Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

Management Arrangements Booklet

July 2018
Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery

Edited and revised in 2018 by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

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CANBERRA ACT 2610

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1 Introduction

Commercial scallop fishing in the Bass Strait commenced in the early 1970s and is managed under three jurisdictions. AFMA manages the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (BSCZSF) (Figure 1), and Victoria and Tasmania manage zones generally out to 20 nm off their respective coastlines.

Figure 1. Area of the BSCZSF

Within the BSCZSF there are two species of scallop for which quota statutory fishing rights (quota SFRs) have been granted:

- the Commercial Scallop, *Pecten fumatus*, which is the main target species for the fishery.
- the Doughboy Scallop, *Chlamys (Mimachlamys) asperrimus*, which is common throughout the Bass Strait but is rarely retained.

Each species has a total allowable catch (TAC) set for the season. The default period for the season is 1 April to 31 December.

2 Management Arrangements

2.1 Arrangements for the 2018 Fishing Season

Fishing season dates

The 2018 BSCZSF will be opened and fishing can commence on 19 July 2018 and end on 31 December 2018. The period of closure provides protection following peak spat
settlement events while optimising returns for concession holders over the Christmas period.

**Total Allowable Catch**
The TAC is the total catch of each species of scallop (Commercial and Doughboy Scallops) that may be taken by all concession holders in the BSCZSF during a given fishing season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Total Allowable Catch for the 2018 fishing season</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Species</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Scallop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doughboy Scallop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To fish for scallops in the BSCZSF in 2018 you will need to hold at least one quota Statutory Fishing Right (SFR) for each species of scallop. The amount of scallops you can catch in the 2018 season will be determined by the number of quota SFRs that you hold, and by the TAC that is set for the fishing season. Details of the quota SFR conversion factors for the 2018 fishing season are provided in Table 2. To fish, a boat must also be nominated to quota SFRs and a copy of the extract of register of the quota SFRs must be maintained on the boat at all times while acting under its authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Quota SFR conversion factors for the 2018 fishing season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Species</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Scallop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doughboy Scallop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Area closures**
For the 2018 fishing season five areas are closed to fishing to protect adult spawning scallops. Coordinates for these closures are in the Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery (Closure) Direction 2018 and Maps of these closures are at Attachment 1. Fishing, entering or navigating is prohibited in these following areas.

Additionally, under the Harvest Strategy the industry Co-management Committee will close scallop beds or areas under voluntary arrangements that do not meet the discard rate where 80 per cent of the scallops are 85mm or larger in size.


**Exemptions from mandatory area closures**
Applications for exemptions to the prohibition of navigation in protected zones will be considered for approval in exceptional circumstances.
An application for exemption to navigate in a protected zone must be made to an AFMA compliance officer in Canberra either by phone, fax or in person as follows:

- Phone: (02) 6225 5428 or
- Fax: (02) 6225 5442, or
- After hours: AFMA duty officer on 0419 205 329.

An exemption approval will be provided in writing where applicable.

The prohibitions on fishing and navigation in effect for the BSCZSF do not apply to other Commonwealth fisheries occurring in the same area as the BSCZSF.

**No processing at sea**

The processing of scallops at sea is prohibited in the BSCZSF, except for the purpose of testing the quality of scallop meat. The ability to test scallop meat quality, by splitting the shell, has been provided to assist concession holders in determining which areas should be harvested and to prevent resource wastage as a result of harvesting large quantities of scallops that are not in marketable condition.

**All catch covered by quota**

Arrangements that previously allowed fishers in the BSCZSF to take scallops home for personal-use without having to cover it with quota have now been removed. Scallops can still be taken home once they have been accurately recorded by a fish receiver on the Catch Disposal Record (CDR) form. This change now ensures that the requirements for all fish landed are consistent with AFMA’s Quota Administration Policy. The policy was developed in consultation with the fishing industry and other stakeholders and was approved in 2012. The policy requires that all quota species taken need to be accounted for against individual quota holdings.

**No transfer of scallops between boats**

BSCZSF concession holders must not either possess scallops caught by another boat, or transfer scallops to another boat to be landed.

**No retention of species other than scallops**

BSCZSF concession holders must not possess species other than scallops.

2.2  **Policy and legislation**

The BSCZSF is managed through a combination of input and output controls as prescribed in the:

- *Fisheries Management Act 1991* (the Act) and associated amendments and temporary orders
- *Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002* (the Management Plan) and associated amendments, directions and determinations
- *Fisheries Management (Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery) Regulations 2002* (the Regulations) and associated amendments
- BSCZSF Harvest Strategy (June 2015) developed in accordance with the *Commonwealth Fisheries Harvest Strategy Policy 2007*
- Closure directions
• Conditions on quota SFRs.

It is the responsibility of the BSCZSF concession holder to familiarise themselves with the above documents before they go fishing.

**BSCZSF Management Plan**

The Management Plan outlines management of the BSCZSF. The objectives of the Management Plan are to:

a) manage the BSCZSF efficiently and cost-effectively
b) exercise the precautionary principle in regard to the impact of fishing activities on non-target species and the long-term sustainability of the marine environment
c) ensure accountability to the fishing industry and Australian community in the management of the BSCZSF
d) achieve government targets for cost recovery
e) maximise economic efficiency in the exploitation of the resources of the BSCZSF
f) achieve the best use of the living resources of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

Access to the BSCZSF is provided through quota SFRs, which have been issued under the Management Plan. These rights authorise the taking of a pre-determined amount of Commercial and Doughboy Scallops each fishing season. Quota SFRs are tradeable, allowing operators to increase or decrease the amount of scallops they are entitled to take in a season.

Along with conditions on quota SFRs, the Management Plan details concession holders’ obligations when fishing in the area defining the fishery. AFMA may also give closure directions and formulate TAC determinations under the Management Plan and the Act.

Copies of the Management Plan and Regulations are available from the Commonwealth of Australia Law website at:


**BSCZSF Harvest Strategy**

The Harvest Strategy for the BSCZSF uses a tiered approach to apply different levels of management and research services depending on the state of the resource. This allows investment through the levy base to be varied according to commercial interests in the resource and balances the risk of over exploitation with obtaining knowledge on the status of the stock at the start of the season.


The Harvest Strategy will be reviewed annually by AFMA in consultation with ScallopRAG and ScallopMAC. Any change to the Harvest Strategy must be agreed by the AFMA Commission.
2.3 Consultative Arrangements

Scallop Management Advisory Committee (ScallopMAC)

ScallopMAC is the primary consultative forum for the BSCZSF. ScallopMAC provides advice to the AFMA Commission and facilitates the two-way exchange of information between fishery stakeholders and AFMA on issues such as management arrangements, research priorities, TACs and budgetary matters. ScallopMAC is also responsible for establishing any sub-committees and working groups that may be required to ensure management issues are given proper attention.

ScallopMAC members are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>John Pollock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research member</td>
<td>Professor Brendan Kelaher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation member</td>
<td>Dr Sylvia Zukowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member (Tasmania)</td>
<td>Allan Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member (Tasmania)</td>
<td>John Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member (Tasmania)</td>
<td>Stuart Richey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member (Victoria)</td>
<td>Andrew Watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member (Tasmania)</td>
<td>Debbie Wisby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMA member</td>
<td>Sally Weekes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive officer</td>
<td>AFMA staff member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited Participant (industry, Victoria)</td>
<td>John Cull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invited Participant (industry)</td>
<td>Bob Lister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scallop Resource Assessment Group (ScallopRAG)

ScallopRAG provides scientific and economic advice to ScallopMAC and AFMA. ScallopRAG provides a forum for ongoing analysis, assessment and reporting on the status of the BSCZSF, including target stocks, health of the marine environment and economic efficiency. ScallopRAG evaluates management strategies including the effectiveness of the Harvest Strategy and TAC determinations, develops sustainability indicators for the BSCZSF and identifies research priorities.

ScallopRAG membership is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Professor Brendan Kelaher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific member</td>
<td>Nicolas Marton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific member</td>
<td>Associate Professor Jayson Semmens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry member</td>
<td>Allan Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMA member</td>
<td>Sally Weekes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive officer</td>
<td>AFMA staff member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Industry Management Committee
The BSCZSF Industry Management Committee (Co-management Committee) comprises of members as determined by ScallopMAC, ordinarily consisting of:

- a chairperson
- two industry representatives from Tasmania
- two industry representatives from Victoria.

The Co-Management Committee may agree upon fishing start and end dates within season dates, the order and timing of harvesting within open areas and the protection of juvenile or local spawning biomass within open beds as appropriate (which may include having regard to stock status within Tasmanian and Victorian waters).

The Co-Management Committee must provide AFMA with:

- notification of agreed fishing start and end dates at least 24 hours before the commencement of fishing
- notification of agreed voluntary closures to protect juvenile scallop beds that do not meet the discard rate of less than 20 per cent of scallops less than 85mm at least five days prior to commencement
- prompt information regarding Co-Management Committee agreed actions, implementation and outcomes, to allow consideration of actions by ScallopRAG and ScallopMAC before ScallopRAG and ScallopMAC make recommendations to AFMA for the following season.

Bass Strait Scallop Industry co-management committee members for the 2018 fishing season are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industry co-ordinator (Chair)</td>
<td>Bob Lister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian representative</td>
<td>Andrew Watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian representative</td>
<td>John Cull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian representative</td>
<td>Dusty Cull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian representative</td>
<td>Allan Barnett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian representative</td>
<td>John Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian representative</td>
<td>John Richey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFMA representative</td>
<td>Sally Weekes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who do I contact if I have any questions or want to provide information to the Committee?

If you have any queries regarding the Committee, or if you would like to provide a report on conditions in the fishery for consideration by the Committee, please contact Bob Lister, industry co-ordinator on:

- Phone: 0427 278 270
- Email: boblister22@bigpond.com
3 Logbooks

3.1 Daily Fishing Logbook

**Important note**
The daily fishing logbook that will be in use for the BSCZSF from the start of the 2018 season is the Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B). Detailed instructions on how to complete this logbook are provided inside the front cover.

All operators must complete and submit, within three business days, the Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B) for each day of the fishing season, regardless of whether or not fishing takes place on that day. All logbook information must be recorded on a daily basis. However, a new column must be completed every time you move more than five nautical miles from your last haul and when you change from fishing to searching or searching to fishing. Details for the last day of the trip must be recorded before the boat docks at the end of each trip.

3.2 Catch Disposal Record

**Important note**
The catch disposal record that is currently in use for the BSCZSF is the Commonwealth Scallop/Squid Catch Disposal Record (SCQ02A). Detailed instructions on how to complete this catch disposal record are provided inside the front cover.

Catch disposal records (CDRs) provide information on the landed commercial catch, and also serve as a means to verify information recorded in the catch and effort logbooks. A copy of the completed catch disposal form must be submitted (by the concession holder or their authorised agent) to AFMA within three business days of dispatch of a consignment from the place of unloading.

If you don’t send your logbook returns and CDR forms in on time you are in breach of the Act. AFMA may take prosecution action if you fail to complete your logbooks or CDRs in accordance with the instructions.

**For the concession holder:** All fields, including an accurate weight, should be recorded on the CDR before the scallops have been moved more than 50m from the boat. Parts A and B of the CDR must be fully completed and signed by the concession holder or their authorised agent who should be the Master (Skipper) of the vessel, before being submitted to AFMA. All fields must have the relevant information completed and any irrelevant fields indicated with a dash or N/A in that field.

Fishers no longer need to land to a fish receiver permit holder. Fishers still need to complete Part A and Part B of the CDR, however, it will be the verified weight recorded at the point of unload which is entered in Part B, that will be deducted from individual quota holdings.
**Recording an accurate weight**

The holder must record the accurate weight of any scallops at the point of unload in order to complete Part A and B of the Catch Disposal Record. To avoid any doubt, this means the holder must not transport any scallops taken under the authority of this concession before accurately weighing those scallops in the first instance.

Accurately weighing means weighing scallops on an approved and verified/certified weighing instrument in accordance with the *National Measurement Act 1960* managed by the State and Territories Uniformed Trade and Measurement Legislation.

**For the fish receiver:** Companies or individuals that receive scallops after Part B of the CDR has been completed by the fisher (as outlined above), are no longer required to hold a fish receiver permit. Arrangements relating to receiving fish taken from other Commonwealth fisheries still apply.

For all enquiries, see ‘Contacts’ section of this booklet.

4 Compliance

4.1 Compliance overview

AFMA’s compliance and enforcement program is ultimately designed to maintain the integrity of fisheries management arrangements and protect Australia’s fishing resources. AFMA seeks to achieve a level of compliance consistent with its legislative objectives by maximising voluntary compliance and creating effective deterrents to non-compliance.

The main functions of the compliance program include:

- ensuring compliance with AFMA’s domestic fisheries management measures
- ensuring licensed boats comply with fishing conditions within the AFZ
- ensuring that there are no unlicensed foreign boats operating in the AFZ
- managing port access for foreign boats
- surveillance and apprehension of foreign boats fishing illegally in the AFZ.

The National Compliance and Enforcement Program is conducted via the use of a risk based approach, which enables AFMA’s resources to be targeted to the areas where they are most needed and where they will prove most effective. It involves a series of steps to identify and assess non-compliance risks and then apply appropriate enforcement actions to mitigate these risks.

Risk-based compliance has a range of benefits:

- **improved compliance outcomes** – AFMA can tailor or target compliance measures to effectively deal with the most significant non-compliance risks

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1 Source: Risk-based Compliance information is available at The Better Regulation Office (www.betterregulation.nsw.gov.au).
• **efficiency gains** – directing compliance measures to the most significant risks ensures resources are concentrated in the areas where they are most likely to improve compliance outcomes

• **greater industry support for compliance programs/measures** – risk management processes are widely understood by the fishing industry and the community as a whole.

In addition to the risk treatment model, it is essential that AFMA maintains a general deterrence program. By maintaining a presence at fishing ports (and at sea) AFMA discourages those members of the fishing community who do not wish to comply with the rules and regulations. It also reassures those who are complying that non-compliant activity is likely to be detected. Further, AFMA Officers can assist those wishing to comply (but not knowing how) by providing advice and/or instructions on operators responsibilities.

### 4.2 Navigation regulations

Additional regulations were introduced regarding navigation in closures through an amendment to Part 9A of the *Fisheries Management Regulations 1992*.

Under the regulations a boat must maintain a speed over 5 knots when navigating in a closure. If the closure is in effect for less than 24 hours (such as daylight closures) the boat must either be stationary or travelling faster than 5 knots. A breach of the regulations is an offence of strict liability equal to 25 penalty units, or $5,250.

Speed is calculated via the boat’s vessel monitoring system. Therefore, it is recommended that the most direct route is taken when travelling through a closure so the boat does not appear to be navigating at less than 5 knots. If the boat is stationary within a closure, the boat is required to remain in that closure for greater than 30 minutes.

If the master of a boat is unable to comply with any of the navigation requirements due to an unforeseen emergency (e.g. crew safety, breakdowns etc.) then the master must contact AFMA as soon as possible to request an exemption from the regulation.

### 4.3 Vessel monitoring system (VMS)

#### VMS reporting

It is your responsibility to ensure that any boat nominated to your concession is fitted with a VMS of a category specified in the register of AFMA approved units. This register can be found on the AFMA website at:


The VMS unit must remain switched on at all times that the boat is nominated to a Commonwealth concession, including when in port or engaged in State fishing. You must ensure the VMS is reporting correctly before going out to sea for the first time and that no interference occurs with the correct operation of the VMS unit.
On becoming aware of a problem with the VMS functioning, the concession holder must advise AFMA as soon as practicable via:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>(02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
<td>0419 205 329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>(02) 6225 5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au">VMSreporting@afma.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the VMS is not operating or is malfunctioning the boat must remain in port until the VMS is inspected, repaired if necessary and AFMA has received confirmation from an authorised technician that the automatic location communicator (ALC) is functioning normally.

**Directions to return to port**

Depending on the circumstances, and in accordance with its enforcement decision principles as outlined in the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy, if a nominated boat’s VMS unit stops reporting AFMA may require the boat to immediately return to, and/or remain in port until such a time as AFMA is satisfied the problems with the VMS unit have been rectified.

**Manual reporting**

If a nominated boat’s VMS unit stops reporting, you will be required to manually report the boat’s position at a frequency specified by AFMA.

The manual position reports must include:

- the boat’s name
- the boat’s distinguishing symbol
- the boat’s present latitude and longitude (in degrees and minutes)
- the date and time.

**Manual position reports are to be made by:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>(02) 6225 5369 (if prompted, follow instructions on the voice mail)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax:</td>
<td>(02) 6225 5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au">VMSreporting@afma.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Temporary switch off (TSO) arrangements**

A TSO is a formal arrangement that allows a unit to be legitimately switched off. If a nominated vessel is undergoing maintenance, berthed for an extended period or in other exceptional circumstances that render VMS operation impractical, you can apply for a TSO by filling out an ‘Application for VMS Temporary Switch Off’ form.

The request needs to be made prior to the VMS being switched off. A TSO is not automatically granted, and AFMA considers a variety of factors, including previous VMS non-compliance and whether the need is genuine before permission being granted.
Completed forms should be sent to AFMA via:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>(02) 6225 5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VMSreporting@afma.gov.au">VMSreporting@afma.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>Data Processing AFMA PO Box 7051 CANBERRA BC ACT 2610</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Switching off a unit without first obtaining a TSO will constitute an offence. It is also an offence for a vessel to be moved, from the place stipulated under the TSO, without approval from AFMA.

## 5 Illegal/suspicious fishing – Call CRIMFISH – 1800 274 634

If you suspect illegal fishing operations are occurring or witness any suspicious activity involving fish or fishing type activity (e.g. selling fish off the back of vessels or vehicles whilst offering a reduced price, questionable landing sites etc.) you can either contact AFMA’s Freecall CRIMFISH hotline on 1800 274 634 (1800 CRIMFISH) or you can contact AFMA’s Duty Officer on 0419 205 329 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) as soon as possible after you discover the event. More information is available on the CRIMFISH page of the AFMA website at [www.afma.gov.au/managing-our-fisheries/compliance-activities/1800-crimfish/](http://www.afma.gov.au/managing-our-fisheries/compliance-activities/1800-crimfish/).

Reports may be made anonymously and all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence. Ideally any information supplied should be as detailed as possible to assist AFMA to investigate the incident and should include the following:

- the date, time and location that the activity took place
- the names of any verifying witnesses
- Any photographs and/or other evidence.

If you sight a vessel you believe may be involved in illegal fishing please contact the AFMA National Surveillance & Response Unit, based at the Customs Border Protection & Command watchfloor on Freecall 1800 06 1800 (attended 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Again all information received will be treated as strictly confidential.

## 6 Licensing and quota management

### 6.1 Quota transactions

**Nomination of a boat to quota Statutory Fishing Rights**

Concession holders must nominate a boat against their quota SFRs before being permitted to fish in the BSCZSF. If required, the transaction can be done through GOFish
or by AFMA on receipt of a completed BN (Boat Nomination form) with the BN-SCA attachment.

**Permanent transfer of quota Statutory Fishing Rights**

Concession holders may permanently transfer quota SFRs as described above. AFMA is **NOT** able to approve the transfer of SFRs if:

- the owner of the SFRs (transferee) is subject to legal proceedings in relation to those SFRs
- the SFRs have been suspended or, if suspended, the owner has requested a review of that suspension or AFMA believes there may be grounds for suspension
- Once levies have been issued.

**Leasing of quota Statutory Fishing Rights**

Quota SFRs may be temporarily leased to another operator as described above, and are only applicable for the fishing season in which the lease has taken place.

**PLEASE NOTE** – All quota transactions (i.e. nominations, denominations, seasonal leases), can be done on GOFish by registered users at NO COST. All of these transactions, if done by AFMA from submitted completed paperwork, will incur a service fee.


### 6.2 Quota deduction and reconciliation

Quota is deducted from your total quota allocation using the **verified weights detailed on Part B of each Catch Disposal Record (CDR)**. The information you record in your *Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook* (SCA01B) is not used to deduct your quota from your allocation, although it may be used to cross check with other information.

**Important note**

You must hold quota before fishing and have enough to cover your entire catch for each trip.

AFMA may vary or amend a concession holder’s entitlements in the current or subsequent years for any overcatch not balanced with uncaught quota, or discovered following conviction, or where AFMA has reason to believe that catches were misreported. Concession holders may also face administrative restrictions where catches have exceeded their quota holdings during the fishing season.

**28 day quota reconciliation**

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

If you are still over quota after the 28 day period for each landing you will be subject to compliance action. You must keep track of your catch and quota and ensure that you
reconcile catch with quota prior to the due date. The only over-quota notification issued from AFMA is via GOFish – (see above for registration details if required) Concession holders are responsible for monitoring their own catch and quota holdings.

If you are not able to reconcile your over-quota amount within 28 days, please submit your exceptional circumstance reasons to AFMA’s Licensing and Data Services before the due date. This information will be considered by compliance in determining the enforcement action to be taken.

6.3 Keeping track of your quota

Quota transaction and holding statements
Concession holders wishing to obtain a quota holding and catch summary (QHS) or quota transaction statement (QTS) can obtain a free statement by registering for GOFish. A fee will be charged for all statements requested by concession holders and sent out by AFMA Licensing and Data Services staff.

**Important note**
The onus is on concession holders to ensure that they check their Quota Transaction Statements thoroughly and report any discrepancies or errors to AFMA.

Scallops that are returned to the water
The weight of any Doughboy or Commercial Scallops that you put back in the water will not be recorded on your CDR and will not come off your quota.

However, you should make sure that you estimate the weight of all Doughboy and Commercial Scallops that come up in your scallop harvester in your Commonwealth Scallop Daily Fishing Logbook (SCA01B). There is a section in the logbook to record the discarded percentage of your scallop catch.

6.4 GOFish
Operators are currently able to access a number of functions through GOFish, these include:

- viewing, exporting and printing QHSs and QTSs
- viewing 28 day quota reconciliation statements located in GOFish under ‘Documents’
- leasing quota SFRs (please note - the lessee is no longer required to accept a lease)
- permanently transferring quota SFRs (if authorised)
- nominating and denominating quota SFRs to/from boats
- applications for Permits.

**Instructions on how to access GOFish**
• Organisations (including companies and partnerships) will need to complete an RA form to authorise an individual (or individuals) to act on their behalf when using GOFish.

• Individual concession holders and agents may need to complete an AGR (Electronic Participation Agreement) application for GOFish registration to gain access to the GOFish system, if unsure check with licensing and data services on 1300 723 621.

6.5 Scientific Permits
Scientific permits are granted for the purposes of conducting scientific research in a specified area of the AFZ or in a specified fishery.

AFMA will only grant an application for a scientific permit if the application is on the approved form, it provides sufficient information for the application to be assessed, and the proposed activity is for a scientific research purpose.

Scientific permits are granted for a maximum duration of six months. Scientific permits are not transferable. Concession holders are reminded that scientific permits may take between 7-10 days to be processed.

The Application for Scientific Permit (SP1) form can be found on the AFMA website at: www.afma.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Application-for-Scientific-Permit1.pdf, alternatively, you can complete an application form in GoFish or by contacting AFMA Licensing and Data Services on 1300 723 621.

6.6 Fishing in Other Commonwealth Fisheries
You must hold a valid fishing concession to fish in any Commonwealth fishery. For information on requirements in other Commonwealth Fisheries please contact AFMA on 1300 723 621.

7 Annual Management and Research levies
Operators who own fishing concessions that attract a levy will receive three separate management and research levy invoices. Each invoice being one third of your total annual levy amount payable on the fishing concession(s) you own on the date of invoicing. Levy invoices are issued in January, March and May every year.

It is important to note that levies are issued in line with the financial year, not fishing season.

7.1 How to pay your levies
You can make your payments by BPAY, direct deposit to the National Australia Bank, credit card (by faxing in your card details or calling AFMA direct) or by cheque. All account details, biller code and contact details are included on the Payment Options page of your levy invoice. Please include the associated invoice/reference number with your payment so AFMA can ensure your payment is attributed correctly.
7.2 Need more time to pay your levies?

A concession holder can request to enter into an arrangement to pay an overdue levy. To request an arrangement to pay, a concession holder must contact AFMA as soon as possible on 1300 723 621 to discuss payment options. There is a $220 administration fee to enter into an arrangement and unpaid amounts attract a penalty at the rate of 20 per cent per annum, which is calculated daily. AFMA will suspend and may cancel fishing concessions if levy remains unpaid and an arrangement has not been entered into.

For further information on levies, including invoice issue and due dates, please refer to the AFMA Levy Arrangements Guide for the year, available at www.afma.gov.au.

7.3 Fee for service arrangements

AFMA introduced revised fee for service arrangements for licensing and logbook services on 1 July 2013. The costs of providing these services are now charged directly to those using the service instead of through annual levies.

Licensing services will be charged at the time an application is lodged or a transaction is processed. Paper logbook submission charges will be invoiced in arrears in October, January, May and July every year.

In most cases, you can reduce the amount you pay for licensing services by using the electronic options available.

Details on the fee for service arrangements are available at www.afma.gov.au/fisheries-services/fees-payments/.

8 Observers

8.1 Observer obligations

A fishing operator must carry an AFMA observer upon request by AFMA. The cost of observers is generally met by industry through levies, but some trips may be invoiced directly.

The master of the boat must provide the observer with safe passage, adequate food and accommodation while the observer is on board the boat during trip. The master must allow the observer to have access to the parts of the boat which the observer reasonably requires access to, use facilities, take samples, operate equipment and provide assistance to the observer to the extent that is reasonably necessary for them to perform his or her functions.

The master is also required to give the observer the information that he or she reasonably asks for in relation to:

- the boat; or
- its equipment; or
- species interacted with by the boat.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Observer Manager on (02) 6225 5398.
8.2 Role of the observer

The role of an observer is to collect independent, accurate and reliable data on Commonwealth fishing operations, catches and interactions with the environment by the boat and its fishing gear.

This is achieved through:

- collection of boat activity and catch data (that is not obtainable through official logbooks);
- collection of data and samples for research programs, supporting marine management and other issues relevant to environmental awareness and fisheries management;
- observe compliance of the boat with its fishing concession.

The role of the observer is not one of a fisheries officer. Observers have no authority to direct fishing operations of the boat or act in an enforcement role. However, observers are required to report their observations, including illegal fishing activity.

9 Environmental requirements

9.1 Bycatch and Discarding Work Plan


The Ecological Risk Management (ERM) framework details a process to assess the risks (identified through ERA process) that the BSCZSF poses to the ecological sustainability of the marine environment. Under this framework, risk mitigation/reduction strategies are implemented to address identified risks. The risk assessment reports and ERM strategy for the BSCZSF are available on the AFMA website at www.afma.gov.au/sustainability-environment/ecological-risk-management-strategies/.

The ERM framework, including the methodology for undertaking Ecological Risk Assessments, has been revised (www.afma.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Final-ERM-Guide_April-2017.pdf). The ERA for the BSCZSF is due to be updated in 2018-19 and the management of any risks identified will be outlined in a new Fishery Management Strategy (FMS).

9.2 Marine Protected Areas for the South-East Marine Region

Network Management Plan

Guide for network users

9.3 Wildlife (Protected Species) Interactions

What is a protected species?
The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) establishes four different categories of protected species in Commonwealth areas. These provide for the recovery of populations and/or the long-term conservation of a species. A species that is a member of the following categories is a protected species.

- **Listed threatened species** or **listed threatened ecological communities** generally include species with low population numbers, those that have had a reduction in habitat or distribution, or are subject to an increase in other threats to the species survival.

- **Listed migratory species** are listed to meet Australia’s obligations under the Convention on Migratory Species which requires that we provide protection for species listed in the Convention.

- **Listed marine species** are listed to provide general protection to Australia’s marine native wildlife to reduce the likelihood of population decline. It is an offence to kill, injure, trade, take, keep or move native wildlife without a permit or other authorisation.

- **All cetaceans** are listed to uphold Australia’s strong international, regional and national measures for the protection of this group of animals.

There are many species of animals that are classified as protected. Of relevance to Commonwealth fisheries, all whales, dolphin, seabirds, sea snakes, turtles, seals and sea lions, syngnathids (sea horses, sea dragons and pipefish), sawfishes (green, freshwater and dwarf), crocodiles and dugongs are protected. There are also a small number of sharks (school shark, great white, grey nurse, porbeagle, shortfin mako, longfin mako) and other fish listed under the EPBC Act. A full listing of protected species is available on the Department of the Environment website at: www.environment.gov.au/.

Protected species identification guide
To help operators accurately report their protected species interactions, AFMA has produced a protected species identification guide. This guide covers the range of protected species that AFMA managed fisheries do, or have the potential to, interact with during their normal fishing operations. The waterproof guide provides pictures of these species along with an indicative distribution and key biological information.

If you do not have a copy of this identification guide and would like a free copy, please contact AFMA on 1300 723 621.
What is an interaction with a protected species?

‘Interaction’ means: any physical contact an individual has with a protected species. This includes all catching (hooked, netted, entangled) and collisions with an individual of these species.

Interactions with protected species under the EPBC Act

Under the EPBC Act, it is an offence to interact with a protected species. However, because the BSCZSF is managed in line with an accredited Management Plan, any operator who interacts with a protected species as listed in Part 13 of the EPBC Act, will not be committing an offence if their operations are consistent with the Management Plan for the BSCZSF and all interactions with protected species are reported. Failure to report an interaction with a protected species is an offence under the EPBC Act.

Reporting of interactions with protected species

In 2005, AFMA and the Department of the Environment and Energy streamlined the reporting requirements for protected species interactions in Commonwealth fisheries. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) enabling operators to fulfil their reporting obligations under the EPBC Act, by reporting through AFMA logbooks was established. Under the MOU, AFMA provides a summary protected species interaction report to Department of the Environment and Energy on a quarterly basis on behalf of fishers.

BSCZSF operators must report all interactions with protected species. To do this, operators who have an interaction with a protected species are required to record the following information on the Wildlife and Other Protected Species Form in the back of the logbook:

- Species name and date – Record the common name and quantities of the animal/s encountered under the relevant date column in the bycatch details section of the logbook.
- Time – Record the estimated time at which the interaction occurred in the comments section of the logbook.
- Position – Specify the location of the interaction by latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes in the comments section of the logbook.
- Caught during fishing operation – indicate whether the interaction occurred during a fishing operation (during setting or hauling of gear) in the comments section of the logbook.
- Band or tag – Record a band or tag number if a band or tag was found in the comments section of the logbook.
- Life status – Record the condition or life status (i.e. live/dead/injured/unknown) of the animal at the time of release in the comments section of the logbook.

Through participating in this reporting arrangement, operators only need to report protected species interactions once, to AFMA. Interaction reports provided to the Department of the Environment and Energy are available on the AFMA website at
Contact details for environment enquiries (including queries on protected species) are provided in the ‘Contacts’ section of this booklet.
10 Contact details

AFMA Direct
AFMA Direct (free call) 1300 723 621
Phone (02) 6225 5555
Fax (02) 6225 5500

BSCZSF Management Team
Sally Weekes Manager (02) 6225 5520
Email Sally.weekes@afma.gov.au

Compliance
Adam Wade (National Compliance Planning and Operations Manager, Canberra) (02) 6225 5563
Duty officer (after hours) 0439 464 150
Compliance fax (02) 6225 5442
VMS fax (02) 6225 5440
VMS phone enquiries (02) 6225 5542
Compliance email domesticcompliance@afma.gov.au
VMS email (for general enquiries) vmsinfo@afma.gov.au
VMS email (to report a unit breakdown or request temporary switch off) vmsreporting@afma.gov.au

Logbook Administration
Ms Laura Walker (02) 6225 5382
(Licensing and Data Services Officer)
Fax (02) 6225 5440
Email dataentry@afma.gov.au

Licensing and Quota Management
Ms Anne Shepherd (02) 6225 5361
(Licensing and Data Services Manager)
Licensing and Data Services officers 1300 723 621
Fax (02) 6225 5440
Email licensing@afma.gov.au
Observers
Observer Program Manager (02) 6225 5398
Duty officer (after hours) 0427 016 859
Email observers@afma.gov.au

Bass Strait Scallop Industry Management Committee
Bob Lister (Industry Coordinator) 0427 278 270
Fax (03) 6227 8270
Email bobлистер22@bigpond.com

State Fisheries Agencies
Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment - Wild Fisheries Management Branch (03) 6165 3000
Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources - Fisheries Division 136 186

Octopus fishers (potential gear interactions)
Octopus fishers operate throughout the Bass Strait for the whole year. Their contact details have been provided to prevent gear interactions.

Craig Hardy 0409 581 278 craig@topfishtas.com.au
Bradley Hardy 0419 205 486 bradhardy5@hotmail.com
Michael Hardy

michael@topfishtas.com.au
Acronyms

AFMA  Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFZ  Australian Fishing Zone
BSCZSF  Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery
CDR  Catch Disposal Record
EPBC Act  Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
ERA  Ecological Risk Assessment
ERM  Ecological Risk Management
FRP  Fish Receiver Permit
Management Plan  Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Plan 2002
mm  Millimetre
MOU  Memorandum of Understanding
nm  Nautical Mile
QHS  Quota holding and catch summary
QTS  Quota transaction statement
RA  Authorised Agent form
Regulations  Fisheries Management (Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery) Regulations 2002
ScallopMAC  Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Management Advisory Committee
ScallopRAG  Bass Strait Central Zone Scallop Fishery Resource Assessment Group
SFR  Statutory Fishing Right
TAC  Total Allowable Catch
the Act  Fisheries Management Act 1991
TSO  Temporary switch off
VMS  Vessel Monitoring System
Attachment 2: South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves

Subject to the requirements of the Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network, the following are some of the reserves:

- **MURRAY**: Total area: 25,803 km²
- **NELSON**: Total area: 6,123 km²
- **ZEEHAN**: Total area: 19,897 km²
- **FRANKLIN**: Total area: 671 km²
- **ROAGS**: Total area: 537 km²
- **TASMAN FRACTURE**: Total area: 42,591 km²

The map also shows the Australian EEZ Limit, Continental shelf, and State Marine Protected Areas.
Attachment 3: Basslink Cable Awareness and Code of Conduct for Fishing and Anchoring Safely within Basslink

Cable Awareness

For Commercial and Recreational Fisherman

The information on this sheet should be transcribed into your charts.

Cable Route Position List
All positions with reference to WGS 84

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<th>Longitude East</th>
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Note: The chart should be surveyed in conjunction with the Lat and Long shown (at the right). Caution is to be exercised within 500 metres of the cable route.

Please refer to the “Code of Conduct for Fishing and Anchoring Safety with Basslink”, which can be obtained on the Basslink website at www.basslink.com.au or by calling 0396074700.

In the event that you believe you have fouled a submarine cable please call the Basslink Marine Hotline: 1800 008 767.

- Keep safe
- Know where the cable is
- Avoid the cable
- Don't allow anchors to drag near the cable
- Don't try to lift the cable. It is far too heavy, and you risk capsizing your vessel

Issue date: September 2017

Catch Fish Not Cables
Please refer to important information overleaf.
moment on its 24 hour emergency number 1800006767. There is free replacement of anchors in these circumstances; the claims procedure is listed in section 7 of this brochure.

The discarded anchor assembly will be a navigation hazard so its position should be reported to other mariners in the area, local coast guards, relevant port authorities and fishing co-operatives.

7. How to Claim for Discarded Gear

Basslink Pty Ltd has a free replacement policy to discourage efforts to recover anchors snagged on the cables because of the risk of causing damage to it.

Record as much information as possible about how the incident occurred; it will help speed the process and may help others in the future.

Claim forms are available direct from Basslink Pty Ltd and can be downloaded from:


Claims should be submitted for consideration within 14 days of the incident.

8. Map of Basslink

9. Useful Contacts

Emergency

Australian Maritime Safety Authority Search and Rescue 1800 641 792 (24hr Emergency)
Coast Guard Search and Rescue (03) 9598 7003
Basslink 1800 008 767 (24hr Emergency)

Information

Basslink Pty Ltd (03) 9407 4700 (general enquiries) www.basslink.com.au
International Cable Protection Committee www.iscpc.org
Oceania Submarine Cable Association www.oscagroup.com

Know your location. Catch fish not cables.

Code of Conduct for Fishing and Anchoring Safely with Basslink

Overview

Basslink connects Tasmania and Victoria across Bass Strait via two high voltage and one telecommunications cable combined in a very heavy bundle 290km long. It is critical infrastructure for the Tasmanian economy and it is an essential service for the energy security of Victoria.

This voluntary Code of Conduct is important to your safety as a fisherman or recreational sailor and as well as the economic wellbeing of the community generally.

The Code was developed by the owners of Basslink, Basslink Pty Ltd, in consultation with fishing industry bodies and State and Commonwealth Government Agencies during the project’s approval phase.

All parties were unanimous that a voluntary Code of Conduct was a better outcome than an official exclusion zone around Basslink. Nevertheless mariners are advised to be extremely cautious within 500 meters of the cable route.

Similar Codes of Conduct have operated successfully in other heavily fished areas of the world with the support of the local industry.

Please take time to read this Code carefully.

The key messages are:

- Keep safe
- Know where the cables are
- Avoid the cables
- Do not allow anchors to drag near the cables
- Don’t try to lift the cables. They are far too heavy, and you risk capsizing your vessel.
Code of Conduct

1. Know Where the Cables are
The cables are laid between McGaurans Beach in Victoria and Four Mile Bluff (road of Low Head) at the mouth of the river Tamar in Tasmania. They run from McGaurans Beach to the west of the Hogan group and from there almost due south to Tasmania. Basslink is one of many cables in Bass Strait and is marked on marine charts in the standard way. Highly accurate chart overlays for many types of GPS plotters can be obtained free of charge from Basslink Pty Ltd.

The map on this brochure shows the approximate position of Basslink. Please take the time to study its location and mark up your official charts using the appropriate Notice to Mariners.

2. Anchoring
Anchoring in the vicinity of the cables should be avoided unless absolutely essential as this is one of the main causes of damage to cables around the world.

Basslink Pty Ltd are keen to encourage the use of anchors that minimize dragging and reduce the risk of contact with the cables. Of the various types of anchors in use in Bass Strait, the Bruce and Manson Ray designs provide optimum security with high holding capacity with a low penetration profile.

Mariners should ensure that they use a proprietary brand anchor that is the correct size and design. It is imperative that ‘home made’ anchors are not used and that adequate chain and warp is laid out for the depth of water.

AMSA’s National Code for Commercial Vessels Part C, Section 7, Subsection 7D specifies anchoring equipment for effective at sea mooring.

As a further precaution, the anchor drag alarm on your vessel’s GPS system should be set.

3. Fishing and Sailing
Before setting out, check the position of Basslink in relation to your intended fishing and sailing area. Basslink is buried to minimise the risk of damage from fishing gear and anchors but does not eliminate it.

The seabed is a dynamic environment and it is possible that buried sections of the cables will become unburred over time, particularly after major storms. Although there are checks made by Basslink Pty Ltd of the burial status of the cables from time to time, this doesn’t mean that all cable exposures will be identified. Mariners are always advised to be extremely cautious if in the vicinity of the cable route.

The Basslink Pty Ltd website and Notice to Mariners are sources of information about any exposure of the cables.

4. Shark Fishing
When shark fishing and anchoring between hauls assess the risk of your vessel’s anchor dragging and deploy a prudent distance from the cables on the lee side according to wind and current.

Basslink can be fished over with shark nets. The nets are to be rigged with Bruce or Manson Ray anchors on the ends and stabilized in between with lead clump anchors. Other stabilizer anchor designs with scrap scallop dredge tooth-bars as flukes should not be used.

5. Fish Trawls and Scallop Dredges
Basslink is buried to reduce the risk of contact with other marine gear but this does not eliminate risk completely. Although the cable is extremely heavy and subsumes into sediment, the extreme nature of the Bass Strait environment and its potential to expose the cables is never ignored. Exposure can increase the risk of entanglement with mobile fishing gear, damage the cables, damage the gear and is a danger to people.

Subsea cable repairs are time consuming, costly, require exclusion zones for repair vessels and can be high profile to the public and media because they affect the essential services of the communities they connect. Mariners should be precautionary and not operate mobile gear in the vicinity of the cables.

The Basslink Pty Ltd website and Notice to Mariners are sources of information about any exposure of the cables.


6. Snagged? What Should I do?
In the unlikely event that you become snagged, be prepared. Know beforehand what to do, how to do it and who to inform. Remember, power cables are extremely heavy and can easily capsize a fishing vessel.

If you suspect your vessel has become snagged the following steps should be taken to ensure safety of all involved. Avoid using extreme winch power and never attempt to steam away rapidly to jolt free. Either of these actions will result in increased danger to crew, vessel and cables.

If vertical lifting with normal power does not release the gear or anchor then it must be buoyed, position noted, and anchor left, with Basslink Pty Ltd notified at the earliest