

FAQs for draft 2016 Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) consultation

What is a CRIS?

AFMA is required to have a Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) – so that it can meet legislative and government requirements to recover costs from Commonwealth fishery concession owners.

It specifies what costs for activities should be recovered from fishing concession owners industry and what should be funded by government.

For example, it specifies that licencing costs should be paid for by concession owners. It also specifies that foreign and international compliance is paid for by government.

What is this draft 2016 CRIS?

The draft 2016 CRIS has been made available as part of AFMA review of cost recovery arrangements and to enable consultation with fishery stakeholders. Consultation is an important part developing the new CRIS.

AFMA welcomes your written comments and will consider them and make any changes necessary.

After feedback is reviewed, the next step in the [process](#) is to complete and finalise the 2016 CRIS.

What if I want to provide feedback?

AFMA will accept feedback in writing – either through email or letters by the due date of 24 December 2015. You can send emails directly to vyt.vilkaitis@afma.gov.au or post mail to:

Attn: Vyt Vilkaitis
Box 7051
Canberra BC
CANBERRA ACT 2610
Australia

What if I want to speak to someone?

You can contact AFMA about the draft 2016 CRIS by calling the AFMA switchboard on 02 6225 5555. Please ask for the “2016 CRIS hotline” to be directed to someone who can help you with your enquiry.

Who will decide whether the new CRIS should be implemented?

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources can approve or reject the new AFMA CRIS following the consultation period and advice from AFMA.

Why is the CRIS being reviewed?

AFMA is currently using its [2010 CRIS](#). The AFMA CRIS is reviewed every five years so is due to be reviewed. This requirement is part of the [Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines](#).

Why has the CRIS changed?

The government released its [Australian Government Charging Framework](#) which came into effect on 1 July 2015. This framework includes the new [Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines](#) that were published in 2014. This framework outlines what activities AFMA should charge for. It also states that AFMA should take measures [to reduce unnecessary burden](#) to the fishing industry to and simplify cost recovery arrangements. These have contributed to changes that appear in the draft 2016 CRIS.

How has the CRIS changed?

The main differences between the 2010 CRIS and draft 2016 CRIS are :

- using more government funding for engaging with the non-commercial fishing sectors and other stakeholders
- recovering more costs for fishing operational policy work
- recovering costs for information technology work directly related to supporting AFMA's licensing system
- recovering a greater proportion of costs for work being done on bycatch management
- recovering more costs for work being done on e-monitoring and other data collection
- simplifying and streamlining allocation of research costs between government and industry
- simplifying and streamlining the allocation of overheads to activities.

In comparing the dollar change between the 2010 CRIS and the draft 2016 CRIS, there has been an overall increase in recovered costs from fishing concession owners of \$1.325m. This can be seen in the [budget summary by activity and fishery](#).

Why have extra costs been included to be cost recovered?

The costs recovered from fishing concession owners are representative of the cost of the services provided to them. So for example, the IT support costs for the licensing system

are now being cost recovered because the user of the licensing system is the fishing industry.

What does it mean for each fishery?

The changes in the draft 2016 CRIS have not resulted in an even distribution of charges in cost recovery across fisheries. Concession holders have received [information](#) on the changes in their respective fishery along with explanations of those changes.

You can get more information by calling AFMA and asking for the CRIS help line when calling 02 6225 5555.

Why have my fishery costs gone up and others gone down?

For each fishery the reasons for changes in proposed cost recovered costs are different. Each concession owner [received a summary](#) on the main reasons for the changes in their fishery.

Costs are recovered for activities from concession owners and any increase or decrease will be applied to fisheries based on the fishery allocation of that activity. For example, additional e-monitoring costs are being recovered. The allocation model to recover this from concession holders is primarily the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and Gillnet, Hook and Trap Fishery (GHAT) fisheries. This means those concession holders will have to pay more for the costs associated with e-monitoring.

Concession owners received [information](#) on all the fishery allocation for activities as part of their information pack.

What does it mean for me as a Commonwealth fishery concession owner?

AFMA has sent letters out to all concession owners informing them of proposed changes. Increases or decreases in levies are not always easy to work out in individual circumstances. This is because there is another step involved which allocates levies to one or more of:

- boat statutory fishing rights
- quota statutory fishing rights
- individual transferable quota, or
- fishing permits.

This means that depending on what fishing concessions each owner has they will see the effects of increases or decreases differently.

How does it affect my levies?

The draft 2016 CRIS is a comparison of the 2015/16 budget against the 2010 CRIS. It provides how the budget for 2016/17 might look and therefore how it will affect concession owner levies.

The budget [process](#) for 2016/17 will commence around April 2016 and concession owners will have a much better idea of what the changes to their levies will be.

You said my costs would go down if I used e-Logs or e-Monitoring?

Cost reductions in providing electronic services will be passed onto the fishing industry. For example, cost reductions in data entry will be passed on to concession owners as there will be less time required to enter in catch and effort logbook data.

However, reductions as a result of using electronic transactions may not fully offset any increases in charges through changes in the draft 2016 CRIS.

Can I use my industry association to help me provide AFMA with my feedback?

Yes. If you want to provide feedback, doing so through your [industry association](#) is a choice you have. It may have developed a response to AFMA that you can contribute to.