra ACT 2610.

What if I am having trouble paying my levy?

If you are having difficulty paying your levy by the due date, please contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss what payment options may be available to you.

If you do not pay your levy by the due date, AFMA will issue an overdue notice. The overdue notice will advise:

- that the levy amount is overdue and will incur a penalty of 20 per cent per annum (calculated daily), on the overdue amount;
- if no payment is received within 14 days from the date of the overdue notice, any relevant fishing concessions can be suspended; and
- if the levy remains unpaid, the relevant fishing concessions can be cancelled and legal action commenced to recover the debt.

AFMA will take all reasonable measures to ensure all levies are recovered. Regardless of whether you were the concession owner that was issued the original levy invoice or not, AFMA reserves the right to suspend or cancel a concession due to outstanding levies or penalties relating to the concession. For this reason AFMA recommends that you check on the status of levy payments before purchasing or leasing concessions.

How do I enter into an arrangement to pay my overdue levy?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay overdue levy and any associated penalties. To request an arrangement to pay a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss payment options. Note that there is also a one-off administration fee of \$220 to set up an arrangement to pay.

In accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 1991*, entering into an arrangement to pay the 2020-21 levies does not exclude the concession owner from accruing penalty. Penalty is calculated at the rate of 20 per cent per annum (calculated daily) on overdue amounts.

A request to enter into an arrangement for the payment of overdue debt must be submitted in writing to AFMA and must set out a proposed payment plan together with any necessary justification.

In an application to enter into an arrangement to pay, a concession holder must include:

- a repayment schedule which;
 - includes an initial payment of \$220 administration fee and 25 per cent of the outstanding levy debt
 - includes monthly payment instalments of 25 per cent of the outstanding debt.
- an acknowledgment that failure to pay any of the instalments by the due date will result in the immediate suspension of their concession(s) and the remainder of the debt will become immediately payable;
- acknowledgement that penalty will accrue on outstanding amounts; and
- a commitment to make payment on or before the due dates of the plan.

AFMA's consideration of an arrangement to pay

In considering whether or not to enter into an arrangement for payment of overdue levy, AFMA will consider:

- the management arrangements applicable to the fishery for which the request has been made;
- statements and evidence from the applicant in relation to their financial situation;
- previous payment history;
- the timing of payments of the overdue debt.

If AFMA agrees to an arrangement for payment, a letter will be forwarded which:

- sets out the conditions and terms applying to the arrangement;
- sets out the schedule of payments;
- advises that if any repayment is missed the balance will immediately become due and payable and the fishing concession(s) will be suspended; and
- who to contact regarding the arrangement.

What if I don't make a payment or enter into an arrangement to pay?

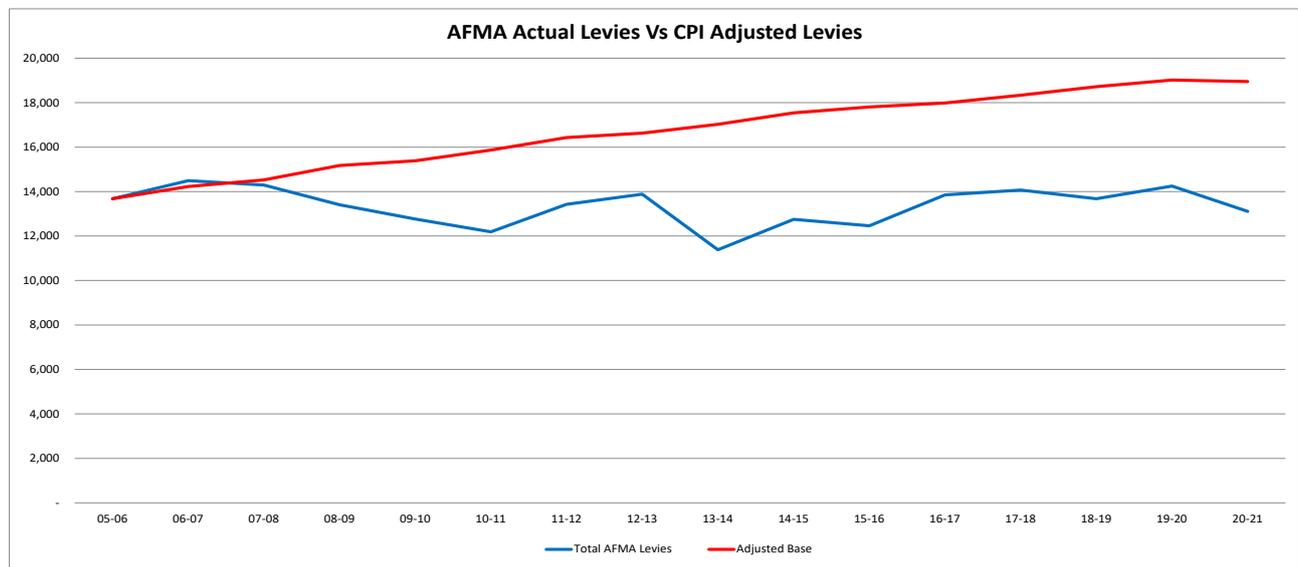
Once an invoice has been issued permanent transfers will not be registered until any outstanding levy and/ or associated charges relating to AFMA concessions are paid in full.

All levies are a debt due to the Commonwealth of Australia. AFMA has an obligation to collect the levy once an invoice has been issued.

Overview of cost recovered budget and levy collection

Despite inflation, AFMA's cost recovered budgets for fisheries management have remained relatively consistent since 2005. In 2010 AFMA made a commitment to the Commonwealth fishing industry that it would keep levies at or below the rate applied in 2005-06 once corrected for Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases. Since making this undertaking in 2010, AFMA has outperformed the cumulative CPI by more than \$51 million, that is, industry has paid \$51 million less than it would have done if CPI increases had been applied each year.

Figure 2 AFMA Actual Levies vs CPI Adjusted Levies



For 2020-21, the total AFMA budget (excluding Torres Strait Fisheries) that is subject to cost recovery is \$15.084 million. This is an increase of 0.27 per cent or \$40,911 on the previous year.

The amount to be collected from the fishing industry each year comprises the budgeted cost recovery amount, plus or minus the acquittal from the prior financial year. In addition, AFMA collects a research levy of 0.25 per cent of each fishery’s gross value of production (GVP) on behalf of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC).

The levy amount to be collected for Commonwealth fisheries (excluding the FRDC research component) in 2020-21 is \$13.112 million. This is a decrease of 7.98 per cent on the \$14.250 million levied in 2019-20.

AFMA has kept costs down through creating efficiencies across the organisation including contracting and market testing of key fisheries management services, the implementation and use of technology based solutions such as electronic monitoring, and identifying and removing unnecessary regulation.

Across all fisheries the total levy amount for 2020-21 has decreased compared to 2019-20, however the levy amount for each fishery may vary substantially due to several factors including:

- changes in management and research priorities for each fishery;
- adjustment for prior year over/under collections; and
- changes in priorities through the financial year that alter the amount of resources required to administer the fishery.

Fisheries in which levies have decreased for 2020-21

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

There has been a 9.82 per cent (\$30 622) decrease in the levy amount for 2020-21 (\$281 179) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$311 801).

This decrease is primarily due to an under-spend in the previous year's research and meeting costs.

Coral Sea Fishery

There has been a 25.23 per cent (\$38 900) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$115 252) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$154 152).

This decrease in the levy payable is due primarily due to an over collection in 2019-20 for an Ecological Risk Assessment of the fishery that did not occur.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 6.97 per cent (\$116 787) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$1 558 224) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 675 011).

This decrease is mainly due to an under-spend of the 2019-20 budget and not having to collect an over-spend of the 2018-19 budget.

Heard Island and Macdonald Islands Fishery

There has been a 7.94 per cent (\$94 669) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$1 098 387) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 193 056).

The decrease is due to a reduced over-spend of the 2019-20 budget compared to the previous year. Budgets have been overspent due to the increased number of observer days expended in the fishery resulting from increased fishing effort.

Northern Prawn Fishery

There has been an 8.92 per cent (\$189 113) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$1 929 843) compared with the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$2 118 956).

The decrease is primarily due to an under-spend against the 2019-20 budget due to lower meeting and observer costs.

Small Pelagic Fishery

There has been a 6.49 per cent (\$65 230) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$939 171) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 004 401).

The decrease primarily reflects a reduced workload and consequently less staff costs expected during 2020-21 as well as a relatively large under spend of the 2019-20 budget for the same reason.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Commonwealth South East Trawl Sector

There was a 20.55 per cent (\$584 209) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$2 258 112) compared to the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$2 842 321).

The decrease in the 2020-21 budget reflects a reduction in dedicated staff time for bycatch operations and variations to the industry co-management agreement and data services contracts. The under spend for 2019-20 is due to less staff time dedicated CSET issues including bycatch operations, projects that were not completed under co-management agreements due to Covid-19 restrictions, as well as revenue collected through fee for service charges.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

There has been a 6.78 per cent (\$96 288) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$1 324 012) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 420 300).

The decrease is mainly due to an under-spend in the previous year combined with a decrease in budget.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery

There has been a 25.07 per cent (\$27 306) decrease in the levy payable for 2020-21 (\$81 602) compared to the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$108 908).

The decrease is primarily due to an under spend of the 2019-20 budget relating to consultant fees for the squid resource assessment group and data collection and management due to a decrease in fishing activity during the 2019-20 financial year.

Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery

There has been a 33.28 per cent (\$5 531) decrease in the levy payable for 2020-21 (\$11 807) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$16 618).

This decrease is due to lower costs for meetings, reduced staffing and no budgeted research for the year.

Fisheries in which levies have increased in 2020-21

Eastern and Western Skipjack Fisheries

There has been a 0.46 per cent (\$276) increase in the levy payable for 2020-21 (\$59 745) compared to the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$59 469).

The fishery budget was almost fully spent in 2019-20 and the budgeted amount for 2020-21 is similar, resulting in a minor increase in the levy collectable.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

There has been a 43.34 per cent (\$64 359) increase in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$212 860) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$148 501).

The increase is partly due to an over-spend of the 2019-20 budget due to increased observer costs and a small increase in the 2020-21 budget to reflect the increased observer costs in the fishery.

North West Slope Fishery

There has been a 27.94 per cent (\$10 527) increase in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$48 212), compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$37 685).

A large under-spend in 2018-19 significantly reduced the 2019-20 levy, partially offset by a relatively lower under-spend in 2019-20, resulted in an overall increase in the amount of levy payable in 2020-21.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector

There has been a 0.32 per cent (\$7 511) increase in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$2 338 455) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$2 330 944).

This increase is due to an increase in the 2020-21 cost-recovered budget offset by an under spend in 2018-19 (which decreased 2019-20 levy payable) and an under spend in 2019-20.

Great Australian Bight Sector

There has been a 2.62 per cent (\$15 071) increase in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$590 441) compared to the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$575 370).

This increase is primarily due to an increase in the 2020-21 cost-recovered budget partially offset by an over spend in 2018-19 (which increased 2019-20 levy payable) and an under spend in 2019-20.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 5.24 per cent (\$13 213) increase in the levy amount payable for 2020-21 (\$265 315) compared to the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$252 102).

This increase is mainly due to a smaller under spend against the previous year's budget compared to 2018-19 and a small increase in the budget for 2020-21.

Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2020-21

Table 2 Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2020-21

Fishery	2020-21 (\$)
Bass Straight Central Zone Scallop Fishery	
Commercial scallop quota SFR	0.6676
Coral Sea Fishery	
Tier 1 permit	7,582.45
Tier 2 permit (aquarium fish sector)	818.13
Tier 2 permit (lobster and/or trochus sectors)	818.13
Tier 2 permit (line sector)	3,272.53
Tier 2 permit (sea cucumber sector)	818.13
Eastern Skipjack Fishery	
Eastern Skipjack permit	1,927.25
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	
Albacore Tuna quota SFR	0.0970
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.1779
Broad Billed Swordfish quota SFR	0.2516
Longline boat SFR	3,903.05
Minorline boat SFR	2,026.58
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.0364
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.5107
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	
Mackerel Icefish quota SFR	22.2728

Fishery	2020-21 (\$)
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	22.2728
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	12.3229
Northern Prawn Fishery	
Northern Prawn Gear SFR	61.74000
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	
North West Slope Trawl Permit	7,539.71
Small Pelagic Fishery	
Australian Sardine quota SFR	0.0104329
Eastern sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0322393
Eastern sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0085329
Eastern sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0340448
Western sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0085329
Western sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0085329
Western sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0085329
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	
Autolongline permit	5,032.55
East Coast Deep Water Trawl permit	460.62
Gillnet boat SFR	6,012.11
GHT fishing permit	2,197.76
GHT trap permit	3,774.41
GAB trawl boat SFR	59,044.10
Scalefish hook boat SFR	2,754.30

Fishery	2020-21 (\$)
Shark hook boat SFR	4,935.77
Trawl boat SFR	7,127.54
Victorian Coastal Waters fishing permit	197.41
Alfonsino quota SFR	0.00126
Bight redfish quota SFR	0.00449
Blue eye trevalla quota SFR	0.25843
Blue grenadier quota SFR	0.09492
Blue warehou quota SFR	0.00357
Deepwater shark (Eastern) individual transferable quota unit	0.01259
Deepwater shark (Western) individual transferable quota unit	0.02551
Deepwater flathead quota SFR	0.00615
Elephant fish quota SFR	0.12291
Flathead quota SFR	0.16026
Gemfish (Eastern) quota SFR	0.03001
Gemfish (Western) quota SFR	0.02714
Gummy shark quota SFR	0.41278
Jackass morwong quota SFR	0.02714
John dory quota SFR	0.05116
Mirror dory quota SFR	0.02687
Ocean perch quota SFR	0.09026
Orange roughy (Albany and Esperance) quota SFR	0.00075
Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau) quota SFR	0.00062
Orange roughy (Eastern) quota SFR	0.02335

Fishery	2020-21 (\$)
Orange roughy (Southern) quota SFR	0.00255
Orange roughy (Western) quota SFR	0.00402
Oreo individual transferable quota unit	0.02309
Smooth Oreo (Cascade Plateau) individual transferable quota unit	0.00000
Smooth Oreo (other) individual transferable quota unit	0.05219
Pink ling quota SFR	0.53309
Redfish quota SFR	0.20067
Ribaldo individual transferable quota unit	0.06808
Royal red prawn quota SFR	0.05039
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (cont.)	
Saw shark quota SFR	0.12540
School shark quota SFR	0.44928
School whiting quota SFR	0.13230
Silver trevally quota SFR	0.00779
Silver warehou quota SFR	0.06338
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Southern Bluefin tuna quota SFR	0.2683
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	
Southern Squid Jig gear SFR	17.6291
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	
Western Deepwater Trawl permit	1,186.54
Western Skipjack Fishery	
Western Skipjack permit	1,927.25

Fishery	2020-21 (\$)
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	
Western Tuna and Billfish longline boat SFR	1,148.54
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.0532
Broadbill Swordfish quota SFR	0.0532
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.0532
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.0532

AFMA contacts

If you have any questions regarding the levies for your fishery, please contact the relevant Fishery Manager:

Table 3 Fishery contacts

Fishery	Contact	Telephone
Bass Strait Scallop Fishery	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
Coral Sea Fishery	Sally Weekes	02 6225 5520
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery		02 6225
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	Brodie Macdonald	02 6225 5368
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	Brodie Macdonald	02 6225 5368
North West Slope Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5351
Northern Prawn Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5351
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Trawl Sector 	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector 	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillnet Hook and Trap 	Brodie MacDonald	02 6225 5368
Eastern and Western Skipjack Fishery		02 6225
Small Pelagic Fishery	Sally Weekes	02 6225 5520
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Matthew Daniel	02 6225 5338
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Sally Weekes	02 6225 5520
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	Darci Wallis	02 6225 5351
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery		02 6225

If you have any questions regarding payment of levies please contact:

Table 4 Finance contact

Finance	Contact	Telephone
Senior Corporate Reporting and Debt Recovery Officer	Simone Pont	02 6225 5343