



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide

2019-2020



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Management and Research Levy arrangements for 2019-20

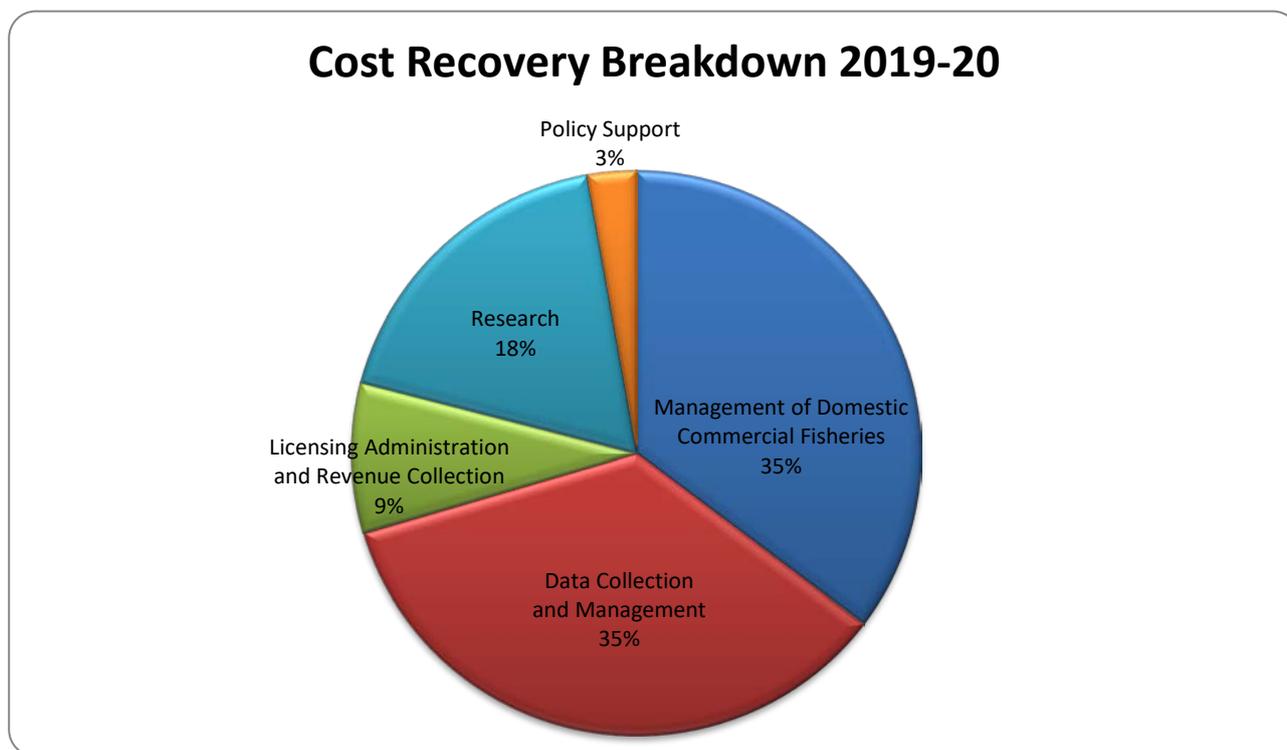
This guide provides answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding annual levy charges and the terms surrounding payment of levies. It also contains some background information on the cost recovered budget and rate changes for each fishery for the 2019-20 financial year.

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 2019-20



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 des my levy relate to?

Your levy covers the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

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

If you are the owner of a leviabale Commonwealth fishing concession you will be issued three invoices throughout the first five months of 2020. 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 2019-20

Levy invoice	Expected issue date	Due date
1	8 January 2020	5 February 2020
2	4 March 2020	1 April 2020
3	1 May 2020	29 May 2020

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 2019-20. 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 2019-20 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 2019-20 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?

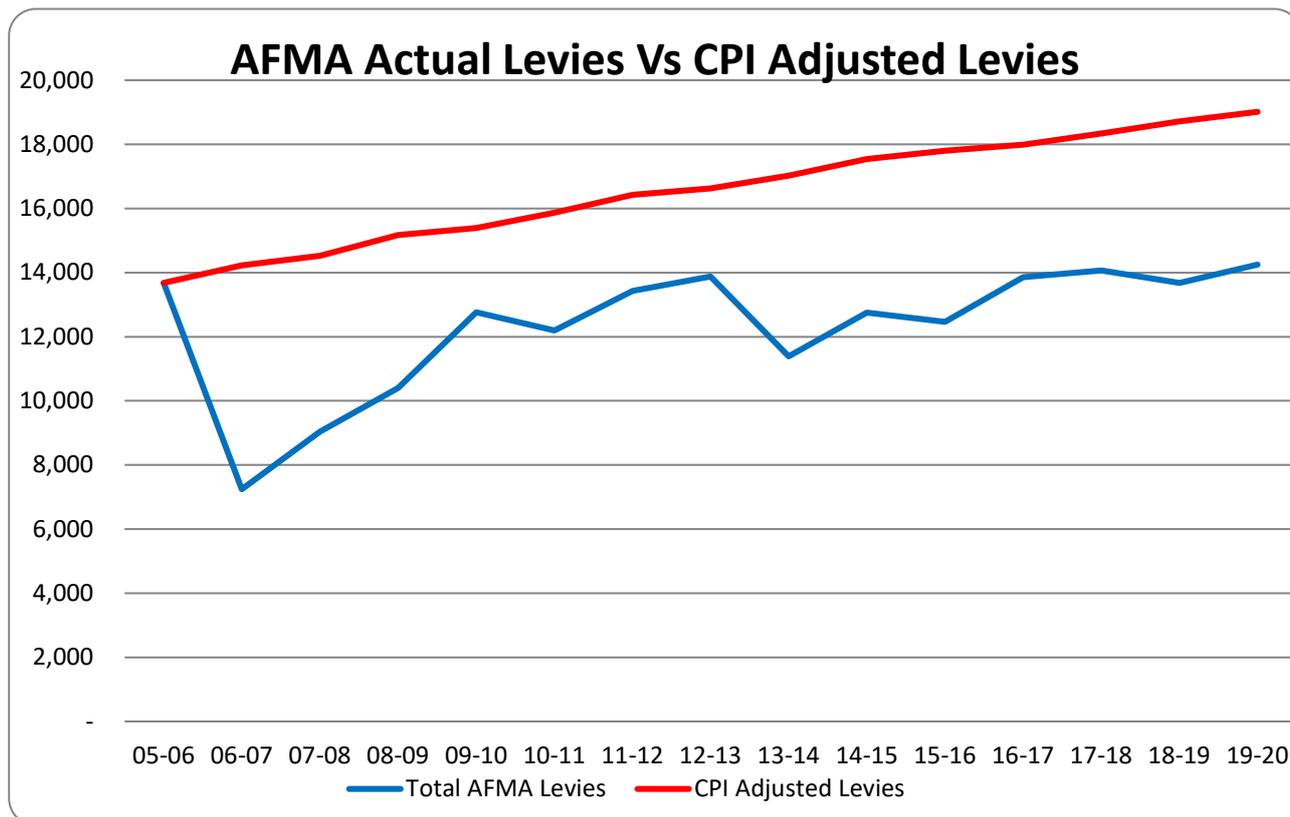
Once an invoice has been issued permanent transfers will not be registered until any outstanding levy and/ or associated charges relating to AFMA concessions are paid in full.

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 \$46 million, that is, industry has paid \$46 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 2019-20, the total AFMA budget (excluding Torres Strait Fisheries) that is subject to cost recovery is \$15.044 million. This is an increase of 1.9 per cent or \$280 720 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 2019-20 is \$14.250 million. This is an increase of 4.20 per cent on the \$13.675 million levied in 2018-19.

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 2019-20 has increased compared to 2018-19, 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 2019-20

Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

There has been a 19.39 per cent (\$74 997) decrease in the levy amount for 2019-20 (\$311 801) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$386 798).

This decrease is primarily due to a management position being unfilled for a portion of the year.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

There has been a 64.85 per cent (\$274 037) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$148 501) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$422 538).

The decrease is due to a combination of an increase in observer days in 2017-18 which then led to higher levies in 2018-19 followed by a slight under spend.

North West Slope Fishery

There has been a 48.52 per cent (\$35 521) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$37 685), compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$73 206).

This decrease has resulted from lower than budgeted staffing levels in 2017-18 and less staff time required on bycatch and harvest strategies in 2018-19.

Small Pelagic Fishery

There has been a 17.13 per cent (\$207 569) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 004 401) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$1 211 970).

This decrease is primarily due to less staff time being required than was budgeted for in 2018-19.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Commonwealth South East Trawl Sector

There was a 1.57 per cent (\$45 319) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$2 842 321) compared to the levy payable for 2018-19 (\$2 887 640).

The decrease is due to an increase in the budget for fisheries management and legal costs being offset by a decrease in the fishery's research budget for 2019-20.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery

There has been a 2.42 per cent (\$35 222) decrease in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 420 300) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$1 455 522).

The decrease is mainly due to the increase in the budget for the fishery in 2019-20 being offset by an under spend of the 2018-19 budget.

Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery

There has been a 79.47 per cent (\$64 335) decrease in the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$16 618) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$80 953).

This decrease has resulted from lower than budgeted staffing costs in 2018-19 and a lower budget for the fishery across 2019-20.

Fisheries in which levies have increased in 2019-20

Coral Sea Fishery

There has been a 13.59 per cent (\$18 438) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$154 152) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$135 714).

The increase has resulted from a combination of an under spend in 2017-18 (a budgeted stakeholder meeting did not occur) followed in 2018-19 by an over spend due to additional staff time required to review harvest strategies and additional observer coverage.

Eastern and Western Skipjack Fisheries

There has been a 39.07 per cent (\$16 708) increase in the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$59 469) compared to the levy payable for 2018-19 (\$42 761).

There has been very little adjustment in terms of over or under spends from previous years to offset the 2019-20 budget for the fishery resulting in an increase in the levy amount to be collected.

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 24.96 per cent (\$334 581) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 675 011) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$1 340 430).

This increase is mainly due to higher research and electronic monitoring costs as well as costs associated with the remaking of key legislative instruments.

Heard Island and Macdonald Islands Fishery

There has been a 60.09 per cent (\$447 829) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$1 193 056) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$745 227).

The increase is primarily due to a higher number of observer days required in 2018-19 than were budgeted for.

Northern Prawn Fishery

There has been a 9.66 per cent (\$186 690) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$2 118 956) compared with the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$1 932 266).

This increase is primarily attributable to an under spend in 2017-18 which reduced the levy amount in 2018-19, followed by an over spend in 2018-19 due to higher than budgeted VMS costs, additional observer days as well as additional research costs.

Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery

Great Australian Bight Sector

There has been a 58.91 per cent (\$213 288) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$575 370) compared to the levy payable for 2018-19 (\$362 082).

This increase is primarily due to the cost of scheduled stock assessments for two of the quota species in the fishery.

Gillnet Hook and Trap Sector

There has been a 1.66 per cent (\$38 158) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$2 330 944) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$2 292 786).

This increase is due to under spends in 2017-18 and again in 2018-19 being offset by increases in costs associated with fishery management, staffing and consultation.

Southern Squid Jig Fishery

There has been a 15.77 per cent (\$14 835) increase in the levy payable for 2019-20 (\$108 908) compared to the levy payable for 2018-19 (\$94 073).

This increase is the result of meetings and reviews typically conducted through teleconference being held face to face.

Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery

There has been a 19.60 per cent (\$41 311) increase in the levy amount payable for 2019-20 (\$252 102) compared to the levy amount payable for 2018-19 (\$210 791).

This increase is primarily due to a combination of under spends in 2017-18 and again in 2018-19 as well as increased costs associated with the remaking of a key legislative instrument and research.

Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2019-20

Table 2 Commonwealth Fisheries Levy Rates for 2019-20

Fishery	2019-20 (\$)
Bass Straight Central Zone Scallop Fishery	
Commercial scallop quota SFR	0.7425
Coral Sea Fishery	
Tier 1 permit	9,391.43
Tier 2 permit (aquarium fish sector)	755.53
Tier 2 permit (lobster and/or trochus sectors)	755.53
Tier 2 permit (line sector)	2,267.20
Tier 2 permit (sea cucumber sector)	755.53
Eastern Skipjack Fishery	
Eastern Skipjack permit	1,918.37
Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery	
Albacore Tuna quota SFR	0.1021
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.1874
Broad Billed Swordfish quota SFR	0.2650
Longline boat SFR	4,140.95
Minorline boat SFR	2,176.65
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.0383
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.5378
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	
Mackerel Icefish quota SFR	22.83
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	22.83

Fishery	2019-20 (\$)
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	
Patagonian Toothfish quota SFR	8.4711
Northern Prawn Fishery	
Northern Prawn Gear SFR	67.10277
North West Slope Trawl Fishery	
North West Slope Trawl Permit	5,700.43
Small Pelagic Fishery	
Australian Sardine quota SFR	0.0112661
Eastern sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0681798
Eastern sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0255709
Eastern sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0076661
Western sub-area Blue Mackerel quota SFR	0.0076661
Western sub-area Jack Mackerel quota SFR	0.0076661
Western sub-area Redbait quota SFR	0.0076661
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery	
Autolongline permit	5,172.67
East Coast Deep Water Trawl permit	533.14
Gillnet boat SFR	6,179.51
GHT fishing permit	2,258.95
GHT trap permit	3,879.50
GAB trawl boat SFR	57,537.00
Scalefish hook boat SFR	2,830.99
Shark hook boat SFR	5,073.20

Fishery	2019-20 (\$)
Trawl boat SFR	9,119.59
Victorian Coastal Waters fishing permit	380.82
Alfonsino quota SFR	0.00220
Bight redfish quota SFR	0.00465
Blue eye trevalla quota SFR	0.31679
Blue grenadier quota SFR	0.06420
Blue warehou quota SFR	0.00515
Deepwater shark (Eastern) individual transferable quota unit	0.01540
Deepwater shark (Western) individual transferable quota unit	0.04357
Deepwater flathead quota SFR	0.00628
Elephant fish quota SFR	0.16999
Flathead quota SFR	0.35302
Gemfish (Eastern) quota SFR	0.09410
Gemfish (Western) quota SFR	0.09459
Gummy shark quota SFR	0.39939
Jackass morwong quota SFR	0.04246
John dory quota SFR	0.06140
Mirror dory quota SFR	0.05827
Ocean perch quota SFR	0.09633
Orange roughy (Albany and Esperance) quota SFR	0.00063
Orange roughy (Cascade Plateau) quota SFR	0.00017
Orange roughy (Eastern) quota SFR	0.02364
Orange roughy (Southern) quota SFR	0.00289

Fishery	2019-20 (\$)
Orange roughy (Western) quota SFR	0.00580
Oreo individual transferable quota unit	0.02143
Smooth Oreo (Cascade Plateau) individual transferable quota unit	0.00000
Smooth Oreo (other) individual transferable quota unit	0.05889
Pink ling quota SFR	0.58929
Redfish quota SFR	0.03081
Ribaldo individual transferable quota unit	0.07376
Royal red prawn quota SFR	0.05747
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery (cont.)	
Saw shark quota SFR	0.13118
School shark quota SFR	0.40938
School whiting quota SFR	0.08057
Silver trevally quota SFR	0.01541
Silver warehou quota SFR	0.10524
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	
Southern Bluefin tuna quota SFR	0.2853
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	
Southern Squid Jig gear SFR	23.8548
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	
Western Deepwater Trawl permit	1,710.73
Western Skipjack Fishery	
Western Skipjack permit	1,918.37
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	

Fishery	2019-20 (\$)
Western Tuna and Billfish longline boat SFR	1,167.03
Bigeye Tuna quota SFR	0.04840
Broadbill Swordfish quota SFR	0.04840
Striped Marlin quota SFR	0.04840
Yellowfin Tuna quota SFR	0.04840

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	Don Bromhead	02 6225 5363
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery	TBA	
Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery	TBA	
North West Slope Fishery	David Power	02 6225 5475
Northern Prawn Fishery	David Power	02 6225 5475
Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery		
• Commonwealth Trawl Sector	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
• Great Australian Bight Trawl Sector	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
• Gillnet Hook and Trap	Brodie MacDonald	02 6225 5368
Eastern and Western Skipjack Fishery	Don Bromhead	02 6225 5363
Small Pelagic Fishery	Sally Weekes	02 6225 5520
Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery	Matthew Daniel	02 6225 5338
Southern Squid Jig Fishery	Daniel Corrie	02 6225 5487
Western Deep Water Trawl Fishery	David Power	02 6225 5475

Fishery	Contact	Telephone
Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery	Don Bromhead	02 6225 5363

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

Table 4 Finance contact

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